

"THE LIBERAL"

An Independent Weekly — Established 1873
Subscription Rate, \$2.00 per year; To the United States \$2.50
Member Canadian Weekly Newspapers Association
J. E. SMITH, M.P., Publisher

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.

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.

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.

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 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 so 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 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.

He got permission to raise tax rates a penny to pay for the boards. Then he applied, in triplicate, for an allotment of lotted lumber to make the boards.

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 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 in that sorely plagued land of England.

Dry But Illuminating

This 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, but 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 it stands true for most Canadians and the source of our information is the authentic and reliable Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

In 1948, Canadians' personal incomes totalled \$11,960,000,000 as compared with \$10,390,000,000 which they made in 1947.

In 1948, the people of this country spent \$10,000,000,000, or 83.6% of their incomes, on goods and services. They saved \$1,146,000,000 or 9.6% of their incomes.

The fact is that in 1948, although Canadians spent more on 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.

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



Harry Hall in The Toronto Telegram

From The Hilltop

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

Sometimes I wonder if readers of this and other papers get tired of the repeated exhortation to "drive safely."

Whether that's so or not these last two or three days have convinced me that the need for sane and sensible driving is something that cannot be over-emphasized.

In a comparatively short trip from Toronto to North Bay and back over this last week-end, I saw enough instances of what can only be called "idiotic" driving to convince me that we have a long way to go yet before we have anything approaching safety on our highways.

And I'm going to come right out and say that our visitors from the United States, whom we rail at sometimes on account of their fast driving, set an example in sensible driving that might well be emulated by many Canadians.

The wonder to me isn't that there are so many accidents reported in the 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, especially through part of the Muskoka district and again north of Huntsville. Sharp hills, with sudden turns at top or bottom, are common.

The fifty mile speed limit just doesn'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.

Speaking of going north, I was very interested in reading, in a Toronto paper after my return, some suggestions for avoiding the heavy Yonge Street traffic.

Probably most of my readers know as much, if not more, about it than I do but for the benefit of the uninitiate I suggest going up the east side of Lake Simcoe if north bound or any distance.

For instance, coming down from North Bay, I ran down to Washago, and from there down the east side of Lake Couchiching through the Rama Indian Reserve. Then, turning at Atherley, I followed No. 12 — a grand road — into Beaverton and down to Greenbank.

I don't know that much distance is saved but the comfort and ease of driving is immeasurably enhanced.

Coming north on Yonge Street again at midnight, wondering if the hens were going to lay any better this week and what in heck I was going to write editorials about tomorrow I ran against, even at that hour, a flood of bumper to bumper traffic going south.

No extra charge. It's all thrown in with your two buck annual subscription.

Incidentally, those who haven't been up that way lately will find an interesting change in the Callander-North Bay area. Gone are the swarms of faint-hunting tourists who once filled Callander's streets. The little town has slipped back to its sleepy ways again.

A tribute is due, too, to the merchants and restaurateurs up that way. Some prices — particularly those of tinned foods 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.

The whole area surrounding the exceptionally busy and peppy city of North Bay leaves a feeling of cheerful optimism, of fair dealing, of good-will, that shows that our northern friends are very much on their toes and have learned the somewhat difficult art of making their visitors feel so satisfied with things that they will come back.

Well, if you've had the patience to stay with me this far, excuse me if I've bored you by taking up the whole column with findings of a three day trip.

But, you see, I've got some justification because I'm the one that's staying in the office next week while all the rest of the gang in the Liberal office go on holidays.

Betcha I don't, though. SEE YOU AFTER THE HOLIDAYS.

News Of Our Neighbours

Bradford tax rate has been set at the same rate as last year — 41 mills.

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.

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."

There is a possibility of a sewage disposal system for Woodbridge, reports the "Woodbridge News."

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.

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.

The Schomberg fire commission has forbidden the village fire department to answer calls from the townships of Tecumseth and West Gwillimbury.

Stouffville council has struck the tax rate for the year at 39 mills — an increase of two mills over last year.

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

Despite much road work and the replacement of a large area of sidewalks Sutton tax rate has been reduced from 52 mills to 46 mills.

School children of North York are "hitting the bottle" heavily — but it's the milk bottle. In T.S.A. No. 1 they half consumed 99,920 half pint bottles this year, an increase of 24,600 bottles over 1948.

Dial telephones are to be installed in Lindsay in the late autumn, with actual conversion to the dial system to take place next spring.

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. Killner, but that the property owners of Lindsay will receive a fair and 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 poisoning of eleven head of cattle recently.

The Central Committee of Ratepayers is fighting an attempt to locate a new service station in the Avenue Road-Wilson Avenue area. A recent by-law of North York Township forbids the establishment of further gas stations on Avenue Road, but an operator is endeavouring to relocate his.

Danforth Bus Lines are expected to make an early announcement regarding the new North York-North Toronto bus service inauguration. The company has erected a new garage at Dufferin Street and Wilson Avenue.

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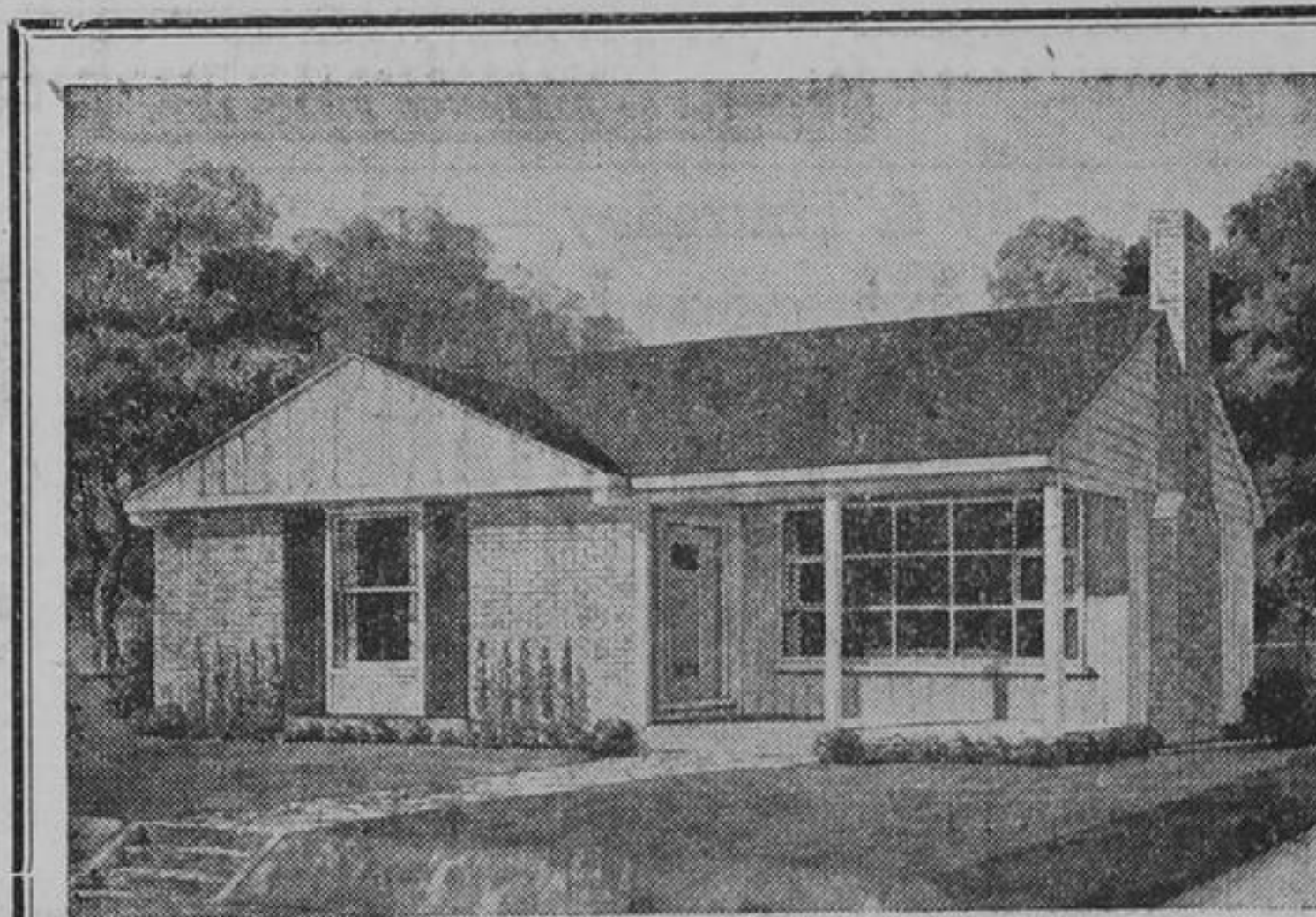
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