

# The Canadian Champion

MILTON, ONTARIO

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G. A. DILLS, Editor and Proprietor  
Business Office Main Street, Milton  
Telephone No. 220

## EDITORIAL

### Broadening the Community

We were pleased to hear the radio program from station CHUM on Sunday morning and the inclusion of Mayor Dawson outlining the present day advantages and the post-war program for Milton. It was a splendid presentation and Mayor Dawson gave a good picture of the county town, its location and activities and its plans for the future.

As we listened, we felt it was good for not only those of other communities to know these things, but good, too, for all of us who think we know Milton more intimately. Too often we are prone to list the faults we confront so often and fail to realize the advantages we take for granted. A review of one's own activities often proves enlightening and encouraging. Often distance lends a glamor, too, that is not secured in the home community. The gathering of the data and arranging for presentation over the air took some time and thought. Mayor Dawson did a splendid job for Milton Sunday morning and station CHUM will find a lot of new friends in the towns outside the cities who appreciate the opportunity of using the facilities provided.

### A New System

Next year ratepayers in most of Halton County, will be assessed under the plan to be established by a County Assessor. At a recent meeting of County Council the appointment was made with the duties to start the first of the year.

It is a plan that has been in operation in some other counties with success. It will bring many changes in assessments and we understand the motive is to establish a scale whereby assessments will be calculated with a view to equality. The thing that interests the ratepayers most is the amount of money necessary to meet his tax levy and he has come to learn that this has a direct bearing on the amount of his assessment. In installing the county system of equalizing the assessment, one of the arguments has been that a raise in all assessments does not mean a raise in taxes. A municipality requires so much money with which to meet its obligations. If the assessment on the whole is raised the mill rate should be lowered.

If the plan is to prove popular, county and municipal councils, in striking rates, should keep this in mind. The mill rate of other years should have no bearing but only the amount required. Low mill rate of any municipality does not necessarily mean low taxes for the taxpayers. It is the combination of assessment and mill rate that regulates the amount of taxes to be paid.

The present system of county equalization in Halton has never met with unanimous approval. It's not likely that any system devised by humans ever will have endorsement of all residents of the county. The new system deserves a fair trial. It is an endeavor to iron out some of the difficulties of the past.

### Home-Made Peace

On a single day in New York State, 600 G. I.'s filed action for divorce. They did not seem to realize that the nation for which they fought is essentially a home-made nation. Nor that, in breaking up their homes, they were cutting at the very root of our democratic ideology.

Sound homes—"little democracies" where people voluntarily agreed to live and work together—are the basic units in democracy. Destroy this idea—let home become a "little dictatorship", a man's castle, country club or cave, a legalized love nest or a battleground for self-willed parents and children—let wedlock, for any reason, drift into deadlock easily soluble through easy divorce—and we lose not only the idea behind democracy but any possibility that democracy can work.

In Europe there are millions of displaced persons and homeless children, without training or direction. There are suffering and hatred, bereavement and fear stalking across all the "liberated" countries. Instruction in democracy will prove footless here if we simply restore their devastated houses. We must reinspire and restore the idea of a sound home.

In Canada, too, homes continue to break up—

the homes of stay-at-homes as well as those of the returning soldier. When the marriage knot comes untied it is the children who are left at loose ends. Juvenile delinquency continues to grow with the divorce rate—even among children from the "best families." A nation of children on the loose has no answer for the nations of homeless children. It is imperative that we should heighten our idea of the "best families." We must be different at home if we are to prove convincing abroad. We must create a nation of sound families if we are to make any significant contribution to the family of nations.

The first Christmas made home out of a barn. The spirit of Christmas can restore our homes to-day—even homes that have grown like a barn due to coldness and indifference. New homes will mean new nations. They will mean a home-made peace and a home-made peace can last.

### Found — The Theatre

Drama in Canada, from the professional big-city theatre to the amateur production in the small village, should enjoy a boom this winter. The broadening influence of war upon youth is the reason. Thousands of Canadians who went overseas "found" the theatre, want to see more of it, both as spectators and actors.

With encouragement from municipal officials and drama-loving citizens, long-struggling theatre movements should benefit with resultant entertainment dividends and development of talent.

Unfortunately, Canada's small population scattered over a tremendous area has precluded a large-scale professional theatre. That still stands, of course, but with the new-found interest professional companies and home-town amateur dramatics—providing they are well presented—should play to filled halls.

They did in Britain, Italy and the European countries throughout the war. It's a fact that thousands of Canadians never had seen a stage production until they went overseas. In the main Dominion's youth left the drama to their elders to watch and attempt to foster. Indeed, for many, there was no theatre in their community even if they were interested.

Canadian fighting men "found" the theatre while on leave. By the end of the war Canadian servicemen and women were sprinkled throughout just about every audience in Britain. Many attended the annual Shakespearian festival at Stratford-on-Avon.

Typical, perhaps, of the initial reaction to drama was that of a young Canadian who saw his first stage play and remarked:

"I found something to-night I only vaguely realized existed. Now that I've found it I don't want to lose it."

There is talent in Canada, plenty of it. If any proof were needed it could be found in the many troupes which toured forces' camps overseas such as the "Blackouts" and "Meet the Navy."

"Meet the Navy" was such a tremendous success during a tour of Canada, Britain and the Continent that it stayed for more than two months in a West-end London professional engagement and hardened London theatre critics called it the best revue of the war, bar none. Some of its cast received stage and movie offers.

When the Canadian forces were in Italy, opera at first was shunned by entertainment-minded men on leave. Then, sometimes out of sheer desperation for something to do, many attended, got to like it. Toward the end of the war opera queues in such places as Rome, Naples and Bari included scores of Canadians.

Now is the time to build up dramatic art. It provides both education and entertainment and therefore is definitely worthwhile.

### EDITORIAL NOTES

Our language may not be polished, but it can always be clean.

We can't do a great deal for our nation unless we give a square deal to our neighbors.

Snow plows have been out on the highways and we hope they are in good repair again after last winter's pile-ups.

Yes, it is time to do your Christmas shopping early. Christmas is two weeks from Tuesday. We hope you have better luck than we have had.

Milton's second Nomination for municipal officers for 1946 will be held next Monday. Two Councilors and three School Trustees are required. If more decide to enter the contest an election will be required a week later.

No beechnuts, no hazel nuts, no apples, therefore—no snow. So pack those great big overcoats back in the closet, and put the rubbers in a nice convenient spot. If the weather prophets are right it's going to be a mild winter. According to one local woodsman, this shortage of apples and the two types of nuts is the surest sort of a sign signifying an open winter, and this is based on a reputation of over forty years of prophesying with rarely a miss. —Woodstock (N. B.) Sentinel-Press.

### POTATO STORAGES ARE IMPORTANT

Proper attention to potatoes in storage is often neglected, resulting in heavy losses, says R. E. Goodin, potato fieldman of the Ontario Department of Agriculture. Unfavorable storage conditions, he adds, often cause losses in weight, flavor, quality and attractiveness. These may often be overcome by adjusting temperature and keeping the proper degree of moisture in the air. By all means a reliable thermometer should be kept convenient in the storage room.

For best results, it is important that all tubers for storage should be free from bruises caused by mechanical injury in digging and handling, also disease likely to decay. For table stock, a temperature of 39 to 40 degrees is recommended, and 36 degrees for seed stock. A relative humidity of 90 per cent. is advisable.

### SUSPECT INCENDIARISM

TRURO, N.S. (CP)—The third army hut at Debert camp to be destroyed by fire in almost as many weeks was burned almost to the ground recently. Army officials say the fires are under investigation and it is understood that incendiary is suspected by some officials.

### INFLUENCING CHILDREN

How far is Canadian home life successful in influencing children to come up with good principles? Children get ideas from their mates and their own experiences. Sometimes these ideas do not agree with the things they are taught in home and school and church. Children have their desire for independence, and sometimes it is a difficult problem to influence them.

Parents will generally find it helpful if they can give a good deal of time to their children. Many parents have so many cares that it is difficult to do this. If they can find the time here and there for quiet talks with their children, or for engaging in sports and pleasures with them, this close association would help establish influence over the youngsters, and be an aid in giving them good ideas.

### MUSKRATS BUY FINERY

SAULT STE. MARIE, Ont. (CP)—A few months ago Lily Belair, 19, took up muskrat trapping on a dare from her brother. During the last season she caught 96 muskrats whose pelts brought top prices. Lily is spending the money on "as many nice clothes as I can find."

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