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OTTAWA LETTER



by "Jack" Smith, M.P. North York

The fifth session of the 20th Parliament opened last week with ceremonies a little more colourful than last year, but still with an almost minimum of pomp and display.

The Speech from the Throne forecast legislation to reduce taxation, broaden family allowance payments and new steps in social security, a Royal Commission on television, radio, etc. The Speech from the Throne dealt first and foremost with Canada's responsibility in world affairs and emphasized that this government's first concern is to ensure peace and security.

To this end, Canada continues to support the principles of the united nations charter. Our foreign policy is based on the realities and dangers of the existing situation. One of these is the communist menace. Until the united nations are able to provide an adequate guarantee of peace and security, peace-loving nations will also be obliged to seek security by combining their strength.

The North Atlantic nations, including Canada, are negotiating a security pact. The treaty when concluded will be laid before the house for approval. The North Atlantic treaty will supplement the treaty of mutual guarantee signed by the western European nations at Brussels last year.

Despite unsettled conditions and the disruptive activities of international communism, the nations of western Europe are making progress toward recovery. Aid from North America is contributing substantially to the restoration of economic activity, thereby increasing their ability to resist internal and external aggression.

At home we have been blessed with good crops. Industrial expansion is taking place at an unprecedented rate. There have been few differences between employers and employees leading to stoppages in work. Inflationary pressures are less pronounced. Employment is at higher levels than ever before.

In striking contrast with communist countries, the free economy of our country is demonstrating its ability to provide for all a high standard of living, social justice and individual freedom. It is the view of the government that a steady advance toward the goal of social justice for all is an effective safeguard against the influence of subversive doctrines.

The Throne Speech forecast legislation to make the Supreme Court of Canada the last court of appeal in all legal cases. Other important legislation pending include ratification of the agreement making Newfoundland our tenth province, an agreement with the United States for development of the St. Lawrence and provision necessary to implement the sale of agricultural products to Britain.

Six new members were introduced to the House, 4 Liberals and 2 Conservatives. Hon. Louis St. Laurent took his seat as Prime Minister for the first time, there are three new Ministers, Pearson in External Affairs, Garson as Minister of Justice, and Winters in Reconstruction.

Former Prime Minister King, looking considerably older and somewhat tired, occupies a front row seat as the member for Glengarry, and John Bracken, former Leader of the Opposition has given place to Col. George Drew. Opening day sincere tributes were paid to Mr. King and Mr. Bracken from all sides of the House.

letter that Mr. Drew had been to their city and that within twenty-four hours they were faced with a power shortage.

A really important announcement of the opening week was that the Prime Minister is going to Washington early this month to confer with President Truman. This will be an important conference with possible far reaching results.

I hope in future letters to deal in more detail with many of these very important matters coming before your Parliament and to pass on to you the views and viewpoints of the government and other parties in the House.

Yes, there's some talk of a general election. The government elected in June 1945 would not need to have a vote until September 1950, but a long period of election expectancy is not considered good for the country or business generally and I would expect one much sooner than the end of the five year period. Of course government supporters are confident of retaining the confidence of the electorate, and opposition members are making claims as to what they will do. However, when the time does come to go to the polls the Canadian people will make the decision, just as they always have done, and I am sure they can be trusted to make the best selection. In the meantime there is a big job to be done for Canada and the world and I hope Parliament can keep its mind on the task rather than the election until the appointed time does come.

During the recess it was my pleasure and privilege to visit in many parts of Canada as well as in the constituency of North York and I wish to take this opportunity of thanking the people of the riding for many courtesies and helpful co-operation.

During the session while I am at Ottawa I trust every citizen of the Constituency of North York will feel free to write me if I can be of any assistance in any way, and to say once more how much I appreciate hearing from the constituents and getting their suggestions and expression of opinion on matters of national interest. Best wishes to all and write as often as you wish. The address is J. E. Smith, M.P., Parliament Bldgs., Ottawa. No stamp is required on the envelope.

TEMPERANCEVILLE

The regular monthly meeting of the Women's Institute will be held on Wednesday afternoon, February 9, at the home of Mrs. F. Hare. The program topic will be Canadian Industries and the Roll Call is to be answered by showing a snap of yourself as a baby. The lunch committee will be Mrs. Dibb, Mrs. Burnett, Mrs. Bracken and Mrs. Henshaw. All ladies of the community are cordially invited to attend.

Tickets for the Kate Aitkins' Market Basket Broadcast of February 16 have been received and will be sold at the meeting. If you wish a ticket and are not able to attend the meeting will you kindly make your request known by that day.

On Tuesday evening, January 25, the W.I. held another successful euchre at the school. Twelve tables enjoyed a friendly evening of progressive euchre. Mrs. Benjamin and C. Henshaw Jr. were successful in winning the first prizes which were kindly donated by Mrs. W. S. Hare. Second prizes were won by Mrs. Roy Foliott and E. Phillips. The consolation prizes donated by Mrs. McClure were won by Mrs. Dibb and Ruston Foliott. The next euchre will be held on February 8 and all are invited to again attend.

The annual meeting of Temperanceville Church will be held on Monday evening, February 7, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Wilbert Jennings. It is hoped that all members and adherents of the church will plan to attend.

On Sunday evening, January 30, our pastor, Rev. Modde began a series of sermons based on the vital issue of Stewardship. We are stewards not only of possessions but of our time and talents and by practicing true stewardship we may bring joy and happiness to ourselves and others. Soloist for the evening was Miss Shirley Hare, who chose as her selection the beautiful anthem "The Stranger of Galilee." We do appreciate those who give of their talent for the worthy cause of the church.

Waiter: "Your coffee, sir; it's special from South America, sir." Diner (sarcastically): Oh, so that's where you've been?"

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LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE

SUMMARY OBSERVATIONS ON RECENT LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE REGARDING "MORE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES FOR RICHMOND HILL'S CHILDREN"

(By A Citizen of Richmond Hill)

The chairman of The Richmond Hill Community Board, Mr. Paul E. Angle, in his comments on the first letter states that it is unfortunate that the writer chooses to remain anonymous, and then deals with the present plans of immediate erection of the New Community Hall.

To disclose my name and identity, does not mean very much, I prefer to simply be one individual and a part of this town and vicinity, believing that a great deal of good can be accomplished if we set out to find what is needed. Find the proper leadership to carry it out, and in particular not to get involved in any plan or idea which does not serve the common good of the majority.

There never has been or will be any greater majority than CHILDREN in any community; and as far as Richmond Hill is concerned, it is my considered observation that very little effort is directed to the purpose of organized recreational activity for the CHILDREN.

I observe controversies and a seeming lack of willingness to eliminate most of the futile, time and mind-wasting activities that clutter our days and keep us from carrying out the things we really want and need. Yet, we all know that there is no better town, no better people, no better willingness. The town is rich in people and opportunities. What is wrong?

It may be that we have "growing pains" and are unwilling to accept the inescapable fact that because we have the location and facilities we do have, that we are going to grow whether we like it or not. We are the healthiest suburb of Toronto; have no radical elements, and an opportunity to plan for what is bound to come. In fact, it is here now and we are not ready to take care of it.

Out of recent letters from the people have come first of all a statement on the proposed facilities of the new Hall; secondly a proposal that we provide artificial ice for the Arena, and thirdly a statement from the Rumble Ave. Ratepayers' Association to the effect that they dislike the suggestion of annexation of the Rumble Street subdivision to the Village of Richmond Hill, "because the Village has absolutely no advantages to offer them to join s."

Based on the obvious lack of planning for the future welfare and sound progress of this Town, I am inclined to agree that the Rumble Street rate-payers are right. They say that the move will be fought to the last ditch; that is not right ladies and gentlemen because this town actually could be and should be run in such a manner as to make neighbors want to join us.

The Hall for All project, frankly speaking (and regrettably speaking, too) so far as I have been able to observe does not have the blessing it should have. A great deal of sincere effort has been behind it and much credit is due to the service club who inaugurated it. Dissension and controversy prevail. Where to put it; lack of funds to complete it. The town/Council should, or should not accept liability of its future maintenance. What can be done with the \$18,000.00 raised from the public. The Hall for All is a supreme head-ache to somebody. It need not be a head-ache for a few people who did their part but should be an OPPORTUNITY for all the taxpayers of this town and vicinity to help carry the responsibility.

We cannot, and should not start a \$40,000.00 project with only \$18,000.00 to do it with; and IF we had the \$40,000.00 to complete it with, it should not be built at any other location than one which will assure a minimum of maintenance and upkeep expense. That is at the Municipal Hall where central heating may serve the 2 buildings et-cetera.

We don't have \$40,000; we have \$18,000. Do we need a new Hall? Mr. Angle says: "Let us not cry for the moon". That is right, let us not cry for the moon. Let us complete one step at the time, and if necessary make do with what we already have in a spirit of co-operation. We need direction, leadership, foresight, common-sense and courage to carry through to a successful conclusion those purposes we undertake. But we must not forget that we need ability to select goals within the reach of our capabilities.

I suggest, without prejudice, that at this time we have neither the ability nor the capability at our disposal to complete the Hall for All project. I suggest that the funds can be directed to the furtherance of this town by improving those facilities which are available to us at very much less cost. All we need, for the time being, is a little 'face lifting'. The Masonic Hall is not used as much as it might be. A few facilities there would turn it into constant demand. A lot and small building for the Cubs, Guides, Scouts and Brownies would go a long way. They need a little encouragement

and support. Our Municipal Hall could stand a little 'face lifting' too. We are a prosperous town you know, and should look it. It all helps. And, — we really should take advantage of the natural facilities we have for a swimming pool. There is no cleaner and healthier sport than swimming, and there are many, many families who cannot afford to send their children to summer camp. They would not feel the need of it nearly so much if we had a recreational director, swimming pool etc., to prevent them from standing around with nothing to do.

The Arena Councillor Mabley in his letter to the citizens of Richmond Hill explains that it is a difficult task to please all. Mr. Mabley feels that sympathetic understanding of the citizens and groups desiring the use of the arena. Constructive help and suggestions would be welcome at any time. In view of the fact that a public meeting has been called to discuss the advisability of installing artificial ice for the rink, I shall not deal with the subject of the arena at this time, other than to mention that if the citizens of Richmond Hill vote to have an artificial ice plant installed, the tendency to make it a municipally owned business which MUST show a profit, will be greater than ever. We shall get further and further away from its real purpose, which is, more skating for the youngsters at a reasonable expense to the rate-payers. The capital outlay to be incurred, in the end would not be for the benefit of the majority of the tax-payers.

At present it is obvious that the Arena might have been available more extensively to local groups and the children if requirements had been recorded in time this past Fall; in particular, I think the plans, schedules et-cetera might have been announced in the local paper by the Council a little earlier than last week. There is nothing seriously wrong with the operation of the Arena that cannot be overcome by co-operation of all parties concerned. It is up to us to support Councillor Mabley so that the most possible use may be made of the Arena. I suggest Mr. Mabley set up a committee to run the Arena. It would make his task a lot less burdensome and lend more strength and authority to his administration.

I am told that the pen is mightier than the sword — we don't need any mighty sword here in Richmond Hill. This is a good Town, good people and wonderful opportunities. The Town is one hundred years old, and we don't need anyone to set themselves up here in the business of complaining. We need constructive ideas. WE NEED DIRECTION, LEADERSHIP, FORESIGHT, COMMON SENSE and COURAGE, to carry through to a successful conclusion those purposes we now undertake in the light of present needs. We need CO-OPERATION and ABILITY to select goals within the reach of our capabilities. I am only one individual who is sure that every good deed performed by each individual helps to make this world of ours a better place to live in; but I am also sure that every incomplete task retards our progress and purpose, and that by comparison, the task of providing recreational facilities for the children of Richmond Hill is an incomplete one. We don't EEN think about physical training and a gymnasium for our public school children; instead we have a glorified new auditorium which the children hardly dare touch.

I am very humbly ashamed, Citizen of Richmond Hill

UNIONVILLE

At the annual meeting of Unionville Horticultural Society the following officers were elected for the coming year: Past president, Carl James; president, J. F. MacLaren; 1st vice-president, H. M. Tandy; 2nd vice-president, A. E. Duffield; secretary, Miss Florence Kieley; auditors, Mrs. Alfred N. Hill, Mrs. Geo. Martin; hon. directors, Mrs. N. Ogden, Mrs. A. E. Milner; directors, Mrs. S. Weatherill, Mrs. L. Diack, Mrs. L. Middleton, Mrs. E. Russell-Brown, Mrs. E. M. Bratton, Mrs. J. W. Perkins, Mrs. F. Warne, Mrs. S. S. Burgess, Mrs. A. E. Milner, Mr. Leslie Miller; associate directors, Mrs. J. C. Edwards, Mrs. A. C. Kennedy, Mrs. Pennycook, Mr. Bible, Mr. A. Dyke, Mr. Earl Lang, Mr. Don Strickland.

RICHMOND HILL CATS LEAD BUFFALO SHOW

At the Buffalo Cat Show held on January 23rd, Mrs. John Warwick, Stop 24, won top honours with her two handsome cats. Her white male "My Pet" won 1st in solid colour class, 3rd in all-breed class, and ribbons for best white open solid colour and best orange-eyed white in show. Her brown male Tabby won 1st in the all breed open class, and the ribbon for the best brown Tabby in the show. "Do you really love her?" "Do I love her? Why, I worship the ground her father struck oil on."

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