

YORK PIONEER AND PRESENT

BY E. A. JAMES

Article 10.

TOWNSHIP SCHOOL BOARD, Gwillimbury East, 1842

The most outstanding reform advocated today in connection with our Public Schools is the formation of township trustee boards.

This is not a new idea for we find that by the Education Act of 1841 Township Trustee Boards were authorized.

Mr. H. D. Ramsden, a former Reeve of East Gwillimbury, has shown us an old minute book in which is recorded the meeting of the first Township Trustee Board or Common School Commissioners in East Gwillimbury.

We have copied the minutes without change or correction for they contain several phrases that to-day sound strange and archaic.

In 1842 the trustees not only managed the school business of the township but they also issued teaching permits and were the board of inspectors.

Their report for 1842 to the District Council (Home District) which follows the minutes of 1842 summarizes for us the status of public schools in East Gwillimbury in 1842.

Minutes of School Commissioners:—

The first meeting of the Common School Commissioners for the Township of East Gwillimbury met at the school house in the Village of Sharon on the twenty-fourth day of September in the year Eighteen Hundred and Forty-two to examine the blank forms of the Common School Reports sent to the Township from the Clerk of the District Council requesting them to make reports of what schools there is in operation in the Township and what is lying vacant for the want of teachers and the number of School Districts without school houses.

Commissioners present was:—John D. Willson, Samuel Brook, James Harrold, Thomas G. Dunham, William Mainprize.

Whereas Robert Whiteside was appointed a Common School Commissioner and he has moved out of the Township and the Commissioners present appointed David Eleby in his stead to serve for the present year.

It was moved and seconded and carried, that John D. Willson should be Chairman.

It was moved and seconded and carried, that James Aylward and Samuel Harrold should be visiting Commissioners to visit the schools that is in operation at the present time.

It was moved and seconded and carried that the examination of teachers should be attended to. John D. Willson has been examined by the Common School Commissioners for School Teacher for the Village of Sharon and approved for the School District No. 5.

Samuel Brook has been examined by the School Commissioner for School Teacher on Yonge Street Approved of for the School District No. 2.

John Sidens has been examined by the Common School Commissioners for School Teacher and approved of until further examination for the School District Number Nine.

Moved and seconded and carried for adjournment.

October 4, 1842:—

The School Commissioners met agreeable to notice to Examine some School Teachers for Different Schools. Rufus Berehard being examined by the board of School Commissioners for a School Teacher and approved of until further Examination for the School District No. 13, Eight Concession.

Nelson Fletcher being examined by the board of School Commissioners for a School Teacher and approved of until further Examination for School District No. 10.

John Coomer being Examined by the board of School Commissioners for a School Teacher and Approved of until further Examination for the School District No. 9 on Queen Street.

Adjourned.

The School Commissioners met agreeable to adjournment to make a report as is required by the Clerk of the District Council to give Information of the Number of Schools that is in operation at present and the number of School Districts that is vacant for the want of Teachers and also the number of School Districts without School houses.

School Commissioners present:—John D. Willson, Chairman; Visiting Commissioners, James Aylward, Samuel Harrold; Samuel Brook, Thomas G. Dunham, William Mainprize.

A Report of the School Commissioners of the Township of East Gwillimbury

Sir, the following report is intended to afford the Information required by your Circular of the 12th Ult.

To John D. Willson, Chairman of the Common School Commissioners of the Township of Gwillimbury East. Sir, the expense for Erecting a School house and furnishing stove for the same in School District No. 13 is estimated at Twenty-Six Pounds to be built on the south side of Lot No. 8 in the 8th Concession on the west side of the Centre Road.

Signed, WILLIAM MAINPRIZE.
The visiting Commissioners Reports that the Schools now in Operation are Improving no difficulties in School Education in progress and tolerable good order the Schools are kept in.

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RICHMOND HILL

Article 11.

NORTH YORK CORPORATE SEAL

The first council of the Township of York had many unusual duties. It was many a day since a new township had been formed in the County of York. Among these duties was the selecting of a design for a corporate seal.

The design selected is a composite, the suggestions of several being combined in one drawing.



The seal of the corporation of North York, the design of which appears here, was approved by the council on the 16th day of July, 1923. The words Progress and Economy surround an ornamental shield on which are emblazoned the Canadian Beaver, a full wheat sheaf and scales.

The native beaver (Castor Canadensis) is a fitting emblem of an industrious people; the wheat denoting the prosperity of the people and the fertility of the land. The scales are indicative of justice and square dealing.

CAMPAIGN SIMMERINGS

We understand that both political candidates in North York are holding well attended meetings which is a contradiction of the statement that people are not taking an interest in the election.

Election day, Tuesday, September 14th. If you fail to vote you sacrifice the privilege of grabbing at the government for the next four years.

Harry Sifton the Liberal candidate is in the midst of a campaign which is a credit to himself and his workers. Mr. Sifton is content to have the election decided on the issues and is not resorting to personalities or rash promises.

"I voted for Herb last time but never again." How many times have you heard it? You don't need to hear it many times in each sub-division to figure out the result of the election in North York.

"Hands off the People's Railway." It is not safe in the hands of Patenaude, Black and Meighen

How much time did T. H. Lennox devote to his duties as representative of North York in the last house? Is that the kind of representation that this historic constituency deserves?

The conservative candidate is holding a lot of meetings and doing a lot of talking about the last session of parliament. Ask him what he did either for the good of the riding he was supposed to represent or the country at large. We are informed that he was not even a member of the notorious board of strategy.

The Tory campaign is growing worse and worse. It started with Doucet and Nicholson. The fight is by no means over, and already it has degenerated into worse depths. The charge now is that the Liberals are permitting the flooding of this country with diseased and infected prison made clothing, smuggled in from the United States. In three-quarter page advertisements from one end of the country to the other this flood of crimson falsehood has been let loose. It is the vilest lie so far turned out in this campaign. Even the tales of secret diaries and Bacchanalian exhibit of desperate tactics.

The statements made in these advertisements are false. At the bottom of each announcement is the name, "Liberal-Conservative Victory Committee." At the conclusion of each advertisement the people are asked to vote for a certain number of candidates who happen to be running in the constituencies in which the announcements are published. In the city of Ottawa the story concludes with this touching appeal "Vote for W. F. Garland and rebuke corruption."

"Politicians, like parties," says a Toronto editor, "usually defeat themselves. For instance, the talk of men like Messrs. A. J. Doucet and G. B. Nicholson will speedily dissipate all the independent votes that their leaders are angling for."

It is always interesting during a campaign to hear what the fellow on the outside has to say. The following is from the "Hudson Herald," the local newspaper of North Toronto.

Probably the most interesting scrap of the last Dominion campaign was the one in North York, where Herb Lennox got the edge on Premier King to the extent of almost 500 votes. It was one of the most hectic campaigns ever staged, and Mr. Barnum is said to have paled into insignificance when his productions were compared with the campaign that Herb put on; but there is a whispering through the north that he somewhat strained his promises on that occasion, and that it is not delivering such satisfactory goods this time.

When Harry Sifton, son of Clifford, of Laurier government fame was seized upon as a candidate by the Grits a couple of weeks ago there was little excitement, and it was felt that Herb was going to have two picnics this year instead of one. But Harry has been taking the job seriously. He moved right into the riding, took off his surplus clothing, rolled up his sleeves, and started a campaign. He has not made a great deal of noise, but there are rumors that he is getting results. He made his first move publicly on Saturday, when he published a letter he had written to Mr. Lennox, suggesting that all the meetings held in the riding, save a couple by each party, at which the right of way could be given to the big guns, be joint affairs, the speakers be confined to the two candidates, each speaking first in turn, and the first to speak on each occasion to have the right to reply.

He suggested that this idea would not only give the free and independent a line on the platform of both parties but would give them a chance to size up both candidates. The uninitiated would have thought that Mr. Lennox, with his years of experience, opposed by a new-comer in the political arena, would have welcomed the chance to show the greenhorn up. But not so. Alleging that Mr. Sifton is trying to use him as an added attraction to draw crowds to hear himself, he has declined to play in the Grit yard. Experienced politicians will not be surprised at this decision. Herb could always to better on a still hand. You can always whisper something to a prospective supporter in private that would be strictly infra dig on the platform, and Herb is a past master on the quiet promises. In fact, he is said to have so many unredeemed promises outstanding from the late campaign that he does not banker to meet the voting populace on masse.

A smooth fixer can generally straighten these little tangles out if he takes them one by one in a quiet corner, but to tackle them in a crowd might prove disastrous. All of which is to say that things are not breaking well for Herb in North York, and the knowing ones will probably gasp for breath about 9 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 14th, if the wires convey the intimation that he is approximately 1,000 votes behind in the historic riding to the north. And when you hear the news just reflect that we gave you this hint.



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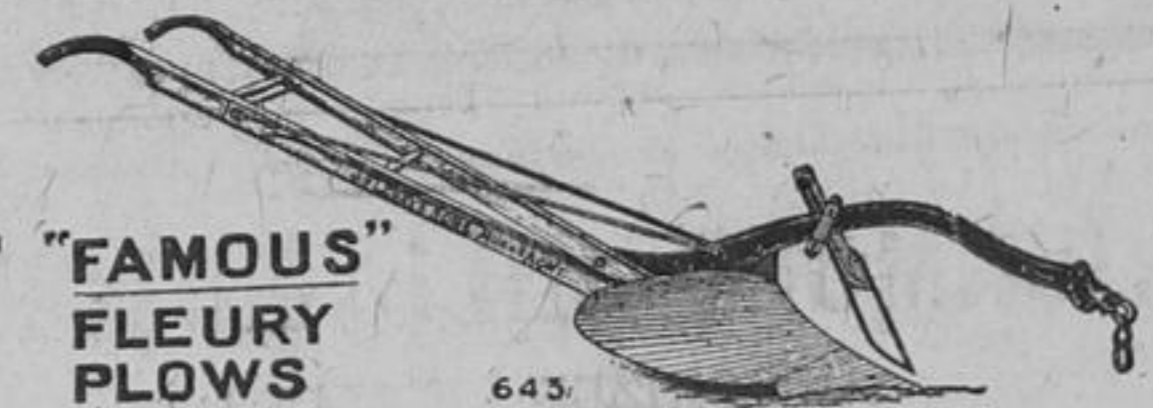
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