

“THE LIBERAL”

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Co-operation Pays Dividends

A popular pastime of present days is the blaming of municipal governing bodies for increases in tax rates.
Mr. “Average Citizen” often fails to realize that many of the expenditures which councils have to make are uncontrollable and are governed by factors which those setting tax rates cannot alter.

Prominent among these factors is the cost of providing educational facilities. In recent years this cost has increased to an enormous extent due to the higher costs of all supplies and services and to a largely increased school population. As a general rule local taxing authorities can do little towards reducing these costs and, as a matter of fact, are more or less forced to provide funds as requested by educational governing bodies.

Yet Markham Township officials have shown that there is a way by which rising taxes may be halted, and that without the use of a “big stick.”

Due to the initiative of Reeve Vern Griffin of the township a conference was called recently at which all except one of the public school sections of that township were represented by their trustees. At that meeting, in a friendly, informal way, the matter of taxation was discussed, particularly with relation to school costs. As a result it is indicated that the annual request for public school funds for Markham Township will not materially exceed that of last year. While, at the time of writing, the Markham Township tax rate has not been set it is undoubted that this forward-looking and co-operative action will be of benefit to tax-payers.

Markham Township officials are to be commended on their action. They have set an example which might well be followed by other municipalities.



CANADIAN PLOWMEN ABROAD
by ELLIOT MOSES, Director
ONTARIO PLOWMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Aboard the Queen Mary — By the time you will be reading this letter the boys and I will be home — that is all of us except Wilbert McFaddin, the Salada silver medalist, who decided to remain in England a few extra weeks. We are very glad to relax on board this luxurious liner because from the moment we landed in England, nearly six weeks ago, until now we have been constantly on the “go”. The boat trips, going and returning, have given us our only moments of leisure — providing one was not seasick.

Speaking of seasickness reminds me of a story I heard years ago but which is still timely. A young fellow on a certain ship was selling subscriptions to the magazine “Atlantic Monthly.” He walked up to a passenger who was leaning over the railing and said: “Sir, would you like to subscribe to the “Atlantic Monthly?” The man replied, “Son, I’m subscribing to the Atlantic daily.”

The Queen Mary is a beautiful ship. To me it is like a floating island on which there is everything that one may need to live in comfort. I am not going to attempt to describe it because I know last year’s tour manager did a good job of that. Instead I shall try to recall the events of our last few days in Britain.

After sightseeing in Northern Ireland we sailed for England where we spent almost a week before our ship sailed. Our first stop was Wolverhampton, county Staffordshire, one of the most heavily industrialized areas in the British Isles. The farms in this district also appeared to be more prosperous than some other sections of England we had visited.

The British Isles possess a beauty quite different from anything our Canadian party had ever seen. The architecture of the buildings, the country-side and even the people vary greatly from one section of the country to another. Often when driving a short distance we noticed that the scenery would change entirely within a radius of 50 or 60 miles.

A Castle Near the Welsh Border
The farthest point reached on this, our second visit to England, was the city of Ludlow near the Welsh border. We saw the remains of the old Castle Ludlow which was built as a stronghold against the invading Welsh people in the days when the Welsh and English were bitter enemies. The battles of that time would appear to have been more barbarous than the warfare carried on by the North American Indians against the new settlers.

Ludlow Castle is not as well preserved as Edinburgh Castle. Nevertheless it was a wonderful sight to behold, with its walls measuring 8 to 10 feet thick and the numerous rooms occupying in all about five acres of land.

From Ludlow Castle we drove to an old inn known as Whittington Inn which they say was once owned by Dick Whittington, Lord Mayor of London, and dates back to the year 1310. Here we enjoyed our first steak dinner since landing in Britain. The following day we journeyed back to London where we saw many places of historical interest including Westminster Abbey and St. Paul’s Cathedral. Our visits were hurried but what impressed us most was the age and grandeur of the numerous buildings throughout the city.

Later we took a bus trip through a beautiful part of the country in and around London, terminating at Windsor Castle where the King and Queen spend a portion of their time. We were impressed with the magnificence of the Castle.

During our tour of the countryside, we had an opportunity to visit the Anglo American Oil Company’s experimental farm located in a fertile agricultural district about 60 miles outside London. Here scientific tests are conducted on diesel oils, lubricants, tractor fuels and a host of other petroleum products. We were interested to learn that when Anglo-American bought this farm they didn’t build any new buildings but simply turned the barns and other farm buildings into laboratories. What was formerly the horse barn is now the recreational building for the staff of over 200. This building has a thatched roof which is said to be

the largest in England.
The Anglo people did valuable work for the government during the war years in testing lubricants and fuel for engines and aircraft and now in peacetime they are continuing their work with the same scientific zeal.

Canadians In Television
From the Esso Farm we were rushed back to London for a most unusual purpose — to appear on the B.B.C. television program. Rhys Bacher, Wilbert McFaddin and myself were interviewed. The two boys appeared in their plowing outfits and I donned my Indian costume for the occasion. Those who saw the program remarked that our little part came over well and was received with much interest by the audience. Needless to say it was an unexpected privilege for us.

Next morning with Mr. Stapleford of Ontario House, we visited the headquarters of the Hudson’s Bay Company in London. Known as Beaver House, it is said to be one of the most up to date buildings in the world. On entering, we were received by the company’s leading executives who arranged a tour of the establishment.

We were particularly interested in the fur department where the raw furs are sold by auction to buyers from all over the world. The auction room is arranged with soft cushioned seats in an elevated position and will seat 700 persons. No furs are in evidence when the sale is in progress for the buyers have visited the store-rooms previously and know by numbers the furs they wish to purchase.

The “Bay” is proud of its record of being the oldest established firm of its kind in the world and after learning the quantity of furs that are sent from Canada annually, we are convinced that the fur trade is still one of Canada’s most important industries.

On our last evening in London we were entertained at a farewell dinner at Simpson’s, one of London’s fashionable restaurants. This brought to a close four weeks of experience in the old land which will long be remembered by all of us.

Rhys Bacher has just come in to say that we are only a few hours from New York. We have had a wonderful trip but like most travellers we are looking forward to our homecoming. My next letter will be written from Brantford and I shall try to sum up our impressions of conditions in the British Isles — what the people generally and the farmers in particular think about the country’s nationalization program and the cancellation of food contracts with Canada.

VICTORIA SQUARE

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Sanderson and family of Hamilton, Mr. and Mrs. John Nigh of Elmira were Sunday guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Sanderson and Miss Mabel Sanderson.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Burnham of Orillia, formerly of Victoria Square, celebrated their 67th wedding anniversary on March 22nd. Greetings and best wishes are extended to them from their many friends. We hope that Mr. Burnham is enjoying better health now, and that they will be spared to celebrate many more similar occasions.

Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Perkins and Coral had dinner with Mr. and Mrs. G. Mortson, Wayne and Bruce on Monday evening.

The Young People will meet on Sunday, April 2nd, in the Sunday School room at 7:30 p.m. Come out and enjoy these meetings with us.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry McIntosh and Lynda of Toronto spent the weekend with Mr. and Mrs. R. Klink.

Mr. and Mrs. A. Forson and John of Unionville had Sunday dinner with Mr. and Mrs. R. F. Boynton.

The girls of the C.G.T. were entertained at the home of Miss Helen Boynton on Friday evening. About thirty friends of Mr. and Mrs. G. Mortson, Wayne and Bruce were entertained in their home on Saturday evening. A splendid time was reported by all who attended.

VELLORE

The Vellore W. I. met at the home of Mrs. J. McNeil for their March meeting with sixteen members present. The roll call was Economy Wrinkles. Twenty-five dollars was donated to Vellore Juniors to help defray expense of curtains and platform for the hall, also to the Unitarian Service.

The motto — it takes two to make a home — was very ably presented by Mrs. J. Snider. Happy environment is necessary, but if the individual members do their share in creating a peaceful atmosphere pleasant memories result; juvenile delinquency is overcome. Try to create a pleasant voice as well as to relax if your nerves are getting the better of you. It takes a powerful lot of living to make a home a home. A demonstration on making button holes and sewing on buttons was given by Mrs. Fred Constable, after which Mrs. Lorne Weldrick gave an interesting paper on Furniture Arrangement. Splendid hints were given for comfort, interest and hospitality. Mrs. Wilson followed with two well rendered solos, “I’ll take you home again, Kathleen” and “Just A Wearying For you.” Miss Gooderham conducted a contest “Hi Ho Spring Winds are on the way.” Mrs. B. Farr and Mrs. E. Bryson were the winners.

The next meeting will be at the home of Mrs. J. Brownlee. The motto is — he who stumpleth twice over one stone deserves to break his shins — and the roll call — the kind of a vacation I would like to take. Mrs. D. Jarrett, Mrs. Gibson, Mrs. E. Harris and Mrs. R. Phillips are on the programme committee.

EDGELEY

The Edgeley Women’s Institute will be held at the home of Mrs. Greenlees Thursday afternoon, April 7, at 2 o’clock sharp. This is the annual meeting of the Institute and a full attendance is urged. The Roll Call “Did you know” ought to bring forth some interesting facts. Don’t forget, ladies, the appeal of the Unitarian Service Committee of Canada for good used clothing which is to be brought to this meeting. Again let me remind you of the time, 2 o’clock sharp.

Mr. and Mrs. Sid Broadbelt and little daughters visited at Macville with Mr. and Mrs. William Price and little sons, on Sunday afternoon. A week from Sunday, April 10th, Communion will be administered at the church.

Mr. and Mrs. C. S. Stung and Mrs. Banks had dinner Thursday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Kerswill.

Guests of Mrs. Annie Mortson on Sunday evening were Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Mortson and little sons of Victoria Square and Mr. Harold Mortson of Richmond Hill.

The sympathy of the community is extended to the family of the late Mr. Willis who met with a fatal accident on Saturday evening.

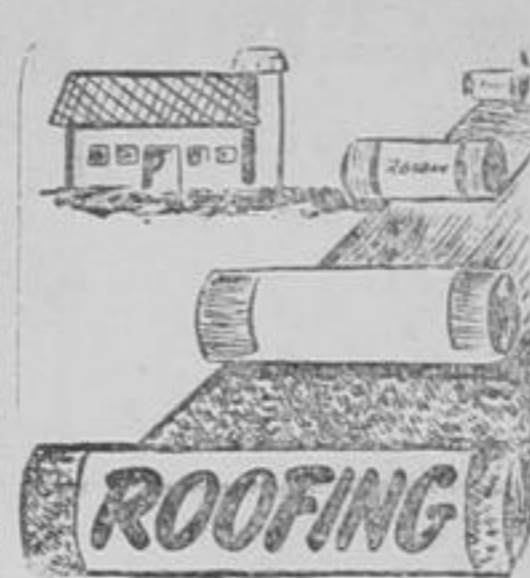
Quite a number in the community attended the Milk Producers Banquet held in the Robertson’s Woolen Mills, Woodbridge. The banquet was one in every sense of the word, and the ladies of the Anglican church there are to be congratulated.

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