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From The Hilltop

A COLUMN OF VIEWS AND OBSERVATIONS

(By F. J. Picking)

AROUND TOWN

(By The Observer)

Some information has come to hand regarding the street-lighting program in the village. And it comes from the local manager of the Richmond Hill Hydro Electric System.

The reason for the new lights being placed on one side of Yonge St. is because the poles on the west side will have to be replaced. Seems they're too short to permit greatest efficiency from the new units. There are some 17 or 18 still to be erected and this will be done as time, material and money permit. Apparently these units are in the hands of the local hydro folk.

Another factor which will effect the installation of these lights on Yonge St., other than in the main business section, is the heavy overhang of trees particularly on north Yonge St. Much trimming and perhaps removal of some trees will be necessary to permit installation of the new fixtures and to get maximum illumination.

When the new lights are installed on both sides of the street, they will be staggered so that good over-all lighting will make our main street one of the best-illuminated in these parts.

Sidestreets are going to get some attention too. Although the present fixtures will remain as is for the time being, a comprehensive program of tree trimming is planned which will mean the best possible results from the present system.

Even with tree trimming, however, the sidestreet lighting will not be up to the standards of our main street but considering the cost of new fixtures today it's believed that the trimming will help to carry on until such time as it's economically feasible to replace the old fixtures—even gradually—over a period of time.

A short time ago, we mentioned the parking problem on the main street particularly in the business section. We mentioned the park, vacant lots on Arnold St., and also the lot behind the United Church as possibilities.

Naturally, the latter is definitely out of the picture since the new United Church parsonage will be erected there this year, if all goes well. Some of the officials of the church felt that we were giving the wrong impression by suggesting it be used as a parking lot. They felt that since it is private property it would not in any case be available for public parking.

Although that possibility is now removed, nevertheless, we would like to clarify our suggestion. We did not suggest nor did we intend others to infer, that the lot would be used by the public free of charge. There could have been two methods, which might apply to other available areas now privately owned — the village could pay a nominal rent for use of the lot and be responsible for its upkeep, etc., and would permit free parking — or the owners could open a lot and charge a small fee either independently or by letting council supervise and the proceeds be divided between owner and council.

A parking lot is a necessity and because there will be a number of people who will object to paying parking fees, perhaps the council should do something with the park. Unless and until Yonge St. is widened, parking is going to be a nuisance as well as a menace, particularly at intersections. Something should be done before the summer traffic problem is with us again. Particular attention should be paid to the bus stops. No Parking signs should be erected at intervals near the stops covering sufficient area to permit the busses to pull into the curb without interfering with traffic as so often is now the case.

Glad to notice some improvement on the TTC bus system. Now they are enforcing the "express to stop 8A" on the rush hour runs to the Hill, people traveling to the north parts of the line are more able to ride in comfort.

However, we won't be satisfied until the scheduling is revised as often as necessary to eliminate crowding on all runs. The other night we noticed a Finch's bus pass Lansing with about eight standees, the Langstaff bus, a few minutes behind was really crowded and the Hill bus, a few minutes behind that, had about six standees. While we were glad to note more room on the Hill bus, nevertheless until the crowding on all runs is eliminated, we feel some re-scheduling is needed. It takes time, but if the busses are to be a success, improvements must be made in the present system. Here's for quicker, less crowded transportation from the City to Richmond Hill — all the time.

Too bad there weren't more people out to the meeting to discuss the artificial ice plant proposal. Seems that those who have the most to say in opposition were conspicuous by their absence. Maybe they'll present their views at the next meeting in a week or so.

There's a lot of lumber in fourteen carloads. Someone must believe that a great deal of construction is going to take place in the district if they erect a building which will take care of that much raw material.

Yet that is what Sheppard and Gill, lumber merchants, did at their Richmond Hill branch not so long ago, when they put up a shed which will store the fourteen carloads referred to, in addition to their other storage capacity.

A few weeks ago I drew attention to the speed with which the sprawling octopus, Toronto, was reaching out and engulfing our suburban and rural districts. Here, it seemed to me, in the shape of this new building was a definite link between that growth and local reactions to it. So off I went to see Frank Schissler, local manager for Sheppard and Gill, in order to get an expert's views on the subject.

Of course, like most old soldiers, we had to spend the first few minutes talking about what Robert Service called "those sounding hours of lustre and of loss," or, in other words, the First Great War, in which Frank served as a lieutenant with the 75th Battalion. But when we got down to the question of building confirming information came thick and fast.

Schissler came to Richmond Hill in 1930 at the time Sheppard and Gill purchased their present business. During the first seven years, he told me, the average of new construction was one house a year. Last year, he estimates, thirty new houses were built in the twelve-month period and, he says, that figure should be equalled or even exceeded in 1949. There, in plain and simple figures, is the evidence of our present day rapid growth.

Mostly From Toronto
 "Where are the people coming from who are building these houses?" I asked.

"Practically all from Toronto," was the answer — another proof of the northward spread of the city. Over ninety per cent of the building which had taken place during the past year or so was that of houses, I was told.

Constant interruptions punctuated our conversation. Orders by callers and by telephone showed that, even in mid-January, preparations were well under way for a big 1949 building programme. Especially significant was the fact that many of these orders came from the area to the south of the Hill — indicating that the empty spaces which separate us from the city limits were rapidly filling up.

Naturally the question which has plagued prospective home-owners in recent years came to the front. "Is it going to be easier to get materials?" "Yes," said Mr. Schissler. "The supply situation is gradually easing although there is still considerable delay in getting sash and doors." Cautious optimism coloured his reply about prices. "They are likely to remain fairly steady for 1949," he said.

Again we talked about the big fourteen carload shed. With other construction, I was told, over 7,500 feet of storage space had been added to the yard in the last nineteen years. Another indication of the sometimes slow, but always steady growth which has characterized the district and its business establishments.

Change In Materials
 Some interesting facts developed as construction matters were discussed. There was, for instance, insulation. For the last four years

As was pointed out, the project will cost money since not only will the plant have to be installed but also some renovations to the present rink. Whether it will be financed by public subscription or by municipal debentures or both has yet to be decided. But, with several church building extensions either planned or being considered, it won't be too easy to raise money by public subscription. Then too, there are other projects which may need municipal financing in the not too distant future — sewers for instance.

We would like to see more "Letters to the Editor" on the subjects under discussion in this column. Or perhaps readers will prefer to write direct to The Observer who will endeavor to present their views. After all, ours are generally speaking from one side although we do try to be fair. Let's hear from others on the subject of the Youth Council, recreational facilities in the village, incorporation as a town, more industries, the bus service, and other subjects of interest.

Don't forget, your weekly newspaper is your sounding board. It covers, as no other paper can, the problems in your district. Use it to present your ideas and suggestions. It will increase its value to all concerned and make the Hill district a better place in which to live.

the S & G yard has sold a full carload of insulating material every month. When it is realized that a year's sales would provide insulation for two hundred average size houses it becomes evident that a considerable number of home owners, in addition to those building new dwellings, have become insulation conscious and have acted accordingly.

Particularly marked is the trend towards the employment of other materials besides lumber in modern construction. Wall boards and fabricated materials of one sort and another have become major items in today's new house. "What would once last for a year is now only good for a week," said Mr. Schissler, referring to the use of plywood, which he rated as one of the materials which had come into biggest demand. Most noticeable change in house planning, he added, was in connection with the kitchen, which tended to become fancier and yet more efficient all the time.

Looked at one way, the big new building on Centre Street indicates the progress and development of one of our industries. But, to those who see beyond the mere materials, it gives another sign of the change which is taking place so rapidly under our eyes — a change which in the course of the next few years will alter Richmond Hill to a very considerable degree.

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Arm Chair Kitchen Cupboard 3 Boxes of Quilt Patches 8 Bed Sheets 8 Sugar Sacks Number of Coal Oil Lamps Lots of odd Dishes and Glassware

Property of JOHN HOGG Writing Desk Dining Room Table Morris Chairs 2 Kitchen Chairs Arm Chair 2 Rocking Chairs 2 Wooden Bedsteads Spring Mattress Set of Bedroom Dishes

2 Qt. Sealers Grindstone Rubber Hose, 40 ft. Screen Door Kitchen Cabinet Organ Stand 2 Lawn Chairs Book Stand Small Table Long Mirror

Estate of Late MRS. R. JARVIS Moffat Electric Range 4-burner, high oven 50 lb. Ice Box, wooden Small Table Radio Cabinet

2 Wooden Beds and Springs 2 Dressers and 1 Stand to match Congoleum Rug, 9x12 Pair of Pillows and Cushions Clothes Horse Electric Iron and Toaster Number of Dishes, Granite Pots and Pans

Lawn Mower, Rake, Hoe, and other articles

Miscellaneous Articles Buffet Round Extension Table Number of Dining Room Chairs Parlor Settee 2 Parlor Chairs Child's Cot, good size, complete with springs and mattress, and in good condition

Brook Kitchen Range, cream enamel, complete with reservoir, warming closet, etc., good Upholstered Rocking Chair Real Good Buffalo Robe 2 Good Kitchen Cabinets 2 Leather Upholstered Davenport's good

2 Leather Upholstered Rocking Chairs, good Old-Fashioned Buffet Couch Bed Commode Chair Bedstead round Extension Table Settee Number of Pictures and Dishes Brand New Davenport New Williams Sewing Machine Kitchen Table with 4 Chairs to match Jacket Heater with oil burner, good condition

Findlay Unit Kitchen Range with high shelf and water reservoir cream and dark finish, with steel top Kitchen Cabinet Range Boiler, large size caimeld Electric Washing Machine, good

Thor Electric Washing Machine, good GE Hot Point Kitchen Range 6 Piece Walnut-Finish Dinette Suite consisting of 4 Windsor-style Chairs, 1 Drop-Leaf Table and China Table

2 Chesterfields 2 Club Chairs A lot of other useful articles Rogers Majestic Electric Cabinet Radio, 8 tubes, late model, magic eye, police, long and short, good 3 Oil Paintings End Table Large Vase 2 Aluminum Kettles Number of odd Vases

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