

"THE LIBERAL"

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THE INCREASED RADIO TAX

If the Canadian Broadcasting Commission find a lot of static these days their inspectors can find the cause in the recent announcement of the proposed increase in the radio tax. Two weeks ago we commented on the human inclination to protest against any increase in tax and by some of our readers this was taken as our approval of the increase in the radio tax to \$2.50 per year.

We appreciate that the Canadian Radio Corporation faces a gigantic task in trying to carry out the aims for which it was created, but another increase in the tax at this time is sure to be most unpopular with the people. We hope the Commission will reconsider the proposal and if more revenue is needed that it might be obtained in some other way.

COUNTY COUNCIL AND SWEEPSTAKES

York County Council has gone on record as favoring charity sweepstakes. Apart altogether from the merits or shortcomings of the Sweepstakes proposal we wonder why the County Council should take up time discussing the question. The County Council has no authority to say whether or not sweepstakes will be legalized, so why not leave discussion of the subject to those public bodies which could do something about it.

DO MORE WALKING

When a person gets into the nonagenarian class people naturally are interested in any rules he followed in order to live on borrowed time. The advice handed out may range all the way from a special diet to a life of hard work. However, experts in such matters say that heredity has a great deal to do with longevity.

The other day Charles F. Roth of Lansdowne was asked how it is that he is still in pretty good health despite the fact that he has passed his 97th milestone in life and he replied that he walks a great deal. He believes his daily walks have much to do with his excellent health. So few of us do much walking nowadays. To get to their places of business, even if it is only a few blocks, they hop into a car and drive the short distance when a walk would be the best thing for them.

A generation ago many persons made it a practice to take a brisk walk as often as possible and end the week with a long stroll on Sunday afternoon. This practice is now largely confined to the younger people, although there is increasing evidence that some of them try to hitch-hike instead of negotiating a mile or so on foot.

It seems the middle-aged man today should do more walking as a form of exercise that is not too strenuous, yet tends to keep him in good physical condition. His slogan might well be: Walk more and drive less.

PAY OF RURAL CARRIERS

There is likelihood that the remuneration of rural mail carriers will be up for discussion at the present session of parliament. There is no question about its inadequacy in general for maintenance of a family. It is claimed that in some instances the yearly salary of a carrier is as low as \$360, and the pertinent question asked is: How can any carrier keep a horse, vehicle and himself on this sum?

The difficulty seems to lie with the present four-year contract system, with position going to the lowest bidder. It is a poor argument for the present plan to say that men will take on the work at such salaries. The question is: Does it secure the right type of carrier? The aim is to have this contract system abolished and "replaced by permanent employment, dependent only on satisfactory service."

The carriers have presented to the Postmaster-General an outline of their objective. This includes a graded mileage plan, as follows: Up to and including the first 15 miles, a flat mileage rate of \$55 per mile per year; from 16 up to and including 35 miles, a graded scale of \$40 to \$45 and \$50; all mileage over 35 miles, a graded scale of \$15, \$20 and \$25 per mile per year.

Other recommendations deal with bonding, pensions and sickness contributory fund, two weeks' holidays, and other features that would mean betterment of conditions. The carriers case is presented in a sane and reasonable way, and they volunteer to substantiate all statements made.

These rural mail carriers are doing an important public work. No matter what the conditions, they realize that the mails must go through; and where physically possible, they get them through. Their request for an improvement of present poor pay is justified, and should be favorably considered by the Department and by Parliament.

SWEEPSTAKES NOT THE SOLUTION

Every so often someone crops up with the suggestion that Sweepstakes be legalized in Canada. The County Council is the latest to advocate this short cut to easy money. While it is true many thousands of dollars go out of Canada annually in Sweepstakes tickets it is very doubtful if the legalizing of the sweeps in this country would be of any real benefit.

Education as a National Investment

Many statements which have been given much publicity would lead the average Canadian citizen to believe that the cost of education in this country is very great indeed, and that this cost is far beyond the power of the country to support. Before any citizen accepts such statements, he should ask himself, "What are the facts? Just how much is spent on Education in Canada, and how does the cost compare with the cost of other services?"

The total (\$120,000,000) is about 13 per cent of all government expenditures. It is thus evident that the cost of education plays only a small part in the financial affairs of the Dominion. And when the taxpayer stops to think of what the country receives for its educational expenditures - nine great school systems, employing 74,000 teachers and serving 2,500,000 boys and girls - he will surely not consider the cost too high. Of course, education is a provincial, not a Dominion, responsibility, and is largely supported by local taxes on real estate. Even compared with other municipal services so supported, however, educational costs are not excessive. For example, in Ontario, only about 27 per cent of total municipal expenditures are for education, and only 17 per cent of the total municipal indebtedness is due to education.

This provides proof of the claim that the expenditures which Canadian people make on education are only a small part of their total expenditures. The Dominion Bureau of Statistics estimates that Canada spends only 3.5 per cent of her income on education. The same Bureau shows that it costs \$5,750 to raise the average boy or girl to maturity, and that only \$750, or barely 13 per cent of this is spent on education. "In other words," says the Bureau, "it costs no more to raise six children and give them an average schooling than to raise seven completely illiterate." The Canadian people spend one-third as much for cigarettes every year as they spend for education. They spend two-thirds as much for liquor as they spend to educate two and a half million children. And expenditure on both these items shows a steady increase year after year. Education in Canada (exclusive of Universities) costs about \$10.00 per capita. Only eight of the forty-eight American states spend less than this, and they are all states in the poverty-stricken South. Surely the consideration of facts like these will convince everyone that the cost of education, although substantial, is not by any means excessive. Indeed, those who advocate increased expenditures for education at this time when the country is beginning to emerge from the depression are fully justified in their contention.

NEWTONBROOK

The regular weekly meeting of the Young People's Union was held last Monday evening with a large attendance. Miss Cora Good, missionary vice-president, was in charge and a very exceptional missionary program was presented by six students of Toronto Bible College. Mr. Paul Morris of Newtonbrook who is attending College was in the chair. A quartet consisting of Miss Dorothy Cook, Miss Margaret McGowan, Mr. Muir and Mr. Paul Morris sang twice very acceptably and Mr. Maxwell Warren rendered two very lovely violin solos with Miss Cook playing his piano accompaniment. These were very much enjoyed by all. Mr. Muir gave an inspirational message which was very challenging and practical. Miss Betty Obenick, a Ukrainian young lady who will graduate from the college next year, gave a most interesting address on her missionary work among the Ukrainians of Northern Manitoba and also North Dakota where she spent last summer under the Canadian Sunday School Mission. Besides conducting worship service in the school house on Sunday she also taught during the week in a Summer Bible School, teaching both in English and Ukrainian. In the majority of the homes they did not have a Bible and seemed eager to hear the Gospel message. Mr. A. W. Galbraith showed some very beautiful lantern slides of the Bible College which he had taken recently and also other views. A hearty vote of thanks was extended to those who made the meeting such an interesting one.

Miss Margaret Shaw will be in charge of the Y.P.U. meeting next Monday evening. A St. Valentine Social will follow the regular meeting.

Miss Dorothy Johnson has returned home after spending a few days with relatives in Toronto. Mr. and Mrs. R. J. S. Hill of Hill-

J. T. Cassin Speaks at Ontario Potato Growers' Covention

At the Convention last week of the Ontario Crop and Seed Growers' Association, J. T. Cassin, fieldman for the Ontario Potato Growers, gave a very clear-cut explanation for the fact that Ontario potatoes are being discriminated against to the extent of 25c to 35c per bag on the Ontario markets in spite of the fact that potatoes of good cooking quality can be produced in Ontario. He pointed out that too many Ontario potatoes are poorly graded and have not good cooking quality, resulting from immaturity, frost injury and diseases. Many of the consuming public have been so dissatisfied with Ontario potatoes that they refuse to buy them. In Toronto, some chain stores and many independents do not handle Ontario at all, others report that 75 per cent of their potato trade is with Maritime stock.

It appears that in October and November, many potatoes affected with field frost, Fusarium Wilt and Gusarium Eumartii and poorly graded were rushed to market. They were very unsatisfactory to the consumer and many of them turned to Maritime potatoes. The demand for Ontario potatoes has fallen off and many growers are receiving only 35c to 40c per bag while Prince Edward Islands are selling at 90c per bag in carloads on track Toronto. Even well graded Ontarios of good quality move slowly at 15c below P.E.I.'s, because so many are afraid to buy Ontario potatoes. Confidence once lost is difficult to regain. At the present time, some well graded potatoes are being offered with 75 per cent Fusarium Wilt and Fusarium Eumartii and some hollow heart and frost injury to make conditions worse.

There is very little that can be done this season to correct or improve conditions, but efforts should be made to make preparation for the 1938 crop.

Where seed potatoes infected with these diseases are planted in the soil, these fields will become infected and another crop of diseased potatoes produced with results similar to those existing at present. The importance of using seed that is free from disease cannot be too strongly impressed upon potato growers. Farmers who have potatoes bearing these diseases, should cook them when feeding them to livestock. If fed uncooked, infection will be carried to the soil in the manure and succeeding potato crops will be infected.

The amount of certified seed potatoes in Ontario is very limited. There were less than 1300 acres of potatoes that received and passed inspection in Ontario last year. This is less than 1 per cent of the Ontario crop. There were very few fields of uncertified stock that did not have these diseases in them. Much of the certified crop has been marketed for table use. Growers who need a change of seed should not delay in arranging for their supplies, while it is yet possible to get them.

County Agricultural Representatives will be furnished with the names of certified seed growers and the varieties grown.

Ontario potato growers are losing many thousands of dollars by using seed that is disease infected. They are also encouraging Maritime growers to increase their acreages, when there is such a demand in Ontario markets for their potatoes. Forty per cent of the P.E.I. crop was planted from certified seed and less than 1 per cent of Ontario's crop. This very well explains the difference in price in Ontario markets. Diseased seed cannot produce good potatoes.

side, Muskoka and Mrs. C. Best of Toronto were week-end guests of Rev. and Mrs. Halbert.

Mrs. S. Smith left last week to spend the rest of the winter in Florida.

The Auxiliary of the W.M.S. will hold its February meeting next Tuesday, the 15th inst. at 2:30 p.m. at the home of Mrs. W. T. Wells. Every member is requested to bring a new member to the meeting. Visitors welcome.

The Girls' Mission Circle will meet at the Parsonage next Tuesday evening at 8 o'clock.

Rev. C. W. Collett of Richmond Hill will occupy the pulpit of the United Church next Sunday morning.

The funeral of Mr. Chapman was held last Monday with a Military service conducted by Capt. Sidney Lambert and Rev. A. H. Halbert in the United Church. To his widow and daughter we extend deepest sympathy.

Reindeer milk is used for cheese making in Norway and Sweden.



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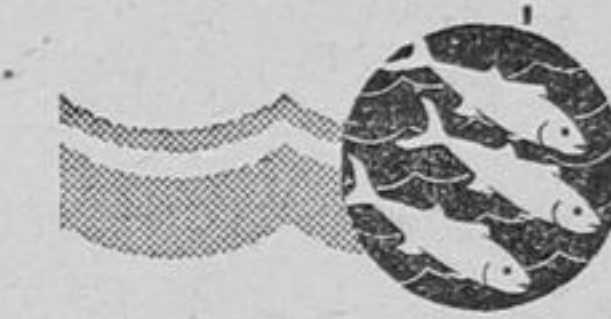
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