

"THE LIBERAL"

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21st, 1939.

NOMINATION DAY

Friday, December 22nd is nomination day for Richmond Hill and neighbouring municipalities, and we are hopeful that nomination meetings will be largely attended by the ratepayers. Every ratepayer is a shareholder in the community and it is surprising how little interest some of these shareholders take in their own business.

At the nomination meeting those charged with the responsibility of administering municipal affairs will give an account of their stewardship during the past year and those aspiring to office will present their claims to the public confidence.

It is regrettable, but true, that in recent years there has been a slackening of interest in municipal affairs in many municipalities. Too often municipal politics has been considered as something of a game in which the one with the most winning smile or the best promises was the winner. Responsibility of municipal administration should not be conferred on those whose claim to success in the past is based on liberal use of the glad-hand and tall promises at election time.

We have been associated with municipal councils in many municipalities in our capacity as a representative of the press for many years and our observation is that the best men we have known in municipal life were those who cared least about re-election. In the average municipality it is comparatively easy to keep one ear to the ground and with a fair run of the luck of the game spend many years in public life. If this extends as far as county council there are certain emoluments of office which we regret to say appear to have proven attractive to those who have tarried long on the municipal band wagon. For the best in municipal administration we should have in office men of integrity and sound business judgment who are inspired by the single motive of giving service, and not men who only glory in the limelight or regard it as a profitable side-line to their regular business.

At the risk of being termed old fashioned we still believe that for the best in public service the OFFICE SHOULD SEEK THE MAN and not the man seek the office. As far as the general citizenry is concerned all too little is done to see that municipal offices do seek the men.

Premier Hepburn has told us that men elected in the January election will serve for at least two years and probably for the duration of the war which may be five or ten years. We sincerely hope such a law never goes into effect but despite a storm of protest from all over the province there is a likelihood of the bill passing the Legislature. Therefore the men elected Monday, January 2nd will govern this and other municipalities for the next two, three or perhaps five years, and we urge that every effort be made to induce the best men available to stand for election. There is the likelihood that difficult days are ahead and there will be momentous problems to solve. There is still time to do some serious thinking, still time to see that the office seeks the man.

IS THERE A SANTA CLAUS?

We have published this question and answer before, but it is a question that will never grow old and it is the finest answer we know. And how often this question will be asked.

Just as long and as often as Christmas comes. You will be asked, and thousands more, and little children will be answered and reassured and made happy just as was the little girl who put her question to the great editor, Charles A. Dana. She sought high authority when someone caused her faith in childhood's patron saint to fail, and this is what the famous editor wrote to her. It is the best answer that we know:

"Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skeptical age. They do not believe, except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible to their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

"Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas, how dreary would be the world if there was no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no child-like faith in them; no poetry, no romance, to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

"Not believe in Santa Claus? You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see.

"Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen in the world. You may tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, not even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived can tear apart.

"Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing as real and abiding.

"No Santa Claus? Thank God! he lives and lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay, ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood."

THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

Surrender yourself to the Spirit of Christmas! Let its joy thrill you—let its peace steal softly across your heart! Open your ears to the magic of its message—open your eyes to the miracles it accomplishes!

Read again Dickens' Christmas Carol, the best known and most inspiring of all the Christmas stories. And don't feel ashamed, if at the end, as Tiny Tim whispers, "God

bless us, every one," you find your own eyes wet with tears.

Open the Book of Books and let Luke tell you about that first Christmas—of the long journey to Bethlehem, of the birth in the humble manger, of the shepherds keeping watch over their flocks. Listen to the heavenly music that was heard upon the hills, to the thrilling words of the angel, "Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." Bow your head and give thanks for the Prince of Peace who came, saying with the angels, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

Let Matthew tell you of the coming of the Wise Men from the East, with their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, which they presented to the Christ Child.

Then, with the Spirit of Christmas in your heart, go forth and help make Christmas a brighter and a happier day for others!

Views of Others on Timely Topics

THE HUMAN TOUCH

"Tis the human touch in this world that counts,

The touch of your hand and mine, Which means far more to the fainting heart

Than shelter and bread and wine. For shelter is gone, when the night is o'er,

And bread lasts only a day, But the touch of the hand and the sound of the voice

Sing on in the soul away."

When Spencer Michael Free penned these words he wrote something which finds an answering chord in many hearts. We are lonely, most of us in this cold world of ours and when not putting on a front are prone to think that we don't amount to much.

But when we find out that there are those who care, we cling to them, and thank God. But we are not always on the receiving end of this "caring."

Silver and gold we may not be able to give to others but we can show our interest in what concerns them. Moreover, such giving need not be confined to Christmas time. Better still, considerate-caring enriches the one who gives the while it blesses the one who needs.—John Edwin Price.

KINDNESS AND THE FESTIVE SEASON

Kindness is the coin of the realm at the Christmas season. A business man who shipped a carload of goods to a customer just to surprise him would soon be out of business, but no one will ever go out of business for shipping a carload of kindness. No one ever refuses a shipment and no one ever feels overstocked with it. We do not try to measure of kindness to the capacity of our friends, we just shower them with it from the fullness of our heart. Friendship is not measured in calories. How many times throughout the year have you turned over your stock of kindness? Many times we hope and business should be good at the Christmas season. A good way to celebrate Christmas is to shower everyone with kindness.—Exchange.

A SERVICE OF VALUE

Strolling over a portion of Stisted Township, some days ago, the eyes of the editor caught sight of a piece of enterprise which has a story or prophetic vision behind it, which might well arrest the attention of every citizen who can understand the value of building for the future. On a wide tract of level land, stood thousands of green trees — young pines which gave the landscape a beautiful appearance, and which, upon enquiry, were found to be part of an extensive reforestation scheme inaugurated four years ago by Rev. Allan Leslie Howard. From inquiry, it was learned that what was visible from our vantage, was only a small portion of the undertaking. Far beyond, covering close to 650 acres, the endless rows of pines were shooting their tops heavenward, painting the landscape an attractive green, where formerly the barren waste presented a sight of desolation.

It has since been learned that a total of over 320,000 trees have been planted on this waste land, and that the new "crop" is growing with encouraging rapidity, with little or no percentage of loss. Mr. Howard has himself planted 120,000 on his holdings of 300 acres, every tree being placed on comparatively level land. Various species of pine are included, and some experimentation has been made with other types of trees, but not without some failures. Nut trees, for instance, have not done well.

What must strike the observer, is the unselfish, patriotic impulse which has prompted this good citizen to undertake a work of this nature,

which cannot bring great returns in his time, but which future generations will be privileged to enjoy. Not within a period of less than twenty-five years can there be hope of any market value for the new crop of timber, and ordinarily it will be thirty-five years before much merchandise value will be realized. Mr. Howard doesn't expect to fully reap the benefit, but he has found satisfaction in the expenditure of many hundreds of dollars in order to demonstrate to others what may be done with barren Muskoka lands, and to show an example of unselfish patriotism through which future families in this District may be kept from want.

Were the spirit of enterprise and devotion to a worthy ideal, shown so conspicuously by Mr. Howard, to find emulation in other parts of Muskoka, this District, now closely denuded of its timber values, would be set again upon the pathway toward a prosperity which can be only a blessing for future generations.

The undertaking of Allan Leslie Howard stands out as a conspicuous example of good citizenship. It ought to be more generally copied. (From the Huntsville Forester).

CHURCH MAKES A NEW APPEAL

Recently four Orillia ministers made a "Return to God" appeal to their congregations, which resulted in much increased church congregations, the largest church being packed to the doors. In connection with the appeal laymen called at the homes of the church members and adherents, making a personal contact and delivering the appeal of the church.

We pass this information along to the ministers of Whitby with the suggestion that the Orillia appeal might find a ready response here. Church attendance today, it must be admitted, is far from being what it should be, due largely to spiritual apathy. Nor will it improve until the people realize the real worth of the church in their lives. In days like these people need to return to the church as never before for consolation and guidance.—(From the Whitby Gazette).

WARNED TO SAVE SOIL OF ONTARIO

Claims Don Erosion as Bad as in Any Country in the World

Something must be done immediately about the soil erosion problem in Ontario, R. F. Leggett, assistant professor of civil engineering at the University of Toronto, told the Royal Canadian Institute in Convocation Hall on Saturday night. He said that soil erosion in Ontario is as bad as in any country in the world.

"Here is a scientific problem calling for the work of botanists, foresters and engineers," he said, "but nothing can be done without public support. We must conserve our natural resources or suffer the consequences."

He showed a picture of a bleak, barren-looking countryside where the results of erosion stuck out in a most noticeable way.

"That picture was taken less than 25 miles from this room in King Township," he said. "That is the sort of thing that is being allowed to go on right here in our own country."

He showed another picture taken in Peel County and other places and urged that some action be taken at once.

His lecture dealt with "foundation engineering," the parts of a structure which remain hidden from sight but a branch of work that has special attraction for the layman.

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FARM LOAN BOARD REVIEWS ACTIVITIES

Collects \$470,000 more from borrowers than in previous fiscal year—total repayment \$2,970,000.

The annual report of the Canadian Farm Loan Board for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1939, contains a review of the activities of the Board covering its initial ten years of operation.

In 1929 the Board was appointed by the Federal Government to administer the Canadian Farm Loan Act which provided for the establishment of a scheme of long term loans to the farmers of Canada. Loaning operations were begun in the spring of 1929 and since that time there had been loaned as at March 31, 1939, approximately \$38,000,000. During the last few years the Board has been loaning at the rate of about \$5,000,000 per year. Loans may be granted by the Board to bona fide farmers upon the security of mortgages taken on farm lands owned, operated and occupied by the borrower. Such loans are repayable over a term of up to 25 years on an amortized plan of repayment. The rate of interest charged is 5% per annum.

The loaning policy of the Board is to grant loans in amounts measured by the ability of the individual borrower to repay the same from the operation of his farm after making provision for living and operating expenses and for taxes.

In the last fiscal year, the Board collected from borrowers a total of \$2,970,000 as repayment of principal and interest as compared with an amount of \$2,500,000 collected in the previous fiscal year.

In the ten-year period under review, of the \$38,000,000 loaned there was repaid by borrowers \$4,800,000 and at the end of that period, only \$337,000 of interest and \$637,000 of principal was in arrears for a longer period than six months.

Notwithstanding the difficult conditions that farmers have experienced in the last few years, the repayment record of borrowers indicates that Canadian farmers, with few exceptions, respect their mortgage obligations to the extent that economic conditions will permit.

The Board operates in all Provinces of Canada as a self-sustaining agency of the Dominion Government and without expense to the taxpayers. Its funds for loaning purposes are obtained from the sale of its bonds, and the costs of administration and reserves for losses are provided for in the spread between the cost of funds borrowed for loaning purposes and the rate of interest paid by its borrowers. During the period under review the Board has always paid its interest and other obligations on the due date.

The Head Office of the Board is at Ottawa and there is one Branch Office of the organization in each Province of Canada.

The Chairman of the Board is Dr. J. D. McLean of Ottawa, and associated with him in directing the Board's affairs is R. McKenzie, Vice-Chairman. The other members of the Board are Dr. W. C. Clark, Deputy Minister of Finance and Notary Boucher of Pierreville, P.Q.



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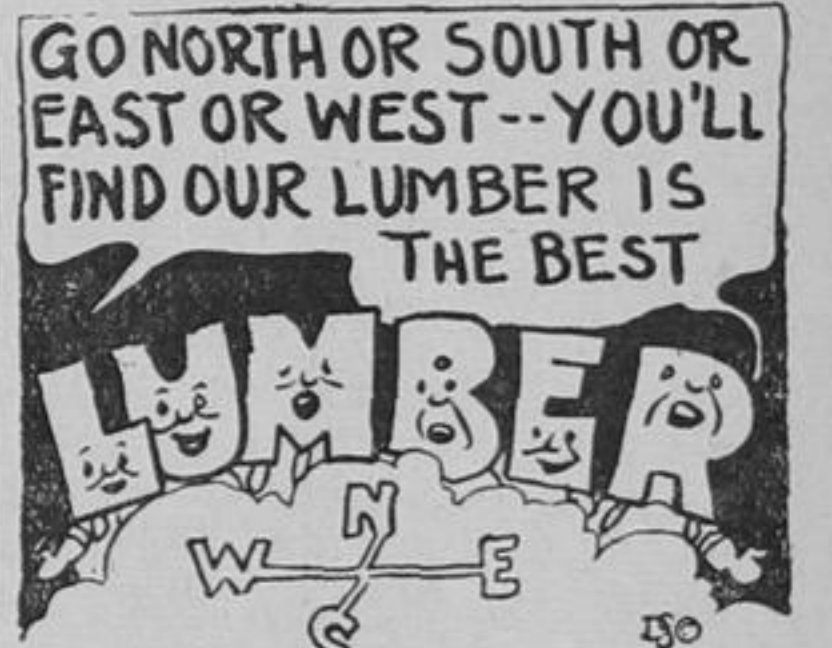
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