

The Editor's Corner

PUBLIC POSITIONS SHOULD BE ADVERTISED

It is unfortunate that Mayor Gibbons, who has for so many years done a fine job of administering the town's affairs, should retire under a cloud of public discontent. Public opinion has been quite vocal in disapproving of council's action in hiring Mr. Gibbons as assessor without first advertising for applicants for the position, and quite rightly so. Any public appointment, be it made by the town or any of its associated services should be open to application by any citizen. In the past few years, we have seen such appointments as town clerk, assessor, school board secretary and town foreman made and in each case applications have been asked. The same should apply in this case.

The present controversy does not at all reflect on Mr. Gibbons' qualifications for the job. In fact, most of his severest critics and his political antagonists agree that he will do a good job and even go so far as to say that he would probably have been chosen even had the position been advertised. But this is aside from the fact that a public appointment should not be made in this way. The local Legion branch has also brought out a pertinent point in reminding Council that a by-law passed at the end of the war indicated that in future consideration would be given to war veterans when public positions became vacant — a factor which had an influence on the appointment of the previous holder of the assessor's position.

We do not see any likelihood of a change in the position, nor is there perhaps any need. Members of the council, who keep their finger on the public pulse, will draw some wisdom from this experience and we venture to say we shall not see it repeated in future. We do not expect to see much more interest at next December's nomination meeting, in spite of all the talk of a complete new slate of candidates. There are few who disagree violently enough with any decision of council to attend a public meeting and voice their feelings for the record, no matter what they say on the side. This was clearly indicated when one counted the missing faces at the public protest meeting called by the Legion last Thursday.

MORE CONFUSION

It was surprising to read in last week's Acton Free Press that public officials in that town are giving serious thought to breaking away from the North Halton High School district and sending their students to Guelph. According to a news item appearing in our neighbouring weekly, members of the council, Public School board and the Acton members of the district board met with Messrs. Duffin and Stewart of the Department of Education to discuss the steps required to withdraw from the district. Consideration was given to using the present high school building for public school purposes and arranging transportation and accommodation for pupils from Acton at the Guelph Collegiate. A committee was appointed to compute the costs and hold a conference with Guelph Collegiate board. Quoting further, the new items continues:

While this step was not desirable, it was felt to be the only alternative in view of the move to abandon the Central School near Speyside and the need for more rooms for Public School pupils in Acton necessitated prompt action. Thought was also given to retaining the lower grades in the Acton School and transporting the Senior grades to the Guelph School. Spokesmen of the meeting condemned the methods that had been used in building in the North Halton Schools and disapproved of enlargement of any of the Schools in the three towns. Inspector Duffin pointed out that the buildings approved were for temporary purposes and were not adequate for High School needs.

Costs and grants were furnished the meeting by Inspectors Duffin and Stewart and it appears such a plan would be much less expensive than a new building program to retain the present three-school system in the district which fails in providing better educational facilities for the children.

HARMONY SEEMS LACKING

The attempt at centralizing higher educational facilities in North Halton seem to become more and more confused as the years go by and sometimes we wonder if it would not be better to dissolve the district now before any bitterness is caused. It was thought earlier this year when Georgetown decided to change her mind and enter the district that there was some chance of success. Georgetown has been blamed in the past for cherishing local patriotism and insisting that she would not abandon her school. Acton seems to lean completely to the other side and is determined one way or another to get rid of a high school in the municipality. The logical step would be to build a new school in Georgetown and everybody would be happy.

What Georgetown considered a generous offer was made to the district board early in July when the local Board of Education, in order to expedite the new system to include Georgetown offered to make no charge to students outside town-attending school here this fall. No action was taken by the district board, though this was understandable in view of the vacation period and the absence of the new Acton principal for the summer. But the action of the district board at their most recent meeting in reminding Georgetown that they will not be responsible for students attending school here who have not been given a permit to do so hardly seems like cooperation. It would look as if the present district board is intent on jamming as many students as possible into Milton and Acton schools before the end of the year. We wonder if they realize

that when Georgetown is officially in the district next January that it will be logical to send students to the closest school and that the students they may wish to change now will quite properly expect to get their schooling in Georgetown.

POT POURRI

The Herald window is still displaying "twins." This week it is a twin cucumber brought to the office by Bobby Kidd of Normandy Boulevard. Mrs. Cleave Wilson of Brampton won the quilt recently raffled by the ladies of Main Circle, Knox Church. The draw was made at a recent bake sale. En route home from the CWNA convention, Cecil Day, publisher of the Liverpool (N.S.) Advance called at the Herald Office last week. With him was Danny Stone, son of the former owner of the local Smith & Stone plant. Danny, with his cousin Sid Stone, now operates the firm of Stone Printing Machinery, Ltd. Main Street continues to change and this week we find a new barber taking over Joe Gibbon's shop while the mayor takes a vacation before assuming his new duties as assessor. With Georgetown still on Daylight Saving Time, we find most of our favourite radio programs are now heard an hour later by the clock. Some excitement was caused on Emery Street last week when a tractor trailer dumped its load of resurfacing material all in one spot. The road work, incidentally, is coming along fine and it was a pleasure on a Sunday drive to pass along the new King Street and 9th Line which are now devoid of pitfalls. The daily papers this week carry a story of a former Georgetown man, Albert Haddell who now lives in St. Catharines and has been reported missing. He left for his summer cottage in the Parry Sound district but did not show up there and his car was found abandoned in Windsor. The death of Miss Katie Ryan last week removed one of Georgetown's best-known ladies who for many years carried on her duties faithfully and well as clerk-treasurer for the Hydro Commission. It was always a pleasure to chat with her for a moment when paying the monthly hydro bill. Our new high school reporter is doing a good job and we hope that his column will be enjoyed as much as those of his predecessors, Doug Latimer and Bob Addy, both of whom are now students at the University of Toronto. We intend to look over the arena with Bill Bell sometime this week and prepare an item for next week's issue telling of the improvements which have been made during the summer. The anxious-faced gentlemen you see around town these days are the members of the Hockey Club who are shaping up this year's team. Most of us don't realize how much work goes on behind the scenes to mould a champion team and if it were not for their efforts, hockey would not be the drawing card it is during the winter. The younger generation has been leading a gay life these past few weeks. Can't remember ever having so many reports of birthday parties as we have in this issue.

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