

KERR'S COLUMN

M.P.P. REPORTS TO GEORGETOWN FROM QUEEN'S PARK
by GEORGE KERR

One of the major problems facing government today is the distribution of welfare for the unfortunate people who need monetary help. How much should a recipient receive? What is considered an "excess" allowance? Should the payment encourage laziness or encourage self-help where possible?

If, by some formula, an income of below, say, \$3,000.00, for a widow and three children is considered to be in the poverty area, should the government automatically raise welfare payments in such a case to a minimum of \$3,000?

The first problem is to define "poverty area". Certainly a widow living in Toronto or Hamilton, paying rent, unable to work herself, feeding, clothing, and educating three children will have a tougher time than a widow living on a farm or in a home where rent or mortgage payments are not required.

Mother's Allowance

Last week the Ontario Dept. of Public Welfare announced changes in the Mothers' Allowance Act and the Dependent Widens' Allowances to be effective April 1st next.

For both these allowances there will be an increase across

the board which will average 15 per cent. The Province has also removed the previous maximum which amounted to \$225 a month and replaced this by a ceiling of \$300 monthly for any case. Additional benefits continue, such as medical, hospital and dental services, and family allowances.

Another notable feature is that of increased exemptions permitted for earnings from employment. The new regulations allow employment of 120 hours monthly, in place of 24 hours weekly, and the income exemption has been nearly tripled, based, of course, on the size of the family. For example, a woman with three children previously would have obtained an exemption of \$21.50 monthly. Under the new provisions, she can now earn \$60.00 a month, without deduction, plus 25 per cent of any amount beyond that sum. This regulation will give more flexibility and encouragement to women who are in a position to accept employment.

Complete Exemption

Where a son or daughter in the household is employed, the Ontario government has provided for complete exemption of their income up to \$80 monthly.

Foster Mothers' Allowances

have been increased in this instance from the previous rate of \$30 to a new rate of \$40.00 monthly.

The Provincial Government has also approved an increase in the rates under The Home-makers' Services at an amount up to \$15 per day in place of the previous maximum of \$8.00. The restriction of the home-makers employment of an 8 hour day has also been removed.

Nurses Services

Payment for nurses services has been established at \$4.50 a visit in place of the previous \$3.50 a call.

In private conversation with the Minister of Public Welfare, Mr. Cullis, he informs me that experts in his Department feel that the new formula certainly provides an adequate existence allowance for such welfare recipients.

Like myself, he is not sure where our affluent society's poverty area lies, but he is determined to keep as many people as possible out of it.

The three leading classifications of federal government expenditure are: health and welfare 29.4 per cent; defence 10.8 per cent; debt charges 11.3 per cent.

Suggests Garbage Pick-ups Be Made at Rear Alleysways

Councillors, accused of talking rubbish for years, really did Monday night, when a letter from Mrs. J. Cordaro recommending garbage pickup in the rear of homes was read to the Council.

Mrs. Cordaro claimed that garbage falls out on the street, only to be left, and empty cans sit out on the street all day. If the pick-ups are in the rear, she contended, at least it would not be seen. She admitted it might be more time-consuming, but more expensive.

"With the budget as it is," remarked Cr. Powers, "we can't afford the extra time and men to walk behind the houses."

Reeve Elliott suggested that the time for finding out the price of rear pickup is when the garbage contract comes up for renewal.

"It's the same old thing," Cr. Young complained, "it's against the by-law to put out uncovered garbage cans, but nobody enforces the by-laws anyway."

Portraits Real Forte Smily Exhibition Shows

To the critics of modern day art, who decry the lack of formal training and craftsmanship shown in many paintings, the exhibition by Elizabeth Smily, presently on display at the Gallery House '61, in Georgetown, will be a find.

The show, a mixture of oils, pastels, and drawings, will be exhibited till April 8th. While all her work shows this supposed old fashioned ability to draw, in her portraits her real talent emerges. There is no doubt this is both her real forte and love. She hopes to concentrate mainly on portraiture in the future.

In this her first Canadian show, several excellent portraits both in oil and pastels are displayed. In addition there are about a dozen drawings of horses, in which her command of drafting is clearly shown.

Her landscapes should seem familiar to many, especially in Brampton, where Mrs. Smily lived for several years until recently. Trees on Church Street, a local bridge, and several anonymous backyards appear.

One early oil painting entitled "Soho", showing two robust women drinking in a pub is reminiscent of Lautrec, but in dark, sombre, colours rather than Lautrec's flamboyant ones.

Her traditional style was acquired quite naturally in a traditional school the world renowned London Royal Academy, where she won the Lord Leverhulme Award. Shortly after graduating she was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts.

While this is her first Canadian exhibition, it is by no means her first exhibition. Her work has been shown at the

Royal Academy, and the National Society in London, and in 1960, she had a one man show in the Studio Club, London.

BALLINAFAD

Community Party Honours Mr. & Mrs. Grant Baker

Mr. and Mrs. Grant Baker (nee Mary Jane McPherson) were honoured at a party in the community hall on Friday at which time they were presented with a set of living room tables and a goose stand on behalf of the communities of Ballinafad and Silvercreek. The evening was spent playing wuche and dancing to the music of the "Belaires" orchestra.

Mr. and Mrs. A. Himes of

Toronto visited with former friends in Ballinafad over the weekend.

Two well known former residents of this area passed away this past week and we extend sympathy to the families of Mr. Joe Allan, and Mr. Bert Rogers. The sympathy of the community is also extended to Mrs. F. W. Shortill whose sister Mrs. Tiel passed away recently.

The members of the UCW sponsored a very successful St. Patrick's buffet supper in the church of Saturday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. George Bates attended a graduation dinner at Emmanuel College on Friday night.

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