

EDITORIAL COMMENT

Professional Politicians

However near or far from the Plunkett recommendations for Halton and Peel counties the future lies, one thing is certain - we are in for drastic changes in boundaries and the composition of elected and appointed officials to handle municipal services.

The bell has almost tolled on the day when men offered their services gratis or for a token payment, and received their payment in prestige and the satisfaction of a job done for their community.

Today we find, with a few exceptions like Georgetown's public and high school boards, that most elected, and many appointed offices, call for a meeting fee. In the case of county politicians this can amount to several thousand dollars, as councillors are paid for attendance at committee meetings as well as formal council sessions.

The situation thus arises, where a man is neither fish nor fowl - he becomes a kind of semi-pro - where the job doesn't

pay enough to justify his full time, yet is more than a token and more than the after-hours time he can devote to the job, is worth.

A larger administrative area will certainly call for full time officials, and like the present system, it won't be all good or all bad.

One should expect that when this happens we will benefit from having councillors who will treat their position like a job. But it will further restrict those who seek office to mainly men whose private business can afford full-time absence, for men who embark on a political career as a vocation.

If this is to come about, then it might be wise for our provincial government to consider, as part of our system of education, courses to train political leaders for all echelons of government. It is surely necessary that, if a man is to make his living this way, he possess more information than just a winning way and an ability to persuade the voters that he is their man.

Can't Have Cake Too

There is one phase of the Plunkett report which is being overstressed which smacks of trying to 'have your cake and eat it' - and that is in its opinion on an education system.

The government is stressing equal opportunity for all in this field, a worthwhile aim, yet one which cannot sensibly be reached.

Suddenly we learn that unless there are six thousand or more students involved in one education area, we cannot properly train them. Perhaps not, but if, as we are learning, we cannot set up such an area in Halton, with its density of population, how can we expect this in areas more isolated from the large concentrations of population.

Isn't it true that if one prefers to live in a smaller community, there are some disadvantages to offset the benefits of rural living?

Georgetown can no more expect to have all the benefits of a city high school, than it can expect to have an O'Keefe Centre, a reference library, a YMCA with in-

door swimming pool, a movie theatre, a Royal York hotel.

And if Georgetown cannot expect these, then it is even more far-fetched to expect this for communities in the Bruce Peninsula or Haliburton.

As far as education is concerned, Georgetown has never suffered too seriously in its standards, even in the day when our school was much smaller. The fact that we have grown four times in a couple of decades has given us definite advantages - commercial, then technical education, gymnasium and auditorium, a school library, better laboratories, and an increasing staff of specialist teachers.

We're chasing a will o' the wisp if we expect to operate our education system on the scale of Toronto, just as much as if we expect other big city extras, which are only possible in densely populated areas.

We can take compensation in the thought that we haven't the slums, the traffic problems, the crime rate that our larger neighbours have inherited with their blessings.

Largeness Not All Good

The Plunkett recommendations are difficult for one person to assess.

Certainly a year of study by experts couldn't result in something completely worthless or all bad. But one can not expect that one group of men could come up with the perfect solution either.

The only experience we have had with larger units of government inclines us to doubt the efficiency of a school board overseeing the affairs of too many schools spread over a wide area.

We were a member of North Halton high school board in the days when it controlled the Georgetown, Milton and Acton schools. It was never as efficient as the three separate boards which finally replaced it.

All too often matters affecting only one school did not draw the attention of

board members from the other towns, and essentially the board operated at three levels, with local members guiding the destinies of their own school. Meetings were time consuming, there was a higher ratio of the members absent from meetings, and a lack of the close communication which a strictly local board engenders.

If a larger school area is to come, then it will be necessary to turn the day-to-day running of the schools over to paid officials, with the board acting more as a policy-making group.

And will this really be cheaper in the long run?

We think not. For not only will we add several highly paid officials to the school staffs, but we will be paying full-time salaries to board members as well.

TURNING BACK TIME SERIES



YEARS HAVE CHANGED THIS TOWN STREET

RECOGNIZE THIS OLD GEORGETOWN ST.? You probably would if the trees on the right were erased and a brick house replaced the grassy lot on the left. This postcard loaned to the Herald by Jim Lyons, Church St., shows how that street appeared in the early 1900s. The house with turreted verandah on the left is the old Lyons home at the corner of Church and Edith.



"WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?"

SUGAR AND SPICE

by Bill Smiley

NO EXPO FOR ME

We've been talking about it for a long time. It would mean a major upheaval in the family. But it's two against one, and this is a democracy! Unless, of course, your wife happens to constitute the minority.

Today I applied for an exchange teaching job, for one year, in the United Kingdom. I must be out of my mind, but I did.

Daughter Kim is all for it. With this adventurous spirit of the young, and their complete lack of participation in all the work involved, she glows at the prospect.

After all, England is the land of the Beatles, the Rolling Stones and the highest mini-skirts.

England, as the song says, swings like a pendulum do. That's for Kimbo.

She'd like nothing better than to spend a year abroad. Not acquiring a broad education. Never! She looks upon education as small boys do upon washing; the squeaky and most useless thing foisted on the young by stupid, loving parents.

No, what she'd like to pick up in England is a Carnaby St. wardrobe and a Liverpool accent, so that she could knock the local kids dead when she comes home. The 'mod' look of Carnaby is bad enough, but the dialect of the Liverpudlian is surely the ugliest in the world, outside the pure Hottentot.

What she doesn't picture, and I haven't the heart to tell her, is the truth. If the deal goes through a year from now she will be wading through the fog in Little Muddling, or climbing the cliffs on the Isle of Mull, complete with rubber boots, raincoat and sou'wester, approximately 8,000 social miles from the England and London's West End.

My wife blows hot and cold. One week, when things are particularly obnoxious around her, she's fairly keen. She sees

a snug cottage, with vines and a cozy fireplace, shining brass, and an English garden out back. She envisages a jaunt into London every week end, for piano lessons, concerts, lunch and the theatre.

The next week, she's been talking to someone who has just spent a year there and was half-frozen for 12 months. Or she says flatly: "If you think I'm going to leave my comfortable home, treasured piano students, and all my friends, to go and live in some cold, clammy dump among a lot of strangers, etc., etc."

Sometimes, she wavers, and asks me what England is really like. The trouble is, I haven't been there for over 20 years. About all I can do is describe some first-rate pubs, and tell her how easy it was to lose your girl in the fog or blackout, unless you clung to her. Somehow these descriptive gems don't fan her ardor for the trip.

As I said, no one in his right mind wants to spend a year in the U.K. I know I'll come home either riddled with rheumatism, or in a wooden box with a sheen of fog on it.

And it isn't sentiment. Admittedly, there are a few old pubs I'd like to revisit. But they have probably changed into rancid road-houses that serve martinis instead of half-and-half, and the waitresses are insolent pups instead of buxom barnmaids who called you 'Luv' or 'Ducks.'

And there are a few old girlfriends I'd like to re-visit. But a friend of mine did this last year, taking his wife along. Somehow, he said, there was a lack of rapport. And they were all so old. And, even worse, they thought he was old.

And, I sure as heck don't want to go and stand on some deserted, dilapidated air-drome, and think of the old days. Old runways are for the birds, who make much better landings on

Check Carbon Monoxide Possible Accident Cause

Police and coroners in Halton County are being instructed to watch for evidence of carbon monoxide poisoning in unexplained traffic accidents.

Crown Attorney Peter McWilliams issued the instructions and said he has ordered Burlington police to have car experts examine a car involved in a Nov. 8 fatal accident.

He said the examination is to determine whether the driver suffered a blackout caused by carbon monoxide fumes leaking into the car from a faulty hose connection.

The possibility of carbon monoxide poisoning in the Burlington crash was suggested at an inquest Tuesday into the death of an Oakville resident Mrs.

John Robertson, a passenger in the car.

Mr. McWilliams said the fatal crash was the second this year in Halton County in which the occupants of a car were unable to explain why it veered out of the lane in which it was travelling.

BIBLE THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Philippians 4:13

The Lord is looking for people through whom He can do the unusual and even the unexplainable. The man who has Christ in Him and appropriates the power that goes with it can live the most exciting life ever. "With God nothing shall be impossible."

HARLEY JO HALTON

Weekly Observations by Dr. Harley Halton, M.P. for Halton

THE HOUSE OF COMMONS has spent one day on the Resolution proposing the guaranteed annual minimal income for our senior citizens. It is expected this will be debated next week. I would like to review this as it is most important. The Bill will guarantee old age pensioners an income of \$1200 a year or \$105 a month each, whether they are married or single. Therefore married pensioners will have a guaranteed income of \$210 a month or \$2520 a year. It is anticipated that 800,000 senior citizens will benefit from this programme, and it will cost Canadian taxpayers between 200 and 250 million dollars in 1967.

THE PROGRAMME is based on the individual's income and would ask for information that is given on the income tax return. Apart from the information given on the income tax return there will be no checking into a senior citizen's financial affairs. This program will gradually disappear as the Canada Pension Plan comes into effect and it is designed to help those who cannot or are not covered under the Canada Pension Plan.

UNDER THIS programme, recipients of old age security who have no other income, of the type considered to be income under the income tax act, will receive the full amount. For those who have other income there is a provision for partial payments. This is available to single pensioners who have an annual income including the flat rate pension of less than \$1620 and to married pensioners who have a combined income of less than \$3240 annually.

THUS, THE INCOME supplement redistributes income in favour of single persons and married couples with incomes of below \$1620 and \$3240 respectively rather than over the whole range of incomes as is the case under the existing old age security pension.

IT IS PROPOSED that the guaranteed income supplement programme take effect in January 1967. Early in the year application forms will be sent to all recipients of old age security. Those who qualify will receive monthly supplements retroactive to the month of January. Supplementary payments will be combined with the old age security cheque and we expect that the first cheques including the retroactive supplementary income payments will be sent out with the March old age security cheques. We would hope to have all these retroactive payments connected with the introduction of the program cleared up with the April cheque mailings.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Advertisement for a business directory listing various professionals and services in Georgetown, Ontario. Includes listings for Chiropractors, Optometrists, Barrager's Cleaners, Frank Petch Licensed Auctioneer, Printing, Monuments, and a general directory advertisement.

Advertisement for Fobert Insurance, featuring a large 'F' logo and contact information: 877-3374, Georgetown.