

# THE GEORGETOWN HERALD

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## The Editor's Corner

### A LAST WORD

Now that Georgetown council has committed the town to an expenditure of up to \$80,000 for improvements to the water system, we shall accept the situation and make no further comment other than this. Last year we criticized council, not because they favoured the expenditure of a large amount of money, but because they chose to make the decision themselves rather than asking the ratepayers for a mandate. The same criticism can be levelled at this year's council. One argument advanced last year was that the waterworks were in such condition that any delay for a vote of the people might be disastrous for the town. Several months have elapsed, plenty long enough for a vote, and nothing has happened yet or is likely to happen to put the town in any immediate danger.

We are confident that the waterworks improvements as outlined by Mr. Roberts, who appears to be a very competent engineer, will be of lasting benefit to the town and that the money will not be wasted. We still think, however, that council oversteps its mandate when it makes decisions of such importance and of such financial magnitude for the people it represents. The point could be illustrated by comparing the council with the general manager of a large business. In his capacity as manager, it is this man's job to keep the business running efficiently and to make decisions on every-day conduct of the business and incur the normal expenses which are in line with this. Supposing the manager gets the idea of adding an expensive new machine which he believes will make for a better business or which he even might consider is absolutely necessary in order that the business can continue to function efficiently. He would not for a minute go ahead and order this machine without asking for approval from the owners of the company, for it is their money he is spending. The owners, if they are on their toes, and if they have confidence in the manager's ability, will in turn give him an attentive hearing and decide to buy the machine.

Council is in exactly the same position as the manager. The ratepayer, as a stockholder in the municipality, expects ordinary decisions to be made and ordinary expenditures to be incurred. When it comes to large expenditures such as sewerage, water improvements and artificial ice, all of which have been introduced without a vote, we think council is going beyond its authority, worthwhile as all these projects may be. It is to be hoped in future that any major questions will be brought to the ratepayers for their decision before any action is taken.

### TRADESMEN ARE CANADA'S BACKBONE

An editorial appearing in a recent issue of the Daily Commercial News has some sound advice for youth in telling them that trade training has many more advantages than seeking a "white collar" job. Here is what the editorial has to say about it:

"The approach to education in Canada has become so devoted to 'white collar' ambitions in recent years that the nation is rapidly becoming a place where more and more people want to sit back and take things easy, with precious few left to carry on the real, productive work that is necessary.

This fact is revealed only too clearly in the difficulties which are being encountered in securing sufficient youths to enter apprenticeships with, for example, the building trades, and with the continual flow of the young people away from the rural sections in search of something better than the farm offers.

The picture of attaining greater social position, of taking things easier, of earning greater incomes, is one which probably has much to do with the existing situation; but it is a picture that is not altogether true, and one which should be dissipated in a nation which needs strong hands and ready hearts to develop its resources in the years ahead.

Canada will not develop its industries because its people study philosophy or train themselves to be socially acceptable in cafe society circles. It can only develop as its skilled workmen, its carpenters, its bricklayers, its plumbers and its other tradesmen put on their overalls and do the work. The ranks of these trades must be filled by more youths.

Tradesmen are the backbone of the nation. It is they who make modern roads possible to speed communications; it is they who build the bridges, construct the modern buildings and homes which too many people accept as a matter of course.

Canada is paying today for its failure to encourage its youth to enter skilled trades, and it probably will be some time before there are enough men available, through apprenticeship, to accomplish anything approaching the vast building necessary.

There is no "social position" that can compare

with the satisfaction of a job well done, a productive job which contributes to the progress of the nation. Society owes it to the man who "does" things to bestow adequate honour upon him.

If Canadians want things easier, if they want to become part of a nation which devotes its attention to the cultivation of luxuries at a time when great construction developments are necessary for its progress, then its future can be only a national shame.

Canada has the resources and all it needs is aggressive, skilled, ambitious men to carry out its development. If it is to have such men, it must waste no time in educating the educators to the need of more and more skilled tradesmen to do the work required.

### HYDRO SITUATION IMPROVES

A letter received last week from Robert H. Saunders, chairman of the Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario, gives the opinion that, with a continuance of voluntary power saving, there will be no further hydro cut-offs in Ontario this winter. Mr. Saunders reveals some of the plans for hydro expansion, as follows:

Yesterday (Feb. 1st) I was happy to announce discontinuance of allocation of power on a quota basis to Southern Ontario municipalities following notification from one of our suppliers that deliveries would be substantially increased.

While we are still short to the extent of some 10,000,000 kilowatt hours a week in deliveries from suppliers and, therefore, not by any means out of the woods so far as the present shortage is concerned, it is heartening to note the improvement in the situation in recent weeks. The Commission, as you know, was faced with an extremely critical problem, particularly during last October and part of November when lack of rain in the right places caused a serious drop in available storage water and a resultant decrease in the output of power plants in both Ontario and Quebec. Then came an almost miraculous change in the situation. Rain fell on the right places. Consequently, water supply conditions improved and the output of power plants increased.

However, there were other factors which have contributed to the improvement in evidence. One, to which I would like to make special reference, is the magnificent co-operation which Hydro has been and is receiving from both weekly and daily newspapers. The support of the press has given tremendous impetus to the splendid voluntary power saving effort on the part of labour and industry, commercial firms, housewives and farmers. By maintaining this effort along with present restrictions affecting certain uses of electricity, I believe we can get through the winter without further cut-offs.

Meanwhile, Hydro is going ahead at a highly accelerated pace with its tremendous \$400,000,000 construction program and already, four new and important sources are in service and work is proceeding rapidly on six other projects. At the same time, preliminary survey work is well underway in connection with the \$200,000,000 frequency change-over program in the 25-cycle areas of Southern Ontario.

In closing let me express sincere appreciation for the all-important public service which is being rendered by the press in helping clarify difficult problems faced by Hydro and the way in which these problems are being met.

Yours truly,  
 Robert Saunders, chairman



"EASY THERE" Sally (Eleanor Parker) requires zipper help from Bill (Ronald Reagan) in Warner Bros. picture of the famed romantic comedy, "The Voice of the Turtle," which comes next Friday to the Roxy Theatre.

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