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SPIKE THE RUMORS

"Don't repeat Rumors, Report them," was the timely advice given by Mr. Edgar Wall in his recent address to the Richmond Hill Lions' Club which we hope all read in last week's issue of "The Liberal". We cannot too strongly stress the importance of this advice. In wartime when there is a certain degree of censorship on news and information there is sure to be plenty of rumors. The rumor monger has a wonderful opportunity to get in some "fifth column" work.

"I heard today from so-and-so, who knows so-and-so who works in such-and-such an office" is the common introductory remark. This gives the wild rumor a tinge of the inside-information stuff and the wild story is started on its way. It may be anything from a supposed military secret or a new rationing order to a report that some high official has been interned. In any case it's a 1000 to one bet that it's a fabrication without one ounce of truth.

Sometimes these rumors act as a boomerang. The wise-guys started the rumor about the issuing of the AA gas ration books. Said the rumor "might as well use up all your A ration book, it's going to be called in anyway." With apparent disregard for the national emergency we face due to scarcity of gasoline, and the hourly danger faced by seamen who risk their lives to bring the tankers to our shores many went ahead on the tip of the rumor-mongers. The smart trick inspired by the selfish desire to have a good time anyway, and to heck with the country's gas problem, backfired and when the official news comes out the dictum is "No A coupons, no AA coupons". To any who used gas coupons in this spirit in recent weeks and find themselves without gas coupons for the coming months we extend no sympathy.

One recent rumor was that the Government was going to deduct ten percent off all cream cheques. This had some cream producers really worried. The source of this rumor is this. When the recent War Savings Campaign was on, one county circularized all cream producers, informing them that unless otherwise instructed, creameries would deduct ten percent of each cheque to buy a bond. Another county suggested that this be done voluntarily by the cream producers. Hence the rumor, entirely false of course.

Another rumor that worried livestock dealers was to the effect that twenty-five percent would be deducted by the Government from all livestock cheques. A bank manager was credited with making this statement. This rumor received wide circulation, reached a neighbouring town, where a second banker phoned the one credited with making the statement, and proceeded to give him what is commonly known as "the devil". Banker number one was quite innocent, and had not even heard the rumor.

Another rumor was to the effect that the farmer would not be allowed to kill his own pork, beef or lamb. This too is entirely a figment of someone's imagination. A farmer can kill anything on his farm, excepting his wife, the kids or hired man. Though he may frequently feel like the latter, this is called murder, and is not quite the thing to do.

One good way to stop a rumor is recommended by Reader's Digest: "That's a hot one, where'd you hear that?" Then pull out a paper and pencil and ask the teller to repeat it, so that you can copy it word for word. Frequently, when asked to repeat it, the person spreading the rumor, realizes how silly it sounds, and never repeats that story again.

THAT TORONTO AND YORK ROADS COMMISSION SALARY GRAB

In wartime we are apt to be so engrossed in war work that we overlook important items on the home front. One such item which should not be overlooked by York County taxpayers is the salary grab engineered by York County Council for members of the Toronto and York Roads Commission. In the past York County's two representatives on the Commission were paid by the County at \$7.00 per day plus mileage for attending meetings and the other three members of the Commission served without any remuneration. We agree that some provision for remuneration should be made for all the members, but to fix such salaries at \$1500 per annum plus mileage puts the whole deal into the category of a salary grab.

Under the new salary grab, the five men who will administer the affairs of the Toronto and York Roads Commission will receive \$7,500 plus an allowance for mileage travelled. This is more money than is paid all the Reeves, Deputy-Reeves and Councillors who administer the local municipal business of Vaughan, Markham, King, Whitchurch, Richmond Hill, Aurora, Newmarket and East Gwillimbury.

Able men could have been secured to sit on the Board without any remuneration. Certainly almost anyone would have been satisfied with the remuneration received by County Councillors. The \$1500 annual salary melon came from the garden of York County Council King-makers. Perhaps the idea is that the Roads Commission is to be kind of a "Senate", a cushy spot for ex-county councillors. Anyway it is a salary grab, which should be opposed by every member of County Council. In peace time it would be bad enough, but in war it is sabotage. When our young men daily risk their lives for \$1.20 per day, is a poor time for York County Councillors to engineer a Salary Grab.

KING AND VAUGHAN PLOWING MATCH CARRIES ON

In war as well as in peace it is well to encourage the plowing of a straight furrow, and we are glad that the King and Vaughan Plowmen's Association decided to "carry on" this year with the annual Match. It will be held on the farm of Mr. Alfred Bagg at Edgeley, Thursday, October 22nd.

Anything which encourages good farming, is a help to our war effort, and Plowing Matches certainly aim at improving farm methods and farm work. Every agency promoting better cultivation of the land is adding to the productive power of our country. The King and Vaughan Plowmen's Association merit the support of the whole community in their work of encouraging better farming in this district.

Government Wartime Policies Are Designed To Avert Monetary Inflation

By RUSSELL FOX, Richmond Hill

Two items of political news just published must give the people of the Dominion much cause for congratulation. The first is that the Conservative party is planning for a national convention, and the other is that with a re-registration of every resident of Canada, we are on the threshold of employing every man and woman either in the armed or auxiliary forces or in war production or work connected therewith.

Self congratulation is often dangerous, but I would submit that on recalling the predictions made in connection with certain by-elections some months ago, there is ample justification for the people of Canada to "pat themselves on the back."

We were told at the time of the by-elections that the Liberal government was shirking its war obligations, that a coalition should be at once arranged and that the Rt. Hon. William Lyon Mackenzie King did not appear to realize the country was in the throes of a world war. Folks with better memories than myself will readily recall other weird and fantastic things coming glibly at that time from the lips of the men seeking office. Since then the government of Mr. King has put into effect far reaching rationing regulations and has taken a firmer grip on labor and the uses to which capital may be put than was ever expected would be necessary.

Naturally none of us like these regulations or the many others the government has imposed to govern our conduct and expenditures, but we recognize them as a war time necessity and we are prepared to accept them as representative of our contribution to victory. They are far reaching measures calculated to muster the might of Canada for 'all-out', total war, and with the new manpower controls that are to follow the re-registration forecast for November or December next, they will constitute a guarantee of successful war prosecution about as perfect as it is humanly possible to attain.

If, however, we have listened to the guile of the political enemies of the Mackenzie King government in the by-elections could we now have any assurance of so efficient a war-winning program? No less an authority than the Rt. Hon. Arthur Meighen, leader of the Conservative party, told us in the South York by-election that the beginning and the end of everything was conscription for overseas service. We know now what disunion would have resulted from such an enactment had it issued forthwith from Parliament, because we know that even when the voice of the Dominion was heard on the subject, through the Mackenzie King government plebiscite, even then vigorous opposition to conscription developed in certain quarters. What, indeed, would have followed the arbitrary course proposed by Mr. Meighen? Almost certainly there would have been such disunion that the efficient rallying of man power and woman power since accomplished would have been out of the question.

In view of such considerations, the call of the Rt. Hon. Arthur Meighen for a national convention of the Conservative party is unusually interesting. It seems safe to assume that the call means scrapping of the material and point of view on which opposition to the government has been based. This material and viewpoint have outlined any possible usefulness (and they certainly have failed to be appreciably useful, in any sense, to the Conservative party. But what will take their place? To demand coalition without being ridiculous, it would be necessary to show that a combination for executive control would be more effective in winning the war than has been and is the government of Mackenzie King. No doubt Tory brows will wrinkle and Tory heads will suffer many a headache in the search for reasons to support such a position, and mayhaps that is well in as much as their acrobatics will afford public amusement, and a little amusement even in war time is necessary to the maintenance of morale.

Reverting, however, to the causes the Canadian people have to congratulate themselves on the efficiency of the government they have at Ottawa, one can not overlook how successful has been its effort to continue without interruption the services of ordinary peace time institutions. There has been no neglect of agriculture. Rather has there been if anything a more aggressive pro-

motion of agricultural interests. There has been no neglect of trade and commerce, in so far as trade and commerce may be possible in war time, and most assuredly there has been nothing short of masterful prevention of monetary inflation.

And perhaps one of the most outstanding achievements in this respect is the excellent service the post office continues to give in spite of the grave shortage of manpower, the upheaval incidental to the safe delivery overseas of mail many times greater in volume than that forwarded in peace time owing to the presence overseas of large Canadian armed forces, the necessity of war time censorship etc. We, residents of North York, have reason to be particularly interested in this magnificent handling of His Majesty's mails because our member, the Hon. W. P. Mulock, is Postmaster General. Even now he is overseas himself with a view to studying ways and means of increasing Canadian postal efficiency. One might say that if the people of Canada have reason to congratulate themselves on the government they have, the people of North York have, in addition, reason to congratulate themselves on the man they sent to Ottawa to help the Rt. Hon. Mr. King discharge the duties of the difficult office of war time premier.

Newtonbrook

Communion service will be held next Sunday, October 4th at 11 a.m. in Newtonbrook United Church. This service will be celebrated by all Christian churches throughout the world on that day. We hope that every member will join in this fellowship. Rev. H. J. MacKay of Victoria Square will preach at the evening service next Sunday and Rev. Halbert will preach at Carrville anniversary.

The 102nd anniversary of Newtonbrook United Church will be observed on Sunday, October 18th. Professor A. S. Orton of Emmanuel College will preach at the morning service and Rev. R. G. Carruthers of St. Cuthbert's United Church, Toronto, will conduct the evening service.

Services of Thanksgiving will be held on Sunday, October 11th at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.

The Woman's Association will hold its monthly business meeting Thursday. The members will meet at 10 a.m. in the church school room for a quilting meeting and a Pot Luck luncheon at 12 o'clock.

Mrs. Lamb of Moore Park Avenue received word last Saturday morning that her son Owen Lamb who was reported missing after the Dieppe raid is a prisoner of war.

We are sorry to hear of illness of Rev. F. N. Boves of Willowdale. We wish for him a speedy recovery.

The Toronto Centre Presbytery Y.P.U. Suburban Area will hold its annual Fall Rally next Monday, October 5th at 8 p.m. in Thornhill United Church. All the local Y.P.U. Unions are requested to attend.

Rally Day services were held last Sunday morning when the Sunday School joined in the worship service in the United Church. The scripture passages were read by Elsie Wells, Margaret McMillan, Wilma Adair and Richard Walterhouse. The story was very beautifully told by Phyllis Duggan. The pastor spoke on the theme "Looking Unto Jesus." An illustrated address entitled "The Road of the Loving Heart" featured the evening service, which was well attended.

The Mission Band held its opening meeting last Saturday afternoon with the president Jean Lippett presiding. Margaret McMillan and Georgina Plain conducted the devotional service. Colored slides were shown on "China". The Bible story was told by Mrs. Halbert. Five new members were added to the roll.

Harold Duggan spent the weekend at his home and returned Sunday evening to Petawawa Military Camp. Harold G. Schmidt was also home on Sunday. Ronald Johnstone has enlisted in the R.C.A.F.

Wilma Adair, aged nine and Mary Ernschaw, aged eight, of Newtonbrook, held a bazaar recently at which they raised \$15.00 for the Red Cross Bomb Victims' Fund. Great credit is due the girls as they practically prepared the bazaar themselves. This is Wilma's second bazaar. A few weeks ago she and Margaret

McMillan raised \$15.00. Congratulations.

The North York branch of the Red Cross will hold its first fall meeting at 2.30 Friday, October 2nd in St. John's Parish Hall. A good attendance is requested to discuss the business and policy for the coming season.

Mrs. Percy Riddell entertained at a Trousseau Tea for her daughter Miss Thelma, last Monday evening, prior to her marriage next Saturday in Newtonbrook United Church.

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