

The Editor's Corner

AUSTERITY SHOULD START AT HOME

No one can disagree with Mayor Gibbons' statement in his inaugural address that "only necessary expenditures consistent with necessary civic services should be considered in the immediate future." His prediction of a 50 per cent rise in the tax rate is ample proof that the town is in no position at present to indulge in any little luxuries which are not in the essential class. There are many things which must be done in the next few years—considerable road work due to the excavations for sewerage, new water services for houses being built and possibility of a water chlorination system which the Ontario Department of Health is advocating to overcome dangers of pollution in the town water supply, to name but a few.

An item of \$303 passed by Council last week is, we believe, inconsistent with an austerity program, and cannot by any stretch of the imagination be classified as a necessary expenditure. The money was spent for a small desk and nine chairs to be placed in the Council Chamber in the new municipal building. The expenditure was incurred by a committee composed of the Reeve (who was empowered by the 1947 council at their last meeting to choose his own committee), the deputy-reeve and the mayor. The committee as we understood it then was to look over the new premises to see what might be necessary in the way of equipment. It was not the old Council's place to empower this committee to incur such expenditures without consulting the Council which must pay for them.

But \$303 is not to be the end of the story. If plans are carried out, the present council table is to be cut in two and converted into two narrow tables which will flank the mayor's table with four councillors at each. And the committee has also under consideration the placing of a name plate before each council member of a type similar to those we see in the banks. All of which will be very nice to have, but could well be left for a year or two until more necessary things are paid for. It is hardly a good start for a local austerity program.

ANOTHER VOTE NECESSARY

It was a big disappointment to supporters of the brass band to learn that the by-law vote in December was null and void and that another vote would be necessary before the band could receive a \$1200 town grant which would guarantee payment of the bandmaster's salary. The new vote will be restricted to property owners and unless many have changed their minds in the meantime there is no doubt of it passing with a considerable majority. The December vote had the unanimous endorsement of Council itself, all of whom were property owners, and it would appear that \$1200 is a small price to pay for the retention of a local band which has had such a notable history and has given such pleasure to residents here and abroad. There is grave danger that if the money is not granted, the band may pass out of existence, which would be a tragedy for a town whose background is steeped in musical culture.

SCHOOL AREAS IN THE NEWS

While all seems quiet on the North Halton front, things are popping down in South Peel where Port Credit and Streetsville are threatening to withdraw from the area, leaving Toronto Township on its own. A. S. Mendell, Streetsville Review publisher, is an outspoken opponent of the plan and ran and was elected for council on this platform. Fuel was added to the fire when he was barred from attending the opening meeting of the area high school board.

Streetsville opposition is based on two points—unwillingness to close the local school and send students ten miles to Port Credit and chagrin at turning over a fully-paid-for building to a central school board which will assume a \$130,000 debenture debt of the Port Credit High School and the debt of the Cooksville Continuation School. Port Credit objects to losing control of a \$500,000 school on which \$375,000 has been paid and is afraid that the building might eventually house an area public school and high school students might have to attend a new area school at Cooksville or somewhere else.

The controversy indicates the folly of leaving such important decisions affecting every ratepayer to the decision of a handful of citizens, some of whom do not even hold elected office. Changes in personnel of Streetsville and Port Credit Councils this year were the direct result of the consolidated school question and the same thing may well happen in Acton and Milton before the matter is finally settled.

Mrs. R. T. Paul Local Council of Women President

Mrs. R. T. Paul was re-elected president of the Local Council of Women when the annual meeting was held last Friday at the home of Mrs. J. B. Mackenzie. An interesting feature of the meeting was the presentation of reports from affiliated societies. Mrs. Paul read a fine New Year's message to the Local Council from Mrs. A. J. Marshall of the provincial president. Mrs. Paul also served the fourteenth annual dinner and Mrs. Mackenzie was the hostess for the

Officers for 1948 are:

- President — Mrs. R. T. Paul
- 1st Vice-Pres. — Mrs. James Balfantino
- 2nd vice pres. — Mrs. Fred Bralby
- 3rd vice pres. — Miss Anne Ryan
- Recording Sec'y. — Mrs. A. R. Vanmutter
- Corr. Sec'y. — Miss Hattie Lawson
- Treasurer — Mrs. J. B. Mackenzie
- Recreational Convener — Mrs. W. E. Nutwell
- Social Convener — Mrs. Fred Bralby
- Laws for Women and Children's Convener — Mrs. W. F. Smith

IN THE MAIL BAG

Jan. 18, 1948

To The Editor:

Dear Sir:
You will note that the management of the Arena is trying to eliminate the smoking, while games are in progress and they are delighted with the cooperation shown by the large crowd. However, we see that there are some who insist on having a few puffs but we feel that they will fall in line eventually, and if not they will find out that they will be placed on the street.

We have been informed that several of our most prominent businessmen were seen to bleed the odd smoke, and can only say to them, what can you expect from others if you men must smoke.

No doubt you are aware of the large number of rinks that have been destroyed by fire in Ontario this year and our fire chief is right in line with us in our efforts to do away with the fire hazard as well as to make the arena a fit place for our young men to play hockey in.

This Arena is a very valuable asset to the town and a large sum of money is now being spent to make it one of the best. If the people will only cooperate the rink will continue to be an asset for many years to come. Sure, it is insured, but we would be without a rink for a long time to come if we have a fire.

The installation of the ice plant, building of seats, etc., has been a big job, and as a sample, there are over six and one half miles of one size pipe under the ice surface not to count the six inch headers, hundreds of valve unions and other fittings. In the basement are many huge machines some weighing two to three tons, tanks, coolers, condensers, motors, etc.

Yes, this is all there and is now making ice for us and it means that next year we will be able to open our rink in October and run on to possible April. No soft ice, no postponements and no going away to play our own home games.

A word more about our plant. If any citizen is interested in seeing the plant, he or she is welcome, and will be shown everything if they make an appointment with our Mr. Wilson, on the job.

Again we ask the people help us to keep our arena safe and clean for our young people to play in and for all our people to enjoy both hockey and good skating.
W. G. BELL,
Chairman, Board of Parks Management

Jan. 12th, 1948

Sir:

Somebody has to stand in the back row, or have you seen a hockey game lately? If Georgetown wants to make her arena attractive, Georgetown better hire a few bouncers to make the hockey fans sit down. What are seats for if not to sit on?
—I find it a little annoying that if a player is going to shoot on goal somebody's bald spot gets in the way. Is this a peculiarity of Georgetown? Everywhere else seats are used for sitting. If all people have to stand up in order to see once in awhile our arena will never be popular — or let's take the seats out and use them in the park for bleachers.

A Frustrated Onlooker

OFFICERS ELECTED BY ST. GEORGE'S CLUB

At a meeting of St. George's Club on Tuesday, January 18th, in the club rooms behind the church, George Walker was elected president for the coming year.

A talk by John Jones on his flight from England featured the program. Mr. Jones, who is employed on Mr. John Bingham's farm, came here under the Ontario government immigration plan. Immigrants pay the regular sixty-seven pound passage rate, but receive priority over ordinary travelers who must wait up to 18 months to book passage. The trip from Northolt, England, to Milton was made via Ireland and Newfoundland.

Mayor Joseph Gibbons was a guest at the meeting and answered many questions asked by the members about municipal government. The club accepted an invitation to attend some future Council meeting as a group. Refreshment were served by the lunch committee, Mrs. Harold Bickle and Mrs. William McNally.

Officers for 1948 for: Hon. Pres.—Archdeacon W. G. O. Thompson

President—George Walker
Vice-Pres.—Mrs. Cecil Davidson
Secretary—Mrs. Ted Arnold
Treasurer—William McNally
Social Convener—Mrs. Mary Biddell
Program Convener—Archdeacon Thompson

First shopper: "It's tough to pay 50c for a pound of meat."
Second shopper: "Yes, but it's even tougher when you pay 25c."

SHORT STORY

Miric So Sweet

By JAMES CROWLEY

HE NOTICED it now, as they walked across the green grass that threw back the sunlight like tiny, jutting points of isinglass. And it hurt him to notice it—hurt him as if it were a physical wound.

"See, it's brilliant!" he said. He said it low, but his voice seemed to possess a quality that carried it far beyond the green hill.

"Maybe if it," she said, "I can feel it, too, when I'm home." She gave a slight lift of her slender shoulders. "It seems that the atmosphere just closes around me. Sometimes I've found myself breathless, as if I were tired."

"Maybe if your father felt any different," he suggested.

"Yes," she said thoughtfully. "Father could help. But when he's not working, he sits by the window, as he's sitting now, gazing out at the trees and the birds and not seeing them. Yes, Father could help, all right."

"Have you played any music, since—"

"No," and she looked up at him, the sun painting a soft halo round her hair, coppery half. "Neither of us has touched anything since Mother died."

She looked away. Eight months. Yet it seemed like yesterday when she used to sit at the piano, touching those ivory keys with her white slender fingers.

He thought a moment, and he wondered if the feeling could be real, like stone is real, or if it could be lifted, like a film, and the unchanged real shown beneath.

"Let's go back," he said. "I'm going home, and you're going with me."

She looked at him. Her blue eyes shone sadly. "Earnie, I can't."

He took her hand gently. "We'll come back," he said. "Don't worry."

He stopped the car in front of his home. "I'll be right back," he said.

He went in, came out with a large, curved, black case, and started back to her house.

IN FRONT of her house again. They got out, and he took the big black case out of the car. She led the way to the door. He crossed slowly through the kitchen, then stepped into the living room, and topped. From his chair across the room, near the wide window where he always sat, Bea's father smiled.

"I brought my guitar," Earnie said.

The older man removed his pipe, blew out smoke that formed a blue film before him. As if to hide the expression on his face, thought Earnie.

"You did?" he said. "It's been a long time." "Yes," Earnie said. "It has. You don't mind, do you?" The older man shook his head. "No



They stopped a moment, both looking grimly into the clearance. "I don't mind. Go ahead."

"Bea—the piano, will you, please," he said.

She struck the keys. A soft, resonant sound splashed out, like cool water that sprinkled around the quiet room. He struck the guitar strings. The smooth, whispering notes blended with the piano's.

She started to play, and he leaped in with the chords, and music, for the first time in so long, drifted in sweet, lovely strains through the house, atomizing the air, with its fragrant air that had long been stagnant and dry.

Earnie heard a soft sound behind him and caught a glimpse of Bea's other's back as he strode straight out of the room. A tight knot suddenly formed inside him, and he smiled back and looked at Bea. She didn't see his gaze. Her eyes were absorbed in the music.

And then, from the other room came a high, thin, vibrating note. The silver, mellicious strains of a violin.

The two near the piano turned and they watched him enter the room, his elbow held high, pulling the bow across the strings, while he watched it with his eyes, as if music was something you should see and he was seeing it—and smiling at the same time.

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Gordon Harley Opens Local Garage

Georgetown's garages have been increased by one with the announcement of the opening of Harley Motors on John Street. Gordon Harley, proprietor of the garage is a well-known young local man, a native of town and son of Mr. and Mrs. Dean Harley. He has had eighteen years' experience as an automotive mechanic and holds a class "A" certificate. One of four brothers who served overseas he was a member of the Lorne Scots Regiment. After returning from army service he resumed his position with Scott Motor Sales where he has been employed until his decision to start up in business for himself.

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Harley Motors is located in a smart new two-story concrete block building erected on property bought from the town and filled in across from the E. F. Murfin Sheet Metal Works on John Street a block down from the arena. Lyle's neighbors for Mr. and Mrs. Harley and their family are being given the upstairs apartment. Harley Motors will have all changes made to the building.