

THE LIBERAL

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THE CITIZEN AND THE VOTE

Every citizen is a shareholder in the community and as such on one day in the year is asked to take part in the election of those who are to carry on the business of the municipality for the coming twelve months.

THE KIND THE WORLD IS LOOKING FOR

The world is always looking for men and women who are not for sale; men who are honest, and true to the heart's core. Men who know their message and tell it; men who know their places and fill them; men who know their own business and tend to it, not other people's business; men who will not lie, shirk or back out of difficulty; men who are not too proud or too lazy to do a little bit of work, men who are willing to eat what they have earned and wear what they have paid for; men who are not afraid to say "no" with emphasis and who are not ashamed to say, "I can't afford it."

THE CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY

The expenditures of the York County Children's Aid Society were subject to criticism at the nomination meetings throughout the district on Monday. It was pointed out that this Society accounted for an expenditure of \$32,500.00 by York County in the past year.

Reeve James Cameron of Weston speaking as chairman of the Vaughan Township nomination meeting declared that he favored having the Children's Aid Society present a budget at the beginning of the year and be compelled to live within that budget.

Reeve Cameron's proposal is a good one and should have the support of his associates in County Council. There is no reason why the Society cannot present a budget at the start of the year and when that budget is presented York County Councillors will render the taxpayers a service by making sure all unnecessary frills are trimmed off and administration costs reduced.

SIDEWALKS FOR YONGE STREET AN URGENT NECESSITY

Adequate sidewalks on Yonge Street are an immediate necessity and their construction should not be any longer postponed. Recent tragic fatalities have driven home with shocking emphasis the fact that sidewalks are a necessity and that every day their construction is postponed means added toll in human life.

That section of Yonge Street just south of Richmond Hill is particularly hazardous and those who of necessity use this section of roadway as pedestrians at night are treading in a veritable death trap.

The province and municipalities every month pay out thousands of dollars in relief payments to those who have no work. Surely this money paid out in relief could be utilized to advantage in constructing the needed sidewalks for pedestrians and in keeping the sidewalks clear of snow.

The shocking fatalities and accidents on Yonge Street south of Richmond Hill must not continue. The outlay of money needed would be more than justified by the averting of one serious accident. Those who use Yonge Street, whether as pedestrians or motorists, must not longer be faced with the danger hazards which this stretch of highway presents day and night, but particularly after dark. An adequate sidewalk on Yonge Street south from Richmond Hill is an urgent necessity in the interests of safety and the preservation of human life.

A RAY OF HOPE FOR THE MUNICIPALITIES

The eagerly-awaited announcement of the Dominion government as to relief contributions has at last been made and Ontario gets a satisfactory slice of money from the Federal coffers. Starting immediately, this province is to receive \$1,050,000 per month, almost double its previous allowance from the Dominion treasury.

Just what this will mean to the hard-pressed municipalities is not difficult to figure out. The Ontario government has maintained continuously that municipal bodies could not continue much longer to bear relief costs in their present proportion and that the burden would have to be eased. Now that the King government has signified its intention of shouldering a greater amount of the relief burden, the Heppburn administration will at once take such steps as will lighten the responsibilities of the municipalities.

The establishment of a provincial income tax by which it is hoped to raise \$15,000,000 in additional revenue, also enters into the relief picture. In place of their taxing privileges, the municipalities will be given certain concessions in connection with relief matters.

When the Ontario delegation went to the inter-provincial conference at Ottawa, Hon. David Croll, welfare minister, presented the case for Ontario as far as relief was concerned. He came prepared with figures and statistics covering every phase of the situation, and he showed in a clear-cut manner the necessity of the Dominion government contributing a larger amount towards the cost of relief. Mr. Croll convinced the Dominion cabinet that the requests were not unwarranted. The figures spoke for themselves. So much was being spent, so much was coming into the treasury, and the two were not balancing very well. The whole matter was threshed out thoroughly and the upshot was that the Ontario delegation left for home with the assurance that an increase would be given. That promise has now been kept and the benefit of the larger contribution will be passed on to some extent to those who need it.

It was a Christmas box from the Dominion government to the Ontario government—the best kind of gift that could be made.

The Ottawa Spotlight

By Wilfrid Eggleston

Ottawa, Dec. 31st—A popular pastime among the commentators at this season of the year is to look back over the 12 months just past and try to predict, from the general trend of the times, what the coming year is likely to bring. Ever since the depression began, prophets have arisen from time to time to say that "prosperity is just around the corner" and some of the rosy predictions issued on the 1st of January in the years 1930, 1931, 1932 make pathetic reading now. Instead of things rapidly 'getting back' to the levels of 1928 and 1929, they rapidly and emphatically grew worse.

Perhaps that is why the forecasts this year are a little more sober and cautious. It is quite true that measured by the usual standards, the year 1935 saw a substantial movement toward better times. It is also true that indications mainly point toward being over the million mark. There is not a single provincial budget which balances, after taking into account special expenditure, and taxes are about at their peak, so that relief on that side of the balance sheet is impossible. The debts of public bodies continue to grow alarmingly. The federal debt has grown about 800 million dollars since the beginning of the depression. The railway problem grows no simpler as time goes on. The movement of traffic by rail is discouraging low. Volume of movement on the railways in 1935 was only about 70 per cent of the volume in 1926. While trucks and buses explain part of this reduction, it is still a startling commentary on the sluggishness of business. Allowing for the long-term trend, internal and external movement of goods ought by now to be 20 per cent above the 1926 levels, not 30 per cent below it. It will take a continuation of the steep increase in employment of the past summer for another two years before the present unemployed are back in industry. It will take several years of similar gains in federal revenues before a balanced budget can be achieved.

(Counting on Trade)

The Liberal administration is banking heavily on the restoration of international trade to bring about better times. They argue that the depression resulted from the barriers created by legislators in the form of tariffs, quotas, exchange restrictions and so forth. These damned up the streams of commerce and created stagnation everywhere, thus undoing and thwarting the advances of science and engineering and destroying the gains which are obtained when each country does the thing it is best fitted to do and exchange its own specialty lines for the specialty lines of other countries. They argue that high tariffs result in costly and uneconomic production, which lowers the demand and the consumption of goods. If the world moves with Canada towards lower tariff barriers, they argue, 1936 will see further improvement everywhere. The European war threat is the most menacing cloud on the Canadian business horizon. There are enough restrictions on commerce now, and enough debts, without a major cataclysm coming along before the world has recovered from the last one, they feel. That might be the last straw.

a continuation of the same upward trend. But there is no longer any easy optimism that unemployment will soon be a thing of the past, or that budgets will easily balance, or that the standard of living of the masses will quickly rise to a more respectable level. Most observers now are pleased to feel that the movement will at least continue upward.

(Bright Spots of 1935)

What were the developments of 1935 which suggest that times are growing better? Employment figures rose; external trade gained considerable; the wheat problem grew less acute; production of automobiles, boots and shoes, electric power, several metals climbed to higher levels. The primary producer in many areas obtained somewhat better prices for his commodities. The newsprint industry at least became no worse. Federal revenues climbed slightly. The cost of money fell, governments being able to borrow at record low levels. Trade barriers were lowered slightly. Some measure of confidence returned into the business world. The stock market, which usually acts as a barometer of business prospects, pointed to better weather ahead.

On the other side of the ledger the picture is still dark. In spite of gains in employment, there are still between 400,000 and 500,000 Canadians, it would appear, unable to find employment. There are 200,000 families on relief, and a large army of single men and women also, the grand total

Letters From The People

Editor of The Liberal

Sir:— In spite of men being out of work for some years who might have been employed making at least cinder paths for the people living below the hill in the community, what has been done? Nothing.

During the past week or so a tragedy took place in which a young man in the prime of life was run into by a motorist and allowed to freeze after being apparently thrown into the ditch. Then again a young woman on a Sunday evening was run down by a motorist and is now suffering from the effects in a hospital. Is this thing to go on? Mothers sending children to school in the village are in terror until they see their children safely home. Are these young innocent lives to be taken due to the absolute niggardliness and wanton carelessness on the part of municipalities supposed to be Christian? On Sundays parents are afraid to send their children to church and Sunday school as traffic is worse on that day than any other. In summer with people pleasure mad and in winter city people coming to the country for winter sports walking is very dangerous.

The writer although walking on the street car track escaped being killed by a motorist driving his car across the tracks when crowded out by a large truck last summer. Only yesterday a child was run over but fortunately not badly hurt.

Please for the sake at least of little children cannot something be done for their safety as well as the safety of grown-ups who pay their taxes regularly.

THE CHILDREN

(By Charles Dickens) They are idols of hearts and of households, They are Angels of God in disguise, His sunlight still sleeps in their tresses, His glory still gleams in their eyes; Oh those truants from home and from heaven, They have made me more manly and mild, And I know how Jesus could liken The Kingdom of God to a child.

Trusting the 1936 councils will take immediate action on this important matter,

A Lover of Children.

History of self determination: (1) "We are a poor persecuted minority." (2) "Now we have the upper hand, let's get even."

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SCOUTS

Special low admission fees will admit Boy Scouts to the famous London Zoo after the New Year.

LORD SOMERS ACTING FOR BADEN-POWELL

As Acting Chief Scout during his absence in South Africa, Lord Baden-Powell has appointed Lord Somers, former Governor and Chief Scout for the State of Victoria, Australia.

THOUGHT THE "TALKIES" WERE GHOSTS

A Boy Scout talkie film, the first shown at a Methodist missionary school in Ceylon, created a near panic. The children thought the figures on the screen were talking ghosts.

AN ULSTER SCOUT BAZAAR

An old English village, including castle, lych-gate and maypole, was the setting of the Ulster Boy Scouts' Bazaar, at King's Hall, Belfast. Her Grace the Duchess of Abercorn was Chairman.

Funny land! Jailing bandits and doing nothing to "agents" who dry-clean trusting amateur authors."

Round Trip BARGAIN EXCURSION FARES From TORONTO

Table with columns for destinations: Province of Quebec, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and fares for various routes.

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