

"THE LIBERAL"

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THURSDAY, MARCH 26th, 1942.

ORGANIZED FOR ACTION

There was a spirit of enthusiasm at the public meeting held in Richmond Hill last Friday evening to organize a Salvage Committee and a Civilian Defence Committee which was refreshing. Less than one hundred citizens attended but all present showed a commendable desire to get to work in the war effort.

The Salvage Committee is already at work and citizens are urged to save all the many varied items which are listed elsewhere in this issue. As the speaker of the evening so truly said "only by the shock of recent events has been brought home to us the immensity of the danger that confronts us." The thought to keep in mind about salvage is that Canadian War Industries need the material which many of us are now wasting. We must save if we are to survive. We hope the Salvage Committee shortly will announce a systematic collection so that every household may contribute to this very necessary war work.

We think the organization of the Civilian Defence Committee an excellent idea. If it does nothing more than make the community more "war conscious" it will serve a useful purpose. There are those who think that when the time comes that it is possible to bomb Toronto or Richmond Hill the war will have reached a stage where further resistance would be both useless and hopeless. There may be some truth in it but we think if there is one lesson we should have learned by now from this war it is that lack of preparedness is costly. While we all hope and pray that bombs never fall on Canadian soil we do think the seriousness of the world situation warrants an organization in every community to instruct citizens in matters of air raid precaution. In these days who can say that anything is impossible?

RED CROSS "ALL OUT" EFFORT MERITS SUPPORT

One of the finest examples of "all-out" war effort is the record of the Canadian Red Cross, and in every community across Canada Red Cross workers are making a worthwhile contribution which we fear is not always fully appreciated by our people. In workrooms in every community women work and toil long hours making the necessary supplies to give comfort to those suffering the horrors of war. The Red Cross from the very beginning of the war has given an all-out effort, meeting every call for every emergency. The story behind the fine record of the Red Cross, is the story of thousands of men and women, but particularly women, working long hours at hard and often tedious jobs producing the needed supplies.

There's nothing very glamorous in knitting a turtle-neck sweater or sewing quilts but there's a lot of hard work. There's nothing very exciting about working long hours in work-rooms and at home on dressing gowns and hospital supplies yet thousands of Canadian women are doing it every day and every night and making a fine contribution to Canada's war effort. When you give money to the Red Cross you are helping buy the material these women use to make the many needed articles of clothing and supplies. The donation of money you give, is multiplied by the hard work of patriotic women and reaches its destination in the form in which it is most needed. A tremendous amount of work is required from every Red Cross branch, an amount of work we fear not fully appreciated by those not closely associated with the organization. This is accomplished by a gallant band of women in every community but the workers are all too few. Every Red Cross branch in the County could do with more workers, and those who cannot work have an opportunity to support the Society with funds for material and even with words of encouragement. All cannot knit and sew, but everyone can do something.

The work of the Red Cross in Richmond Hill, Maple, Richvale, Thornhill, King, Oak Ridges, Buttonville, Unionville and in almost every community of this County represents a genuine all-out war effort which should be an inspiration to all. The work of the women in our Red Cross organizations is a challenge to every citizen to make the supreme effort for Victory. It is because of this effort, not only in the district, but all through Canada, that never yet has an emergency, no matter how sudden or unexpected found the Red Cross effort "too little or too late."

The Red Cross Society in your community merits your support. Don't forget them when raising money for war work, and remember that everyone can help by becoming a member.

"TO DO HIS BIT"

"To do his bit" an elderly man, healthy and active, offered in an advertisement in last week's issue to help on a farm during the coming summer. We haven't had the privilege of meeting this gentleman, but we want to pay tribute to his patriotism. We understand he has reached that stage in life where he could sit in idle comfort and watch the world go by, but feels at such a time as this he should be doing some useful work. This is the kind of spirit the Democracies need to win the war. This is the kind of spirit more of our people must show if we are to attain Victory. In a Nation at War there is no place for drones. In the days that lie ahead we must realize our responsibility is to do what we never dreamed we would be called upon to do. Too often we have shifted responsibility wherever and whenever possible and never acted as though we felt that what was given to us could be enriched by our own contributions. Too much we have lived as we pleased, and now we are paying the price of our folly, our selfishness and self-interest. The time has come when we must emulate the example of this patriotic citizen who advertised in last week's Liberal that he is anxious and ready to do his bit.

TIRELESS DAYS

April 1st will usher in the period of gas rationing and a reduced speed limit which will force people to use common sense and thus preserve both tires and gas. Whatever the immediate picture the likelihood is that pleasure travel by motor will very soon be "out" until some considerable time after the war. Owners of cars now rated in preferred categories may face a proportion-

ate cut in driving mileage if the "unit" is reduced to four or three gallons. The continued loss of tankers will certainly mean a reduction in the size of a ration unit. The rubber outlook is not bright. No rubber will be available to ordinary motorists even for re-treading tires. All in all it looks as if very shortly all motor traffic will be limited to that which is absolutely essential to the war effort. A motor ride may soon be a real thrill.

NEWTONBROOK NEWS ITEMS

The eighteenth annual Good Friday Service will be held in Newtonbrook United Church on April 3rd at 11 a.m. Lansing and Newtonbrook United Church choirs (combined) will lead in the worship of praise. Organist, Mrs. M. S. Fawn. Choir Leader, Mr. W. C. Robinson. Rev. A. H. Halbert presiding. Organ Prelude, selected; call to worship, Rev. A. H. Halbert; hymn No. 115, "Crown Him With Many Crowns"; responsive reading, hymnary 753, Rev. F. N. Bowes, Willowdale; prayer, Rev. M. C. Tait, Lansing; Anthem, "God so Loved the World", Stainer; Scripture lesson, New Testament, Matt. 27: 23-51, Rev. E. A. Currey, B.A., Thornhill; Offering, for Sick Children's Hospital; Offertory prayer, Rev. C. B. Jeffrey; hymn No. 121, "Alas and did My Saviour Bleed"; sermon, Rev. J. R. Mutchmor, M.A., D.D.; prayer, Rev. Alex MacLean, Willowdale Presbyterian Church; Anthem, "Rock of Ages", Bowles; hymn No. 112, Rejoice the Lord is King; Benediction, National Anthem, Organ.

Palm Sunday services will be held in the United Church next Sunday at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday School at 10 a.m. Parents and children are urged to attend. Visitors and newcomers will receive a hearty welcome.

The Newtonbrook Y.P.U. presented a 3-act comedy entitled "Speed" last Friday evening in the S.S. hall to a large audience and all took their parts very well indeed. Those taking part were Misses Margaret Shaw, Doris VanLuven, Ann Wells, Ruth Douglas, Margaret Grisdale, Hazel Campbell, Harold Schmidt, Hicks Smith, Ronald Johnstone and Lorrie Hammond. The financial returns were very gratifying. Miss Gladys Sutterby who directed the play was presented with a lovely bouquet of flowers at the close of the program.

Sergeant Irwin Brown of the R.C.A.F. received 91 per cent in his recent examinations, coming second in his class. He left last Saturday night for Saskatoon, Sask. where he will be an instructor.

The Woman's Association served an "Irish Supper" last Thursday evening and as usual a very enjoyable evening was spent by all. The tables were decorated in green with attractive centres of shamrock and brightly coloured primroses, also white candles in crystal holders. The first course was Irish stew which was exceptionally good with homemade tea biscuits and several varieties of pie for dessert. This is one of the most popular church suppers of the year. The evening was spent playing progressive crokinole.

Next Sunday, March 29 the United Church Sunday School will observe Missionary Sunday under the direction of Mrs. Halbert who is missionary convener.

The Young People's Union will observe Passion Week by holding a Lenten devotional service at their regular meeting next Monday evening, March 30th at 5:15 p.m. Rev. A. E. Owen of Unionville will give the address. All are welcome.

The Newtonbrook W.M.S. Auxiliary will be hostesses next Tuesday, March 31st to the Auxiliaries of Willowdale and Lansing United churches at their Easter Thankoffering meeting who will also take part in the meeting. The special speaker on this occasion will be Rev. Dr. C. J. L. Bates, returned missionary from Japan where he was engaged in evangelistic and educational work and was the president of Kwansai Kakuin University, Japan, with some 3000 students. Dr. Bates has two sons in the ministry and his only daughter is married to a minister of the United Church.

The postponed meeting of the W. M. S. was held at the home of Mrs. Arnold Douglas, 154 Pemberton Ave. last Tuesday afternoon with Mrs. A. W. Gabraith presiding. The study chapter was reviewed by Mrs. C. O. Bales. A Temperance program was a special feature of the meeting under the direction of Mrs. Murdie Campbell. Miss Hazel Campbell and Wilma Adair, contestants in the North York Temperance Federation Oratorical Contest took part. Refreshments were served by the hostess.

The Toronto Centre Presbytery Suburban Area Rally which was held in Newtonbrook United Church was

well attended. Y. P. Unions from Maple, Richmond Hill, Headford, Thornhill, Willowdale and Toronto were present. A very splendid program was presented. Rev. C. H. Dickinson's address was very much enjoyed. Congratulations to Newtonbrook Y.P.U. for getting the shield.

LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE

RICHMOND HILL HISTORY

Richmond Hill, March 17, 1942.

The Editor of "The Liberal", Dear Sir:

You asked me to write something on the history of Richmond Hill. This is not the story I gave a week ago at the Women's Institute.

Will you kindly look up in your file, a meeting of the High School Board, which was held on December 8th, 1939, and find the heading "Richmond Hill High School Marks its 50th Birthday".

I knew as soon as I read it that it was not correct. I thought it ought to be corrected but did not like to do so as the chairman was an old friend of our family. I thought at first that he had made the statement on the spur of the moment and had not looked it up; but according to the account, former members of the Board were invited and they celebrated the 50th anniversary with speeches. The statement that York County had only four high schools at first is correct, Newmarket, Markham village, Richmond Hill and Weston. Aurora did not have a high school for some years later. I believe the late Dr. Hillary attended our high school.

Our high school was built in 1873, not 1889 as stated at the celebration. I knew my brother, B. R. Brown of Lansing, bought the corner store there in 1889, and he had been in business with his father before that time. I did not know when the first high school was built in our village but I knew Mr. Carscadden was the principal, and some of the boys who attended when he did were John Saigeon, J. D. and Alfred Paterson.

I asked Mrs. Archie Campbell if she and her brother, Dr. Coulter, went to the red brick school that was burned and she said, "Yes we did." He graduated from Toronto University in 1882, and took his M.D. at Victoria College the same year, 1882, according to "Who Was Who" copied from Toronto papers into the Liberal of January 12th, 1939. It must have been a wonderful high school we had if he came home to attend it in 1889 after taking his degrees.

Mr. Hume, clerk of the village for 37 years, has left a concise account of the progress of Richmond Hill since it was incorporated January 1st, 1873. I found it lately among papers I had saved. The next generation will have it in a nut-shell if they preserve this wonderful record in The Liberal of December 22, 1927. In it he mentions the first high school was built in 1873 and was paid for that year.

It was a nice red brick school with one room and a class room, when I attended. I went in the night to see it go up in smoke in 1897. The floor had been packed with sawdust to check the noise when a furnace was put in the basement. That caused the fire.

What got me was that Dr. Ralph Langstaff had been celebrating too, and he did not know that the Board had knocked 16 years off the honors of the village. He was the last speaker and gave some of his amusing reminiscences of school days. Upon second thought, perhaps he did not like to tell the Board they were wrong. He did not even tell them that his great uncle, James Miles, who died in 1840, aged 61 years, gave from his vast acres the site on which all our schools stood.

With apologies for taking so much space, and reminding you that you wrote an editorial May 15th, 1941, asking people to "chronicle the events of the community; and generations hence will read the story, which will be of increasing value as the files grow older."

Thanking you,
Frances M. Brown.

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