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**Our Export Trade Figures**

Far too many Canadians, unfortunately, fail to study the figures which tell of the nation's progress in the field of international commerce.

Somewhat understandably, perhaps, there is a feeling that such figures represent something far beyond the ken of the ordinary man and woman. To those dealing in hundreds of tabulations amounting to millions and billions are at times a little meaningless.

But the figures of Canada's exports are not something to be brushed off lightly. They concern intimately the wellbeing of every man, woman and child in the Dominion. A nation is like a storekeeper, a farmer or any other producer. To eat regularly that which is produced must be sold at the market. The same simple rules which govern the economy of a family govern the economy of the collection of families known as the state.

It should therefore be a source of satisfaction to all Canadians to note the satisfactory figures covering Canada's export trade in the month of April, recently released by the Bureau of Statistics, Ottawa. Exports to the United Kingdom amounting to sixty-three millions as compared to forty-four millions for the same period last year provide indication of the state of trade with that particular customer.

Total Canadian exports for the first four months of the year amounted to \$896 million as compared with \$884 million in the same period last year. Like a storekeeper, we can examine our national sales slips and note that business is showing a healthy increase.

As long as such a situation continues the country, its wage-earners, farmers and other producers can look forward to continuing prosperity.

**Growth Creates A Challenge To Leadership**

Altogether apart from their political significance figures recently released by Fred G. Hare of Temperanceville, returning officer for the Federal constituency of North York, are of interest to residents of this district.

The number of persons qualified to vote in a Federal election has increased well over fifty per cent since the election of 1945. Even allowing for the fact that the villages of Markham and Stouffville and the township of Markham are now included in the riding — which they were not in 1945 — the increase is a striking one.

True, a large part of the increase has taken place in a sister municipality, North York Township. But the townships of Markham and Vaughan and the village of Richmond Hill contribute to the increase in no small measure.

There is little indication that the upward trend of population has reached its peak. New residences being erected in both urban and rural areas give evidence of the rapidity with which town is supplanting country. New businesses are springing up overnight.

As this paper has pointed out on many occasions such a rapid increase brings new and unprecedented problems to local governing bodies and, in equal measure, to business men and citizens. The days of "coasting along" are gone and must be replaced by days of planning and forethought. Town planning, which today is receiving the attention of municipal governing bodies, is only part of the picture. Seldom have elected representatives of the people on the municipal level been faced with such a challenge. Their deliberations and actions of today will mean very much to the citizens of tomorrow and leadership of high character at the present moment will pay big dividends.

**The Lions New District Governor**

Distinct honour has been brought to Richmond Hill by the selection of one of its leading business men as District Governor of the Lions.

In choosing R. D. Little the Lions have selected a man whose record, both as a Lion and a citizen, is outstanding and who will bring to his new office qualities which should make his period of office an outstandingly successful one.

Richmond Hill is rightfully proud of its Lions Club. It has been one of the major forces for good in the community in recent years and, through its endeavours, has done much for the village and for those whom fortune has not treated any too well.

The election of Mr. Little to his new office brings honour not only to himself but also to the worth-while organization whose member he is.

The Liberal, in extending its congratulations, offers its best wishes for a year of successful activity which will further enhance the appreciation which Mr. Little's fellow members have expressed in electing him to his present outstanding office.

**Letter To The Editor**

Dear Mrs. Editor: —

Having followed Mr. F. J. Picking's column since it started, I found his article of May 26th most interesting. Mr. Picking has pointed the way to a vital step in the life of a growing community, such as Richmond Hill is today.

Due to lack of foresight or possibly a stubborn adherence to "The Old Ways" by the majority of members of the towns' past Councils, we are not in a healthy position to accept new enterprises. That the future holds great prospects for Richmond Hill can most certainly be seen by the least imaginative of our local citizens.

A planning body such as Mr. Picking suggested in his article is a fundamental part of the future and should be as of the present. We want industry here, but of a type that will credit the community. We must not allow haphazard projects that come and go, leaving their scars on the landscape and on the citizens, as may be seen in many parts of the country. Competitive business should be welcomed, within tolerable limits. Competition induces sound "on your toes" business. The war period of indifferent business attitudes is definitely passed. The rut of stagnation must be filled in and a direct course be adopted. A group of intelligent and pertinent men can guide this community to a very healthy and prosperous position.

I believe there are very few people who do not want to see the community progress. They are those who are afraid to take the necessary steps and there are a few who have their little stake and are quite content to rest on their laurels. The majority, I think, would welcome planned action. To the few who don't, I sug-

gest a close inspection of certain outdated and unhealthy conditions which unless soon rectified, will lead to a condition that will destroy more than can be replaced by human endeavour.

Now is the time to do something about it and I hope those in whose hands the future of the community remains will take heed and look a bit further than their own backyards.

How about some more comments? To Mr. Picking, many thanks for a timely article and Good Luck.

Yours very truly,  
 W. A. Burnie,  
 (Hilltop Electric)

(Editor's Note: Columnist Picking was careful in his article to which Mr. Burnie refers, to stress the fact that he was asking a question as to whether a Chamber of Commerce was desirable — and not making a blunt assertion that one should be organized or revived. Nevertheless we feel the subject, in view of our present growth of population and business, to be well worthy of discussion. Consequently Mr. Picking, whose column is written independently, will welcome constructive comments, BOTH PRO AND CON, of the type so well advanced by Mr. Burnie, one of our newer and most welcome business men.)

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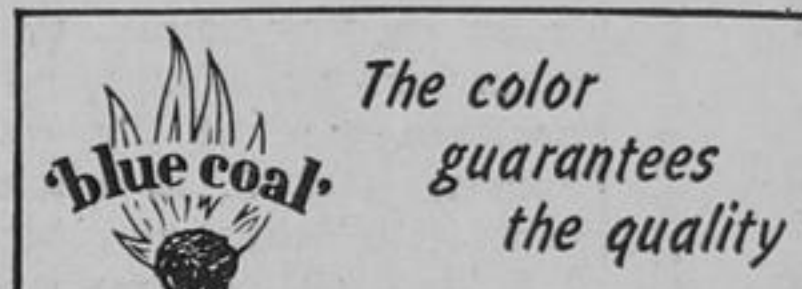
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