

THE GEORGETOWN HERALD

serving the communities of
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 TERRA COTTA

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The Editor's Corner

THE HIGH SCHOOL AREA

A difficult task facing the Board of Education is a decision as to what to do about high school education in the future. At present Georgetown is isolated in the centre of a High School district which takes in the municipalities of Acton, Milton, Esquesing and Nassagaweya, with schools located at the two towns. The inauguration of the new district last year has not yet made itself felt financially in Georgetown, in fact because of certain technicalities, the cost of this to the Georgetown taxpayer was actually reduced in 1949. But next year, the story will be different, and it is going to cost several extra mills on the tax rate to maintain a high school for our own children alone, with perhaps a few students from Glen Williams way, which it is cheaper for the district Board to send here than transport to Milton or Acton.

There are several things which the Board of Education can do, and the first of what will be a series of meetings was held last week to go into the question fully. The board, in a general way expressed itself as not favouring four of seven possibilities. These are: (a) to remain as at present, (b) to join the district under the initial plan to build a central school at Speyside, (c) to join the present area and take a chance on what might happen, and (d) to have no area at all, as formerly.

Merit was found in three possibilities — (a) joining a three-school area, (b) anticipating that the Royal Commission on Education will recommend a junior high school system, having a three-school area with a small central school which would concentrate on academic education, and (c) erection of a central school to serve Georgetown, Acton and Esquesing.

For the purpose of securing additional information from the Department of Education, so that the best solution can be found, Mr. Duffin of the Department has been asked to come to Georgetown next month to talk it over with the board. Strong rumours of dissension in the present district would lead one to believe that there is a possibility of practically anything happening in the next year or two. Acton particularly is in an unusual position, in that the high school is being conducted in a building which belongs to the public school and which has been leased to the district until 1951. That year, it will be needed for public school purposes and Acton will have no high school at all. If the present district stays as is, then a new central school must be built or an addition made to Milton school to take care of the present Acton enrolment. Milton, it would seem has borne the heaviest financial load in the district, as the Milton school property was turned over to the district board, while Acton contributed nothing.

Georgetown, should she join an area, would be in a similar position, as the present high school would become the property of the district. This is one feature which does not appear to be equitable, and we should think that the only fair way for municipalities to get together is for them to contribute equally. If Georgetown is to join an area and a central school be built, Georgetown should not have to contribute her present building which could well be used for an additional public school.

It is angles like these which make the question contentious. The Board of Education is not anxious to make a snap decision for which they might be sorry later. It is hoped that Mr. Duffin will be able to clarify somewhat the confused picture and give North Halton what everyone wants — improved educational facilities with all municipalities sharing costs equitably and with a school or schools located in the most sensible locations.

TAX RELIEF IS WELCOME

There were smiles on every face last Wednesday morning when news of the new budget was released by the Federal Government. For the first time since war began in 1939, income taxes were lowered. Henceforth a single man earning less than \$1000 and a married man earning less than \$2000 will have no tax to pay at all. Those who do pay taxes will have their payments considerably reduced. City papers, particularly those which tend to support the opposition parties in the House of Commons, have been loudly denouncing the tax reductions as "vote-catchers" for this year's election. The Toronto Globe in particular, had a bitter front page editorial, in which it claimed that tax reductions should have come a year ago and that no relief was given at that time because the Liberals wished to hold the good news for an election year. Whatever may be the cause, delayed or not, the new budget is a popular one.

There is much grousing in our present-day world



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about high taxes. There is also much talk of increasing old age pensions, mothers' allowance, unemployment insurance, etc. There is a growing dependence of municipalities on government to pay portions of the cost of road maintenance, education and other civic services. We must bear in mind that we cannot have these increased services without paying for them and it would be foolish to suppose that unless government subsidizing is dropped, that taxes will ever drop to a low level. If the agitation to abandon the sales tax wins, the money must be raised by increasing income tax or by some other form of hidden tax. We don't mean to wipe the smiles away, but it is important to remember that the amount of money which the government will spend is the important thing and that money for governments, as for individuals, does not grow on trees.

POT POURRI

Muriel Spence is the new girl you see in Licata's after fours and on Saturdays... Postmaster G. B. S. Cousens has asked us to caution the public to be careful in discarding cigarette-butts. What might have led to a serious fire was averted on Thursday in the post office when one of the staff noticed smoke issuing from the large wastebasket in the lobby. The basket burst into flames as it was being carried outside... Main Street had a spring clean up when a plow attachment on the town truck gathered up the winter's accumulation of mud and the curbs made their first appearance of the year... Harding Price was particularly pleased with a classified advertisement last week. A cow which he offered for sale was delivered to the buyer and the transaction completed by 2 p.m. on Thursday... The new recreation director, Rev. J. L. Self, deserves a pat on the back for the speedy job of organization for the opening of minor hockey on Friday. In a few days, time he organized bantam, midget and juvenile hockey and had a good turnout of grown-ups to see the young lads in action. The league will continue as long as ice is available. Mr. Self is also considering a soap box derby in Easter week and floor hockey and volleyball in the armories for the girls...

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