

LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE

FAVORS ACTION ON ASSESSMENT QUESTION

Richmond Hill
October 30th

Editor Liberal

The statement at the Court of Revision as reported in your last issue that the assessment in Richmond Hill is ROTTEN should be enough to make the citizens of the town take sufficient interest in the matter to investigate very fully. The statement coming from a member of the Municipal Council is sufficient to warrant an investigation and should warrant immediate action. Richmond Hill citizens should not be penalized by a ROTTEN assessment and if the assessment is fair and equitable the impression should not be broadcasted that it is ROTTEN. A revision and equalization of the Village assessment has been talked of for many months. I would like to see the Ratepayers Association or the Board of Trade take this question up very seriously and see if something could be done. Fair just and equitable assessment is the keystone of good municipal administration.

RATEPAYER

LOOKING FORWARD

Richmond Hill
October 29th

Editor Liberal,

I would ask for a little space in your valuable "letters from the people" section for some reflection which if not pleasant may be profitable.

One hundred years from now—Have you ever thought of it.—When you see the fading leaf, the opening bud or the perfect blossom, did you ever think who will look upon the flowers that will bloom, the buds that will unfold or the leaves that will fall and wither. One hundred years from now when you have walked the streets, meeting the people that pass and repass like the waves of the ocean did you ever think who will walk these streets one hundred years from now. Such thoughts are not pleasant yet it is well to cherish them that we may more fully realize the fleeting nature of earthly things. Yes, they are sad thoughts, yet the pulse must cease its beating, decay must set its seal on the perishing frame while the "soul" feels not the touch of time or years.

We know that each passing season bears with it many changes, but leaves and flowers are not all that fade or the voice of music all that pass away. Death is in the world, and all humanity must feel the touch of the Great Destroyer. Let us linger on the thought that though the skies may be as beautiful and the earth robed in as much loveliness yet the eyes that now look upon them will all be closed; yes closed in the sleep that knows no waking until the trumpet shall sound at the last great day of Judgment. One hundred years and the child upon whose path the snows of the first winter are falling, and the old man who for four score years and ten have marked the blossoms fade will have "passed away."

OBSERVER

TAKES EXCEPTION TO LETTER DESCRIBING LOCAL CONDITIONS UNDER L. C. A.

Richmond Hill
October 27, 1928

Editor Liberal,

While perusing the columns of the Toronto Globe of Friday, October 26, I came across a letter by Anna Moyle of Richmond Hill. This epistle addressed to the Home Maker department was entitled "Save Our Boys" and purported to be a statement of the conditions as they exist under the present Liquor Control Act in this vicinity.

One has only to glance over this letter which is written in a combination of Dime thriller and True Story Magazine style to realize that it is the product of a mind which is more interested in denouncing the present liquor act than in furthering the cause of temperance. In support of this statement allow me to quote from the letter.

"You told us of the efforts being made by the liquor people to get hold of our boys and girls, and have them vote for liquor control at the next election. I want to tell you the result.

"One of those present, during the evening in her own home, repeated to husband and family what you told us, and found to her horror, amazement and heart-breaking agony, that her own dearly loved eldest son, only 16, had acquired a taste for liquor."

The above statement is set out in the letter as a part of a conversation

which took place between Miss Moyle and another lady regarding a temperance address delivered by Miss Moyle. The date of which while not given must have been previous to the vote on liquor control as it was on this subject she was speaking. Now Mr. Editor where and when did this boy acquire this appetite. It surely must have been under the O. T. A. as it is apparent that at the date of the address the L. C. A. was not as yet carried by the people.

Let me quote some of the more dramatic part of this letter.

"Let me tell you of another case in my own experience. Going home early one evening a woman noticed a boy of seventeen, the eldest of a large family, leaning against the fence, too much under the influence of liquor to stand alone. Speaking to him, she said:

"My boy, my boy, what are you going to do? You cannot stay here."

"I won't go home; it will kill mother," he mumbled.

Putting her arm through his, this noble Christian woman said:

"Come home with me till you are over this."

Guiding his footsteps, shielding him as much as possible from observation, she took him to her home. Placing him on the lounge, a cup of strong coffee was prepared! While drinking it she tried to find out where and from whom the liquor had been obtained, but he refused to tell. For an hour he lay like a log, in a drunken sleep, this faithful friend wiping the damp hair and brow. Then he became restless and began to mutter to himself. For some time the patient listener waited, when suddenly he threw up his hands, crying out:

"No, no, I don't want it. No, I hate the stuff; take it away. It will break mother's heart. Take it away, I tell you."

And then the anxiously waited-for name was unconsciously given.

Suspicion was confirmed, action quickly taken, and soon a certain place raided. But—take notice, good readers—nothing was found, though this fiend in the shape of a man openly boasted: "They came within two feet of it."

Other school boys, 15, 16, 17 years of age, in this community are drinking, within 20 miles of Toronto.

This splendid woman then told me of her own sorrow: a dearly loved brother spending \$45 a week on liquor in Toronto and they are helpless. Three motherless children left for others to care for, their father a disgrace to the honored name he bears, one of the oldest in Canada."

Here is a young man who was unable to stand with out the side of a fence. He was guided along the streets and into a home. Here, drunk as he was he would not give the name of the man who supplied the liquor. Drunk as he was he was sober enough to fear for the result his actions would have on his mother. Then after receiving this cup of strong coffee he apparently lapsed into unconsciousness and while in this unconscious condition he still remembered his mother's feelings but he forgot about the bootleggers welfare and spilled the beans. Now Mr. Editor I would like to know just what kind of liquor this lad was drinking or was it that strong cup of coffee that set his mind in such a muddle.

Then there is this man with the \$45 a week thirst. This man's age is not given but I judge from the way this Ontario liquor works he must be at least 23 or 24 years old and I am wondering what kind of a salary he will have to draw when he is sixty if he hopes to appease this terrible thirst.

Lastly there is the statement that boys 15, 16, 17 years of age in this community are drinking.

May I ask the pertinent question if this is the condition that exists in this community, why in the name of Temperance does not Miss Moyle discuss these things through the local press and draw the attention of our own people to these conditions rather than broadcasting to the world. A statement that reflects upon the good name of every young boy in this community.

In closing may I say Miss Moyle's Temperance utterances resemble too much those hoary old stock arguments of the past fifties to carry much weight with the present day residents of this community. The days are gone when "The face on the bar room floor" can be applied to our liquor habits. May I use a portion of Miss Moyle's slogan. "Save the Temperance cause from Advocates like these."

I am still
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The threshing done, potatoes and apples picked, the farmers are now busy finishing up the plowing.

We are pleased to see the sick ones improving.

Miss Drew Kelly is now on the road to recovery.

Mr. Wilkinson is improved and Mrs. McRill is picking up. Also Miss Ruth Walker is out after undergoing an operation on her throat. We hope soon to see Billie Hood around.

Mr. and Mrs. D. Hood spent Sunday afternoon in Markham.

Miss Katie Craig, of Buffalo, visited at her home over the week-end. Miss Florence Craig has returned from her trip across the line.

Mr. Woods gave a fine address on Sunday morning to a full house; also baptized two children. Mr. Harris, of Toronto, was the speaker on Sunday evening, his subject being, Christian Adventure. The choir rendered an anthem under the leadership of Mrs. Padgett.

Our choir will assist in the service of praise at Box Grove next Sunday.

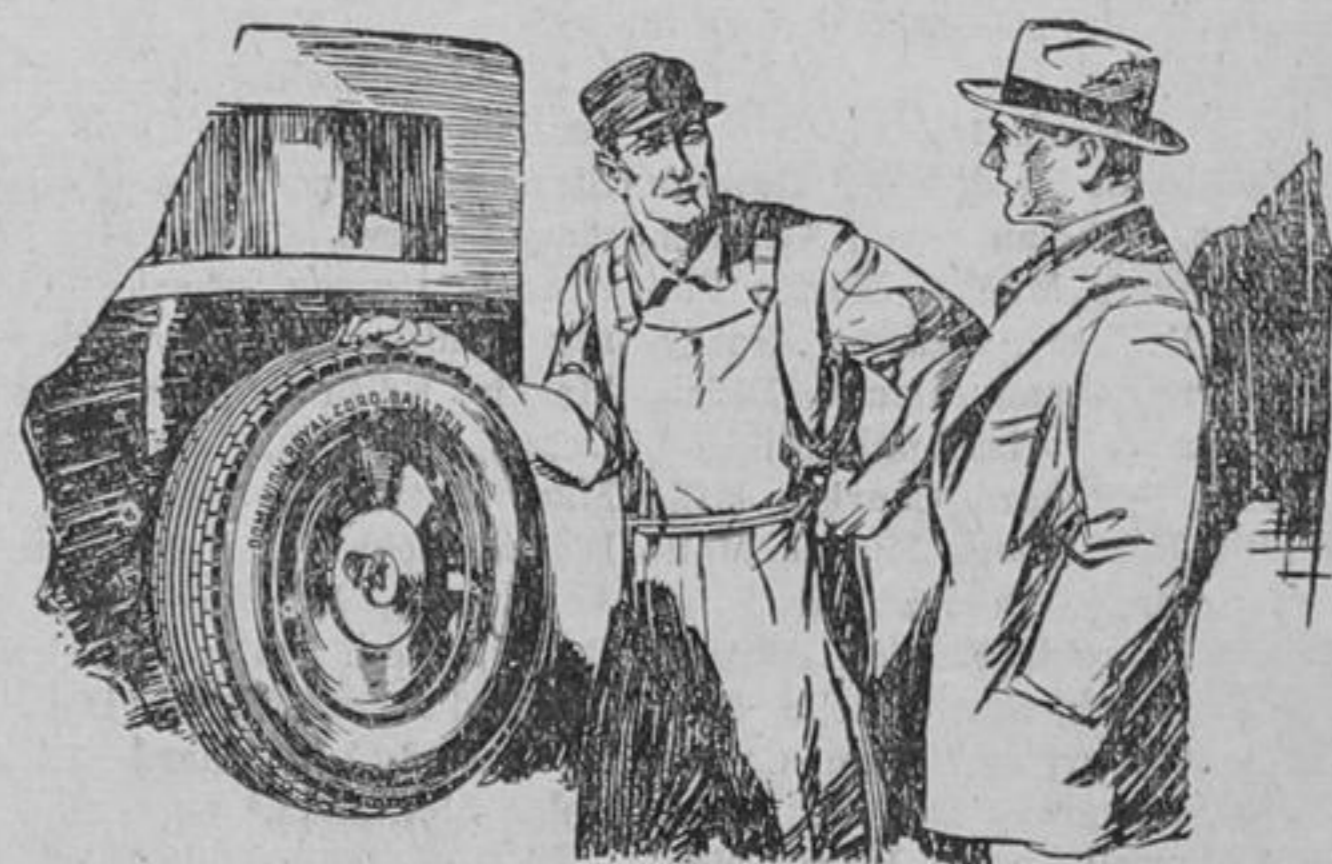
The W. M. S. had a very successful Thank-offering meeting on Monday evening, Mr. and Mrs. Shantz of Stouffville, gave a very helpful picture of their work in Africa. The offering was over eighty dollars and pleased the officers of the W. M. S. very much.

On Monday some of the boys are off to the north country to hunt game. Who ever heard of a bunch of women going away for a week's holidays?

Mrs. F. Tennyson spent Monday with Mrs. W. Gohn.

Mrs. Meyers, of Stouffville is visiting her son Mr. Allan Meyers.

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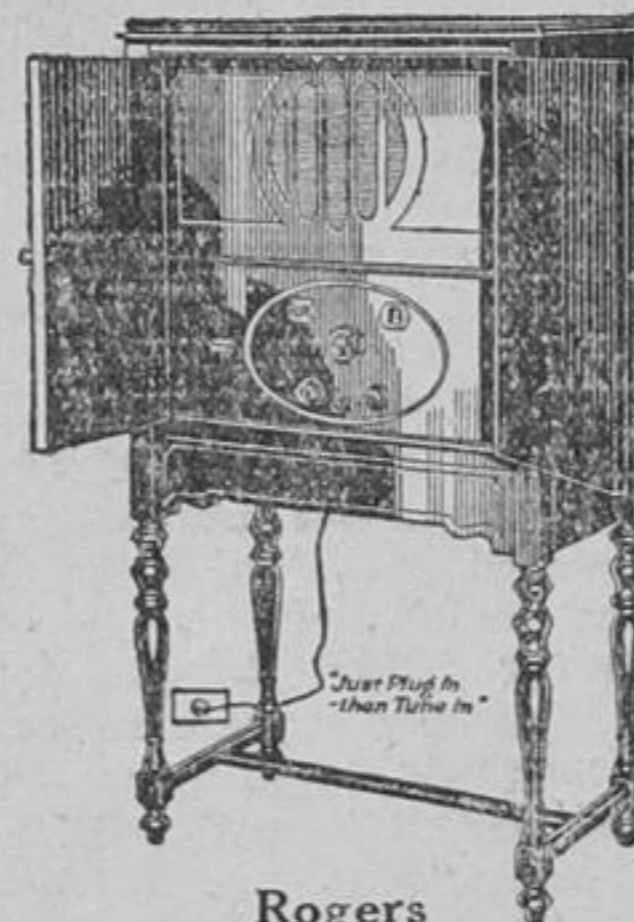
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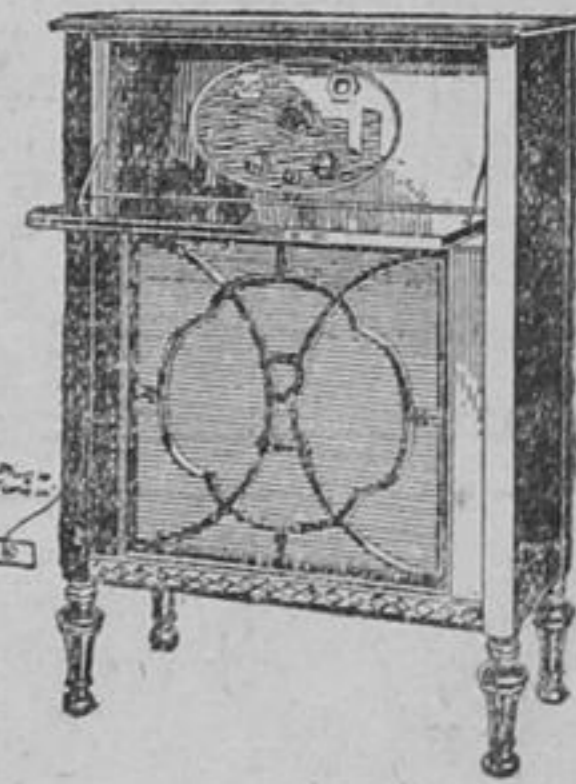
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