

The Liberal

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Use Veterans' Calendars

The time of year is coming when one of the most comfortable of all "rackets" — the so-called "veterans' calendar" will be with us again.

Generous business men and housewives will be imported to "help a veteran" by buying a calendar.

It's hard to say no. Gratitude, memories of services rendered during two great wars, recollection of the fact that many men are suffering because of the results of their war service make the average kindly person "feel like a heel" in turning down a man who apparently has a genuine claim on our sympathy.

Nevertheless it should be done and, in order to make position clear let us state that this editorial appears in paper whose publisher will go out of his way to see that every man and woman who has served gets a square deal. It is written by an ex-service man with many years of experience in veterans' affairs.

We repeat, in the plainest English at our command, that the "veterans calendar" business is a racket — and we speak with inside knowledge. The cheap-looking, ill-proportioned, flimsy calendars are printed in volume at an exceedingly low cost. Every fall men are rounded up by advertisements. Some are veterans — many are not. They have to cash on the line before they get their stock-in-trade. The enter takes no risk. Then, to get his money back, plus a profit, the veteran has to knock at doors and trade on the sympathy and good will of Canada's citizens.

There is no need for it. Every genuine veteran willing to be anxious to become a good and productive citizen can secure help from the government and many other agencies. He is suffering from a disability resulting from service there are many ways in which he can be aided. There is no reason why he should have to subsist by "panhandling" and trading on the generosity and willingness of citizens to say "thank you" for services rendered.

It must be understood that in saying this we are in no sense of the word aiming at genuine and legitimate activities of veterans and their associations. We assert our belief that it is the duty of every community and its citizens to go on to a little bit out of their way to support veterans' activities. These men gave much — they deserve much.

They too are damaged in reputation by activities such as the peddling of calendars. Unfortunately the public, seduced by the door-to-door nuisances, soon begins to associate all veterans in the same class of "gimme-gimme's." The war harm the many.

It may take a little courage to say "No" at the back door, at the counter. But we think that citizens who do so need have few qualms when they are offered such a tawdry excuse for charity as a "Veterans' calendar."

No Need To Worry Yet

On several occasions recently we have heard questions as to whether the new Toronto-Barrie Highway will have an adverse effect on towns and villages along Yonge Street, due to a decrease in traffic.

We do not believe that business men along No. 11 highway between the two points need give any serious consideration to putting up the shutters. Rather, it seems to us, the opposite view is indicated.

Even when the road becomes an accomplished fact we believe that its impact on its eastern neighbour — No. 11 — will be negligible.

Experience has proved that the opening of new roads tends to increase the over-all volume of traffic rather than decrease it.

Not so many years ago there was a great to-do when the Dixie highway from Toronto to Hamilton was projected. It was predicted that the streets of the lake shore municipalities, it was predicted. But somehow or other they managed to exist — and even to grow rapidly. Then, when the Queen Elizabeth highway was built, the same cry rose. In spite of the fact that three roads now serve the district there only one was before traffic on the Lake Shore Road was heavier than ever. Its municipalities continue to thrive. Its businesses are expanding and altogether the area seems to be bubbling over with prosperity.

We believe that the same situation will be repeated insofar as the stretch of No. 11 south of Barrie is concerned. An increasing number of cars as the years go by, growth of the towns and villages along the route, the fact that a lot of tourists will continue to use it anyway, will leave Yonge Street a busy artery for many years to come. Growth of the summer resorts around Lake Simcoe will contribute also to the flow of traffic on No. 11. We feel that instead of merchants and municipalities worrying about the decline of traffic on Yonge Street North they should rather be bringing pressure to bear to have the road widened and improved to the point where it can adequately handle the volume of traffic which it will be called on to carry in the future.

There's no need to start worrying just yet, at least in this area, until the family helicopter replaces the family car in the family garage.

To The Red Cross — Thanks

The announcement made recently that the Richmond Hill branch of the Canadian Red Cross Society will surrender its charter is one which will be received with regret.

Overshadowing that regret, however, will be feelings of gratitude for, and appreciation of, the work done during the war years by those who, placing the needs of others ahead of all other considerations, worked so magnificently during the war years.

The story of Red Cross work is not told by figures. Humanity is not measured by dollar signs. Nevertheless some mention of facts and figures is necessary in order to provide a yard-stick of accomplishment. Those figures appear elsewhere in this issue in a news story announcing the surrender of the charter of the Richmond Hill branch of the Canadian Red Cross Society and tell in detail of the magnificent work done by local citizens under the aegis of that cross which has come to mean so much to suffering humanity on the battlefields of the world and in its peacetime disasters.

Not alone in war and disaster has the Red Cross played its part. Its outpost hospitals, in carrying aid and comfort to those far removed from centres of civilization, are typical of the broader activities of the organization which have made the job of living a little easier for those in distress.

So, for the time being at least, the Red Cross in Richmond Hill becomes only a memory. But it is a memory which will be treasured for years to come in the minds and hearts of those who have benefitted by the unselfish work which local citizens have performed.

Ten years of magnificent work have come to an end. It is to be hoped that never again will the sounding of the trumpets of war provide cause for the reopening of another local branch of the Red Cross. It is a sure and certain thing, however, that should the necessity arise the spirit which has motivated so many of our citizens during the past decade will rise again — rise determined to play a part in the cause of humanity as shining and splendid as that played in the days gone by.

Progress of U.N. Permanent Headquarters



Steelwork on eighteen of the 39 stories of the United Nations Secretariat building in mid-Manhattan, New York, was completed in July when this picture was taken. A contract was signed by U.N. and the American Bridge Company for the furnishing and erection of structural steel for the meeting hall area of the Permanent Headquarters. The contract calls for 10,500 tons of structural steel at a cost of \$2,225,000. Delivery is to be made by next October, and erection is expected to be completed by April or May 1950.

From The Hilltop

A COLUMN OF VIEWS AND OBSERVATIONS

(By F. J. Picking)

"Jeetjet? — Najew?" was the heading of last week's column — a phonetic transcription of a conversation between two Toronto stenographers.

A year's free subscription to The Liberal was the prize for the first person sending in a correct translation. The winner — Mrs. Lawson Chesney, 27 Roseview Avenue, Richmond Hill.

The translation — "Did you eat yet?" — "No, did you?" Say it fast and you'll get the idea.

If nothing else the little contest proved that a couple of people read this column. Many calls came in from the Hill and surrounding area, some came from the Willowdale-Newtonbrook district and even three Torontonians went after that year's free sub, with Gravenhurst also submitting an entry.

Congratulations, Mrs. Chesney. I notice that our neighbouring community of Schomberg is following Toronto's lead, and the lead of many other municipalities, and placing trash cans along the main street with the hope that local citizens will make use of them and help keep the streets clean. It so happens that just a few weeks ago one of our business men made the suggestion to this paper that a similar scheme might be introduced to Richmond Hill.

So, without further comment, the example of Schomberg and the suggestion are passed along to our authorities for their consideration. Of course it's one thing to put out receptacles and quite another thing to get people to use them.

Ditches which used to be streams — marshy spots which used to be sizable ponds — are becoming a commonplace in this part of Ontario and, unfortunately, in many other parts.

Many old-timers can remember, for instance, the stagnant narrow ditch at Elgin Mills which, once on a time, had power enough to operate a tannery at that point.

Old maps show good-sized lakes where now only small ponds are left. Many such examples exist within fifty miles of Richmond Hill. They go hand in hand with non-productive fields which, once on a day, were highly fertile acres.

Blow sand, in many parts of Southern Ontario, is gradually but surely encroaching on fields where once cattle pastured.

Leading agronomists have forecast the day when the southern part of Ontario would become the "Great Ontario Desert." Some have said that it would happen within a hundred years.

Looking around this verdant and lush countryside those forecasts seem a little hard to swallow. But the facts are there for those who will only see them. Beyond any shadow of doubt the province is gradually drying up. The facts are incontrovertible. Dying springs, shrinking rivers, disappearing ponds, provide abundant proof that measures will have to be taken soon if the gloomy prognostications of the experts are to be prevented from becoming a reality.

Back of it all, of course, is the fact that as a people we have failed to learn the lessons of nature. Trees, once removed, have not been replaced. Nature's reservoirs, the roots of those trees, have been destroyed and nothing put in their place.

Viewing the green and pleasant acres of Ontario, with its wealth of trees reaching their arms to the sky, that seems a little hard to appreciate. But nevertheless one only has to recall that in its early, pioneering days this land was nothing but one huge forest.

Many trees as there may be today, they are only a patch on what used to be. Their removal, while it has produced some of the finest agricultural land in the world, has also taken away all those natural features which preserve the rain which is reputed to fall on both the just and the unjust.

Desire to get on the land early has led, understandably, to systems of drainage which make for easy run-off but which, inevitably, lower the level of the province's water tables. It makes easier travelling — land which can be worked earlier — but it's being paid for by a pretty stiff price.

There seems to be only one answer — the planting of more trees, backed by a scientific understanding of the factors which make for proper conservation of one of the greatest of our natural resources — water. In that we can take a lesson from our western provinces, with their "Arbor Days" and similar projects to preserve the natural moisture of the soil. That they have "paid off" anyone with a knowledge of the prairies can vouch. Like many others I can remember the days when one drove many miles, in some parts of Saskatchewan, to see a twenty foot tall poplar. A tour through that province today will reveal tree belts which have multiplied enormously, in area and growth, since that time. An "honest-to-God" effort by our western friends, plus governmental support and education, has wrought the change.

Admitted that our provincial government has done much, through its reforestation plans, to make trees available to those who want them. Admitted, also, that it has done much in tree replacement in Northern Ontario. But it strikes me, as it has struck many others, that we have to go a lot further than we are doing unless the threat of the "Great Ontario Desert" is to become stark reality for the generations to follow.

Let's have some opinions, please. This thing's big. It isn't my problem — it isn't your problem — it's EVERYBODY'S problem.

As you read this September 10 is drawing close. A decade ago on that date Canada, for the second time in a generation, took up the sword in order that freedom should not perish from the earth. And in that conflict more young men of Canada laid down their lives that tyranny and oppression should be kept forever from the borders of the land they called "home."

What are we doing to see to it that their names shall not be forgotten by those who come after them?

Preserved for as long as metal and stone shall last are the names of those who, in the Great War of 1914-1918 "gave up the rich sweet wine of youth."

But the names of those who took up the torch in their turn are missing from all but the hearts of those who gave them to their country. Surely, surely, it is time that somehow, somewhere, those names should be recorded in our community.

Vaughan Township has done it — so have many other municipalities. Here, it seems to me, is a worthy objective for our veterans and their associations.

Win 3 Firsts at C.N.E.

At the recent Toronto Kenel Club Show at the C.N.E., Betty and Bob Svaneft showed their Irish Setters and Cocker and obtained more winning honours for their kennels. They were winners of three firsts.



RELIGION AND HAPPINESS

Robert Louis Stevenson once wrote an essay on his fellow-countryman Robert Burns, in which he said: "Burns was not devoted to religion; he was haunted by it."

Whether that was true of Burns or not, we cannot say, but, as a definition of how many people feel, it is perfect. They do not enjoy religion. They are haunted by it. It is not a source of inspiration and comfort; rather it is a burden, and as Dr. George Jackson once said: "It is a killjoy, a skeleton at the feast of life, a nagging monster at one's elbow."

This misconception of religion has persisted for a long time. The galleries of Europe are filled with pictures of the middle ages in which the typical saint of long ago is portrayed; a sad, pale face with eyes red with weeping; transparent hands and a wasted form. To the painters of long ago real happiness was seldom associated with piety. The cheerful man was suspected. This melancholy epitaph seemed suitable for saints: "All is vanity and vexation of spirit; vanity of vanities, all is vanity."

In James Barrie's "Little Minister," he tells of the minister whose hat blew over the fence on the Sabbath day. He was a lively young man so he vaulted the fence and ran after his hat. Such behaviour nearly caused a scandal. To think of a minister running after a hat was undignified and frivolous. A meeting of the church officials was called. One old man defended the pastor; thought he was justified in chasing a wayward hat. But another official said what they were all thinking. "If the minister must run after his hat," he said, "he should do it very reverently."

What kind of a wiggle that run would be we can't even imagine. But there is no doubt that a keen relish and delight in life is still regarded by some people as inconsistent with the highest spiritual living. There once appeared, in a city newspaper, this amusing

request: "Wanted by a lady going abroad, a travelling companion. She must be a Christian and, if possible, cheerful."

It is amazing that, in the light of Christ's teaching, such a misconception of religion ever came about, and how it persists. He said: "I came that they may have life and may have it abundantly." It means that the religious life is a larger, happier, fuller life, than any other form of living. It is not a pushing in of the organ stops and shutting off of the music, but the drawing out of every stop until the music swells in glorious magnificence.

Henry Ward Beecher wrote: "Men have come to think that tears are more sacred than smiles. That is a mistake. Sorrow is divine, but joy was divine first and will be after weeping and sorrow are swept out of the universe. Joy is more divine than sorrow."

This is not to deny that great blessings have often been the outcome of much suffering. That truth has been so learned by each successive generation since the world began that there is no little need to emphasize it. But it is a recognition of the fact that a defeated and melancholy frame of mind cannot be a permanent one in any wholesome philosophy of life and least of all the Christian one. The writer of the Twenty-fourth Psalm wrote: "They looked on Him, and were lightened." The faithful were enheartened and became radiant when they thought of God and that must always be true of spiritual religion — the devout may be downcast but they cannot stay in the valley. The night is mother of the day. The winter of the spring. And ever upon old decay, The greenest mosses cling. Behind the cloud, the starlight lurks, Through showers the sunbeams fall;

For God, who loveth all his works, Has left his hope with all!

Our quotation today is by J. B. Brierly: "The art of being happy lies in discovering the depths of daily common things."

'WAY BACK WHEN

(Excerpts from the LIBERAL files of November 8, 1900)

"The great political fight is over and the Liberals have been returned to power with an undiminished majority. The Conservatives made gains in Ontario, while the Liberals gained in Quebec and the east. All the members of the Cabinet have been returned with large majorities, while Sir Charles Tupper, Hugh John Macdonald, G. E. Foster, and other prominent Conservative leaders have fallen. The members of the Cabinet who were most bitterly attacked and misrepresented during the contest all scored magnificent gains."

"The painted furniture formerly described as 'cottage sets' passed out of style more than a score of years ago. It was always looked upon as a rather economical and modest substitute for the black walnut carved set, or even the more costly rosewood. It was very cordially despised after taste turned toward the antique wooden furniture, brass beds and all the similar improvements that came during the past score of years. The cottage sets were relegated to country residences, servants' rooms and other inconspicuous places. Since that day painted furniture has not been seen until the white enamelled chests of drawers and other wooden pieces began to be seen."

"Canadians and loyalty are synonymous but it is doubtful if patriotic rejoicing and enthusiasm ever reached the proportions assumed in Toronto on Monday afternoon when the heroes of Paardeberg returned from distant Africa. From the time the train steamed into the C.P.R. station until the brave boys reached the Armouries there was a continual and spontaneous outburst of welcome all along the line, and the participants in the demonstration must have reached nearly 200,000 people."

Atkinson and Switzer advertised: — Men's laundered shirts, good heavy cotton body, pure linen front, 50c."

"At a meeting of the Board of Education on Friday Mr. Conlin of Durham County was appointed principal of the Public School in place of Mr. N. S. McDonald who has taken a position in one of the city schools."

"Bills are out announcing the annual plowing match of Vaughan Plowmen's Association to be held on the farm of Mr. Thos. Rumble, half a mile east of Maple, on Wednesday of next week."

"We are inclined to think the village council is a little easy on individuals who frequently come here and make themselves a nuisance on the street. Last Saturday evening a man whom the boys call a 'quack' doctor gathered around him such a crowd and indulged in so much loud and idle talk that ladies going to the Post Office had to return home rather than pass through the noisy crowd. In such cases

the noisy individual should be removed or the gang of boys and young men made to disperse. Our village constable could have stopped the annoyance with a word. The band stand is also being kicked to pieces and no notice is being taken of it. Such latitude is bad for the village and bad for the boys."

On Toronto markets prices were: — White Wheat, 68c; Oats, 28; Barley, 43c; Hay, per ton, \$12 to \$15; Butter, per pound, 20c; Eggs, new laid, 20c per dozen; Chickens, per pair, 30-45c; Turkeys, per pound, 9-10c; Ducks, per pair, 40-60c; Potatoes, per bag, 30-35c; Apples, per barrel, 40c to \$1.50; Spring Lamb, per pound, 8-9c.

"Prof. Shuttleworth, city analyst, has reported on the advisability of Toronto bringing part of her water supply from Whitchurch, a point three or four miles northwest of Stouffville. The professor says there are 20 flowing wells in that neighbourhood, yielding a daily flow of 1,530,500 gallons. The professor thinks the flow is from Reesor's and Musselman's lakes."

"Messrs. D. Hill and Company have installed a new acetylene gas machine and the result is quite satisfactory. They have four lights in the front shop as well as lights in the cellar, rooms in the residence and the bake shop."

"Mr. Saunders of the Niagara Vapor Bath Company is at the Palmer House and would be glad to have any of the citizens call and inspect the simply derived and popular health reservoir and home luxury much used for many ailments."

"Dear Mr. Editor"

It is interesting to note that property owners in the 1st concession are asked to vote upon the bus question. In order that this may be done from a strictly business point of view, is it not necessary that a clear cut statement as to the financial position be published?

Since property owners have been deprived of any benefit from profits it should be made clear exactly how much the Township has received since disbursements of taxes have ceased and how it is being used and where.

The township is too large for one to gain a comprehensive view of things from fragmentary items.

Since assessments have been raised, in some cases four or five times the pre-war amount, one should not be content with the over-all and somewhat ambiguous statement that property values have increased. What has the Township done towards this inflationary value? The writer is inclined to think that personal

News Of Our Neighbours

Although he fell only thirty inches a twelve year old lad, Gordon Kirk, was killed when he fell from a tractor seat on the farm of his uncle, William Paisley, 6th concession of Whitchurch.

Stouffville Horticultural Society won first prize at the Canadian National Exhibition for a basket display of garden flowers.

Fire of undetermined origin caused considerable damage to the office of the Orillia News-Letter and to Silver's men's clothing store in the same building.

A special meeting of Aurora council is likely to be held, dealing with the smell from the tannery which has local citizens so incensed that a petition requesting action has been signed by a large number of residents.

Contract for the installation of Aurora's new artificial ice plant has been awarded to the John Inglis Co., Toronto.

It has been estimated that over 700 pupils will enrol in Newmarket's public schools this year. At the end of June the enrolment was 682.

Between 1,000 and 1,100 acres of land are on fire at Queensville, four miles north-east of the village. Up to 75 men at one time have been trying to control it but have experienced difficulty because the ground, a type of peat bog, is burning as deeply as three and four feet. It is doubtful if even a heavy rain would extinguish the fire.

Ronald Beazer of Aurora was crowned Canadian closed water ski-jumping champion at the Canadian National Exhibition. He placed second in two other water-skiing events.

For the third time in two and a half years a beer and wine license was refused to the Yorktown Inn at Lansing by the Ontario Liquor License Board. A widely signed petition against the granting of the license was presented by local citizens.

In order to assist in keeping the village clean Schomberg trustees have placed trash cans along the main street. They are emptied each week in connection with the local garbage collection.

George Stewart, chief of York County Police, has resigned and will devote his time to his hotel interests. He has been a member of the force since 1920.

A popular halting place for many years, the spring on the Joseph Reesor farm two and a half miles south of Ringwood has ceased flowing. It is believed to have been running for a hundred years.

Work of installing the artificial ice machinery in the Stouffville rink has been started. Nearly 35,000 feet of pipe has been delivered to the site. Ice is expected to be ready by the first week in October.

York County police set up a speed trap at Victoria Square recently and many speeders, who have been turning the highway at that point into a race track, were bagged.

When a car stopped at the foot of Green River hill during a driving rain last week, twelve cars following piled into each other and tied up traffic for over an hour.

A fifty per cent increase in the number of exhibits was recorded at Newmarket's recent gladiolus show staged by the Newmarket Horticultural Society. Several merchants staged exhibits at the same time and lithographs and water colours were also shown. So enthusiastic were Newmarket citizens over the venture that a suggestion that the Fall Fair can be revived has been made.

Grading of the site of the Woodbridge Memorial Recreational Centre has been started in preparation for the erection of an arena, first unit of the centre. Actual construction is expected to start by the middle of the month.

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