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Richmond Hill Agricultural Society

ANNUAL FIELD CROP COMPETITION

1. Improved Pastures, not less than three acres. All eligible except those who have Government Demonstration Plots. All pasturage on farm will be considered.
2. Oat Crops grown from seed registered or certified in 1947 or 1948, Area not less than five acres.
3. Canning Pea Crop.

In both competitions larger areas would be judged.

\$75.00 in Cash Prizes for each competition.

Entries must be made with the Secretary
for Improved Pastures by May 1st,
for Oat Crops by June 16th.

W. Middleton, Pres. W. W. A. Trench, Sec.
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Talk to Your Neighbour About Conservation

- (A) RICHMOND HILL PARK CONSERVATION
- (B) REFORESTATION AND PLANTATION
- (C) AS A RESULT OF (A) ABOVE, DEVELOPMENT OF RECREATIONAL FACILITIES IN SAID PARK FOR THE CHILDREN OF RICHMOND HILL AND VICINITY
- (D) CONSERVATION AS A SUBJECT TO BE DEVELOPED AMONG THE CHILDREN OF OUR DISTRICT

ALL THOSE INTERESTED SHOULD VOICE
THEIR OPINION TO THEIR NEIGHBORS AND
AWAIT FURTHER ADS IN THIS PAPER

Read It and Talk about It

(This is a paid advertisement by a Richmond Hill Citizen)

From The Hilltop

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

This week, because of a most interesting document which has come into my hands, I'm going to go a long, long way from the type of subject which is usually discussed in this column.

Nevertheless the subject under review is one which I believe will be of interest to many people in this district. Certainly it is one which demands a great deal of thought from several groups.

Principal among those groups are our teachers, those whose children they educate, those who pay the bills for our educational system. Added up, they form a fairly sizeable proportion of our population.

Let's boil the subject down to one simple question — "What are we getting for our educational dollar?" Or, to put it another way — "Are the dollars we spend on education producing citizens who can use the King's English correctly and efficiently?"

I'm going to go way, way out on a limb with a great big resounding "NO".

You want the proof? Then just listen to any group of younger citizens in this district or, for that matter, any district in Canada. Incidentally, I mention "younger" citizens purposely. My reason for doing so is because all our older people may not have had the opportunities which have been given to the younger generation. Certainly our boasted educational system has been in effect long enough that, in our present teen-agers, we should be seeing some results.

Going Backwards

But we are not. Instead of improvement there is a steady regression. Our younger citizens are coming from their schools and colleges today unable to use their language — one of the most beautiful and expressive in the world — correctly. They are, in many cases, unable to frame their thoughts properly, unable to express themselves clearly, unable to appreciate the treasures which the English language has in store for them. Their promotion in business is retarded. Many a business man will tell you of his difficulties in securing men and women who can express themselves clearly, concisely, gracefully.

Let me make it clear that I am not advocating the use of stilted pedantic speech. The language of Shakespeare, of Chaucer, of Milton,

with all its beauty, would be out of place in our modern world. Frankly, I'm all in favour of good healthy, virile, man-to-man words. Even sound, expressive slang has its place in our means of communication one with another. In our constantly changing vocabulary the slang and idiom of yesterday is the accepted form of speech tomorrow.

But even allowing for all that it seems to me that the package of goods we are getting in return for our educational dollar leaves much to be desired. A sixteen year old lad shows you, with pride, a piece of handiwork which he produced under the direction of his school principal. He tells you "I seen him do it," and then goes on, in sentences bristling with grammatical inaccuracies, to tell you all the processes. Finally you come to the conclusion that our educational system has produced a nice piece of leather work but an uneducated, or only partly educated, citizen.

Education or Recreation

Then you hear of this, that and 'tother school activity, often social or semi-social in character, until sometimes you wonder whether education or recreation is the main function of our school system. Amazingly, the system has produced and is producing a race of people who are among the world's leaders in all fields of human endeavour. But, with all that, there are many defects.

Where is the blame to be placed? Is it one the shoulders of the so-called "comics," with their disturbing and destructive influences? Is the whole concept of education wrong? Are we fussing unnecessarily about something that doesn't matter? Is it important that our children are coming from school unable to spell properly? Has the old idea of a solid grounding in the "three R's" gone by the board in this modern world. Does it matter if the comma is in the right place or not.

What do the experts have to say. I spoke earlier of an interesting document: It is a booklet entitled "Do we agree" published by the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation. In it are reports by various committees of teachers set up to study the curricula in the Secondary Schools of Ontario.

Comments on the teaching and study of English are illuminating. Here are a few — and remember I am quoting those whose vocation entitles them to be heard with respect.

"Teachers of English are a discouraged group. They are convinced that this nation will never speak and write correctly as long as teachers of languages are the only teachers who continually insist upon a correct and proper use of English in the regular oral and written work of the classroom."

"The English teachers of the Ontario Secondary Schools are dissatisfied with the present set-up in English. Most of them spend a large part of their week-ends and their evenings marking the written assignments of their students; yet, despite this devotion to the cause of English, they are turning out graduates who can neither speak or write, nor even read their native tongue competently. From both the university and the business men they hear that the English of the average high school graduate is 'atrocious.'"

"Every Aspect Poor"

"Every aspect of the student's English is little better than his appreciation of literature. It is generally childish in content and awkward in style. His oral English, too, reveals his inability to think logically, to express himself accurately, and to speak clearly and audibly. Obviously such a deplorable state of affairs calls for a drastic remedy."

There, I repeat, are the opinions of experts. Surely when they can speak in such scathing terms of the ineffectiveness of the system which they are paid to carry out the layman may be forgiven for expressing similar opinions.

Let me, in closing, emphasize the fact that these comments are not aimed at any particular school or any special group of individuals. They deal with the situation as a whole. In my opinion it is a situation which demands some clean-cut thinking on the part of all those interested. Certainly and emphatically it is a situation which should command the immediate and urgent attention of our provincial Department of Education if we are to get full value for our educational dollar.

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SALE REGISTERS

SATURDAY, MAY 14 — Auction sale of residential property and house furniture, property of the late Charles Stone, Church Street, Woodbridge. Sale at 1 p.m. Large frame house, good barn and woodshed. Terms to be announced on day of sale. Subject to reserve bid. G. L. Howel, executor. Ken Love, auctioneer, Woodbridge.

SATURDAY, MAY 14 — Valuable 125 acre farm with bank barn, implement shed, and house, farm stock implements, cattle, horses, poultry, grain, antique household furniture, at lot 13, con. 10, Whitehurst, 3 miles north of Stouffville, the estate of the late Ralph Connor. A valuable gravel deposit is believed to be on the property. Reserve bid. Terms on property made known day of sale. Property sold at 3 p.m. Terms on chattels, cash. Sale at 1 p.m., d.s.t. Lloyd Turner, clerk, A. S. Farmer auctioneer.

THURSDAY, MAY 19th — Auction sale of registered R.O.P. tested Guernsey cattle, Ford-Ferguson tractor and equipment, farm stock, implements, etc., on lot 12, con. 4 Pickering Twp., corner of Greenwood Rd. and 4th con. Property of A. C. Corry. Sale starts 2 p.m. sharp. Terms cash, no reserve because of illness. Ken and Clarke Prentice, aucts.

SATURDAY, MAY 21 — Important large auction sale of Tractors, farm implements, tools, etc. Property of Don Eddy Farms, at Pine Grove, north of Woodbridge. Sale at 1 p.m. sharp. Terms cash, no reserve. Ken and Clarke Prentice, auctioneers.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 25 — Auction sale of blacksmith tools, household furniture, etc. on the west side of Yonge St., in the village of Thornhill, opposite hotel. Property of A. Brillinger. Sale at 2 p.m. sharp. No reserve, property sold. Terms cash. Ken and Clarke Prentice, aucts.

SAT. MAY 28 — Auction sale of garage equipment and tools, a complete garage full of modern equipment, property of Gordon Penny, corner of Main St., Markham village and No. 7 highway. Sale at 1 p.m. sharp. No reserve, garage is sold, proprietor quitting. Terms cash. Ken and Clarke Prentice, auctioneers.

SATURDAY, JUNE 4 — Auction sale of high class furniture, household goods, garden tools, glassware, dishes, cooking utensils, etc., in the Village of Victoria Square, 4th con. Markham Twp. The property of E. Dennie. Sale at 2 p.m. Terms, cash. No reserve as property is sold. Ken and Clarke Prentice, aucts.

SATURDAY, JUNE 4 — Auction sale of farm stock and implements, horses, pigs, antique furniture. At lot 12, con. 2, Markham Twp. on Bayview. Property of Ed Quantz, 1/2 mile north of No. 7 Hvy. Terms cash, no reserve, farm sold. Sale at 1 p.m. standard time. A. S. Farmer, auct., Jas. R. Smith, clerk.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8 — Important extension auction sale 2 Wire-tie Pick-up hay balers, new threshing machine, tractors, farm implements, furniture, etc. Lot 26, con. 4, Markham Twp., half mile east of Victoria Square. Property of John Snider. Sale at 1.30 p.m. sharp. Terms cash. No reserve. Ken and Clarke Prentice, aucts.

If you tell a man anything it goes in one ear and out the other, but if you tell it to a woman it goes in both ears and out her mouth.

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