

"THE LIBERAL"

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THURSDAY, MARCH 13th, 1947.

A REFORM LONG NEEDED

A reform long needed in the conduct of Richmond Hill village affairs will presently be submitted for approval to the Ontario Municipal Board in the form of a request that \$100 per year be allowed each councillor and \$200 to the reeve. The proposal, if accepted to, will bring the council in line with most other Ontario municipalities of similar population.

An understanding of the why and wherefore of such a disbursement will no doubt interest most residents. The amount involved is \$600 per year, and it may in no sense be considered compensation for the discharge of the public trust reposed in the four councillors and reeve or as payment for the time they must spend in the discharge of their duties.

The business of administration is the largest and most varied business in the community. It involves the collection and wise expenditure of a great deal of money, not to mention the holding of innumerable conferences with ratepayers and others doing business with the village. It would be difficult to estimate how much time the reeve and councillors give to the public business in the course of a year, but an irreducible minimum would put the figure at better than 100 hours. Council meetings alone occupy more than 50 hours, and when special meetings have to be held the number of hours so spent is accordingly increased.

For this reason, many close observers of municipal affairs feel the amount of the honorarium should be much higher, but the members of council insist that whatever may be done, the amount must be kept on token basis rather than lifted to a level commensurate with the service they render.

A FEATHER IN THEIR CAP

Maintenance of communication between Richmond Hill and Toronto in recent days when storms of the utmost intensity paralyzed inter-urban transportation throughout the province for varying periods of time may be ascribed in some measure possibly to the operation of the radial system between the two communities.

Not once did the snow drifts interrupt service, and so residents of Richmond Hill whose business required their presence in Toronto daily were no more inconvenienced by the weather than would be the case if they resided in any part of the metropolitan area served by city trams.

That at least is "a feather in the cap" of that little group of citizens who years ago, under the leadership of J. A. Greene, fought against the abolition of the radial system and the substitution of buses. Richmond Hill is essentially a home centre, but if it is to remain so and continue to grow as such there must be no prolonged cessation of transportation with the city.

Communities round about and particularly to the immediate north of Richmond Hill have not been as fortunate as this community in maintaining service to and from the city. Perhaps if they, too, had permitted the inter-urbans to be converted into a service such as is now provided Richmond Hill they would be better off especially in stormy weather.

ST. MARY'S SKATING CARNIVAL

The Men's Club of St. Mary's Anglican Church deserves the felicitations of the entire village for the splendid Icelandic skating contest it sponsored for the delight of Richmond Hill's young and old. The triumphs of Barbara Ann Scott have called general attention to the art of graceful skating, but long ere Barbara Ann won her laurels those of us who have had the privilege of seeing young people on the ice recognize how pleasurable it is to witness such events. And where is the native Canadian who, if he or she has not found himself or herself on skates at one time or another, has not at least occupied the role of spectator?

The Icelandic club in its demonstration here lived up to its reputation of being one of the best skating organizations in the Dominion, and the performance of the 30 skaters was worthy of the club they represented. With the skill that comes from training, they executed many difficult and intricate stunts.

Whatever else may be said of Canada's winter months, they assuredly are at times periods of dreariness, and an event such as that provided by the Anglican club to lighten the burden of the cold months cannot help but be genuinely enjoyable.

FARM INCOMES

How do the earnings of farmers compare with the earnings of folks who work in city industries? John Atkins, well known for his views on agricultural subjects to North York farmers, points out that as business men, farmers have all the basic problems of city residents plus the weather.

"Some few of us," he writes, "are big business. Most of us are small business. Almost all of us are farm hands. Our wives and children do considerable farm work. The average gross cash income on Canadian farms in 1945 was approximately \$2,300, earned by the combined efforts of men, women and children. When the non-cash farm income is added and the many farm expenditures deducted, the probable average net income per farm family, earned by at least one full-time worker, and one part-time worker, on the basis of a low 60-hour week, might be \$1500, or \$1000 per worker earned at the rate of 33 1/3% per hour, with allowance for an imaginary two weeks' holiday."

"You will think that our estimated 60-hour farm week is not only low, but much too low. We can almost hear you say: 'Humph! An 80-hour week is more like it.' That is true, but we were leaning over backward in making an estimate that would not exaggerate the farm family's hours of work nor underestimate the average farm income."

"The Dominion Department of Agriculture has issued a booklet entitled 'Net Income of Farm Operators from Farming Operations 1938-1945.' The Country Guide, Winnipeg, extended the booklet's statistics to average net incomes and commented, in part, as follows: 'Total net income of farm operators the Dominion Bureau of Statistics explains, is the amount which would be available to farm operators for living expenses, payment of income taxes and for investment in the farm enterprise or in other investment outlets.'

"Whereas this would work out to an average per farm of \$563 for Eastern Canada in 1938, by 1945 this had increased to \$1244. In Western Canada (including B.C.) this had climbed from a low of \$484 average per farm in 1938, to \$1531 in 1945."

"No one hails increased farm incomes with greater satisfaction than farmers. But, in the general jubilation it is well to remember that the improvement in farm income started from a scandalously low base. Farm earners are still giving two hours of labor for one in exchange with city workers.

"Percentages do not create the correct impression

when applied to farm and city incomes. If a farm boy who had 50c. to spend at the local fall fair in 1938 was given \$1.00 to spend at the Royal Winter Fair in 1946, he had a 100% increase in spending money. A city boy who had \$1.50 to spend at the circus in 1939, who was given \$2.00 to spend at the Royal, had only a 33 1/3% increase in spending money, but he still had twice as much as the farm boy. We expect to hear some city-slicker say: "Well why didn't the stingy farmer give his boy \$2.00 to spend." "Well, Jack Canuck, why didn't you," we ask."

The Library Shelf

(Continued from Page 1)

half Jewish and half English, joins a group of Jews going to Palestine to found an agricultural commune. He shares the difficulties and dangers of the communal life; he forms deep friendships and falls in love; yet he is always somewhat aloof. Thus he is able to judge the Jewish communes, the Arabs, and the English in Palestine with a measure of impartiality. He sums up the age-old Jewish problem in the following paragraph: "For Jews were not an accident of race, but simply man's condition carried to its extreme — a branch of the species touched on the raw. Exiled in Egypt, in Babylon, and now over the whole globe, exposed to strange and hostile surroundings, they had to develop peculiar traits; they had no time nor chance to grow that hide of complacency, of a specious security, which makes man insensitive to and forgetful of the tragic essence of his condition. They were the natural target of all malcontents, because they were so exasperatingly and abnormally human." — E.W.I.

LONDON BELONGS TO ME, Norman Collins. Indeed London does belong to Mr. Collins and, after finishing his book, a bit of London belongs to us.

Here is a "different" book full of warmth and humour. So different is the book from the usual glossy, and shallow best-seller, that it should enjoy a wider popularity. It is with this purpose in mind that I bring it to our readers' attention.

Mr. Collins has given us a bit of London, a section of its people, which is the essence of the spirit of those sturdy citizens. The story, in brief, is the impact of the first war years on the boarders at No. 10 Dulcimer St., London.

The landlady of this house is the widow, Mrs. Wizzard, who has come down in the world and lives in the memories of past elegancies. Her romance with her sinister new boarder, the occult Mr. Squales, is one of the minor themes.

Mr. Squales stands out as one of the most able delineations in a book which abounds with fine character-studies.

Mrs. Wizzard's star-boarders are the Josses family, father, mother and daughter, who occupy the best suite. The life and fortunes of this family and their relatives afford the central theme. Mr. Josses could truly be called the hero of the tale.

The most endearing person, for many, will be dauntless Connie. A faded beauty of muddled morals, but with the proverbial heart of gold, Connie provides the humour and the pathos.

Mr. Puddy, a widower, supplies the low comedy, (most unintentionally on his part). Although cowardly and food-loving, Mr. Puddy ultimately finds himself a hero. Dickens would have been delighted with this same Mr. Puddy.

There is tragedy too. "Life finally catches up with weak Percy Boon, who lives with his adoring mother in a back suite. His downfall unfolds with an inevitableness that is stark and terrible."

The opening chapter of the book, the presentation to Mr. Josses in his retirement, is a satiric gem in itself. The president of the old firm, how typical he is:—emanating mock-patriarchal benevolence, jokes demagogically with his employees to their marked discomfort. The pompous speech, the timid reply, all these are glorious and evoke familiar echoes.

It is a goodly book, (638 pages), but is most regretfully finished. We are parting with good friends. We cannot fail to wonder just how the Mr. Josses are faring in the grim Britain of today.—D.L.

Try a classified advertisement in The Liberal for results.

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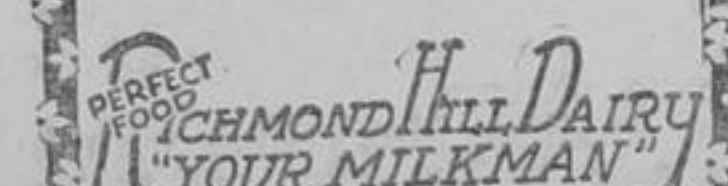


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VICTORIA SQUARE

Mr. James Butler, Sr., Richmond Hill, was the guest speaker at the Y.P.U. last Sunday evening. Young people who missed the inspiring message delivered by Mr. Butler missed a great deal when they did not hear him. Next week's meeting will be in charge of Miss Helen Boynton. Try to be present and discuss plans for the church service on April 13th.

A very interesting meeting took place Tuesday evening last at the J.F.A. and J.W.I. regular monthly meetings held in the community hall. Mr. Stelek of Bradford showed movies and talks on various subjects which were enjoyed very much by the two groups. At the joint meeting games were conducted by Les Hart. At the J.W.I. Miss Mabel Sanderson gave the motto, dealing with the subject of St. Patrick's life history which proved very interesting. Mrs. Barbara Hart gave a very inspiring demonstration on "Decorations for St. Patrick's." Elections of officers took place with Mrs. Willows presiding. Scrutineers were Misses Helen Castator and Jean Brumwell. Officers of the J.W.I. for the year 1947-48 are as follows:

Hon. Pres., Mrs. Willows; Pres., Barbara Hart; 1st Vice-Pres., Marjorie Hart; 2nd Vice-Pres., Dorothy Beatty; Sec., Doris Empringham; Asst. Sec., Marion Casely; Treas., Mabel Sanderson; Pianist, Connie Rumney; Asst. Pianist, Marion Casely; Song Leader, Bertie Forster; Asst. Song Leader, Marion Casely; District Director, Mrs. Ruby Brumwell; Press Sec., Bertie Forster; Branch Directors, Barbara Hart, Doris Empringham, Marjorie Hart; Sewing and Knitting Convener, Dorothy Beatty; Social and Finance Com., Norma Empringham, Evelyn Barber, Nellie Snider, Dorothy Jarvis; Sick Com., Verna Styrmo, Mabel Sanderson, Ruby Brumwell, Florence Nichols; Auditors, Mrs. Harry Barber, Mrs. Franey.

J.F.A. officers for the year 1947: Hon. Pres., W. M. Cockburn; Pres., Les Hart; Vice-Pres., Don Stephenson; Sec., Norman Tyndall; Treas., Phil Rumney; Directors, John McCague, Jack Rumney, Jim Boynton; Third-County Director, John Buchanan.

JUST RELAX

It is amazing what can be done by just relaxing. It may not be necessary to take a long sea voyage; all a man may need is to slacken his pace at periods during the day, loosen his necktie and shoe-strings, put his feet up on his desk or another chair, and let the world roll by for two or three minutes without worrying about it. It has been found that a good proportion of persons who suffered heart attacks of the most severe nature, and adopted right measures of living, are still alive and enjoying life ten more years later.

CANADIAN ROOSTERS TO SOUTH AFRICA



Blood lin of South Africa's White Leghorns are to be improved with the introduction of a Canadian strain. One ten pedigreed cockerels left ready via Canadian National Express for Saint John, en route to the best hatcher in southern Rhodesia. It will take five weeks for the birds to reach their destination. To insure prime condition, the shipped packed four different feeds with the birds. Cod liver oil is part of their diet. The South African importer, Miss L. Halford of Quequebais, ships by air throughout the year.



(By Bill Hollowell)

Highya Will see all you guys and gals two weeks and one night from tonight, that is March 28, dancing to the strains of Wm. Smith and his tribe. The card contains some alama-lefting, a few barn dances and natch some modern music.

As for the Hockey Teams Midgets. The boys had a tough time last week at Barrie and lost with the numbers at 8 to 2. And Saturday p.m. won 8 to 7 here at home, so they are out, but.....

We hear a protest is starting to the effect that Barrie has a player over age, so.....

Juveniles. Bobcaygeon was here on Friday and did 5 to 1 with Doug Allen being the hero with the one goal and Jim Reynolds helping out with a good game. Richmond Hill went away up to Bobcaygeon on Saturday but were defeated with 0 to their 6, and Neal with 3 goals. Simmer with 2 and Allen with 1. We hear Roddy McArthur was outstanding in the net.

More.....The team will vote for whom they consider the top player on the team and he will receive a cup, thanks to Mr. Patchel who has been a great help to the team. Any one who is interested and has seen the boys play is asked to get in touch with Jim Butler and help decide who this leading player is.

Well, this winds up a not too successful season but the boys tried hard and are all looking forward to next year's games. All players please turn in any of the council equipment pronto so that it can be cleaned and stored for next year's activities.

Was disappointed in the turnout last Sunday at the Municipal Hall, only 18 members present. Dis is bad but the lineup of new executive members voted is Betty Barker, Phyllis Giles, Elizabeth Hunt, Norm Tyndall, Herb Rose and John Mitchell.

If you have any new ideas or bright suggestions for dances or anything else you would like to do, put them to the council Sundays at 1.30 p.m.

See youse all next week. R.H.Y.C.

Jack Walkington

GENERAL INSURANCE
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Feeling proud of the health record of its community, a small-town newspaper in British Columbia has reminded its readers that four residents who died last year were centenarians. It is only fair to add that to become a centenarian at all is usually a grave risk.

If you have anything to sell try a classified advertisement in The Liberal.

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GIVE YOUR CHICKS A FLYING START!

FEED PURINA CHICK STARTENA
 THE STARTER WITH "INGREDIENT POWER"

Remember last fall's egg market? Everything points the same way for this year. Anyone who has a flock of well grown, fully developed pullets in production next fall is going to be "in the money".

How about your flock? Will you be "wishing" or "cashing"? It depends partly on the kind of chicks you start; partly on the way you start them; partly on the way you grow them.

We can supply Purina Chick Startena, the starter with "ingredient power" to get your chicks away to a flying start... Cher-R-Tabs to protect their health (rop one tablet in each quart of drinking water)... and a good Purina growing feed to grow them out big and strong, once they're past the starting period. Use these helps to better pullets and next fall you'll not be merely wishing — you'll be cashing.

CARLOAD OF OATS TO ARRIVE THIS WEEK.

Farmers intending to use fertilizer this Spring would be well advised to place their orders early as materials are very scarce.

I. D. RAMER & Son
 Phone 10, The Elevator Richmond Hill