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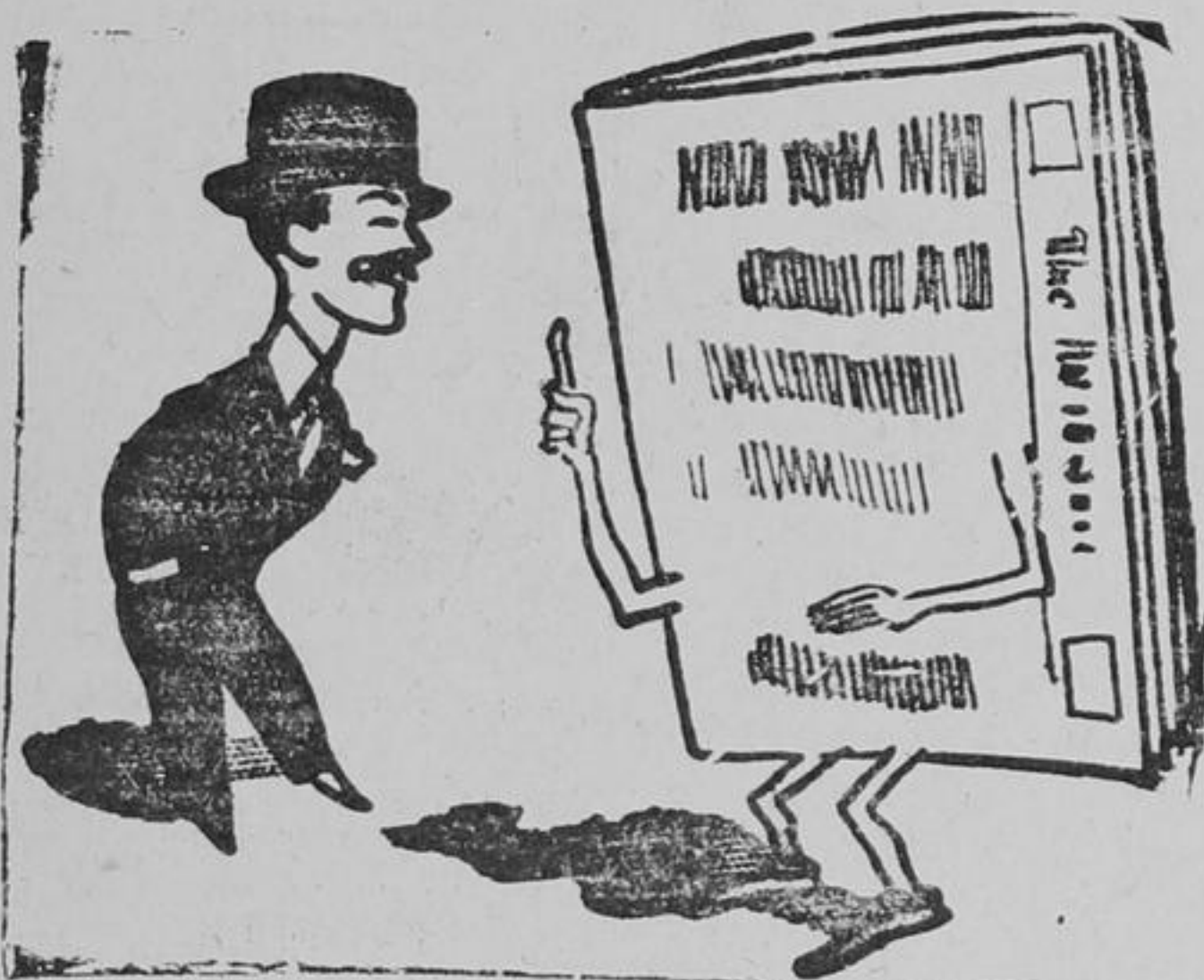
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THE LIBERAL

Phone 9

Richmond Hill

Behind the Headlines

OTTAWA

(By Dean Wilson)

Although the newspaper headlines do not disclose it, every experienced observer can detect a tense feeling in the Capital and whispered conversations indicate that responsible quarters along Parliament Hill believe that the coming session of the eighteenth Parliament of Canada is certain to be characterized by a long and bitter battle because the legislators will be confronted with the most solemn decisions in the history of this young country and upon which depends the liberty, prosperity and security of every inhabitant from the Arctic to the forty-fifth parallel and from Nova Scotia to British Columbia, including all classes from the humblest taxpayer to the capitalists.

There are many serious problems facing the legislators, such as unemployment relief and insurance, railway finances, excessive taxation, tariff and trade difficulties, commission reports, and a budget which cannot be balanced because the revenues are not rising in proportion to the business recovery and heavy losses are being incurred by the fixed price for wheat, the operation of the national railway system and the increased cost for national defense. It is this controversial issue of defense which is of paramount public and political importance since it is feared that it will raise many troublesome sectional problems which will be embarrassing in view of the possibility that this may be the last session before a general election.

There is a growing opposition against any policy that involves a large expenditure for re-armament purposes, particularly if the plan entails the nationalization of the munitions industry except in the case of actual warfare, though everyone seems to favour the strict limitation of private profit. It is held that the Munroe Doctrine would force the United States to frustrate an invasion of Canada and that Ottawa could arrange a defence treaty with the powerful neighbour below the line, pointing out that this young country can use these millions of dollars to build up industries, to make better highways, to carry out important public works, to help the victims of unemployment, and otherwise to improve conditions in this country. It is obvious that there is a very strong desire that Canada should not be committed to engage in another war since Canadians are still paying for the last World War that for five years cost an average of \$300,000,000 and 30,000 men a year.

"Peace conferences," said the late Will Rogers, "are meetings of statesmen where they agree to scrap everything that they won't need in the next war." This seems to be the mental attitude of those Canadians who favour an extensive defence programme. They hold that it would be impossible for Canada to remain neutral when Britain is at war, and they state that Canada must contribute her proportional share in the common defence plans of the Commonwealth since the Motherland has been maintaining naval and military forces to guard our many coasts, to protect our shipping and foreign trade, and to fully guarantee our legal status and freedom amongst the nations of the world, without Canada paying one dollar towards this huge cost that experts estimate should be more than \$150,000,000 for a five years period. Out of an average total revenue of about \$500,000,000 Canada plans to spend about \$37,000,000 a year for defence in the next few years and this is a very low figure when compared with the tremendous expenditures of other nations of the same size, such as Australia with a sum of \$57,500,000 a year or the United States where it is more than 15 per cent of the total expenditure of the Government. These figures are proportionally higher than that of Canada's cost.

However, the opinion along Parliament Hill right now is that a compromise may be reached between the two schools of thought on the subject of Canada's national defense policy, with the Government's spending a slightly higher, larger amount for this purpose in the next fiscal year, particularly for civil and military aviation, gas masks, anti-aircraft guns, and the creation of manufacturing resources for industrial mobilization in any emergency. (Reproductions Prohibited, Educational Features Syndicate.)

You never realize how old you seem to your friends till Santa Claus begins bringing you half-a-dozen pair of bedroom slippers.

You don't need a good memory to write history. In his autobiography, the historian Gibbon said he couldn't remember a single unworthy act.

Lions Carnival Thursday, Jan. 26.

THORNHILL

The annual meeting and election of officers of the Thornhill Horticultural Society was held on Wednesday evening, January 18th in the Sunday School Room of the United Church. The officers and directors were elected as follows: Hon. President, Major Basher; President, J. A. Thompson; Vice-President, Percy Bone; 2nd Vice-President, Mrs. Percy Bone; Sec.-Treas., Chas. McGuirl; Directors for 1939 and 1940, Mr. W. Hinchley, Mr. Foster, Mrs. G. Campbell, Mrs. Heslop and J. E. Teeson.

Mr. Lionel Godson who was present spoke for a few minutes and presented Mr. Bone on behalf of Toronto Horticultural Society and himself a Diploma of Merit for the interest he had taken in Horticulture at the Toronto Exhibition and Royal Winter Fair. Messrs. J. A. Thompson, N. J. Smellie were appointed delegates to the annual Horticultural convention to be held at the King Edward Hotel on March 2nd and 3rd next.

Thornhill Home and School Association meets at Thornhill School on Monday evening, January 23rd at 8.15. The speaker will be Miss E. Izzard from the staff of Richmond Hill High School, and her subject will be "Child Psychology".

Mrs. Telgmann, an elocutionist now residing in Thornhill will give several readings. Refreshments will be served. An announcement of special interest to the Thornhill fathers will be given. All parents are welcome.

The open-air skating rink was officially opened here on Tuesday night. It is on the Public School grounds and will be headquarters of recently organized Thornhill Junior Sports Club. A hockey league has been formed and already 44 youngsters have signed up to play. A carnival will be held at the rink on Friday, January 27th with the proceeds being used to buy sweaters for the teams.

The regular meeting of Trinity Church Women's Auxiliary will be held at the home of Mrs. Maccomb, Stop 17 Yonge Street, on Thursday, January 26th, at 2.30 p.m. sharp.

Nobody is wholly sane, of course, except those who behave exactly as we do.

MAPLE

The Lutheran Church Ladies' Aid and Missionary Society held their January meeting at the home of Mrs. Elmo Snider on Wednesday, January 11th. The meeting was opened by the president, Mrs. J. Montgomery. The 148th Psalm was read by Mrs. Elsworth Keffer. Prayer by the pastor. A poem entitled "Other Than Mine" was read by Mrs. Roland Keffer. The topic "Missionary Work in Porto Rico". Solo by Edna Keffer. Table collection amounted to \$12.05.

Mr. Arthur Robeson of California returned to his home last week after spending several weeks with his brother, Mr. C. J. Robeson.

The January meeting of the Women's Institute was held at the home of Mrs. D. Allen on Wednesday afternoon, January 11th with a large number of members and several visitors present. After the business a reading was given by Margaret Rumble and Mrs. D. Allen gave a very interesting demonstration on "The Care of Clothing." Lunch was served by the committee.

Steal 700 Pounds Of Butter In Night

Police throughout the Toronto district were checking on all retail butter supplies following theft of 700 pounds of butter, wrapped in one-pound containers, at Schomberg last Tuesday night.

Breaking in a side door of the Schomberg creamery, thieves ignored the till and safe and took only butter.

The stolen butter would fill a good-sized truck, according to company officials. They were unable to see how it could be disposed of as each print carried the firm's name and brand.

Jack Miller, town nightwatchman, said he noticed nothing unusual at the plant. Constable J. A. Farquhar of Schomberg and County Constable Aubrey Fleury of Aurora, are investigating.

Still, the people on Mars may be horrified and scared silly when some joker announces the coming of earth men.

WOODBIDGE

Clover Leaf Crossing to be Installed
The new four lane Highway Crossing of No. 7 Highway, a mile and a quarter west of Woodbridge, is to be provided with a Clover Leaf form of crossing for which purpose Schoolhouse No. 13 built about 65 years ago on the corner of the farm now occupied by John Kellam. W. J. Blake who bought the building has completed its wrecking. A new modernly constructed building a quarter of a mile farther north on the farm of A. W. Farr with a playground containing an acre of ground is equipped with electric lights and lavatories with running water. The late John Nattress was the first teacher, the present teacher being Miss Norma Williamson. The school board includes A. W. Farr, John Wallace and Murray Coles.

Late Mrs. George Oldfield
Mrs. George Oldfield whose death followed an illness of five years was buried in Nashville Cemetery on Thursday, January 12th, with Rev. J. H. Kidd officiating. Deceased is survived by her husband, a son Ralph and a daughter Doris. Mrs. Oldfield was a native of England and has lived in the Nashville district most of the time since coming to Canada.

The Woodbridge Council for 1939 remains as it was in 1938 and is composed of N. G. Wallace, Reeve, J. G. Dalziel, John Watson, Arthur Banks and A. B. Cousins.

Billy Watson, son of Stanley Watson, has formed a partnership with Albert (Buster) Pillsworth in the Radio and Electrical Business in the building formerly occupied by the late George Mason.

At 20 he years to be respected by the hard-boiled; at 40 he years to be respected by the important; at 60 he years to be respected.

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