

"THE LIBERAL"

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POLIO ON THE INCREASE

Reports in the daily press showing that poliomyelitis is on the increase in this part of Ontario, although not in epidemic proportions, give everyone cause for concern largely for the reason that even if it is not fatal in all cases it usually leaves its victims more or less crippled.

Few if any cases have been reported so far in the Richmond Hill district, but in as much as control and remedy have not been yet made available despite the world-wide scientific research that has been and is being carried on, it is necessary that everyone, particularly parents, be ever vigilant in taking the precautions physicians suggest.

Polio is not a new disease. It was first definitely described in 1784 by an English doctor named Underwood, though probable cases are found in literature even back in ancient times. It is world wide in distribution, but appears to be more prevalent in temperate climes. It is a disease of summer and autumn though occasional cases may occur at any time, and although it is usually a disease of childhood, it may occur at any age from infancy to maturity. About 60% of the patients are under 10 years of age, while over 80% are under 15.

And from our standpoint, one of the most disquieting discoveries of research workers is that while epidemics have occurred in large metropolitan areas, when the total cases for the whole country are reviewed it is made evident that polio is primarily a rural disease.

THE URGE TO DEFY

The mothers of several British Columbia school children have organized a strike to keep their children away from school until the road over which the children must travel is repaired. One part of it, they say, is quite narrow and slopes off to a sheer drop.

The news recalls the recent struggle of the fathers and mothers of a Richvale area to obtain a sidewalk for their children to the Richmond Hill school so that the little ones would not have to go back and forth in heavy vehicular traffic. But so far as we know a strike was never suggested by the Richvale residents. By keeping everlastingly at it, however, they at length aroused the authorities of Queen's Park to action, and the sidewalk is being constructed with the work of widening Yonge St.

Public opinion is always in favor of a campaign to safeguard children from hazards, but we think the plan followed in Richvale was much better than the strike of P.C. mothers. Organized defiance is certainly not the most advisable course when children are involved in a dispute. Defiance is a weapon children seize too easily even without parental approval. The urge to defy—whether parents, teacher or the law—is something most boys and some girls experience at one stage of their growth, and the way they meet that crisis depends largely on the kind of home and other adult influence surrounding their lives.

STAGES IN HOME BUILDING

The eyes of thousands of Canadians, many of them in our own district, are turned today on home building, and the hope of these folks that building materials will soon become plentiful enough to enable them to build makes a project of J. McCreia in the Royal Ontario museum doubly interesting. His exhibit of pioneer homes shows among other things our progress from rounded logs to planks.

Pine logs were used in the first shanty or shack, as we would call it now-a-days, and the spaces between the logs were filled with moss or clay. The logs were notched and no nails were available. The roofs usually were of bark or formed of basswood logs split in two, hollowed out and laid concave and convex. Hinges in those days were square pieces of wood, through a centre hole of which went a long pin.

The McCreia models show the progress from such rude dwellings to the time when a settlement has grown up and a school is being built. Timber and shingle making are featured, the former for the roof and the latter as siding. It was the beginning of the neat cottages and hospitable large frame houses that dot the countryside today, and that tend to make North York and other such districts so attractive.

IT CAN HAPPEN IN A SPLIT SECOND

We are inclined to agree with the chief or police of Victoria, B.C. when he says that a cigarette can cause a serious automobile accident, and yet we feel that the motorist who is willing to observe almost all the other rules and regulations with respect to safe driving, would more than likely pay little if any attention to a regulation governing his smoking habits. Yet the chief undoubtedly speaks sense when he says:—

"An automobile driver lighting a cigarette while his car is travelling is taking a chance. He must turn his eyes from the road. In that one split second something disastrous can happen. If we are to reduce traffic accidents, we must stop taking these little chances, which look so insignificant at the time we take them, but can have such tragic consequences."

Automobile driving is certainly serious business. The driver of a car has a responsibility to himself, to those in his car, and to those in every other car on the road. The person in charge of a car must be ever on the alert. Lighting a cigarette, fiddling with a radio dial, lecturing, rubber-necking at sign boards and farm houses can have blood-stained results.

A SUGGESTION FROM ENGLAND

With the Christmas season in mind, a friendly hint comes from England. The people of the Old Country, a London dispatch says, are desirous of keeping clean as well as satisfying their appetites. Soap, it states, will be most welcome in Christmas boxes from Canada to Britain. In as much as the people of Richmond Hill have been trying to do all they can for the folks of their adopted Richmond, England, the suggestion may be helpful.

True, our Canadian boys are home, but we cannot or should not forget that the people of Britain, so kind to the men of the armed forces, are still much in need of a few extras. In many ways, indeed, they are now much worse off than they were during the war. Bread rationing and all that it entails has added to their hardships.

With no sons, husbands or fathers to send parcels to this Christmas, it would be a splendid gesture if the folks at home would send a box to some of these families overseas. Such presents would serve as real ambassadors of good will and expressions of appreciation on the part of Canadians for those Britishers who have suffered so much and are still suffering.

Tribute Paid Miss J. Russell
26 Years Service On Staff
Brantford Collegiate Institute

Retiring Teacher Has Faith in Youth of Today—Teaching is a Great Privilege and a Great Responsibility

The following from the Brantford Expositor refers to the retirement from the Brantford High School staff of Miss Josephine Russell, sister of Mrs. H. A. Nichols and Miss Nan Russell of Richmond Hill.

When Miss Josephine Russell retires after 22 years on the teaching staff of the Commercial Department of the Brantford Collegiate Institute and Vocational School, Brantford young people will lose a staunch champion, who feels keenly that the natures of the young men and women of today aren't as dark as they frequently are colored.

When in 1924 the first of several wings was added to the original structure housing the Brantford Collegiate Institute and Vocational School, the addition of several persons to the teaching staff—at that time composed of 26 members, a figure which since has been nearly doubled—was necessitated.

One of the persons appointed was Miss Josephine Russell, of Toronto, who had studied at the University of Toronto and who had had previous teaching experience in the schools in the eastern counties of Ontario. Miss Russell has taught English throughout the Commercial Department.

She feels quite definitely about the steadfast honesty and integrity of modern young people. One of the prime factors responsible for whatever change has evolved is the partial changeover from church and school to outside sources of amusement, as the orbit about which their activities rotate.

Notwithstanding their love of fun and what sometimes seems to be a boisterous search for happiness, they are pretty serious-minded persons, not content with devoting themselves entirely to jiggerbugging through life, Miss Russell believes.

"Many are the criticisms of the so-called modern youth, who are held up by some as selfish, artificial, pleasure-seeking and into whose minds it is said to be difficult to inculcate noble ideals and high purpose. As for myself, I have confidence in the youth of today as the potential leaders of tomorrow's world," she said.

The method and scope of instruction in Ontario secondary schools have changed considerably in some fields since Miss Russell commenced her teaching duties.

The curriculum has been broadened, as in the case of the Commercial Department, to include more of the general knowledge young people will need in the business world, and the psychological approach to the students also has changed, understanding and sympathy now taking the place of the strap as a disciplinary measure.

Miss Russell feels that she has derived invaluable encouragement in her teaching from two late Headmasters of the Collegiate, Dr. A. M. Overholt and James S. Wilson, as

well as a deep sense of pleasure and honor at having been associated with them during their principalships.

When Miss Russell concludes her service she hopes "to indulge in the luxury of good music and books."

By way of a parting word about the lot of a teacher she said: "It is a great privilege and also a great responsibility—that of touching the lives of these young people."

Miss Russell was widely entertained by members of the staff and friends and is at present the guest of Mrs. H. A. Nicholls and Miss Nan Russell, Yonge St., Richmond Hill.

INSTITUTES PLAN CELEBRATION OF 50TH ANNIVERSARY

The 50th anniversary of the founding of Women's Institutes will be celebrated at a day of special ceremonies to be held at the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, on June 18, 1947, and a special committee of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario is working on ambitious plans for this historic event. The theme of the celebration will be "We Treasure the Past—We Face the Future." It is the hope of the F.W.I.O. that Women's Institute members all over the Province will start to plan now to attend and make their 50th Anniversary a memorable occasion.

The first Women's Institute was started at Stoney Creek, Ontario, on February 19, 1897. From this little village, the idea has spread until now Women's Institutes or sister organizations are found all over the world.

To commemorate the founding of the Women's Institutes, an Adelaide Hoodless Scholarship is to be built up. Mrs. Adelaide Hoodless, the founder of the movement, was keenly interested in the education of rural women in the art of Homemaking, and the fund in her honour will be used to help finance rural girls registering in the Home Economics courses at the Ontario Agricultural College.

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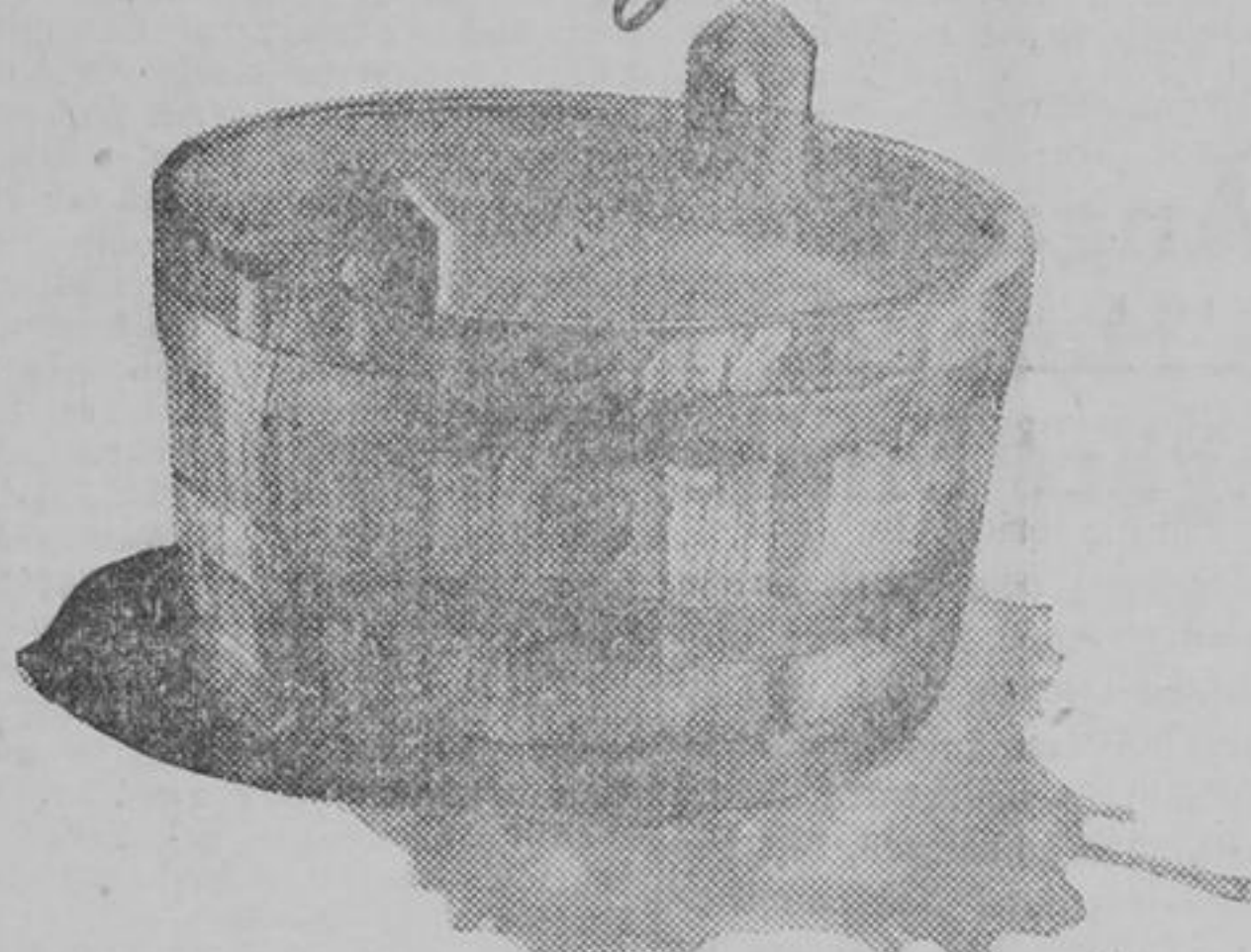
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MAPLE

The 140th Anniversary and the Harvest Festival of Zion Lutheran Church was attended by 300 people last Sunday when the Rev. Dr. Lehman, President of the Lutheran Seminary and College at Waterloo, Ont., delivered the sermon both morning and evening. In the morning he preached from the Gospel Lesson for the day, Luke 17:11-19, stressing gratitude for the 140 years of service of the congregation and for the blessings of the field. In the evening he preached to young people and issued a challenge for young men and women to dedicate their lives to full-time service for the Lord. At the morning service the home choir rendered two anthems and the soloist was Miss Zella Withuhn of Waterloo, Ont. At the evening service the Laskay choir presented two anthems and Miss M. Hunter rendered a solo. The congregational Harvest Supper was held on Wednesday evening when a very enjoyable and profitable time was had by the members and friends.

Maple United Church Sunday School Rally will be observed in the church next Sunday at 11 a.m. Judge Mott of the Juvenile Court in Toronto will be guest speaker. A cordial welcome is extended to all to come and hear this interesting service.

St. Stephen's Anglican Church Harvest services will be held September 29th with Communion at 9:30 a.m. and Evensong at 7 p.m. Please note change of time for morning service.

Miss McNaughton is visiting Mrs. T. Witherspoon. Rev. Mr. McCrimmon was in town this week visiting his daughter Mrs. Bruce McDonald.

At the evening service Sept. 29th Rev. C. E. Fockler and choir will take charge of the anniversary service at Carrville United Church. Rev. Mr. Duncan and choir from Thornhill will be at Maple United Church.

At the morning service in St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church the infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Snider was baptised by Rev. Mr. Bowman.

The September meeting of St. Andrew's W.M.S. was held at the home of Mrs. W. Hodge. The study book was reviewed by Mrs. Bowman and Mrs. R. D. McNaughton. A solo was sung by Donald Hodge. At the close of the meeting a pleasant social half hour was enjoyed.

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