

... EDITORIAL COMMENT ...

What Caused It?

With Ontario Hydro taking the bulk of the blame for the power blackout in eastern Canada and the States two weeks ago, there have been some red Canadian faces. It was common to hear people say the next day "We should never be hooked up with the Americans."

A news release from hydro chairman blames the blackout on relay trouble which isolated the Niagara station from the Ontario system. But he emphasized that no inherent fault has been found with the equipment itself.

Apparently the failure at Niagara triggered a chain reaction which caused a progressive breakdown over the whole eastern region of Canada and the U.S.

Power was off for varying periods of less than three hours in Georgetown to 12 hours or more in New York City. It was the most sensational occurrence in peace-

time, affecting as it did millions of people. Damage estimates were in the millions, as industry, transportation and commerce was virtually halted during the emergency.

It could have been worse. Luckily it happened at the end of a working day and in Georgetown there was a minimum of serious disruption. It was not a cold day and few people suffered major inconvenience in their homes. They ate by candlelight, put camp stoves into operation, and listened to the sensational news on their transistor radios.

Perhaps in the long run some good will come out of it. The hydro has found a weak link in its gigantic operation, and will be on the alert to forestall any such future occurrence. For it was somewhat frightening to think how this part of America is held together by such a slim band and what disruption can be caused by one small malfunction.

Lots of Candidates

Written as it must be before the Tuesday nomination meeting, The Herald editorial column has no specific knowledge of what the news columns will carry about the meeting and the candidates.

At this time it is reasonable, however, to forecast that there will be more than a full slate of candidates for most elected offices.

Definite is an election for the three top posts, mayor, reeve and deputy reeve. In total there are more than six candidates for council seats, but election here depends on which ward an aspirant decides to contest.

There appears to be one of the rare elections for hydro commissioner. The public and separate school board front appears fairly quiet.

Attention will focus heavily on the mayoralty contest which always draws major interest from ratepayers. The two announced contenders have been on the campaign trail for some time, and it will be an interesting week and a half ahead as voters weigh their qualifications for the job.

Local politics draw the spotlight more than any other phase of our democratic system. The man or woman well known to every voter, the issue, large and small, apply to Georgetown only, hence have a communal interest which national politics can never attain.

There will be new voters, and some not so new, who are somewhat in the dark about how local government operates.

There are only four groups of elected officials — council, hydro commission, public and separate school boards.

All other phases of town affairs are operated by boards appointed by various agencies. The high school board, for instance, has appointees made by town and township councils, public and separate

school boards. The library board has a somewhat similar set-up. The parks board is a straight council appointment.

Town council comprises nine men. There are separate elections for mayor, reeve and deputy reeve, and separate elections in each of the three wards to choose two councillors each. All terms are for one year only.

The reeve and deputy have a joint function. They are full members of town council, and also represent the town on county council. The latter is in charge of such things as the county jail, senior citizens home, county roads, courts, health unit, to name a few.

The two school boards each with eight members, has members elected for two years, with terms of four members expiring in alternate years.

The hydro commission is similar. It has two elected members whose terms expire alternately. The mayor makes up the third member of the commission.

Generally speaking all residents listed on the voters list as owners or tenants, and who are Canadian citizens, have a municipal vote. On rare occasions, council instead of deciding on a large scale financial undertaking will have a 'question vote' on the yearly ballot. At this time only property owners may have such a vote. There are no questions being asked this year.

In the case of councillors, two of whom are elected from each ward, it is possible to have a vote in each ward, providing one is a property owner or tenant in the respective ward.

On voting day, Monday, December 6th polls are open from 9:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. There is an advance poll Saturday, Dec. 4th in the Municipal Building, open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., to accommodate voters who will be absent from town on the regular voting day.

NEWS DESK EXTRAS

by Terry Harley

ACCUMULATED NOTES...

• The boost the federal election gives the public's ego may make it worth the six-figure price it sapped from government coffers. It's an ill wind that doesn't turn somebody's grist mill, and from observations during the prelude to November 8 we conclude that even a stalemate election had its good angle.

• During an election the public's ego and morale soars. When else can we ridicule and verbally tar and feather men who possess qualities and records of achievements that dwarf John Citizen. "Did yaget a load of old Diefels on television last night," says the local failure of the great former corporation lawyer and former prime minister. "Gotta knock old Lester the loper outta Ottawa, before he wrecks the country," says the town bum of the Nobel Prize winner and head of the government. "Man, if that do-do bird Douglas ever makes it count me out of here," says the community dud as he half-heartedly scans the help wanted ads. Men who would leap at a chance to clasp any of them by the right hand, get their lip and look at photos of the party leaders like they are slap stick buffoons in a speed-

vaudeville routine. Did the election do any good? It cured cases of introversion from Halifax to Victoria.

• Two relating statements in the news this week have us still searching for the logic in them, if there is any. One is by a Department of Highways Official who says the speed limit on Highway 7 east of Georgetown is being upped from 60 to 80 because something like 85 per cent of the drivers go over the limit now. Does he not think the driver who by habit drives 85 in a 50 mile zone and 35 in the 30 mile zone will drive 65 in a 60 mile zone? We'll wager close to the same percentage drive over the limit when it is changed next year.

• The other statement was by a Chinguacousy Township official who was quoted as saying the limit should go as high as 70 m.p.h. on that stretch and that it is the slow driver who causes the accidents anyway. We agree the driver who moves at a speed way under the limit is a hazard, but will he travel at the limit if it is raised? He'll drive just as far or farther under the limit and the only difference is that when an accident occurs the cars involved will collide at a higher rate of speed.

• Halton Region Conservation Authority's war on diseased elms has come to a halt and the reason may provide a solution to real human conflicts. The tree choppers have thrown up their hands because now that all the leaves are gone they can't tell the healthy elms from the sick ones. We wonder if the same peaceful confusion would result if all service men were dressed in civilian instead of identifying uniform.

• Shaving was originally a protective measure since long beard were easy for opponents in combat to seize.

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TIME WILL STAND STILL AT THIS FARM

This farm will be converted to a pioneer farm by the Credit Valley Conservation Authority. See story, page 5.

SUGAR AND SPICE

by Bill Smiley

The Deadliest of Wars

There's a war in progress 5000 years the majors managed to keep the miners under their thumb. Through a combination of pure, economic greed, current cold war, no single incident which Sunday School picnic. It is being fought in the home, in the schools, and in the streets, in every country in the world.

The war I'm talking about is the war between youth and age. There has been no declaration of war, no single incident which has provoked hostilities. But the fighting has begun, and it's going to be a long, cruel struggle one before it ends, a war like no other the human race has seen.

The tragic thing is that I, not based on hate, but on something closer to love, a complete lack of understanding with a wistful desire for it, on both sides. It is not international or inter-racial war, but civil war, which makes it doubly frightening.

In the front lines are not the children and the elderly. Thank goodness for that. No. The opposing forces are the young adults from about 15 to 25, on one side, and the no-longer-youthful adults, from 35 to 55 on the other.

What, you may ask, about those between, from 25 to 35? They don't even know the war is on. Busy producing and raising kids, they are blissfully unaware that they are producing reinforcements for the enemy they must face soon.

The war was inevitable. For

they convinced them that age and wisdom were synonymous. They assured them that older men made better politicians, preachers and generals. They kept the young from multiplying by feeding them cheerfully into the furnaces of whatever war was in progress at the time. While the boys stayed home and looked after the store.

They refused to retire and let the young move up. They urged security rather than seeking rather than courage. They tried to smother every flame of idealism with cold water of what they called "realism."

Oh, the odd one broke through the blanket. Alexander the Great and William Pitt the younger and Napoleon. But most of them died young.

And now, sad to relate, Dad, you and I are reaping the bitter rice. Young people think exactly what I thought when I was a young person: that every living soul over 40 is inevitably opposed to anything that is fun, frightening or fattening.

Five thousand years of growing resentment is bursting forth in all directions. Thanks to medical advances, they now outnumber us. Thanks to economic prosperity, they live better than

we ever did. Thanks to the cowardly and conformist world we created for them, they despise us. The hour is come, for them.

And you can't blame them much. We are against sex and liquor for minors, but think they're dandy for majors. We're against smoking, and puff our way straight into the oxygen tent. We tell them to be honest, and cheat on our income tax. We tell them to practice christian charity, and rip our neighbor's back.

We urge them to be mature, and we bicker and squabble in front of them, over trifles. We tell them they have no initiative, and refuse to let them do anything that is not safe, sensible and sanitary.

We throw up our hands in horror at their likes in dress and in music, at their popular heroes, at their natural desires. When they are polite, we grow pompous. When they are insolent, we grow furious.

Yep, the war is on. Don't

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Blackout Emergency

The Emergency Management Organization serving this area, issued generators to Georgetown Police Department, the North Halton O.P.P., Acton Police Department and the county in during the extended total blackout last Tuesday.

Two rescue instructors, the EMO secretary, and the coordinator Bruce McGregor, organized the delivery of the generators to where they were needed and maintained communications by using mobile radios until hydro was restored.

The EMO also contacted Georgetown hospital and other hospitals in the county as well as the Ontario School for the Deaf, Halton Centennial Manor and other centres in an effort to provide assistance wherever needed. The hospitals and institutions were operating on their own emergency power.

The county EMO has seven generators which can be used in such emergencies.

A BIBLE THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

H. E. Deane
"And he took the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and made the tunic, and said, Where is the Lord God of Elijah? and when he also had undertaken the waters, they parted him, and he withered; and Elijah went over."
2 Kings 2:14

Every obstacle in life still bows to the Word of daring faith. "I am the Lord thy God, I change not."

Thirteen pieces is a "baker's dozen" originated when King Louis of France warned all bakers who gave under measure that they would be beheaded.

worry. I'm not a traitor. You stick with the majors. I've always been a sucker for lost causes. And have never yet left a sinking ship.