

THE LIBERAL

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6th, 1934

TAX OUTSIDE BUSINESS

We join the Whitby Gazette and Chronicle in commending the County Council of Ontario for their proposed action in asking the Ontario Legislature to amend the Assessment Act, giving Councils power to pass by-laws whereby they will be enabled to collect a tax from outside concerns according to the amount of business they do in each place. The Gazette and Chronicle has the following to say on the matter:

"Ontario County Council, representative of the taxpayers of the county has declared war on outside business concerns who are allowed to sell their wares in the smaller urban and rural places without being liable to taxation. This applies to departmental stores, bakeries, laundries, cleaning and pressing concerns, and others who take the fullest advantage of the statute which exempts them from taxation away from home so long as they are manufacturers and peddle through their bona fide agents. The Town of Whitby has long been a stamping ground for these outside concerns, and sooner or later if their operations are not curbed, there will be a few stores left in the business section and the corner store in rural sections will disappear altogether.

"What the County Council is asking the Ontario Legislature to do is to amend the Assessment Act giving Councils power to pass by-laws whereby they will be enabled to collect from outside concerns according to the amount of business they do in each place. This means that each year all of these concerns would have to submit to the assessor of each municipality a statement showing the amount of business they do yearly, and on this a tax would be levied. It would be a straight business tax, and would in some way compensate the local merchants who are losing heavily today as this new taxation would go to the towns and townships to help reduce taxation.

"For too long now the representatives of the big interests have had influence with our legislators, with the results that efforts of such organizations as the Retail Merchants' Association to have a tax placed on outside concerns who are crowding the men and women in the smaller communities have come to naught.

"Ontario County Council has asked other Councils to endorse the resolution and we hope that they will. It is also being sent to our local legislators in the hope that it will be introduced at Queen's Park."

If this is a good thing for Ontario County, we feel that it would be a good thing for York County. It is most unfair that the local merchant who is obliged to contribute to the upkeep of the municipality in which he resides, through the payment of taxes, should have to compete with the large departmental stores of a distant city which contribute nothing to the upkeep of the various rural municipalities in which they have no business.

DRIVERS' PERMITS

Here is a job for the new Minister of Highways or whoever looks after the motor car drivers' permits:

A writer to Toronto Mail and Empire says that he has received his driving permit. The examination was of the stop, reverse, drive around the block sort of thing. The examiner, he says, "has my dollar; but as to whether I can tell the difference between a green light and a red he doesn't know. As long as I keep my permit paid up I need never go through another examination, no matter what physical or mental ills I have suffered in the meantime. So if some of these fine Sundays I should run into your machine and maim someone of your family terribly, the fact that I have a permit should be of some comfort to you."

Somewhat sarcastic, but very true! We have spoken of this before, the fact that apparently all the department cares about is the dollar fee, and have suggested that it would be in the interest of all drivers and of safer driving if a reasonably strict test were imposed on applicants for licenses.

It does seem ridiculous, or it certainly would be ridiculous if it were not the next thing to criminal—to turn loose on the highways a lot of drivers who know absolutely nothing about their machines except the starter, the accelerator, the steering wheel and the horn. Yet that, so far as we can learn, is about the extent of the average examination. So it might be in order to suggest to the new Minister that he would be doing a good job and helping materially to increase highway safety if he stiffened the requirements for drivers' licenses.

Also if he made renewal depend on the candidate passing another examination.

SECRECY IS BOUND TO BRING TROUBLE

So far the chief impression on the public from the various probes in progress,—Hydro, Abitibi, Air Service, T. & N. O., etc.—has been that the Henry government was altogether too secretive about its ways of doing business.

Mr. Buchanan was paid his salary in cash as Hydro orator and the commissioners didn't want anybody to know he was paid for his speeches. That would spoil the effect, Mr. Maguire is credited with saying.

Abitibi worked in a fog of secrecy and the chief new fact emerges that the work cost \$26,000,000 or some six to eight millions more than the public have been led to believe.

No audit of the air service books at the Sault hangar has ever been made,—an almost unbelievable fact.

The T. & N. O. has cost \$58,000,000, according to the latest estimate, with deficits since 1915, with the exception of one year, although the rosy stuff handed to the newspapers conveyed quite a different impression.

No wonder people are perplexed at the revelations.

DON'T LOOK—YOU MIGHT SEE A TRAIN COMING!

The mounting toll from accidents at level crossings is occasioning a good deal of comment throughout the country these days and newspapers everywhere are calling attention to the necessity for care in approaching such crossings in an automobile.

Not the least impressive comment is the series of signs for level crossings proposed in the Toronto Telegram. There

is an ironic touch about these which may drive the lesson home. Here they are:

- Don't Stop—You Might Escape Disaster.
- Don't Look—You Might See a Train Coming.
- Don't Listen—You Might Hear a Warning Whistle.
- Each Week End Adds to the Level Crossing Toll. How About You?

Railway Crossing 300 Feet. Go Right Ahead. It's Your Funeral.

It is possible that these might not prove practicable, but a motor car driver should at least remember that it is always train time—and that whatever advantage is held by the biggest battalions is on the side of the train.

TROUBLED PEDESTRIANS

Pedestrians on the highway are at a loss to know whether to walk on the right or the left side for the greatest safety. Some advocate that pedestrians should walk on the left side so that they will face the cars that are approaching. If they walk on the right side they may be run down by the traffic behind them. An insurance company in the United States has made a survey of this matter and statistics of accidents showed that the greatest percentage of fatalities occurred among those who walked in the same direction with it. What ever side you choose you need to keep both eyes peeled for all autos.—Walkerton Herald-Times.

NEWTONBROOK

The traffic on Yonge St. was exceptionally heavy over last week-end, owing to Labor Day holiday.

The regular monthly meeting of the Women's Association will be held next Thursday, Sept. 13th, at the home of Mrs. A. W. Stephenson.

Labor Day services were held in the United Church last Sunday with the pastor in charge.

Preparations are under way for the Rally Day Services which will be held the last Sunday in Sept. A pageant will be presented by members of the Sunday School.

Donald and Billy Graham have returned home after a two weeks holiday spent with friends in Cobourg.

Mrs. Frank Summers entertained her Sunday School Class of young ladies last Friday evening.

Miss Cora Good is visiting with her sister, Mrs. Leslie Oldham at Mt. Albert, this week.

Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Soden and Miss Doris Soden returned home last Friday after a two months holiday at Balm Beach, Georgian Bay.

Mr. Robert Smith and Mr. and Mrs. Harry Smith attended the funeral of their sister, Mrs. Robinson, at Smithfield, last Saturday afternoon. We extend to them our sympathy.

We also extend sympathy to Mrs. Robt. Carson in the death of her sister, Mrs. Boynton.

Mr. and Mrs. Robt. Carson and Mr. and Mrs. Harry Smith attended the funeral of Mrs. Boynton last Sunday afternoon.

Exhibition visitors at the home of Rev. and Mrs. Halbert last week were Mrs. J. A. Halbert, Misses Nellie and Ethel Halbert of Thornton, Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Henderson, Master Russell and Miss Dorothy Henderson of Rosemont and Mr. S. J. Halbert, Russell and Wilfrid Halbert of Alliston.

Mr. and Mrs. Bert Smith have moved to the home formerly owned by Mrs. Harding on Yonge St. We welcome them to our midst.

Mrs. Nelson Smith and Miss Ruth Smith returned home from Bayview Beach this week.

The executive of the Young People's Society is meeting this (Thursday) evening to make plans for the fall term.

Many congratulatory remarks were passed on the beautiful arrangement of flowers in the United Church last Sunday, which were donated from members gardens. Two standards and a large flower basket were filled with exquisite flowers. The work of the Flower Committee from Sunday to Sunday is very much appreciated.

The monthly meeting of the Sunday School executive will be held on Thursday evening in the Sunday School room at 8 o'clock.

Newtonbrook Public School opened last Tuesday morning with the following staff of teachers, Miss E. Tate, Miss Crosby, Miss Jackson, Miss Milburn, Miss Robinson and Mr. R. Lang. Every room has a capacity attendance and the beginners class was exceptionally large this year.

Miss Hazel Brett returned home last week after holidaying with friends in Cobourg.

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VELLORE

The Junior Farmers' Corn Roast

Thrills and excitement prevailed in Sharp's Flats on Wednesday evening, when the Vellore Junior Farmers and Farm Girls Club met for their annual corn and weiner roast. The program of the evening started with a very loud blast, resulting from a stick of dynamite being discharged in a pail of water. The girls skill was tested by throwing old boots at a (wooden) black cat on the fence at a distance of 30 ft. and was won by Grace White. A tent was erected on the ground and contained many interesting articles. Snapshots of club members taken in early youth proved very humorous.

Mr. Barger guessed the correct number of candies in a jar. The popular lady contest was won by Miss Laurena Rutherford. The boys strength was tested by pulling on elastic ropes and was won by Herb Joslin and George Davidson. One of the features of the evening was the relay race which consisted of six teams with three boys on a team. The humorous part of this relay was that the boys had to wheel a baby carriage with a doll tied in it a distance of two miles. At the shot of the gun the boys dashed away but had to lessen their speed considerably to keep carriage going ahead of them, instead of sideways. The captain of the team had the last lap to run which brought them down over the well-known Colborne-Hollow Hill to the bonfire. Bob Julian and his team proved the best baby carriage runners and won first money which entitled them to a free ticket to Wood bridge Fair.

Two large bonfires gave a perfect setting for the evenings entertainment, while two hundred young people sat around eating corn, hot dogs and marshmallows.

The Vellore Junior Farmers Fire Brigade put on a demonstration of their skill. A small wooden structure was erected on the grounds and while one of the fair members of the club was inside, it suddenly took fire. Next we heard the roar of a motorcycle and daring Herb Joslin dashed down the alley and through the burning building, none the worse of the thrill that he gave the large audience. Then the fire brigade rushed to the scene of the fire and extinguished the blaze by white wash sprayers and fire extinguishers. The final spectacle of the evening was the beautiful fireworks.

This splendid program was arranged by Mr. Pete Craib and Mr. Jim McDonald and were greatly commended for the excellent features which proved so interesting.

Members of the Vellore Club keep in mind that they are visiting Victoria Square Club, Friday, Sept. 14th.

Miss Jane McNeil has returned home after spending two weeks with friends at Mud Lake.

The school children are back in school with their teacher, Miss Elma Farr, after spending a lengthy holiday.

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Lindsay of Cayuga spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Rutherford.

The fat die sooner, but why not? Nature probably figures they have eaten their share.

No friend seems quite so wonderful after you meet the other people he likes.

HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR SUBSCRIPTION TO THE LIBERAL?

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