

"THE LIBERAL"

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AN INDEPENDENT WEEKLY

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23rd, 1939.

TAKE PRIDE IN YOUR COMMUNITY

What impression does a visitor to our community carry away with him? Is it one of pleasure caused by courtesy and hospitality extended to him or does he vow we are a churlish lot? Does he admire our streets, our stores, our houses, our public buildings, our methods of business, or does his experiences leave something to be desired? These questions are asked by the Picton Gazette in an editorial in which it tries to emphasize the responsibility every citizen has in helping a community make a good impression. The questions might aptly be asked of Richmond Hill or any other York County community.

Every community is wishful to leave a good impression. Hence it behooves us to take stock of ourselves, or as the immortal Bobby Burns said, "See ourself as ithers see us." We should turn the searchlight of introspective candor upon ourselves and learn the truth.

Every citizen plays his part. The impression the visitor carries away with him depends upon the individual and the more civic pride he has the better it is for the community. Take pride then, in your town, its institutions and societies; be interested in local enterprises for it is well to remember a town may be accurately gauged by its citizens.

Truer words were never spoken than those of that great American emancipator, Abraham Lincoln, who said: "I like to see a man proud of the place in which he lives. I like to see a man live so that his place will be proud of him. Be honest, but hate no one; overturn a man's wrong doing, but do not overturn him unless it must be done in overturning the wrong. Stand with anybody that stands right. Stand while he is right but part with him when he is wrong."

No better conception could be given. It embodies every attribute a citizen should have and do. Your town is the mirror of the citizenry itself and of you as one of them. It reflects yourself. Take pride then and honor yourself by improving the community in which you live.

YOU CAN BRING OUT SOMEONE'S BEST

You have doubtless heard the tale of the old violin being put up at an auction. Someone bid \$1. It was raised to \$2 and then \$3. The auctioneer was about to let it go when an old man in the rear called out, "Hold on." He came forward, picked up the old violin, wiped off the dust, tightened the strings and picked up the bow. Presently he brought forth such soul stirring tunes that the hardest heart was softened.

Again the auctioneer put it up. Someone bid a thousand dollars, another raised it to two and a third claimed it at three.

Though rough and scared and apparently of little worth all the old violin needed to bring forth its true value was the touch of the right hand.

That's all some life near you needs, the touch of the right hand. You may not think that you matter much in this old world. But to someone you are just the one who can bring out their best and thereby stir forces into motion that will make your influence eternal.

Sometimes it takes no more than a glance of encouragement, a word of confidence, a hand upon the shoulder in a friendly sort of way.

Speaking of friends who had thus meant much to him and who had "gone on before" F. L. Hosmer once wrote:

"And still their silent ministry
Within my heart hath place,
As when on earth they walked with me
And met me face to face.

"Their lives are made forever mine;
What they to me have been
Hath left henceforth its seal and sign
Engraven deep within.

Mine are they by an ownership
Nor time nor death can free
For God hath given to Love to keep
It's own eternally."

TWO COUNCIL VACANCIES

Richmond Hill Municipal Council table now has two vacant chairs and these vacancies together with the possibility of a long term for the council elected in January adds great importance to the coming municipal elections. The first vacancy was caused by the removal of councillor Alex Little to Weston and the death of Harold J. Mills now leaves another vacant chair. Both these men had long years of municipal experience and were successful business-men enjoying the confidence and esteem of the ratepayers of the village. Their removal leaves a gap in the municipal council which will be hard to fill. The situation is one which should have the serious consideration of every ratepayer in Richmond Hill and the vacancies are a challenge to our public spirited citizens to offer themselves in the public service. In recent years there has been a regrettable tendency for many people to be hesitant in entering municipal life. Doubtless it is a "thankless" job as it is so often labelled, but the community owes a debt of gratitude to those men who are willing to take on "the thankless jobs" of life.

THE WARDEN'S BANQUET

The Warden's Banquet, an honored institution associated with the municipal life of York County will be held in Toronto tonight. The 1939 Warden will be eulogized until he scarcely will know himself and no doubt he will be toasted as "the best Warden York County ever had" as have his scores of predecessors. We have heard successive Wardens thus referred to so often that it is surprising the peak of perfection was not reached years ago. It is a delightful social gathering which is a mecca for municipal leaders past and present and those privileged to attend will have an enjoyable time. Despite our dislike for County Councils as a part of our municipal system we expect to be present and join in the applause for the 1939 Warden, Mr. Gordon Harris of Weston. We will enjoy it because whatever we may say of county councils we have the utmost respect for County Councillors, who in the main are a fine lot of fellows giving honest and sincere public service to their respective municipalities.

Views of Others on Timely Topics

PRESS OPPOSES BAN ON MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

Hon. Eric Cross, Provincial Minister of Public Welfare, has stated that the press and public are definitely behind the government's move to place a moratorium on Municipal election for at least two years, and possibly for the duration of the war. This contention would hardly be supported in the number of plebiscites which are being held throughout the Province, together with the fact that many municipal councils have openly expressed opposition to the measure. The original intention of the measure, according to Mr. Cross, was to save municipalities the expense of an annual election, but now, it would look as though it is the first move to take away powers of legislation from small communities. Their powers have gradually been removed over the past several years.

The privilege which the elector has, of going to the polls once a year and choosing those candidates he or she consider best qualified to conduct municipal business, is traditionally a part of our democratic system. To remove that privilege, would just be taking away something for which our forefathers fought, and fought hard. There are innumerable objections to the placing of a council in office for an indefinite period, chief of which is the possibility of a group of ill-qualified men slipping into office. They could carelessly spend more money at one sitting, than half a dozen elections would cost. For instance, in Tweed, it costs less than three cents per person to conduct a municipal election. If a council is placed in office for the duration of the war, without having to face the ratepayers at an annual nomination meeting, they could put the municipality in a most embarrassing position financially by spending money too freely. In some instances, the Municipal Board has been forced to step in and control the finances of various towns in the Province. We want no more of that sort of thing. Municipalities are just now getting on their feet and the proposal to elect a council for the balance of the war, which may be for a period of three, four, or five years, is ill-advised and ill-timed.

Mr. Cross states the weekly press is behind the measure. We receive fifty exchanges in this office and have yet to see one which has flat-footedly supported the moratorium. Certainly the opinions expressed in the editorials in newspapers all over the Province do not support the remarks of the Minister of Welfare.—Tweed News.

WHY A MANDATORY MORATORIUM ON MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

Impetuous Premier Hepburn can start a hot discussion any old time. He's done it again in his sudden announcement regarding disallowing municipal elections for any shorter period than two years, and possibly for the "Duration." There is plenty of controversy about this move. The law as it stands provides for annual elections. Those who object to this unheralded change seem to feel that it should have occurred only by the will of the people and by parliamentary action. By now electors all over Ontario have been notified that the men whom they select on School Boards and for Municipal Councils in the New Year will sit for the duration of the war and for not less than two years even if hostilities cease before that.

If this had been definite legislation passed in the usual way through the House, making a two-year term obligatory permanently, the move might well have been regarded as a sensible reform, and one with a good deal to recommend it. But as a mandatory war-time measure, isn't it a bit fishy to claim that it's to save money? And what about our surrender of one more inch or all of democratic liberty? All such things ought to be done in order. But the bell has rung. It's a warning to all of us to take particular care what bodies we vote into office for 1940, because we may have them in continuous office for years ahead. Therefore let us select wisely and well.—Elora Express.

SHOULD CONTINUE ELECTIONS

The decree issued by the Ontario government last week saying that after the coming New Year's elections there will be no more voting for two years at least or until the end of the war, will not be received any too kindly by most rural municipalities.

It is just another privilege gone, taken away from us by a government which no doubt boasts of its democratic principle. To us, it is plain autocracy.

In an editorial on Saturday the Toronto Globe and Mail, commenting editorially, in which the cost saving was the principal argument, said: "Compared with these objectives, other considerations carry little weight."

We cannot take this point of view. The Globe and Mail may speak for the cities of Ontario, but not for the townships and urban municipalities. Ontario's financial difficulties have been hatched in the cities, not in the country. The city has been the "sucker", and the country the "sucker", no doubt, but if anybody thinks there is much money squandered around the township or small town council tables he is dead wrong. We might go so far as to say that most of our municipal councils out here in the sticks are "penurious". You can't fool Farmer John very much if it is going to cost him more taxes. Opportunities may have been lost in urban communities, but there has also been a considerable amount saved by this same penuriousness. Town and township councils don't throw any money away.

Again, different from the cities, there are a good many acclamations in the country, something that is rare in the larger centres, where municipal politics bets in. There is no politics in the smaller centres. Out here where we are not very smart, we vote for the man we think is best fitted for the job. If he fools us, or if we have been mistaken, we turn him out at the next election. It is true, also, that we occasionally get one of those "stubborn" fellows on our council boards. He usually doesn't last long. We don't mean that we don't like men with a strong mind, either. There is a difference between a strong mind and plain obstinacy. And the rural voter soon gets wise to these fellows. Then we sometimes get the other kind of councillor, the kind who is always contrary. The kind, who, if he got an itch in the seat of his pants would scratch his head just so as to not give in. We get rid of those fellows, too. But the ideal council! Well, they may stay in for years! We don't need any governments out in this country to tell us when to hold an election. We know that much ourselves, and know it much better than somebody in the Parliament Buildings, or in Down-town Toronto who is beset each year with office-chasers trying to get into the council who don't know anything about their council excepting what some candidate tells them at election time.

No, sir, we resent this governmental interference with our municipal rights. If we people in the country don't want an election, we won't have one; if we do, well, now we can't have one, and all because of a bad pipe-dream somebody had down in Toronto, where they usually do it wrong, judged from a rural point of view. Let the Ontario Government give us our elections. Let us have something. They have taken nearly everything from us now as it is. Country people don't like it.—Durham Chronicle.

TOWNSHIP OF MARKHAM

TREASURER'S SALE OF LANDS IN ARREARS OF TAXES

By virtue of a warrant issued by the Reeve of the Township of Markham dated the 17th day of August 1939 and to me directed, commanding me to proceed with the collection of arrears of taxes, together with the fees and expenses, I hereby give notice that the list of lands liable to be sold has been prepared, and is being published in the Ontario Gazette under the date of September 2nd, 1939, and that, unless the said arrears of taxes and costs are sooner paid, I shall, on the 7th day of December 1939 proceed to sell the said lands to discharge the said arrears of taxes and the charges thereon.

The sale will be held on the above date at the hour of 10 o'clock in the forenoon in the Township Hall, Unionville.

The adjourned sale, if one is necessary, will be held on Thursday, 21st day of December, 1939, at the same hour and the same place.

Copies of said list may be had at my office.

CHARLES HOOVER,
Township Treasurer.

Dated at Unionville,
August 24th, 1939.

TESTON

Among the announcements Sunday Mr. Davis mentioned the success of the Fowl Supper. The receipts were \$351.00 and after expenses were taken the handsome sum of \$195.47 was left in the treasury. The attendance at the supper after toll was taken was 750.

"Living in Expectation" was the theme of a very interesting and instructive sermon by the pastor, Rev. D. Davis on Sunday. The text for his remarks was from Luke 3:25.

Y.P.U. on Sunday evening was in charge of convener Eddie James who took for his subject "Remembrance Day". Another interesting item of the program was a poem read by Hadwen Kyle. There was a fair attendance.

While travelling up the 5th line Sunday morning a truck owned by E. Yorke, Maple, got out of control north of Will Marwood's gateway and crossing from the left side of the road ended up in the ditch on the right side almost overturning. After much digging the truck was finally got out by Frank Robson's tow truck. As church was dismissed many on learning went down to the scene of the mishap.

New Books at Thornhill Library

NON-FICTION

My Seventy Years, Black; I Wanted to be an Actress, Cornell; Inside Asia, Gunther; Country Lawyer; Partridge; Insanity Fair, Reed; Canada, the Pacific and War, Strange.

ADULT FICTION

The Rosary, Barclay; The Patriot, Buck; Jalna, De la Roche; Silas Marner, Eliot; Wildfire, Grey; Women and Children Last, Nichols; They Wanted to Live, Roberts; Lord Jim, Conrad; Sorrell and Son, Deeping; Black Narcissus, Godden; Destiny Island, Hale; Mother of the Bride, Rosman; The Woman in the Hall, Stern; The Brandons, Thirkell.

JUVENILE

The Princess Elizabeth, Acland; Laddie's Way, Cowen; Her Majesty Runs Away, Elias; A Little Child's Life of Jesus, Steedman; Adventures in the Air, Wallace; Blazing New Trails, Wallace; Master of the Mountain, Deane; Three Comrades in Fiji, Deane; Secret of the Brown Shed, Evans; At the Sign of the Red Cross, Green; Wits in the Wind, Lumsden; Every Child Should Know, Myths; Triumphant Pimpernels, Middleton; To-morrow's House, O'Neil; Fernhill Adventures, Pitt; The Deerslayer, Cooper; Two Years Before the Mast, Dana; Tanglewood Tales, Hawthorne; Biggles & Co., Johns; Biggles Flies East, Johns; The Children of the New Forest, Marryat; Anne of Ingleside, Montgomery; Coot Club, Ransome; Fairy Tales, Perrault; Gulliver's Travels, Swift; Mary Poppins Comes Back, Travers; Scottie, Walker.

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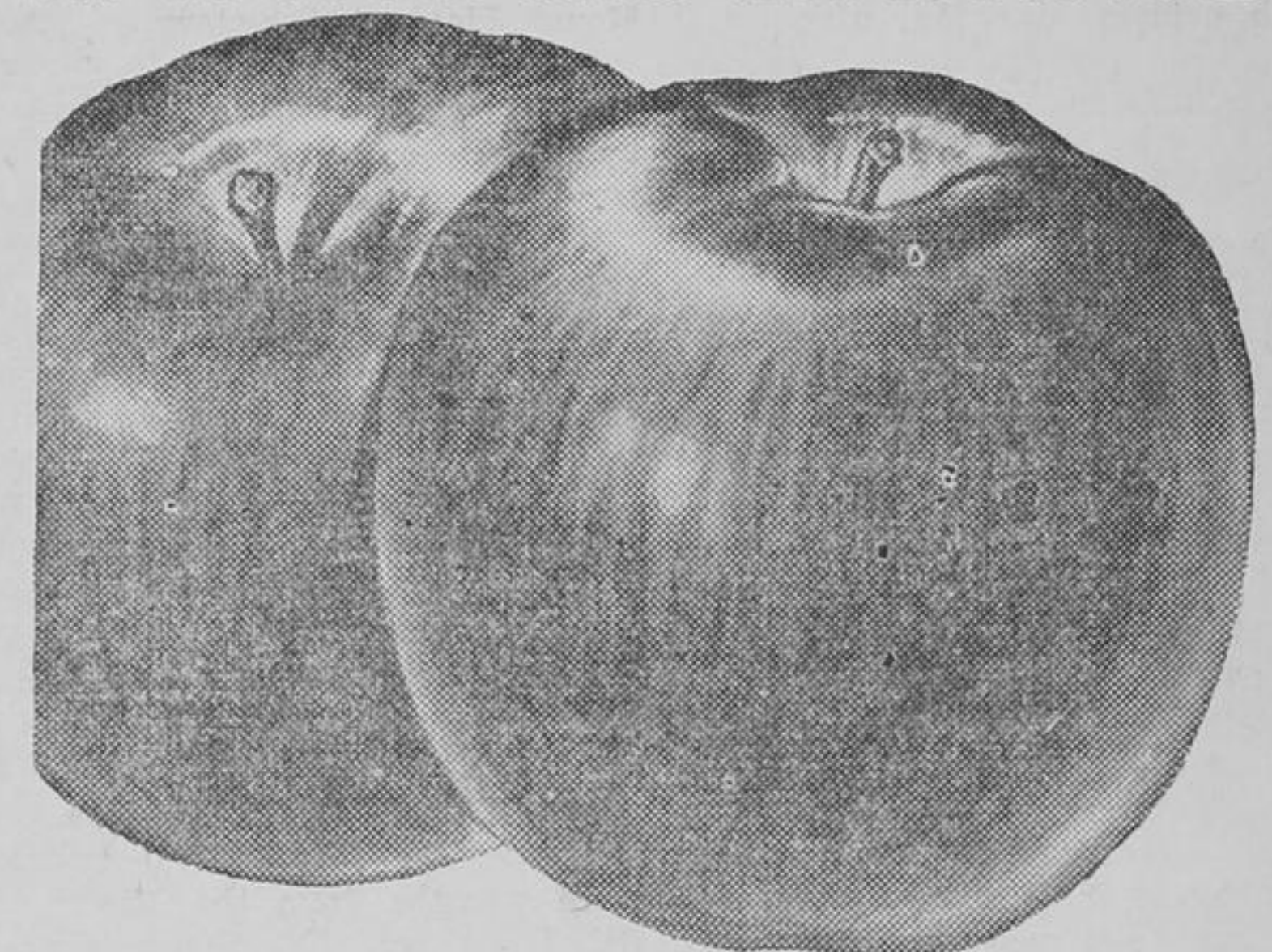
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