

"THE LIBERAL"

Established 1878

Advertising Rates on Application. TELEPHONE 9
 AN INDEPENDENT WEEKLY
 PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY AT RICHMOND HILL
 THE LIBERAL PRINTING CO., LTD.
 J. Eachern Smith, Manager
 Subscription \$1.50 per year — To the United States \$2.00
 Member Canadian Weekly Newspaper Association
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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24th, 1942.

GET RID OF THE EXPENSIVE FIFTH WHEEL

F. J. McRae, Reeve of the Township of York, and a member of County Council for several years, last week declared that "County Council is a fifth wheel in the administration wagon which should be abolished as a part of our system of government."

There is no place in any country, any time, for a fifth wheel on the administration wagon. The taxpayer has plenty of trouble keeping four wheels greased and in running order. In wartime it is sabotage of our war effort to continue with a fifth wheel.

There is no useful function of County Council which cannot better be carried out by the Provincial government and the local municipal council.

County Councils served a useful purpose in the early days of horse-and-buggy communication, but today they serve no useful purpose and should be abolished.

Last year we paid \$23,043 to members of York County Council. Some fifty men gathered in a sort of glorified debating society and discussed every subject imaginable including many things over which they had absolutely no control. What a waste of money and man-power. The money and man-power might better be used in productive war effort.

As Reeve F. J. McRae said "let us not be slaves to forms of government which have been set up in the past at great expense to the over-burdened taxpayer."

If we are to keep going, and do our utmost in the war effort we must get rid of all fifth wheels on the administration wagon. The first to go should be the County Council.

GIVE CREDIT TO REEVE McRAE

Reeve McRae of York Township deserves the thanks of every citizen of York County for his work in clearing up the administrative mess into which the Toronto and York Roads Commission had drifted. The investigation into the affairs of the Commission was started by Reeve McRae and the fact that the special committee appointed by York County Council only did a whitewash job doesn't detract in any way from the credit due him.

Where the York County Council fell down, the City of Toronto Council stepped in and under the leadership of Controller Saunders finished the job. When the balloon burst, and the commission resigned, Reeve McDonald on behalf of County Council indulged in some high sounding moralizing and lecturing. The old days of glad-handing, back-slapping and lobbying had to go and in future things had to be on a higher plane. Sounded a bit like a "thirteenth hour" repentance to us. We are told an eleventh hour repentance is just getting in under the wire in time, and that a "thirteenth hour" repentance is one of the "too late" variety. While the New Toronto Reeve hit a lot of nails on the head his words would have been more useful if directed to his fellow-councillors months ago when they were wobbling all over the proverbial lot with the Toronto and York Roads investigation. That was the time York County Councillors needed a good lecturing if results were to be obtained. As far as we noted the New Toronto Reeve then was indulging in one of his few quiet moments.

But if the repentance was late the confession at least must have been good. Confessed Reeve McDonald, "there has been laxity on the part of the whole council responsible for the commission's activities" and there must have been tears in the eyes of taxpayers as he told of money which "poured through the sluice gates".

Our public service needs more men like Reeve McRae who had the courage to get up and stand alone in demanding an accounting of the affairs of the Toronto and York Roads Commission. Such action is worth a lot of death-bed repentance.

KING-MAKERS IN ACTION

Fifty members of York County Council convened last week and each member received \$7.00 per day and mileage. The business for this special session was the appointment of two members to the Toronto and York Roads Commission to replace the two who resigned following an investigation conducted by the City of Toronto. While all members of County Council were called into session the great majority of them might just as well have stayed home as far as having any say in the appointments. Long before the session was called to order the "King makers" had the "fix" in the bag and with one exception all members voted for the "king makers" nomination, Warden Earl Toole and Ex-Warden Gordon Harris. To add to their lustre as "King makers" they added a provision for an annual salary of \$1500 for each commissioner plus mileage. This also received ratification of the members. While no doubt the two new commissioners are excellent men we would have thought that non-membership in County Council might have been considered a desirable qualification.

ANOTHER SALARY GRAB

York County taxpayers haven't yet gotten over the shock of the County Council action in fixing a salary of \$1500 per year plus mileage for Toronto and York Roads Commissioners. The former York County representatives on the Commission were paid at the rate of \$7.00 per day and mileage. We haven't seen anyone who knows how many days the former commissioners put in for but it is hardly conceivable that they met over two hundred days in the year. The other three representatives on the Roads Commission served without pay, and now York County Council wants provision that they too be paid at the rate of \$1500 per annum plus mileage. A salary grab of such proportions is the best argument we know of in favor of abolishing the road commission.

THOSE SECOND FRONTERS

A rally was held Monday evening in Maple Leaf Gardens where speakers demanded the opening of a second front. With United Nations fighting on so many fronts we don't quite understand the term "second front". We

heartily approve of any meeting planned to stir our people to greater war effort, but when speakers presume to dictate Allied strategy they are going too far. Of what value is the opinion of the man on the street as compared to that of men in a position to know the facts, the measure of risk and the possibilities of success. The same speakers would be the first to demand the heads of those responsible if another front should be opened and prove unsuccessful.

DANGEROUS MEDDLING

Hon. Mitchell F. Hepburn has in many respects been a splendid premier for Ontario, but every time he starts talking on international affairs he gives a fine demonstration of a public man out beyond his depth. In demanding the recall of the Vichy envoy in Canada Mr. Hepburn is treading on dangerous ground. Everyone knows that the Vichy representative in Canada is here not on the decision of the Canadian Government alone, but on the considered opinion of all United Nations leaders. Hasty action on the part of Canada might lead to serious results for the Empire and our Allies. The disposition of the French Fleet easily may be a large factor in the war and while "Mitch" and his Queen's Park admirals may feel like taking it on, it may be that Allied Military and Naval leaders prefer to see it out of action for the present. Anyway when it comes to war strategy "Mitch" has been wrong so often people can't take him too seriously.

WHAT CAN I DO?

A ten point program for those who are anxious to help Canada's war effort was presented in a very fine address to the Richmond Hill Lions' Club this week by Mr. Edgar Wall of Toronto. Mr. Wall is a former Richmond Hill boy who is today occupying an important business position and an account of his address appears in this issue of "The Liberal". We commend it to the thoughtful consideration of our readers. There is an important part for every citizen to play in this struggle and Mr. Wall's address outlines ten important ways everyone can help.

LET'S FACE THE FACTS

Too many people do a fine job of kidding themselves that Victory is sure to come to the Allied Nations. Sometimes wishful thinking is alright but it simply doesn't fit into an all-out war effort. One remark too often heard in the wishful thinking group is "Oh, we lose battles but we always win the last one. We've never lost a war." We would remind such wishful thinkers that Japan has never been beaten in two thousand years. Still others say "Some way, Britain will struggle through and win." The fact is that we have been steadily losing this war for over three years. Our enemies have overrun Poland, Belgium, Holland, Denmark, France, Norway, Serbia, Greece, Libya and thousands of square miles in Russia and on the other side of the world we have seen Pearl Harbour, the Phillipines, Burma, Hong Kong, Singapore and the loss of many strategic islands in the Pacific. We won't bungle along to victory in this war, and the price of Victory will be "toil, sweat and tears".

Postmaster General In United Kingdom on Postal Survey

It has been officially announced that Honourable William P. Mulock, K.C., M.P. has arrived safely by plane in the United Kingdom. He flew to England last week to undertake a general survey of Postal arrangements for the Canadian Armed Forces, with special regard to improvements of Postal service to the Royal Canadian Air Force.

The matter of the Christmas mails too will be given special attention, for this year, with an increased number of Troops abroad advance arrangements for handling the Christmas volume demand particular planning. Last year with fewer men overseas, the volume of Christmas mails reached staggering proportions.

The Postmaster General is determined to do all in his power to ensure the timely arrival of Christmas mails which are posted sufficiently in advance to allow for Christmas delivery.

Mr. Mulock, ever since assuming office, has given special study to providing the best possible Postal service to the Soldiers and their friends and relatives at home, and has lost no opportunity to introduce new services, extend special facilities and concessions—including free mailing privileges on letters mailed by our Forces in various countries; and likewise, has increased the scope of the special reduced rates allowed on gift parcels sent to them from Canada.

Among the improvements and facilities introduced by Mr. Mulock are the special system of handling given to safeguard tobacco parcels ordered through factories for our men overseas; the speedy and economical Armed Forces Air Letter

Form and the Airgraph Service which has been operating with advantage during the past year. The equivalent service in the United States is the V-Mail Service inaugurated early this summer.

One of the purposes of the Postmaster General's visit will be to complete arrangements covering Airgraph extension. He is accompanied by Lieut.-Colonel E. J. Underwood, Director of Armed Forces Postal Service.

Other matters pertaining to mail service for the Canadian Forces will be taken up during the visit.

Teston and District

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Barnes of Schomberg visited at the latter's home, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Windas on Sunday.

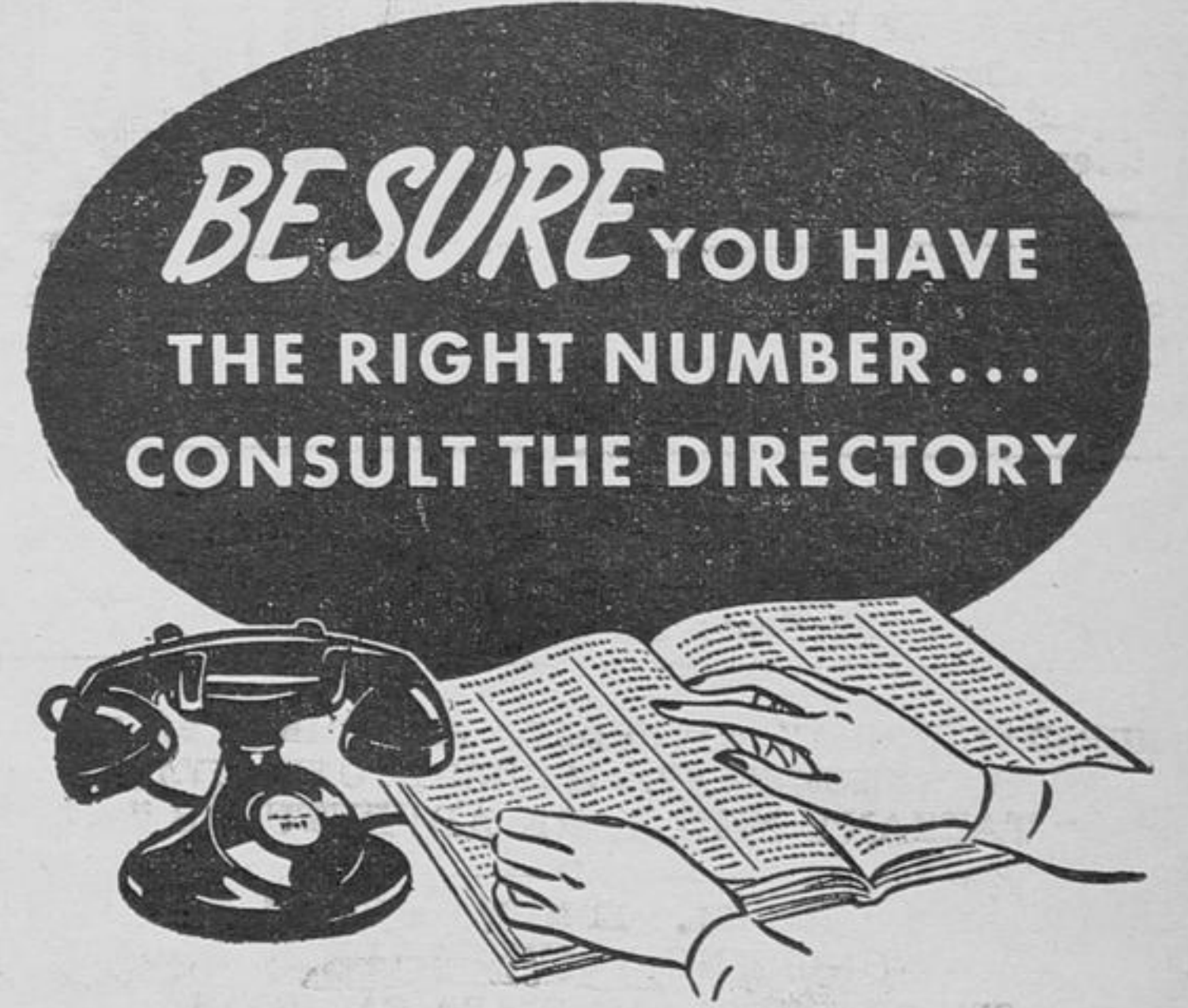
The community was shocked to learn of the sudden death of Mrs. D. A. Campbell. The funeral was largely attended by her many friends and neighbours on Friday afternoon from the home of her brother Mr. Victor Orr, Maple.

Miss Jean Maginn is at present in Kettleby with her uncle Mr. Jack Maginn while Mrs. Maginn is in a Toronto hospital. We wish her a speedy recovery.

Miss Kay Maginn spent the weekend with her parents.

Teston W.A. held a special service on Sunday evening. Mr. A. C. Chambers of Toronto was guest speaker. We hope we will be able to have Mr. Chambers with us again in the near future. There was special music by Mr. W. Cook and Miss Orr and by Miss Lawson of Toronto.

Next Sunday is Rally Day. A special programme has been planned by the Sunday School. Let's rally and make it our duty to be at church at eleven o'clock Sunday morning.



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