

"THE LIBERAL"

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THURSDAY, JULY 20th, 1939.

NEED ESTIMATE TO CONSIDER SEWER QUESTION

It is generally recognized that the installation of a sewer system in Richmond Hill is the next major improvement, and while there may be some difference of opinion as to when this project should be undertaken there is no doubt that some day the expenditure must be faced. To express an opinion as to whether or not such an expenditure should be undertaken now or in the course of the next few years it is necessary to know the extent of the cost. Ratepayers cannot be expected to form an opinion on the question until an estimate of the cost by a qualified engineer has been obtained. Members of council are now debating the advisability of having this survey and estimate made which will involve an expenditure of some \$350,000. The survey will have to be made some time and even if the project cannot be gone ahead with in the near future the survey would always be useful. There are few citizens so pessimistic of Richmond Hill's future as to say that sewers will never be built so it would appear the council members would not be overstepping the mark in having the survey made. In any event it would enable council members and ratepayers to consider the whole sewer question with some definite idea of what it is all about.

CONFIDENCE IN CANADA

For several months now Hitler and Mussolini have been keeping Canadian crepe-hangers working at top speed. It took a Royal Visit to cramp their style because their arguments were crowded off the front page. Soon they were at it again, however. It was high time for somebody to prove that Canada was not virtually on the brink of ruin. Fortunately, someone did. Executives of Underwood Typewriters looked upon Canada and found it good. "Why," reasoned they, "should lack of confidence hurt business when there is every reason to spend confidently, rejoicing in what we have?" Suiting action to the thought they decided to spend several thousand dollars in a series of four business editorials in the form of paid advertisements, each of which laid fact upon fact to prove that business is sound and that to be a Canadian is a fortunate circumstance. These editorials were so sound that the effect has been far-reaching. Here's hoping that other Canadian corporations will follow such sound leadership, take time off from the wailing wall and climb back on the bandwagon.

BETTER TIMES

Mid-year begins to the tune of an uptrend in industry and commerce. Construction for June substantially exceeded the previous month, as well as that of June last year. The influence of the Royal Visit was reflected in a 6% increase in retail trade. Production is above the seasonal norm. Happily, too, moisture conditions in Western Canada are better than at any time since 1928 and a crop of over 400 million is predicted. The figure compares favourably with the annual average of 240 million bushels since 1933. Marketing problems may arise but this year's crop has to be harvested, stored and moved, so here is cheering news in farm implement, elevator and railroad circles. All in all, the business prospects for the last six months of 1939 are pointing to better times.—Canada Business.

WEED CONTROL

Now is the time for all good men to come to the aid of their city, town, village or township by notifying their municipal Council or Weed Inspector as to the whereabouts of noxious weeds in the locality. The Weed Control Act places the responsibility of weed control directly on the shoulders of the municipality and weed inspectors. Every person is entitled to protection under this act, and should notify the Weed Inspector of any neglected area infested with weeds. It is the duty of the municipal authorities to see that these weeds are destroyed as soon as they have been notified.

THERE WILL BE NO INQUEST

There will be no inquest. As I was driving down the Parry Sound Road on my way home from the Rosseau Dominion Day sports, I overtook several wagons on the steep, curving hill leading south out of the Raymond settlement. Immediately preceding me was a smart new car in which were some young women whose apparel and care-free air stamped them as vacationists. No "proceed" signal came to them, for the very good reason that the driver of the leading wagon could not see over the crest of the hill. But the young woman at the wheel turned into the left half of the road, preparatory to passing the string of wagons. At that moment the driver of the last wagon, being farther up the hill and higher off the ground than the lady driver, saw a northbound car break over the top of the hill and he frantically signalled her to get back into line, which she did a mere instant before the fast oncoming car swished by. Did she stay in line after that? Oh yes, until she managed to start the engine which she had stalled in her excitement. Then, without receiving any "come ahead" signal, she blithely drove past that line of wagons on that curving hill. No inquest is necessary—no other northbound car came over the hill just then.—Redmont Thomas, K.C., in the Bracebridge Gazette).

POWER OF LIGHTNING

Lightning to different people is a different thing. Some are filled with awe, others fright. To the scientist lightning offers opportunity for interesting study. In the days of Benjamin Franklin's experiments scientists have discovered that lightning is preceded by a pilot flash from the clouds which serves to clear away resistance for the major discharge which is the one we see as it travels from earth to sky. This process is repeated until the electricity in that particular area is expended. A flash comes and goes in the fifty millionth of a second, that engineers have estimated the value of electricity expended in each at about twenty cents. They have also computed that there are 360,000 strokes in the world each hour or a total energy output greater than that generated by Niagara. But how to harness this tremendous force, that's the problem.—(Sarnia Canadian Observer).

Preventing Farm Fires

Fires on the farm, as elsewhere can be prevented or controlled by simple, common sense methods. About two hundred farm buildings in the United States and Canada burn a day — 75,000 each year. And farm buildings, without the protection of fire departments or city water systems, usually burn to the ground.

Thirty-five hundred people are burned to death in rural communities each year, according to the best estimates and \$100,000,000, about one-third of the national fire loss, occurs on farms. The loss from these farm fires is far greater, too, than the value of property destroyed; food supplies are lost; farm families are made homeless. This bulletin outlines ways in which such losses of life and property may be avoided.

What Causes Farm Fires

Most farm buildings are of wood—built with little thought for fire safety. Hay, grain, straw, food and other materials stored and handled on farms burn rapidly. In spite of this farms usually have no water or apparatus to put out the fire that starts.

The majority of farm fires are due to just seven causes—all largely preventable. In the approximate order of their importance, these are:

- 1 Defective chimneys and heating apparatus.
- 2 Combustible roofs.
- 3 Lightning.
- 4 Spontaneous ignition.
- 5 Misuse of electricity.
- 6 Matches and smoking.
- 7 Gasoline and kerosene.

What to do to Prevent Farm Fires

Rebuild all defective chimneys and see that all heating apparatus is properly installed. Keep chimneys, flues, stoves, etc., clean. Defects in chimneys and heating apparatus cause most of the fires in rural homes, but are easily prevented.

The chimney should be well constructed and be built from the ground up, not depending for its support upon any wooden construction, and not to be used to support any part of the house itself. Use of a standard flue lining makes a better chimney. Frequent cleaning will offset some of the hazard of a chimney with walls too thin, where it is not feasible to rebuild it.

Set stoves on substantial bases, well away from walls, floors and woodwork. Keep smoke pipes short and a foot or more away from combustible materials. See that smoke pipes are well supported; keep them in good condition. Use a ventilating thimble providing ample air space on all sides of the pipe if it must pass through a partition or ceiling. Put ashes in metal cans, not in wooden boxes or against woodwork.

Fires From Combustible Roofs

Use fire retarding roofings wherever possible, particularly on dwellings where sparks from chimneys falling on wooden shingle roofs are a frequent cause of fire. Wooden shingle roofs may also be ignited by sparks from bonfires, forest fires or from burning buildings some distance away, and when burning they produce flying brands that may ignite other buildings. Where wooden shingles are used the danger may be reduced by the use of a spark arrester, on the chimney, and keeping a ladder ready to reach the roof quickly in case of fire.

Fires From Lightning

Provide all buildings with proper lightning protection equipment.

The farm property loss from lightning averages around \$10,000,000 a year. It is estimated that the annual number of people on the farm killed by lightning is about 400 and the number of persons injured is more than twice the number of deaths. Experience shows that properly installed and well-maintained rods have efficiency in the prevention of lightning damage to farm property of well nigh 100 per cent. Proper protection requires substantial, suitably located rods, effectively grounded, and provided with air terminals in accordance with the National Code for Protection Against Lightning. Tracks for hay or manure carriers, metal stanchions and other interior metal bodies should be grounded and interconnected to prevent flashes from induced charges.

A substantial metal roof, electrically bonded, adequately grounded and provided with air terminals to protect chimneys or other non-metallic projections may likewise give satisfactory protection.

Livestock should be protected from lightning by grounding all wire fences enclosing pastures or yards.

Fires From Spontaneous Ignition

Thoroughly cure hay, pea vines and other roughage. Do not allow horse manure to accumulate in large

piles in stables or against buildings.

Horse manure and undercured or damp hay and roughages will heat spontaneously when stored in large piles. This heating may continue until the temperature of ignition is reached.

Frequent observations of stored hay should be made for several weeks or as long as there is any evidence of heating. Hay which is heating excessively should be removed from the barn, but first the heating area should be thoroughly wet with water. Fire department hose should be ready to combat a possible fire. The hay should be transported a safe distance from buildings, as it may burst into flame later.

Fires From Matches and Smoking

Keep farm premises clean and tidy, and build of incombustible materials as far as possible. Allow no smoking in barns or elsewhere where combustible material is stored. Tidy conditions greatly reduce the chance of the heedlessly discarded cigarette butt starting a fire, and incombustible construction prevents the spread of fire and makes it easier to control.

Fires From Electricity

Make sure all electric wiring and devices are properly installed. Electric lights reduce the fire hazard because they replace the more hazardous lamps and candles. Electricity may be itself a serious hazard if wiring is not done according to best practice (as indicated by the National Electric Code) and if appliances are used improperly.

Fires From Gasoline and Kerosene

Provide proper facilities for the storage and handling of gasoline and kerosene. Do not use gasoline for home dry cleaning or kerosene for starting fires. The safest way to store gasoline is in underground tanks, using the gasoline from pumps. If gasoline cannot be stored underground, it should be used from original containers or suitable small tanks in the open or in a spe-

cial building at least 75 feet from other buildings. Kerosene can be similarly handled. While it is less hazardous than gasoline it is almost as dangerous when heated, which accounts for the many explosions that have killed people trying to quicken fires with kerosene.

Fire Protection

Provide first aid fire appliances, such as chemical extinguishers, pump tanks, and water pails. Provide where possible a system of running water under pressure. Even garden hose provides valuable protection for the home so equipped. Especial attention should be given to keeping extinguishers charged, and other fire protection equipment in good working order.

For the Rural Community

1. Purchase adequate motor fire apparatus and accessory equipment. With the increase of good roads and the development of motor fire apparatus a rural fire department becomes really practical. Where the community has been unwilling to pay for apparatus out of taxes, the funds have been raised by subscription, or by giving dances and entertainments.

2. Organize and train a volunteer fire department. This can be readily organized, with, where possible, one paid man to drive the apparatus.

3. Arrange a fire alarm to call the fire department promptly. Every farm should have a telephone.

4. Study the available water supplies from ponds, and streams, construct water holes or cisterns, and install suction pipe lines and hydrants wherever necessary to insure quick action in getting water to fight a particular fire. With water or chemical, a pump and hose, a piece of fire apparatus can be quite effective even when there is no other water supply available. Where there are streams or ponds, these can be drawn on for water. Even a well will provide water for a short time and may be the means of preventing a serious fire.

A Laboratory That Tests Appliances Underwriters' Laboratories, Inc.,

207 East Ohio St., Chicago, Ill., is an organization devoted to the testing of apparatus and equipment for fire protection and prevention. Equipment which is properly constructed and dependable is labeled by Underwriters' Laboratories. The farmer buying lightning rods, fire extinguishers, gasoline pumps, incubators, etc., can protect himself against inferior and unsafe products by purchasing these of manufacturers whose equipments bear the Underwriters' Laboratories' label. National Committee Studying Farm Fire Protection

With the co-operation of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and a number of important national organizations, a special committee of the National Fire Protection Association is working out practical ways to prevent and control farm fires. For information on farm fire prevention and protection write to David J. Price, chairman of the Farm Fire Protection Committee, care of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C., or the executive office of the National Fire Protection Association, 60 Battery-march Street, Boston, Mass.

PERHAPS

New Pastor—Do you think the congregation approved of my first sermon this morning?

His Wife—I am sure some of them did, because I saw some of them nodding.

C. Matthews

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