A frustrated path to progress

Milton Council has decided to invite Premier Robarts to Milton to talk about the town's lingering annexation efforts. It's probably grasping at a straw. The Premier is likely to be quite busy and unable to get to this area for discussions on what is apparently a topic no one is interested in outside this small area.

After all though, Milton has been trying to achieve annexation of some additional land for some time. They've tried all the formal and practical ways of getting some action and they've all failed or been blocked, so what is there to lose in inviting the Premier? There's always a chance he might come to Halton for other than a chicken barbecue or a ride on the GO train.

We researched as accurately as possible a chronological story of the frustrations successive Milton Councils have experienced in their efforts to provide for growth in a province that boasts of its development.

You'll find that at one O.M.B. hearing the Board suggested in oblique terms the town's application did not include enough land. At another they granted a minimum acreage and held off ruling on the balance until the government considers the Plunkett Report, although Milton Councillors were assured the Plunkett Report wouldn't affect the application. You'll find that the formal submission of over-subscribed petitions both from the people in town and the people to be annexed were rejected by the Ontario cabinet.

Two swell shows

Canada's 100th birthday will be a happy memory for the citizens of Milton and Nassagaweya Township, following two highly successful weekend celebrations when centennial projects of the town and township were officially opened and dedicated.

The town's mill pond centennial park opened Sunday evening with a community church service, parade, music, speeches and fireworks. For a while, it looked as if the renovations at the Martin St. end of the pond would never be ready on time, but the town works department and landscapers put in a herculean effort all last week and the park was a glowing credit to the community by noon on Saturday - in plenty of time for Sunday's opening. There was a large crowd on hand to witness the opening and the program was effectively handled - a true credit to all concerned.

Nassagaweya's big weekend, despite rain that forced postponement of part of Saturday's program, was a feather in the township's cap. The highly successful weekend program was organized by the residents working under a steering committee, and besides the hidden talent which emerged, the citizens had a grand time working together to produce the spectacle.

The memories of the weekend events will linger for many years. They were two swell shows, and a fitting tribute to the pioneers who laid the groundwork for the flourishing town and township of today. Congratulations to all who helped make such a memorable weekend.

A minimum request to Oakville for 100 acres, already adjacent to services was discouraged unless amalgamation could be coupled with it, in some form. But read for yourself some of the

highlights of frustration.

May 5, 1958 - Milton Council asked the Planning Board to begin a preliminary study of services in regard to annexation.

May 16, 1960 — Council formed a special committee to consider developments on the town's perimeter and consider the question of annexation.

July 25, 1960 - P. Alan Deacon recommended improvements to the town water supply before consideration of expansion north and east.

June 19, 1961 — The special committee was to continue its efforts and the town solicitor was instructed to attend the amalgamation proceedings between Oakville and Trafalgar and advise the Ontario Municipal Board of the town's consideration of annexation.

August 8, 1961 — The amalgamation of Oakville and Trafalgar was approved and the Board refused to comply with a request that the boundaries remain stable for a substantial length

August 14, 1961 - Council authorized meetings with Esquesing and Trafalgar to discuss expansion of town boundaries.

June 11, 1962 — Copies of the first annexation report were submitted by Municipal Planning Consultants calling for annexation of all of Esquesing Township south of Highway 401, 1,430 acres; and 971 acres from Oakville on west to the Town Line and on the east half way to the Third Line. It did not recommend annexation of any land to the south of the present boundaries.

July, 1962 - Council sought to amend the annexation request to 888 acres, but the cost of a complete new report altered this plan.

Oct. 23, 1962 - Council approved by-law to annex 2,400 acres with boundaries south to just below 10 Sideroad and on the north only west to the present western limit.

Oct. 30, 1962 - Council approved seeking annexation of 889 acres, with the south and west boundaries remaining unchanged.

December 11, 1962 - Solicitor K. Y. Dick was instructed to prepare the case for annexation.

April 1963 — The Ontario Municipal Board set the date for a hearing at June 12. The town subsequently sought a one month postponement and a new date was set for August 1. The township and Oakville sought a postponement and the hearing was finally set for October 21.

October 21, 1963 - A three day hearing on the town's application for annexation of approximately 889 acres was held and release of any decision delayed.

February, 1964 — The Ontario Municipal Board suggested a meeting take place between the municipalities and hinted at the desirability of enlarging the area requested.

Jan. 18, 1965 — Municipal Planning Consultants were commissioned to prepare new report.



How's the beard?, everyone wants to know. The self-styled experts (those who are too chicken to grow a beard for centennial year) are razzing the daylights out of me these days. They seem to think the chin fuzz makes the face swelter in the warmer weather.

Truthfully, the additional foliage acts as insulation. It kept my face warmer in the cool months, and now it's protecting me from the heat on these really hot days. While the beard has drawbacks (like when you slop soup in it, or when it rubs against your shirt collars) it hasn't been uncomfortable due to heat. After all, men don't shave their heads in hot weather. Why should a beard make you hot, if hair on your head doesn't?

Problems arose when students at one local school recently held a flag-raising ceremony in front of the school. Everyone broke out in a titter when the

tlag was unfurled and started up the flagpole — upside down. The flustered children doing the raising brought it down again and turned it around, refastened it to the lanyard and hoisted it once more - producing even more giggles as it headed up the pole in an inverted position a second time.

The third time around, they got it right. "I guess you can't blame the kids," the school principal told me later. "When the parents presented the flag to me the night of our centennial show, I wondered why everyone was laughing as I accepted it. I finally caught on when I looked down and found I was holding it out for display — upside down," he con-

Now there's a jinxed flag for you. Oh well, there's one thing about the new Maple Leaf flag — the pattern is the same on both sides so you can't fly it backwards anyway!

April, 1965 - The town commissioned preparation of a new annexation application and the O.M.B. (which never gave a firm ruling on the first application) agreed to wipe out the first application.

July 13, 1965 - County Council agreed to participate in a local government review and Dr. Cumming of Municipal affairs assured it would not interfere with Milton's annexation appli-

September 16, 1965 - Municipal Planning Consultants presented their new report.

September 8, 1965 — The Ontario Municipal Board inquired if the town wanted to proceed with its application since the Plunkett Study on local government had been approved. Council indicated it wanted to proceed.

September 20, 21, 22, 1965 - A three day hearing was held by the Ontario Municipal Board for the annexation of approximately 2,100 acres from Oakville and 580 acres from Esquesing.

October 6, 1965 — The O.M.B. ruled the town should be granted 214.8 acres with 210.6 in Esquesing and 4.2 in Oakville. The decision on the balance was withheld by the Board pending the review and consideration of the Plunkett study.

October 28, 1965 — County Council, by resolution, substantiated the fact a statement had been made to the council prior to undertaking the Plunkett study, that it would delay action on Milton's annexation application.

November 3, 1965 — A petition to the Lieutenant Governor in Council signed by 24 per cent of those qualified to vote on money matters in Milton, and a second petition signed by 75 per cent of those in the area to be annexed, requested completion of the annexation.

January 11, 1966 - The Department of Municipal Affairs forwarded a reply confirming the earlier O.M.B. decision since the Board had not acted improperly.

September 29, 1966 — The Plunkett Report was released and municipalities were given to the end of the year to submit written briefs on it.

November 8, 1966 - Council sought annexation from Oakville of 100 acres for industrial development, the land already being serviced.

December 12, 1966 - Council asked Oakville to give immediate approval to the 100 acre annexation.

December 20, 1966 - County Council reiterated its stand to the Department of Municipal Affairs of its understanding the Plunkett Report was not to have interfered with the annexation application.

December, 1966 - The O.M.B. submits a letter from the Department of Municipal Affairs indicating "unless and until the government has reached some decision on the basic recommendations in the report submitted by Mr. Plunkett it would be undesirable for the Board to proceed with the hearing of any substantial annexation application unless the proposed boundary change is a minor adjustment which is, in effect, agreed upon by the councils of the municipality concerned".

January 4, 1967 — Oakville Mayor M. Anderson proposed to a joint meeting of Milton and Oakville representatives, discussing the 100 acre annexation, that Milton amalgamate with Oak-

January 25, 1967 — Oakville recommends the 100 acres be annexed providing the area be examined by the Planning Boards for the most desirable use; engineers study the services; the two municipalities approve a joint sewer and water agreement and a joint Amalgamation Committee be formed.

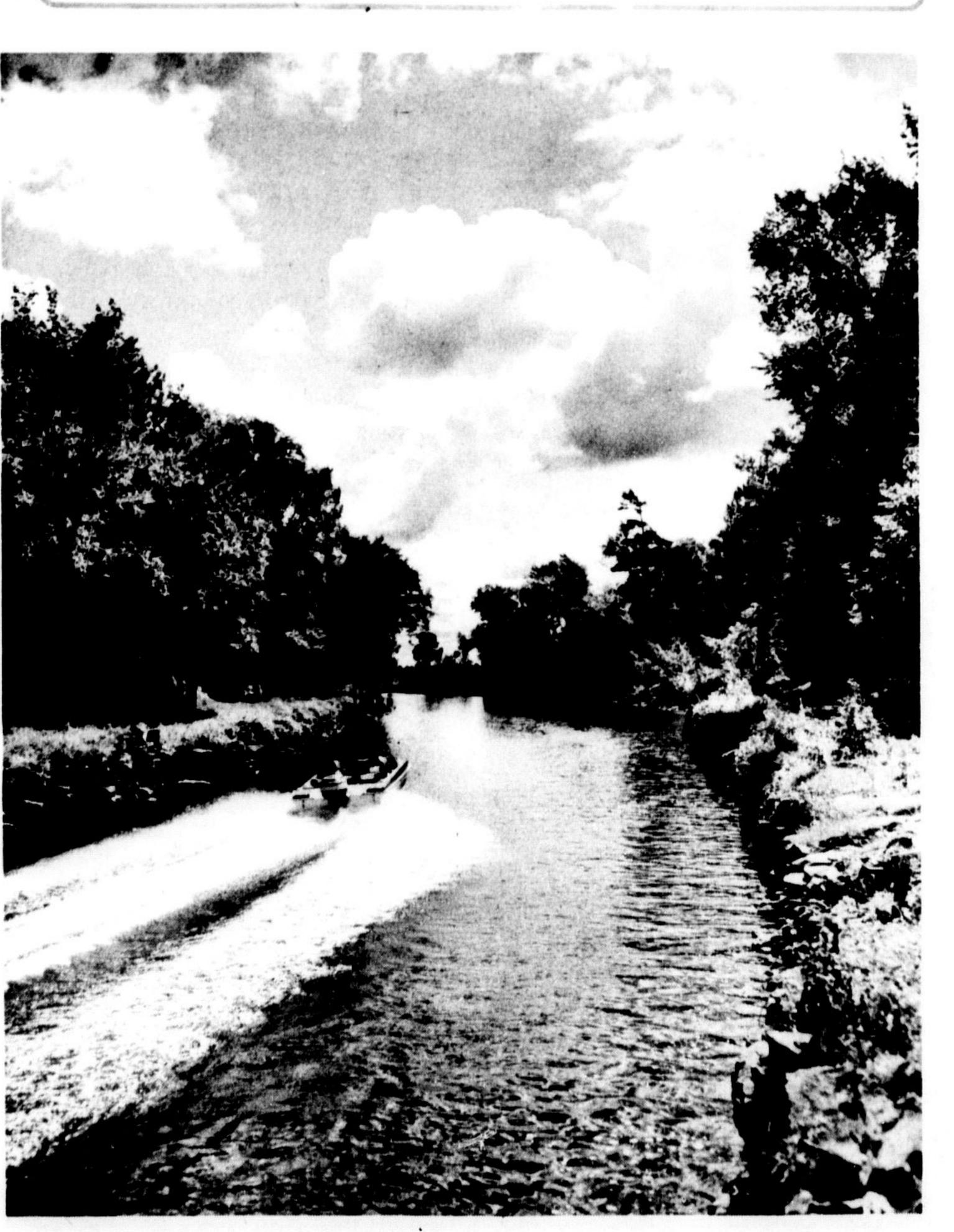
May 31, 1967 - A further letter from the Ontario Municipal Board points out the Minister of Municipal Affairs has not made a formal request as he could under 1966 legislation, to defer dealing with the matter but the O.M.B. opinion is that until the government considers the Plunkett report the application should be deferred.

No date of decision has been announced on when the provincial government may have given the Plunkett Report adequate study. Following the September presentation of the Report the province called for submissions from the municipalities by the end of the year. It apparently set no deadline for its own consideration.

The Plunkett Report has been public knowledge now for almost a year but the government is still using it as a stall on any allowance of land to Milton. The frustrations and uncertainty that exist in municipal life are the choking influence that strangles the initiative of those who are elected and those who might choose to offer their services. Perhaps this strangulation is the provincial government's way of killing a municipality, the easier to advance its newer pattern of democracy, whatever that may be.

Yes, perhaps there are some things Premier Robarts would be interested in discussing with Milton officials. The Department of Municipal Affairs and the Ontario Municipal Board don't seem anxious.

Champion Editorial Page



MECCA FOR THOUSANDS of summer boaters is Ontario's famed Trent-Severn waterway which stretches for some 240 44 locks and a marine railway. (Ont. miles through one of the province's Dep't. Tourism & Information photo).

most storied regions. Along its route, from Lake Ontario to Georgian Bay, are



Sugar and Spice

Since we are 100 years old this week, I should be grinding out an Ode to Canada. But its so hot the very thought of it makes me feel about 100 years ode. (Come on, Smiley, it ain't that hot.)

Instead, let's have an honest look at ourselves, to find out what kind of a tribe those ten decades produced.

Trying to pin down the Canadian national character is like trying to thread a needle in the dark, blind-folded, and half-stoned. Trouble is, any way you add up the individual characteristics, they come out spelling schizophrenic.

For example, the experts tell us that we are extremely inarticulate people. That means we don't talk much. Maybe it's because we haven't anything worth saying and are too proud to show our ignorance. But at the same time, we are the world's champion yakkers. According to the telephone companies, Canadians spend more time on the blower than any other nation, proportionately. Yes, Jack, my wife does too. Undoubtedly this is a backlash from pioneer days, when women often went for weeks without a chance for a good talk with another woman. They're trying to catch up.

Another contradiction. In pioneering, exploring, wars, we have shown ourselves bold, adventuresome, brave. Yet we are timid about investing our money in Canada, and we also buy more insurance, per capita, than any other country. Why this caution, this desire for security? There's something Freudian about it: mother-country; breast-fed too long; return to the womb or something. But we haven't time to figure that one out

We are as materialistic as we could be, and with some reason. It takes more than a century to get from sod shanty to sonata, from barn-raising to ballet. At the same time we are extremely cultureconscious, and are secretly delighted with the Stratford Festival and the National Ballet and our sprinkling of symphony orchestras. As long as we don't have to attend.

Despite our reverence for culture, we refuse to read. The quickest way to lose your shirt in Canada is to open a book store. In a population of 20 million, a

new book that sells 10,000 copies is a runaway best-seller. It must be a hangover from the pioneer attitude that a person should be "doing something" and that reading doesn't come in this category. Or is it because we have too much money and too many toys?

Something else we refuse to do is walk. Europeans enjoy walking. Englishmen love it. Why won't we? Our trouble probably is, in equal parts: too far to anywhere, wanting to get there in a hurry; car-worship; and plain laziness.

We are heavy boozers, as the statistics show, and can't hold our liquor, as a glance around at the next party will show. Why? Do we drink so much because we are so dull we can't stand each other without the grape? Or is it because drink has always been associated with sin in this country, and man is born to

Yes, we play hard, and most of us work hard. The sad thing is that the only reason we work hard is to enable us to get things with which to play hard: boats and barbecues and built-in bars; cottages and cars and curling memberships.

Are we a religious people? Well, we have vast numbers of churches of every conceivable denomination, most of them tottering on the brink of bankruptcy. But we are decent enough to leave God in church, where he belongs. He is rarely mentioned on weekdays, and usually then only as a prefix for another word.

We are without prejudice and have laws to prove it. But let's go on being honest, and admit the nation is riddled with prejudice based on race, religion, language, color, politics and money. Don't agree? Just try joining one of those exclusive Jewish clubs if you happen to be a Black Muslim. Or getting a teaching job in a French convent school if your a Jewish Eskimo.

We have a few other little quirks, but I wouldn't trade my Canadian citizenship for four million in gold bullion. How about you?

There's a topic for your guest column, in our Centennial Save-Smiley Contest. Prize is now \$50 cash. Get cracking.



Pages of the Past

from champion files

Taken from the issue of the Canadian Champion, June 26, 1947.

The rain finally ceased and the sun shone for a week and then we overheard one agriculturalist remark "we could almost do with some rain."

The Tansley Bridge on No. 5 Highway was closed to all traffic Tuesday and the Department of Highways announced that it will not be reopened for at least six weeks. The east end of the 27-year-old structure, an official said, was weakened due to excavation for abutment of the last pier of the new bridge now under construction. Westbound traffic will be detoured south from Palermo on the county road and west along the Queen Elizabeth Way to the junction of No. 25 Highway, then north to Nelson, from where it will continue along No. 5 Highway. Eastbound traffic will follow the reverse route.

Ideal weather favored nearly 1,000 school children, parents and Junior Farmers who attended the second annual Halton Federation of Agriculture field day held at Agricultural Park in Milton last Saturday morning and afternoon. During the program, the R. S. Heatherington special award went to Mrs. Mary Atkinson, 80, of R.R. 2, Hornby, as oldest lady on the grounds, while George Bell 87 of Freeman, was the oldest gentleman.

Three of the four Kilbride pupils passed their entrance examinations on their year's work. The teacher, Mrs. F. Davis, is smiling.

CANADIAN CHAMPION

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50 years ago Taken from the issue of the Canadian

Champion, June 28, 1917. Posters are out for Milton's jubilee centennial patriotic demonstration July 2 to celebrate the jubilee of Confederation. The motor car parade for returned soldiers and their families will come off

Victoria Park at about 2.30, when the public school pupils will march to the park, headed by the band. The parties who took police magistrate Dice's sign from the fence across

from his residence are asked to return it

at 1.30 p.m. at the town hall, ending at

and save trouble, as they are known. Jasper Martin has turned over his planing mill etc., to David Menzies for a year, with a sale conditional, and will go back to Hillsdale.

Milton merchants have agreed to close their stores at 1 p.m. every Wednesday during July and August. This is a good arrangement and the people of Milton should encourage it. It is requested and hoped that none of them ask any merchant to break it.

The late John R. Barber of Georgetown left an estate of \$438,000. To each of his daughters, Mrs. Mary Brown and Mrs. Hazel Bell, he left the income of \$20,000 for life, the money to go to their children eventually. John R. Barber will get \$20,000 on reaching 25, when he will get the principal. Mrs. Bessey, Mr. Barber's mother-in-law, gets an annuity of \$300. The residue of the estate is to be divided among the testator's four other children and 10 grandchildren.

100 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Canadian Champion, June 20, 1867.

On Tuesday last, some of the family of John Dewar of Esquesing saw a young boy running out of their house, holding something against his breast. On pursuing him, he took to his heels and escaped. After a search, it was discovered that two ten dollar packages of silver were missing, and Mr. Dewar proceeded to Milton, and accompanied by the Mayor, went to the residence of a Miltonian, whose son was accused.

The women who saw him assert that Louis was the boy. His father was working on the next farm belonging to R. Graham, and it is supposed that the boy, seeing no one in, perpetrated the robbery. He is a youth of but seven summers and, we may well ask, if such things be done in the green tree, what will be done in the dry?

The boy strenuously denied it, calling upon his Maker to stop his breath if he were guilty. So the matter ends for the present, but it is to be hoped that the perpetrator will be punished, and sent for a few years to the reformatory, for if he gets off, it is but an encouragement to him and to other bad boys to go on to yet higher feats in

wickedness.