

"THE LIBERAL"

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 J. E. SMITH, Editor

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'BIG BROTHER' AS AN EXAMPLE

Is it little people or young people who should be seen but not heard? Whatever may be the rule, we do not intend to pay any attention to it. Little people will make themselves heard anyhow, and the young people may need guidance or, in any case, the best effort we can make to give them guidance. That is why, without apology, we again call attention to the newly formed Richmond Hill Young People's Council.

Several grown-ups of probably a more pessimistic turn of mind than most people expressed pleasure during the week over the fact that the young people of the village had organized to provide themselves with entertainment, but they added a doubt as to whether the enthusiasm of the membership would continue year after year, and the point they raise may be well taken.

Social and recreation clubs without purpose other than that of providing 'fun' do appear to enjoy fairly long lives, but looking over a period of years are there many if any such groups that can be recalled which have survived a quarter of a century. Perhaps it might be suggested as the reason that the pursuit of pleasure alone does not afford sufficient pabulum for young people. The latter have intellects that must be nourished, energies that must find an outlet, and, as they grow out of their years of adolescence, the striving for a happiness not attainable on the dance floor or the baseball diamond, develops within them.

That probably is why some folks have hobbies, why others engage in enterprises, singly and collectively, that are idealistic. The high humanitarianism of clubs such as the Lions is undoubtedly responsible for attracting and holding the interest of so many men in so many different walks of life. The activities of the Lions on behalf of others, unselfish and exalted, furnish the vitalizing force of the movement, and so to the Richmond Hill Youth's Council we would commend consideration of a balanced organization diet such as that of the Lions, but in a sphere more particularly adapted to youthful endeavors. 'All work and no play' would make Jack a dull boy, but what would Jack be with all play and no work?

We are confident the Lions' Club which has so generously undertaken to be a 'big brother' to the youth movement of the village will by suggestion help the new council to lay well and surely the foundation plans for its continued vitality and success.

NO PUBLIC WORKS — THE WHY OF IT

The view is sometimes heard, not only in Richmond Hill but throughout the Dominion, that the Dominion government should now proceed with a program of public works so that war workers may have jobs until plants are reconverted for peace time production.

Hon. C. D. Howe explained in Parliament the other day the reason this course is not followed. In the government's program of careful planning, "public projects at this time are not desirable except in a few localities," he said, emphasizing that permanence of prosperity rather than a series of booms and depressions is the end to be attained.

Public projects will come when employment is most needed, and the work will have been planned in conference with provincial and municipal authorities rather than undertaken in a hit-and-miss fashion. And meantime the money for them will be budgeted so that the Dominion may co-operate fully with the provinces and communities in defraying the cost.

Temporary unemployment, as it exists at present, is the result largely of the reconversion of industrial plant to peace time production, and is not such as to warrant expenditure on public works. The reconversion is taking place rapidly and will soon care for the employment slack. As a writer in the Toronto Daily Star says:

"Montreal and Toronto commentators consider reconversion is being accomplished more swiftly and with much less attendant recession in over-all business activity than the vast majority of business men themselves thought possible. The process has been accelerated by the decision of government authorities to apply a minimum of centralized controls while placing main reliance upon the integrity of private enterprise, spurred by the competitive motive, to solve its own problems."

RADIAL CAR ALCOHOLICS

A complaint voiced by a reader in a Toronto daily last week is similar to a complaint made by a Richmond Hill woman to The Liberal. Both state that alcoholics on street cars are a nuisance, and that something ought to be done about them. Everybody will agree, but the question is what can be done about them or with them.

Often the radial cars, leaving the city, carry one or two or more partly intoxicated passengers, but so long as they do not annoy other passengers they are not ejected. That would appear to be about all the T.T.C. can do. The inebriates may chatter away to their hearts' content, tell the story of their lives, describe how the frying pan will be used over their heads when they reach home, reveal the secrets of their innermost hearts for that matter, and, of course, all that may annoy the person sitting or standing next to the talkative one.

Silence and amused tolerance characterize the attitude of most people towards the drunk on the street car, but that need not and perhaps should not be, according to a Richmond Hill man who has given some time to the study of psychology. He says a stern rebuke will halt the offender's flow of language nine times out of ten. "Say to him, for example," says this psychologist, "that you have heard enough, and you do not want to hear more; that you paid for your seat and you are going to see to it that you have the privilege of using it without having to listen to a lot of nonsense."

Our authority says that if the man has simply taken too much beer and that if, when sober, he is an ordinarily normal person, he will remain quiet for the balance of the trip, after a tongue lashing like that, probably reflecting on what a harsh person you are. There are two big and important 'ifs' in his statement, however. If it is cheap wine or spirits the talkative one has been drinking, and he can legally now get a great deal more liquor than he could a few weeks ago, he may decide that nothing would suit him better than an argument in which case the sober, peaceful person can do little else than change his own seat, perhaps stand the rest of the way home.

It is not the foregoing type of drinker who causes the average citizen concern on the street car or radial car, however, so much as the young fellow in uniform, quietly asleep, the youngster who couldn't resist temptation away from home. The hearts of everyone go out to him in pity and sympathy, and the hope comes naturally to all that some good influence will enter his life that will help him conquer the soul-destroying habit to which he has or is becoming addicted.

PERSONAL RECONVERSION

The war plants are being re-tooled. Soon they will be turning out the products of peace. But how about the former war workers in the Richmond Hill district who confidently hope for new jobs in the plants where they once made munitions? Have they gone through the process of reconversion necessary to fit themselves for such jobs?

An officer of Selective Service informs us that many employers consider training in a war plant insufficient to justify a worker in believing he or she can work on the machines or take their place in the assembly lines of tomorrow without further training, and that those who can "fit in" will be the ones most wanted.

Apparently technical or trade training will be at a premium, and there may not be the same disposition on the part of private employers to give training free as the government did on a lavish scale in the war time emergency.

Peace time production will depend upon personal reconversion as much as plant reconversion, a fact it is well for the individual worker to remember. To some extent the training, the acquirement of the new skills that will be required may be in his own hands.

TERMITES FROM TORONTO?

We don't know anything about the Terrible Termite except what we have learned from the Toronto press. We note from that source that everybody in Toronto is disturbed, and even the mayor, the genial "Bob" Saunders is pictured at work with a spray. Perhaps we ought to do something about it, too, not about helping Toronto, of course, but about keeping the destructive pests from Richmond Hill, or of getting rid of them if some have already arrived. We don't know whose job it would be, and it might just be possible that we have no one in the employ of the village who could really rate as an expert on the subject of termites. So we are unable to make any suggestions, which, of course, is not like us. But we do hope the council is keeping well informed on termites, their birth, their habits and how best to doom the dastards should they show up.

OTTAWA LETTER

By Jack Smith, M.P., North York

It is quite a task learning to recognize the members of Parliament and remember the name of the constituency they represent. Grappling with this problem as a new member for the past two weeks the performance of Roy Graham, recently appointed deputy clerk of the House on the taking of the first vote was to us amazing. The former member for Swift Current appointed to his present position some six weeks ago, in rapid succession called the names and ridings of 221 members as they rose to record their vote in the first division. He slipped up on only one — Joe Bradette, member for Cochrane, and one of his close friends.

On the vote Liberals, Conservatives and Social Crediters all combined to vote against the C.C.F. amendment with the count being 193 to 29. Hope of quickly winding up the debate and getting on with the business was shattered when the Social Credit group immediately brought forward an amendment to take the place of the one just defeated. It probably will be dealt with early this week.

We have enjoyed meeting many interesting members of the House. This week Jean Francois Pouliot, member for Temiscouata conducted a committee of instruction for new members which was very helpful. House procedure which seems complicated when boiled down by an experienced parliamentarian like Mr. Pouliot, really is simple after all. Mr. Pouliot, who is known as a fiery debater has been a member of the House for 21 years. However, Hon. P. J. A. Cardin, is the dean of the House, and the former Minister of Public Works, and last Friday completed thirty-four years as a member of Parliament. He was first elected in 1911, and has never suffered defeat at the polls.

This week we were pleased to have visit us at the House of Commons, William Chisholm of North York Township, Flight Lieut. Chas. Gates of King, now stationed here with the R.C.A.F., and Reeve Charlie Hooper of Markham Township. Reeve Hooper was in Ottawa as President of the Ontario Agricultural Council and made representations to the government regarding meat rationing.

There was considerable difference of opinion here on Parliament Hill about the meat rationing, but following the conference last week and the announcement of some easing in the regulations there is a pretty general expression that now the matter is settled the less kicking we have the better for all. We may as well settle back in the realization that this inconvenience is here with us for a while at least. We have been asked many times what is behind the meat rationing order. It is Canada's determination to meet in true Christian spirit the Biblical injunction to "feed the hungry".

In Parliament the debate on the Speech from the Throne continues. There is a general feeling here, and I am sure throughout the country as well that it would be better to end the debate and get on with the important business facing Parliament. There is a natural anxiety to have the budget presented as soon as possible.

Much of the important work of Parliament is done in Committee and Standing Committees are being set up. The Standing Committees of the House are:

Privileges and Elections; Railways, Canals and Telegraph Lines; Miscellaneous Private Bills; Banking

and Commerce; Public Accounts; Agriculture and Colonization; Standing Orders; Marine and Fisheries; Mines, Forests and Waters; Industrial and International Relations; Debates; Printing; Library of Parliament; Restaurant; Railways and Shipping.

These committees do very necessary and commendable work, however I am suggesting the appointment of one more this Parliament. During my association with politics I have been concerned with the opinion so often expressed, and the feeling which is widespread that the government is wasteful. Not this government in particular, but all governments, and irrespective of what party may be in office this impression prevails. These are times when all our people are bearing a heavy load of taxation and I think it is most important they should be satisfied that they are getting good value for their money. If people are going to be taxed heavily as undoubtedly we will be for many years, it is important that this prevailing impression that governments are wasteful should be corrected. To that end we are assuming chairmanship of a "Committee To Prevent Government Waste" and as members of the committee we are appointing all the people of the riding of North York. We invite your co-operation by writing us a note pointing out some item of government business or administration you think wasteful. As chairman of the committee here at Ottawa, I will run down the facts of the matter and report to you. If there is some explanation justifying the expenditure we will let you know and you will pay your income tax with better spirit. If we can find no justification and that it is wasteful we will wage a fight against it. It is a fact that many items which are considered wasteful, on examination of all the facts turn out to be not wasteful at all. This however is all to the good, and our joint aim in asking your co-operation on this committee is not only to eliminate waste, but also to correct the impression that government is wasteful. I have ordered a second mail box in the Parliamentary Post Office, so, come on, let's hear from you. Don't worry about the phrasing, let's have your letters. We hope to report some of the complaints in this column from week to week.

Here there seems to be general unanimity on the government proposal to adopt a National Flag for Canada. There may not be such unanimity when it comes to selecting the design. No doubt you have read of some of the designs submitted. Perhaps you have one to suggest. If so let's have it soon. Personally, I like the Red Ensign flag which now flies over the Parliament Buildings here in Ottawa, and it is my guess that in the end it will be the design adopted.

Prime Minister Mackenzie King told us in the Commons that he might ask the House to authorize him to go to Britain within a few months for discussions with Britain's new Labor government.

Mr. King said there were a number of questions he would like to discuss with Prime Minister Clement Attlee and other members of the new government.

I am pleased to hear such splendid reports of Youth Council activities. Best of good wishes to the newly elected officers, and all members in their efforts on behalf of community life.

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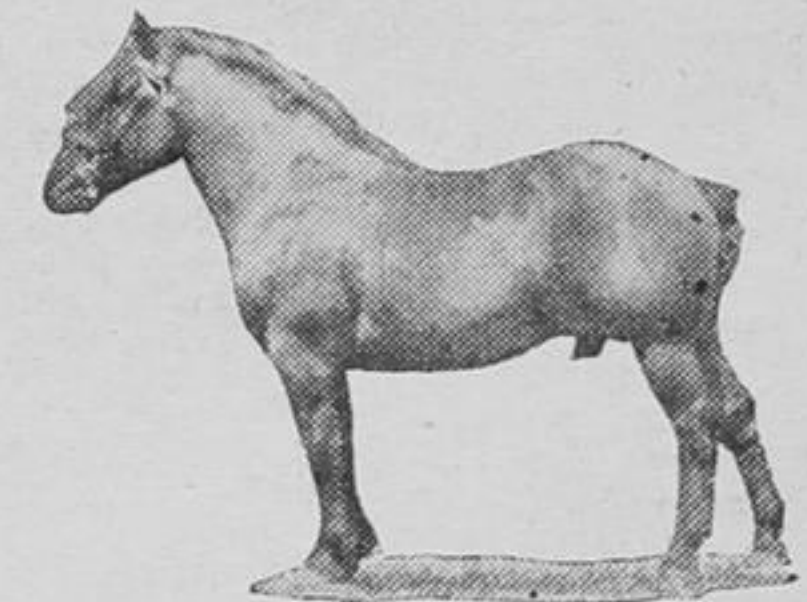
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