

THE LIBERAL

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THURSDAY, MAY 19th, 1933

MUNICIPAL TREASURY SHOULD BENEFIT FROM MORE THAN DIRECT TAXATION

The recent tendency of the governments to grab up all sources of revenue and still shoulder a share of the expense for provincial and national undertakings on the municipalities has placed the taxpayer in a very difficult position. It has also made it hard going for those who carry on municipal government in the towns and townships in that they are forced to make large expenditures and have to get it all by direct taxation.

One of the recommendations submitted to the government lately by a committee of municipal men headed by Mayor Peebles of Hamilton was to the effect that taxation be reduced to home owners by a restoration of sources of revenue properly belonging to the municipality.

In a few words this touches a fundamental principle of our municipal life and future governments should pay a lot of attention to this recommendation.

A municipality's revenue comes largely from one source: a tax on land and buildings. And, as taxes have kept on increasing over a period of many years, rising from a small amount to fifty or more mills on the dollar in many instances, this direct burden upon property has become onerous in many cases.

Were municipal taxes for municipal purposes the only charge upon property, it would be quite in order, but the fact is that many other items have been levied on real estate.

The provincial government has been particularly fond of pre-empting sources of revenue for their purposes, yet passing on part of the cost to municipalities. For instance, they collect a heavy tax on gasoline, as well as license fees, supposedly to pay the cost of building and maintaining provincial roads, yet they pass on to the municipalities 20 per cent of this cost, though the municipality has no such sources of revenue open to them for road purposes.

The Ontario government levies an inheritance tax on all estates over a certain figure, and retains it for their purposes, yet if there ever was a tax that properly belonged to the municipalities it is this tax. The money, in nearly all cases, was made in the home town of deceased, and it would appear reasonable that the home town which made the accumulation of sizeable fortunes possible should benefit by a return of a percentage of this tax.

Old Age Pensions and Mother's Allowances are properly a provincial responsibility, yet part of the cost is levied upon the municipalities.

Even in the matter of relief, there is much to be said in favor of the argument that this is a provincial or federal responsibility, with the municipalities being responsible only for the administration of relief.

Towns have gotten very close to the end of their tether. They cannot continue indefinitely to place greater and greater burdens upon real estate. The average wage of a workman in good times is only about \$1,000 a year, and many get less than this. Yet on an average, home town taxes run between \$50 and \$125 a year, or, say, an average of nearly ten per cent of the total earnings of the householder.

When economic conditions become depressed it is no wonder that this burden of taxes on real estate could not be met by many citizens. The result is shown by the huge sums of tax arrears carried by nearly all municipalities.

It would seem that the federal and provincial governments must either carry their own burdens, instead of passing part of them on to the municipalities, or else they must make available to the latter some sources of revenue such as a share of the gas tax or inheritance tax.

"THE APPOINTMENT OF A TREASURER"

It is expected that having disposed of the very important work of allotting the County Treasurership to one of their own members the York County Council will now get down to work and consider some of the less important duties of the body including the collection of taxes and payment of overdue grants to High Schools. The presentation of the farce comedy "The Appointment of a Treasurer" by members of Canada's third largest legislative body during recent weeks has been one of that body's best bits of comedy acting. The public has witnessed the wild scramble for the position and has had a good laugh, but the people are still wondering and trying to figure all that must have gone on "back stage." The complete face about by the County Council in withdrawing its support from ex-warden E. M. Legge in favor of deputy-reeve Gardhouse, and the approval by the bankers who three weeks previously had flatly refused to endorse the appointment of any present or past member of County Council still needs some clearing up in the public mind. It is also worthy of note that on April 20th ex-warden Legge was appointed at a salary of \$2500.00 per year, and three weeks later when Mr. Gardhouse was appointed the salary was set at \$3000. The whole thing from start to finish does not tend to increase the confidence of the people of the County Council.

Dress Up For Spring

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WEEKLY NEWSY NOTES FROM THE AGINCOURT DISTRICT

Ideal weather favored the annual Athletic Day of Agincourt Continuation School on Monday. There was a good crowd to see the events and the interest keen.

Beina Brittain carried off the Girls' Junior Championship, Gladys Third the Intermediate and Irene Sellers the Senior.

Boys' Championships: John Emmet captured the Boys' Junior, Peter Nyczaj the Intermediate and Alex Robinson the Senior. Well done!

The officials for the Girls' events were: Misses Nellie Clark, Bertha Bacon and Frances Blair, trustee L. A. Kennedy, Rev. G. S. Scovell and Gordon Haig.

Officials for the Boys' events: Dr. A. L. Burch, G. A. Preston, Rev. W. D. McDonald, M. M. Gibson, trustees M. G. Ineson and H. B. Cole.

Principal C. F. Lawrence and his staff were well pleased with the success of the sports.

On Wednesday evening, May 10th, Knox Presbyterian Young People's Society was entertained at "Rowanwood," the home of Mr. and Mrs. Colin Hood, Milliken.

The devotional committee under the sponsorship of Miss Frances Blair, put on a splendid program. Miss Mildred Forfar and Mr. Alexander Davidson took part in the devotional exercises. Miss Evelyn Forsythe, deaconess at St. John's Presbyterian Church, Toronto, gave a talk on "My Responsibility"—a most helpful and timely one.

The meeting decided to have a jolly get-together, in the open, on May 24th.

The program ended, the jolliest hour ever was spent in singing "Truth and Dare," "Passing the Apple," "Carryin' the Plate" and other games.

There was some live community singing too. Then the choicest of refreshments were enjoyed.

It was indeed a topping evening, and all appreciated much the thoughtfulness and kindness of Mr. and Mrs. Hood and daughters in entertaining the Y.P.S. right royally.

The May meeting of Agincourt branch East York Women's Institute was held at the home of Mrs. Fred Morgan, Main St., last week.

Mrs. A. E. Kennedy presided. Mesdames John Nicol, W. W. Walton, Cessford Thomson and J. L. Paterson were appointed delegates to attend the District Annual Convention in Wexford Hall next month.

Mrs. George Paterson took the chair for the election of officers. The following were re-elected.

Hon. Pres.—Mrs. W. A. Young.
Pres.—Mrs. A. E. Kennedy.
1st Vice-Pres.—Mrs. Leslie Miller.
2nd Vice-Pres.—Mrs. Fred Morgan.

Secy.—Mrs. John Nicol.
Mrs. W. A. Young gave an interesting and elucidative address on "The Life of Lord Simcoe," first lieutenant governor of Upper and Lower Canada, as taken from a diary kept by Lady Simcoe. Her maiden name was Elizabeth Gwillim, the township of Gwillimbury having been named after her, and Lord Simcoe after her husband.

Miss Margaret Morgan played a lovely piano solo.

The hostesses for the afternoon were: Mesdames Glen Morgan, Fred Morgan, A. E. Kennedy and D. Taylor.

Agincourt branch has been invited to join Wexford Institute at their summer meeting, when Mrs. Hamm of Bath will be the special speaker.

The concert given by Knox United choir in Oddfellow's Hall, on Wednesday evening, May 10th, was a pronounced success. Besides selections by the choir, numbers were rendered by the following artists: Edna Harris Wheatley, Dorothy Greenway, Douglas Ratcliffe and David B. Tees, comprising Haydn String Quartette; John Moscow, Mrs. David Taylor, Miss Margaret Larsen, Richard Smith Ola MacNaughton, Margaret Morgan and Helen Paterson.

The concert was under the direction of Mr. David B. Tees, Toronto, and Miss Margaret Morgan, organist.

Special Mother's Day services, well attended, were held in Agincourt churches on Sunday. Rev. G. S. Scovell, rector of St. Timothy's, preached on "The Ideal Mother" from St. John, ch. 19-25: "Now there stood by the cross of Jesus, his mother and his mother's sister, Mary, the wife of Cleophas and Mary Magdalene." The choir rendered the anthem, "Mother's Prayers have followed me."

Appropriate sermons on "Mary, the mother of Jesus" were delivered by Rev. W. D. MacDonald in Knox United Church and by Rev. Dr. A. L. Burch in Knox Presbyterian Church.

Miss Jean Leslie gave an excellent address on "God is Love" in Knox Presbyterian Sunday School.

Mr. Alex Morgan sang "Softly and Tenderly Jesus is calling" in Knox United Church on Sunday morning.

This season's activities of Agincourt Lawn Bowling Club will open with a local tournament on May 24th. The usual spring business meetings have been held, making preparations for what is anticipated to be a bigger and better season than ever.

Mr. and Mrs. David Marshall spent the week-end with the latter's sister, Mrs. Robert Purdie, Browning Ave., Toronto.

Mrs. H. A. Ballard and children left for Cochrane on Monday. Our best wishes follow them and Mr. Ballard to their new home.

The Adelphi C.G.T. Mother and Daughter Banquet has been postponed until Monday evening, May 22nd.

Changeable—Visitor: "But aren't you too small to stay up so late?"
Joan: "Mummy says so, but in the morning she tells me I'm too big to lie in bed."

London Free Press

"Often noticed, Haven't you?
Those who have the most to do,
Always have the time to lend
Helping hand to needy friend.
Time to say a word that cheers,
Time to help dispel grim fears,
Time to sing, time to smile,
Time to make the world worth-while."

Selected.

Those from Agincourt who attended the annual banquet of Toronto Milk Transport Association in the audi-

torium of Runnymede Collegiate Institute, Toronto, last Friday evening were, Mr. and Mrs. Jas. Muirhead and daughter Jean, Miss Nellie Clark, Miss Jean Grant, Mr. and Mrs. Kens. Walton, Mr. Jim Clark, Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Paterson, Mr. Albert Coburn, Mr. Bruce Davidson, Miss Frances Blair, Miss Ethel Wood, Mr. Clark Young, Mr. and Mrs. Bert Kennedy.

The dinner and program were of the very best. Mr. Melson Boylam was chairman and Mr. Gordon Graydon, B.A., L.L.D., was guest speaker. About 400 attended.

VELLORE

St. Paul's Missionary Society met at the home of Mrs. E. Bryson for their May meeting. There was a large attendance, Miss Annie Kerr, president, presided, Miss Edith Kingdom, Mrs. D. Witherspoon and Mrs. H. Dooks were responsible for the excellent program, which comprised of three interesting papers. An important part of the business was the appointing of a young girl to represent Section 3 W.M.S. this summer. Miss Louise Kerr was chosen and we wish her a pleasant vacation. Lunch was served at the close of the meeting.

Mother's Day services were held at St. Paul's Church last Sunday.

All roads led to Vellore last Tuesday night when the Township Hall was taxed to its capacity with a group of Junior Farmers and Farm Girls from the West side of York County and the East side of Peel County. Such a group as Hon. T. L. Kennedy, minister of Agriculture might be well proud of.

The Vellore Junior Farmers and Farm Girls entertained Ebenezer boys and girls of Peel County. The boys met in the school basement. The winners for the Starling Hunt was announced: Mr. Peter Craib's side, "The Night Hawks," were the winners with a small lead on Cliff Rumble and his supporters. Mr. B. Plunkett gave the boys an interesting talk on "Growing Roots."

The girls met in the Township Hall. It was decided that the girls carry on a Junior and a Senior Sewing Project, the leaders are Miss Mary Constable and Miss Jean McKinnon. Miss Ella McIntyre demonstrated packing a club bag.

During the joint meeting an excellent program was presented by our friends from Ebenezer, which included, readings, piano duets, vocal solos and lastly "The Mystery Number," which proved to be a big mystery to many.

Les Smith's Orchestra provided music for dancing for the merry crowd of over three hundred young people.

Refreshments were served, the menu consisted of sandwiches, cakes, tarts, cookies and heaps of ice cream.

Mr. and Mrs. Elwyn Simpson's (nee Flora Craib) baby girl was baptized at St. Paul's Church, Vaughan, on Sunday (Mary Isobel Jane).

A number of the young people motored to Niagara Falls on Sunday. Mr. Neal McDonald and his pupils of Colrairie School paid their return visit to Vellore Public School on Arbor Day.

Mrs. Hanson of Toronto visited with her sister, Mrs. G. Jarrett, last week.

Indignant Comedian—"Look here, I object to going on just after that monkey act!"

Stage Manager—"Why, laddie? Are you afraid they'll think you are an encore?"

SLATS' DIARY

BY ROSS FARQUHAR

Friday—Pa was very very mutch imbarrest today. He was a setting in the little back room at the Dry cleaners place when the fire wissel blowed and he got Xsited and run out on the St. and fer-got that he was getting his Pants pressed. He recognized several of his ole frends. But pretended not to see them on his way back.



Saturday—Ant Emmys neace went to see a Sicoanalist the uther day and he told her she had a Inferoruty Complex and now she is bying about evry thing in the drug Store to make it come out better.

Sunday—Pa was wryried this morning. When he got up he put his hand in his pant pocket and found out that sum buddy had tuk sum munny out of his pocket. I sed Mebby ma done it and he replied and sed No I am very sure she did not take the munny out of my pocket becu there is still sum munny left in my pocket.

Monday—The teacher ast us what was Effigy and Jake sed it was a place where they take people and burn them. It just happened that I new it was sum thing you put on a fellows tume Stone in the grave yd. after he is dead.

Tuesday—A cuzzen of ma rote her a Letter and sed they had a new Baby at there house and was a going to Crissen it May first. Ant Emmy sed, Well it aint enny of my bisness I ges but I think that is a tearable name to give a little innozent Baby.

Wednesday—We had a very Quiet evning at are house tonite after ma sed to pa. Why dont they ever publish peaces in the paper about happy marryges. And pa sed to her. For the same reason I reckon that they never put in mutch about Three legged tigers and etc.

Thursday—Clint Mull was a telling pa that his Muther & law was at his house and was cawsing him a lot of Trubble and pa sed well Clint I wood-ent let her go to far, and Clint sed to pa. Well the ferther she goes the better. if she stays there.

POLO AT THE FAIR
A game of Polo with two outstanding ladies' teams competing will be a feature of Richmond Hill Fair on Wednesday, May 24th.

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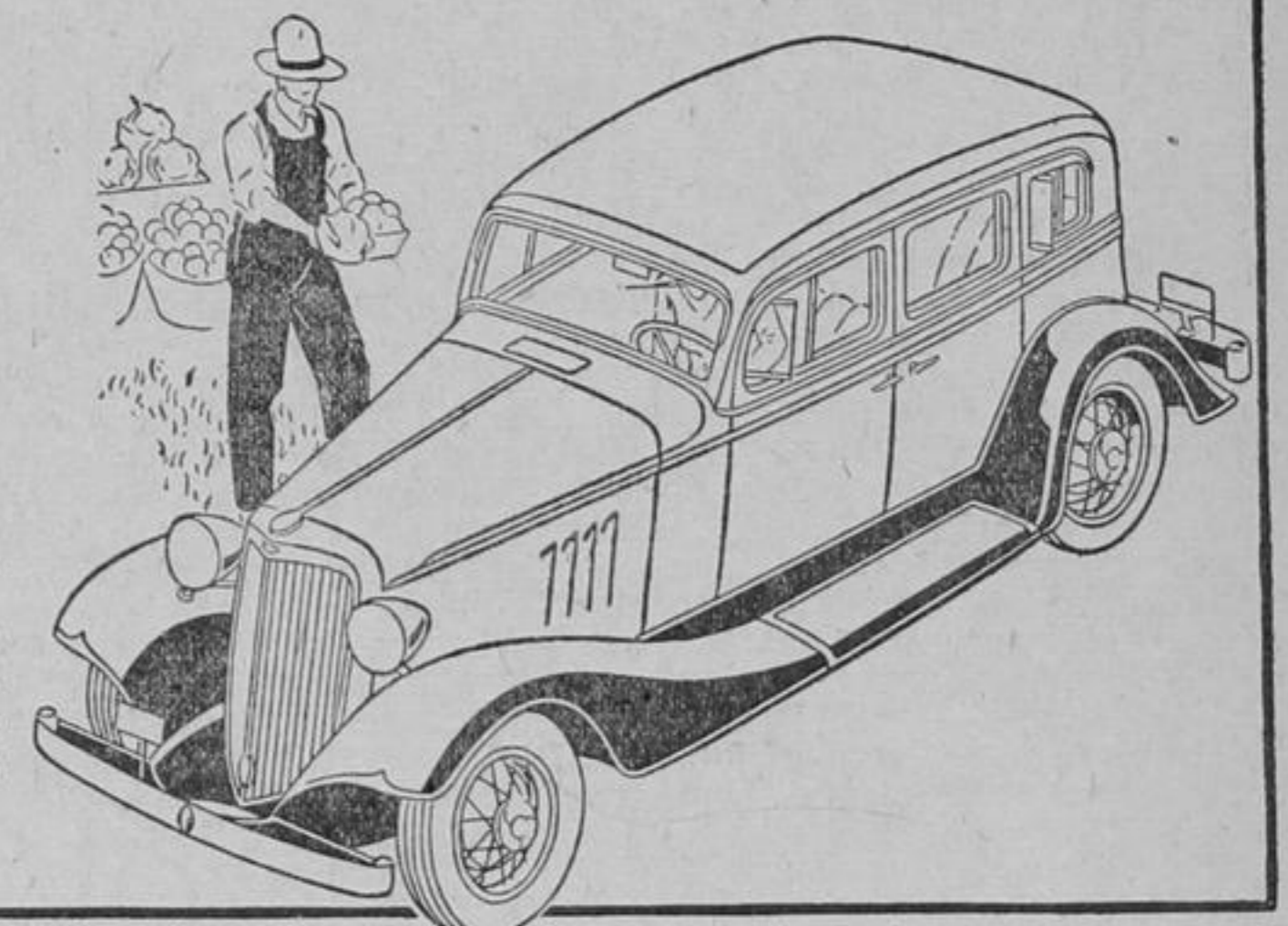
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