### Veterans And Country Pull Together

It will be remembered by many that following the close of the First Great War the problem of the re-establishment of war veterans was a serious one.

Canada had little experience on which to base sound schemes of re-habilitation and, in consequence, it was many years before all sources of dissatisfaction were ameliorated. Many errors que more to that lack of experience rather than to lack of desire to play the game with veterans - were made. One scheme after another was tried, the majority with only partial success. Notable among the partial failures was the old Soldiers' Settle. ment scheme, designed to place veterans who wished to take them up on farms of their own.

Because of this many veterans became dissatisfied with the treatment accorded them by the country for which they had fought, and, in our opinion, rightly so.

An unfortunate result of the situation was that many became embittered. While the great majority of men returned with a determination to hew out their own salvation, and did so with outstanding success, others adopted the attitude "The country owes me a living."

It is not our purpose at the present time to go into the many causes which created such an outlook. It would take practically a whole issue of this paper to examine the situation in detail. In all fairness to the men involved it must be stated emphatically that they were not "lead-swingers" or "gimme-gimmes." Their uprooting from a normal course of life - the major problems of recreating a career disturbed by years of war - the lack of experience in dealing with their problems already mentioned -· ach and every one played a part. Even the different character of the war contributed much to the disturbed state in which so many of our veterans found themselves.

Fortunately the situation this time is very different. Due to adequate legislation, figured out before the event and not after, due to the solidity, experience and watchfulness of the major ex-service men's organizations, veterans of the late war have settled back into civilian life with a minimum of disturbance both to themselves and the country. The establishment of a Federal Department of Veterans Affairs has contributed in no small measure to the state of affairs.

Noticeably lacking today is "the country owes me a living" attitude. By and large veterans have accepted their responsibility as citizens well - have dug wholeheartedly into the job of becoming the backbone of Canada. It is not suggested that the situation is one hundred per cent perfect. No schemes developed by man for man ever will be. But in the main the country has planned well for its veterans - and the veterans have reacted

It is a tribute to the Dominion's expressed desire to do the right thing by its veterans that such an editorial as this can be written today. It is, even more, a tribute of the highest order to be able to record that the plans made by the country have been sc well accepted by veterans and that today they are setting up as enviable a record as citizens as they did when they met the enemy on sea, on land and in the air.

#### Bureaucratic Labyrinth

This is the story of one Tom Bracegirdle who, according to the news despatches, got caught in the spider web of bureaucracy, woven so strongly by the socialist government of England ing that might well be emulated by since 1945, and the moral of the tale is obvious.

Tom, says the Montreal Gazette, was a Somerset County parish clerk. It was part of his job to put up election notices and in the free and easy way of England in the good old days he posted them on parish trees. All this came to an end when Sir Richard Acland turned his Somerset property over to the country as a national trust. The trees Tom used were on Sir Richard's land, now the government's. The bureaucrats told Tom he had to quit posting notices on the trees and get five bulletin boards instead. From then on Tom was like a mouse in a maze. Here is what happened:

He got permission to raise tax rates a penny to pay for the boards. Then he applied, in triplicate, for an allotment of :tioned lumber to make the boards. Next, he mailed the author ities a copy of the lease, in triplicate, covering erection of the boards. Then he applied, in quadruplicate, for permission from the county planning committee to erect the boards. The com mittee sent the application back, saying that they had to have applications in triplicate for each of the five boards with a diagram of the proposed bulletin board on each.

At this stage of the game, something in Tom's soul died. He upped and quit.

Maybe if the bureaucrats got together and slapped a ration at a signal. order on paper in the shape of interminable government forms in triplicate and quadruplicate that are the hallmark of bureaucracy, individual initiative and native efficiency might have a chance of rebirth n that sorely plagued land of England.

#### Dry But Illuminating

The may sound strange in view of the never-ending "beef of people that they're having a barrel of trouble keeping their heads above water in this day and age of high living costs, bu last year the average Canadian earned more money, spent more money, and wound up by saving more money than he did the year before.

This may not have applied to you as an individual, but stands true for most Canadians and the source of our informa tion is the authentic and reliable Dominion Bureau of Statistics If you didn't fall in the category of those who were better of in all pecuniary ways in 1948 than in 1947, the following dry as-dust but nonetheless illuminating paragraphs may not chee you but they should certainly prove that Canadians were migh ty well off in a world generally beleaguered by financial worries

In 1948, Canadians' personal incomes totalled \$11,960,000,000 as compared with \$10,390,000,000 which they made in 1947. In cidentally, this has little to do with the comparison in question but in 1939 Canadians only earned \$4,291,000,000.

In 1948, the people of this country spent \$10,000,000,000, o. 83.6% of their incomes, on goods and services. They saved being in the great wide open spaces. But, you see, I've got some justi- are determined that their property \$1,146,000,000 or 9.6% of their incomes. In 1947, by comparison they spent \$8,949,000,000, or 86.1% of their incomes, and man aged to save \$650,000,000 or 6.2% of what they took in.

The fact is that in 1948, although Canadians spent more of goods and services than they did in 1947, the proportion of their spending to their total incomes was less than it was the year before. And, furthermore, not only were they able to save more in 1948 than they did in 1947, but the proportion of savings to total earnings was greater in 1948.

In taxes, the citizens of this country also had a break in 1948. In 1947, 7.1% of their total personal income went to the government in the form of direct taxes. Last year, this figure dropped to 6.8%.

All of which is pretty dull reading and not calculated to add to our literary status, but powerful proof that we were, as a nation, pretty "well fixed" last year.

Grim Summer Harvest



## From The Hilltop

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

Sometimes I wonder if readers of I don't know that much distance his and other papers get tired of the is saved but the comfort and ease of epeated exhortation to "drive safe- driving is immeasurably enhanced.

two or three days have convinced me iriving is something that cannot be over-emphasized.

Toronto to North Bay and back over this last week-end, I saw enough in-"idiotic" driving to convince me that we have a long way to go yet before we have anything approaching safev on our highways.

And I'm going to come right out and say that our visitors from the United States, whom we rail at someimes on account of their fast drivng, set an example in sensible drivmany Canadians. It's true that they bust the speed limits wide open, but you don't see them passing on curves .nd hills the way our own drivers do.

The wonder to me isn't that there are so many accidents reported in he papers after one of our summer week-ends. The wonder is that there are so few. Lady Luck must ride at a lot of wheels.

No. 11 highway, as most of my readers know, is in its northerly part very winding, narrow road, especally through part of the Muskoka district and again north of Huntsville. Sharp hills, with sudden turns it top or bottom, are common. Yet not once or twice, but scores of times in the course of the two hundred miles from here to North Bay, I saw drivers pass on hills and curves. Scores of times, again, I saw turns made without the slightest attempt

The fifty mile speed limit just loesn't mean anything to such drivers. Try holding it on No. 11 up north and see how many cars you pass - and then count the number who pass you. But again I emphasize that it isn't the speed - it's the utter lack of common sense that our drivers are exhibiting which, if continued, is going to bring many more 'Black Mondays" to Canadian homes and families.

Speaking of going north, I was very interested in reading, in a Tor-

Probably most of my readers know is much, if not more, about it than do but for the benefit of the uninfree but, compared to No. 11, it's like trip.

For instance, coming down from fication because I'm the one that's values shall not be impaired. North Bay, I ran down to Washago, staying in the office next week while and from there down the east side of all the rest of the gang in the Liberal | Danforth Bus Lines are expected Take Couchiching through the Rama office go on holidays. Just think to make an early announcement re-Indian Reserve. Then, turning at how nice and quiet it's going to be. garding the new North York-North Atherley, I followed No. 12 - a No Miss Mary Dawson hollering for Toronto bus service inauguration. The grand road - into Beaverton and copy - no beating up a last minute company has erected a new garage lown to Greenbank. A turn there story to fill up that awful hole on at Dufferin Street and Wilson Aventook me down through Uxbridge, page 10 - no Miss Forster plaguing ue. A 30-minute service, with 20-Stouffville and Markham to No. 7. me to read proofs - no paper for minute service in rush hours, is plan-Traffic on that road was fairly heavy, you to read. Lansing sideroad where, again, there come. are several comparatively quiet en- Betcha I don't, though. trances to Toronto - notably the SEE YOU AFTER THE HOLI- and Yonge Street, with plans for two Don Mills Road.

Coming north on Yonge Street Whether that's so or not these last again at midnight, wondering if the The Schomberg fire commission that the need for sane and sensible this week and what in heck I was go- partment to answer calls from the In a comparatively short trip from hour, a flood of bumper to bumper said to be the reason. traffic going south. So I made up my mind that I'd pass the sugges-

> No extra charge. It's all thrown year. in with your two buck annual sub-

what it's worth.

Incidentally, those who haven't as president. been up that way lately will find an interesting change in the Callander-North Bay area. Gone are the replacement of a large area of sidewho once filled Callander's streets. ed from 52 mills to 46 mills. The The little town has slipped back to reduction is due to increased assessits sleepy ways again. But the dis- ments, increased provincial subsidies trict is full up. Those who came to and a decrease in the High School see and run away have been replaced rate of 31/2 mills. by those who have learned the beauties of the northland and now make School children of North York are 'shakedowns" that, in the earlier figure is 5,528. days of Papa Dionne's successful experiment, were so much in demand.

A tribute is due, too, to the merchants and restaurateurs up that way. Some prices - particularly those of tinned coods and gasoline - are high. But on the whole there seems to have been little attempt to gouge visitors and, in fact, several services for which one would normally expect to pay at most summer resorts are thrown in as a neighbourly gesture - and with a smile at that. Restaurants are, in my experience at least, exceptionally wellare these days.

The whole area surrounding the exceptionally busy and peppy city of North Bay leaves a feeling of cheeronto paper after my return, some ful optimism, of fair dealing, of suggestions for avoiding the heavy good-will, that shows that our nor- poisoning of eleven head of cattle thern friends are very much on their d that I had tried that very thing toes and have learned the somewhat from the same cause last year. ayself and found it most successful. difficult art of making their visitors feel so satisfied with things that they will come back.

but it's possible to turn off at sev- Just think - I can sit down and during the day and ten cents straight eral points and run south to the write editorials for three weeks to cash at nights. The busses will cover

DAYS.

## News Of Our Neighbours

Bradford tax rate has been set at the same rate as last year - 41

A garbage collection system has been set up for Bradford under the Fire and Water Committee of the council. Householders will pay \$1.00 per month, stores with dry garbage \$3.00, hotels, restaurants and stores with wet garbage \$5.00. Collections will be made weekly.

First sod of the North York Community Memorial Hall was turned last week on the Yonge Street property deeded to the municipality by the board of the Toronto General Burial Grounds for that purpose, says the Lansing "Enterprise." A \$70,000. wing of the hall which will contain an auditorium, kitchen and several meeting rooms, is under construction. Provision is also being made for a children's park.

There is a possibility of a sewage disposal system for Woodbridge, reports the "Woodbridge News." A notice of motion before the council directs the obtaining of costs of installation, a disposal plant and connections to homes.

The contract for the construction of a new theatre at Newmarket has been awarded to John W. Bowser at Aurora. It will be constructed at the south end of Main Street on the west side. Orders have already been placed for the steel, says the "Newmarket Era."

A by-law for regulating and inspecting restaurants has been adopted by the Newmarket council.

Tests of the water for the proposed swimming pool at Newmarket have proved unsatisfactory, the water rating class D.

hens were going to lay any better has forbidden the village fire deing to write editorials about to- townships of Tecumseth and West morrow I ran against, even at that Gwillimbury. Unpaid accounts are

Stouffville council has struck the stances of what can only be called tion on to my fellow citizens for tax rate for the year at 39 mills an increase of two mills over last

> Keswick now has a service club, a branch of the Optimists Club having been established, with Clayton Purdy

Despite much road work and the swarms of quint-hunting tourists walks Sutton tax rate has been reduc-

it their permanent all-the-holiday lo- "hitting the bottle" heavily - but cation. An air of stability has taken it's the milk bottle. In T.S.A. No. 1 the place of the one-time semi-car- they half consumed 99,920 half pint nival spirit which seemed to per- bottles this year, an increase of 24,600 meate the area in the days when the bottles over 1948. The increase conquints were "on show." A large trasts heavily with the growth of number of smart new cabins and cot- school population, which was 4,547 tages have replaced the flimsy for the area in 1948, while this year's

> Dial telephones are to be installed in Lindsay in the late autumn, with actual conversion to the dial system to take place next spring. Approximately 3,000 subscribers will change from the familiar "Number, please," system to the dials, with provision being made to accommodate up to 3,400 subscribers.

The town of Lindsay is to be reassessed. This does not mean that taxes will be increased, says the newly-appointed town assessor, A. T. kept. Food is good and prices are Killner, but that the property owners extremely moderate - that is, when of Lindsay will receive a fair and one considers what prices in general equitable assessment based on the latest scientific methods of appraisal.

Blue-green algae, forming a scum on the surface of Sturgeon Lake near Lindsay, resulted in the death by

The Central Committee of Ratepayers is fighting an attempt to locate a new service station in the Avenue Road-Wilson Avenue area. A tiate I suggest going up the east Well, if you've had the patience to recent by-law of North York Townide of Lake Simcoe if north bound stay with me this far, 'scuse me if ship forbids the establishment of fur-'or any distance. I'm not suggesting I've bored you by taking up the whole ther gas stations on Avenue Road, that the alternative route is traffic column with findings of a three day but an operator is endeavouring to relocate his. Ratepayers say they

ned, with fares at four for a quarter an area bounded by Lawrence Avenue, Bathurst Street, Wilson Avenue belt line routes under consideration.

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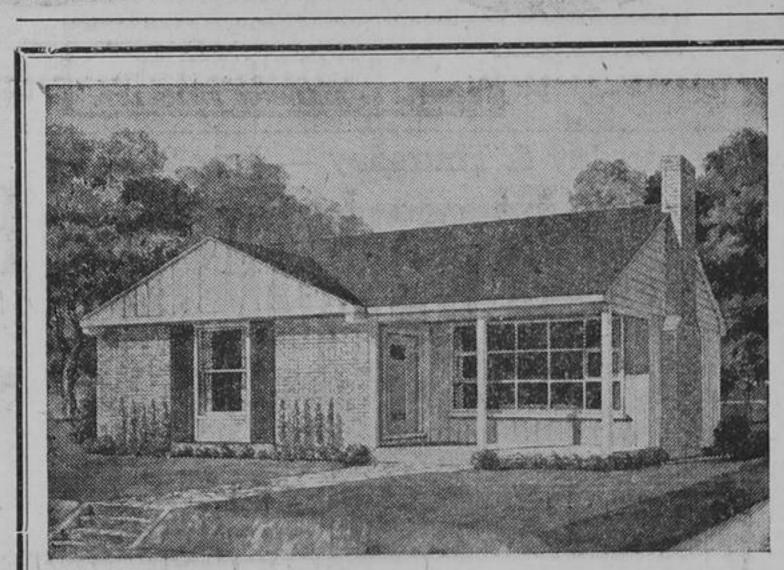
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