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**"— And The Most Beautiful"**

Rare indeed is the rural or suburban editor who, with the appearance of the first snowdrops, does not feel the urge to write an editorial appealing to his fellow citizens to "Paintup — Clean up."

It is an occupational disease, doubtless sparked by the same germ which makes a woman turn a spotless house upside down for spring cleaning. Thank goodness, both germs subside as the days lengthen.

Seriously speaking, however, the "Paint up — Clean up" motif is one which should receive a little special consideration in Richmond Hill this year. The centennial of the Agricultural Society's fair to take place on May 24th will doubtless attract a very large crowd of visitors, to say nothing of the many thousands who will pass through the Hill on their way to and from northern playgrounds. Their impressions of our community will be coloured to a large extent by its external appearance.

The many new buildings which are springing up in Richmond Hill — buildings which are changing materially the appearance of both our main and side streets — demand a fitting setting.

The Village Council and the Horticultural Society have excellent and commendable plans toward this end. But their efforts alone are not enough in this important year. The maximum of effect can only be achieved by the co-operation of all citizens.

The sign at the northerly limits of the Hill reads: "Toronto's Highest and Healthiest Suburb." Whether or not it is painted on the same board there is little reason why, if all citizens play their part, the words "And the Most Beautiful" should not be equally true.

One of the most beautiful spots in the Commonwealth is the original Richmond Hill. Its Canadian namesake cannot, of course, boast such a lovely and dramatic setting as the English town on its hill above the Thames. Nevertheless there is no reason why the co-operation of all citizens cannot bring to this younger Richmond Hill a cleanliness, a beauty and charm which in its New World setting will place it, too, far above its neighbours.

**Where Lies Opportunity?**

"Go west, young man, go west."  
 That advice, repeated almost to the point of boredom many times since, was famous Editor Horace Greeley's counsel to a young man seeking his fortune years ago.

It marked, in its day and for many years thereafter, the accepted American way to fame and fortune. "Go west . . ."

In song, in story and in fact, that idea was translated to the Canadian scene. The golden wheatlands, the rolling prairies, beckoned to young and not-so-young Canadians. There, "Out Where the West Begins," were to be found fame, fortune, romance.

In its turn the north became the lodestar. The lure of gold, the magnetic drag of never-fading riches hidden in the mineralized rocks of the Northland, offered wealth. Barren wastelands became, overnight, flourishing communities. Opportunity, that eternally impelling yearning of mankind, pulled men and women from their accustomed ways.

But what of today? Where lies opportunity? When will it knock? It seems to us the answer lies right here in our own district. Some point is given to this assertion by a study of figures recently issued covering the growth of the Township of Vaughan and, be it noted, Vaughan is typical of all other townships in this part of the world.

In 1941 the total value of building permits issued in that township was \$50,100. In 1947 it was \$519,100. In 1948 it was \$1,487,951. In other words, the drama of the overnight development of a mining community is being repeated under our own eyes. From all indications we are only at the beginning. Whether the change is desirable or not is a matter of opinion. Stark realism compels us to deal with facts as they are.

Surely such development indicates that today it is not necessary to go west or north in search of opportunity. Increase of population on such a scale — and the picture is representative of Ontario as a whole — must of necessity create boundless outlets in all lines of endeavour, especially for the daring and imaginative. New centres of population are, in effect, coming into being overnight. The goods and services which those centres demand create opportunities beyond measure for those who will grasp them.

Such opportunities, however, create problems. Take, for instance, a township such as Vaughan, where population runs all the way from the suburban to the distinctly rural. The task of adjustment between varied interests is not an easy one for the councillors who must direct municipal affairs. Fortunately, as in most townships of similar type, there now appears to be a distinct appreciation of the fact that the march of progress cannot be halted and a marked desire to see that opportunity is offered in fullest measure to all citizens.

As long as that spirit prevails there is every reason to hope that opportunity at home will be the heritage of many who, in the past, have had to seek fortune far afield and often, too unfortunately for Canada, in other lands.

Opportunity need not be sought. It lies right here at home.

**From The Hilltop**

A COLUMN OF VIEWS AND OBSERVATIONS  
 (By F. J. Picking)

Back in 1901 Canada had a population according to the census which had recently been completed, of 5,338,883.

In the same year the local hardware merchant did a brisk business in selling shot, rifles and shot guns to village sportsmen who were hot on the trail of a large owl which had hovered over the community for a week.

C. H. Ellston, secretary-treasurer of the Richmond Hill Hockey Club, reported with pride that his organization had enjoyed a good season and had won six of the seven games played. Games, skating and carnivals brought receipts of \$496.53 which, after allowing for expenditures of \$445.72, left a surplus of \$50.81 on the season's operations.

Items such as the above fill the pages of The Liberal of 1901 — the paper in which, as I pointed out last week, local merchants shared space in the advertising columns with many vendors of patent medicines.

It is disappointing to have to record, however, after the lapse of nearly half a century, that the owl of 1901 must have been a good dodger or else local shots weren't of Bisley calibre for, in the stilted language of the reporter of that year—"Although many shots were fired the carnivorous bird still pursued his diurnal and nocturnal peregrinations unharméd."

Varied indeed was the news carried by Richmond Hill's paper in those issues in the early part of the 20th century. World and national news found a place which, in these days of wide distribution of information by cables and radio, is no longer the responsibility of the local weekly. Let's look over some of the old items.

Here's one headed — "Be Careful." It speaks for itself, so I'm quoting it verbatim. At the same time I'm wondering if any of the mature and responsible citizens of today formed part of the fruit-stealing gang.

"The names of about half a dozen young fellows of our village have been handed to Constable Brownlee and Reeve Savage, charged with trespassing on private property, stealing fruit and destroying trees. The complainants first thought of handing the names to Mr. Ellis, J.P., in which case the parties if found guilty might get a free trip over the Don. The rumours in circulation in regard to the matter certainly call for investigation to dispose of the accusations or cause the punishment of those concerned. A number of our industrious citizens depend to a great extent for their livelihood upon their gardens and orchards, and it is unfair that they should be compelled to sit up at night with shot guns, which some of them do, in order to protect their property. The same individuals are also accused of visiting orchards on the 2nd concession of Markham on the Lord's Day."

So, even in those days, we had the problem of juvenile delinquency, even if they hadn't given it its present fancy title. Or, could be, the editor of the day took an austere view of the age-old pastime of apple-stealing. Perhaps he lost some.

The Beer War  
 Prominent among 1900's news items were many dealing with the South African war. Considerable space was devoted, too, to the visit to Cornwall of the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall

and York, later King George V and Queen Mary. Montreal comes in for a mention, too, it being recorded that the population of the Quebec metropolis, now around the million mark, was 346,000 then — and that included the outskirts.

As in so many cases in those days, war between rival communities and their papers was apparent. Markham seems to have been the target of The Liberal of 1901. A note of gloating is easy to detect in an editorial which comments on a legal decision given against Markham. "Markham village seems to be getting the worst of it all round," says the editor. It seems that Underhill and Sisman, who employed a large number of men in the manufacture of boots and shoes, had been enticed to Aurora, or so it was alleged, by the inducement of bonuses. Markham sued Aurora for damages and, on trial, lost its case and had to pay all costs. Fortunately those days are over and both towns and papers seem today to get along in perfect harmony.

Human Nature Unchanged  
 Oh, oh, here's some more "juvenile delinquency." Reading today's papers, it would seem that human nature hasn't changed much in the last fifty years.

"Complaints are again made," says the issue of July 18th, 1901, "that boys and young fellows who go to Boyle's pond to bathe do not conduct themselves properly. No reasonable person will object to bathing under proper conditions, but as the pond is alongside a public road and as there is a family living close by, those who go in the water should have bathing suits."

Again I wonder if any of today's elder citizens were among the gang who shocked the sensibilities of 1901.

The provision of reading matter of the lighter kind appears to have been one of the major functions of The Liberal in those old days. Lengthy instalments of serials such as "Maid's Secret," "A Scourge of Doubt or The Error of Lady Blunden" were featured in every issue. And before I get in too much of a hurry to describe them as "tripe," let me admit that they compare not too unfavourably with some of the cheap and nasty literature to be found on so many of today's book-stands.

The few illustrations that be found in the early century paper are of the old wood-cut type, based on line drawings.

Reminiscent of a way of life long gone into the discard is the account of presentations made by the Emperor of Austria on his fete-day to servants who had been a long time in the same situation. It is recorded that in those pre-Hitler, pre-Communism days, when Central European royalty still meant something, a valet aged seventy-one who had spent forty-six consecutive years in one family received a prize from his sovereign equivalent to \$75.00.

Practically a full page is devoted to the assassination of President McKinley of the United States and, on the same page, it is noted that a herd of 31 Montana ranchers arrived in town and spent the night in the park. First glance makes it appear that the park was taken over for the night by a bunch of "wild and woolly" western cowboys, but further reading indicates that the ranchers in question were cattle which were sold by auction the next day.

**GUILD GOSSIP**

By Glad McLatchy  
 Handicraft Fair? — too "handy". Fashion Show? — too "toughy". Dance? too early or too late, so what. And that's what went on at the Guild business meeting last Tuesday.

Sweet content seemed to have set in a little prematurely, the nigger in the woodpile must have developed "spring fever" and the fly in the ointment must have smothered itself to death, for the meeting lacked the usual brain waves, especially from Clara.

But at least Flo B., had an idea for talent money, "baby sitting" of all things, and while the idea seemed to be the answer to a maiden's prayer for a dollar, the iffy affies would not permit publication.

So girls, think up a good yarn to go along with your dollar on May 3, but first of all, round up the neighbours for the meeting on April 19th, to hear Rev. Dr. Wallace. (I've got my fingers crossed.)

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