

# The Liberal

An Independent Weekly — Established 1878  
Subscription Rate, \$2.00 per year;  
To the United States \$2.50  
Member Canadian Weekly Newspapers Association  
J. E. SMITH, M.P., Publisher  
F. J. PICKING, Managing Editor

## The Sewerage Question

The majority decision of the Richmond Hill village council to submit the somewhat controversial question of a sewerage system for the village to property owners at the forthcoming municipal elections is a wise and democratic one.

During recent months there has been a considerable revival of interest in the subject. Opinion on either the necessity for sewers or the ability to pay for them is somewhat sharply divided and, in seeking advice from taxpayers as to their wishes, the council is taking a decidedly sensible step.

It must, we feel, be emphasized that the question which council proposes to submit to the electors is a "fact-finding" one. Nobody's hands are tied. But at least the council, by authorizing such a plebiscite, will be in a position to know how taxpayers in general feel about the subject.

It is not our purpose, in this editorial, to express an opinion either for or against the installation of a sewerage system in the village. But it is definitely our purpose to commend those members of the council who voted for the holding of a plebiscite on taking a step which will give taxpayers the opportunity of making their wishes known.

Such a step will at least have the effect of letting everybody know where they stand in connection with a matter which is of major financial consequence, and will ensure that whatever line of action taken in the future is one which will be acceptable to the majority of citizens.

Of equal importance is the unanimous decision of members of the council that, before the plebiscite is taken, all those entitled to vote shall be provided with the fullest possible information as to costs, method of payment, effect on the taxpayer, and the state of the municipality's finances.

The decision to hold the plebiscite and the attitude of members of council in regard to a fair and proper presentation to taxpayers of the points involved forms a healthy demonstration of "democracy at work."

## "Freedom Goes Where The Newspaper Goes"

Once again, as this issue of the seventy-one year old Richmond Hill Liberal goes to press, National Newspaper Week is being observed.

There isn't much of a flourish of trumpets in connection with it. No public gatherings to celebrate it are being held — no flag-waving is being indulged in. To the ordinary reader the observance of another of those special "weeks" which have become such a feature of our national life means little.

On the surface, that is, it means little. But deep down there is a meaning which is of the utmost importance to all Canadians — to those who pride themselves on being a "free people."

For it has been truly said that "Freedom goes where the Newspaper goes."

Let's look back over the last few years.

Adolph Hitler was a smart man. One of the first things he did when he took over Germany was to give Goebbels the power to suppress the news. Then when he purged loyal Germans who were unfaithful Nazis, the people heard only his side of the story. And for all the years that Hitler was in power all the newspapers under his control printed only what he permitted. In this respect Hitler was a smart man. He knew he could never keep his hold on the people if they had access to the truth.

It may seem a little far-fetched, perhaps, to talk of the world-shaking actions of a Hitler in one breath and then, in the next, to suggest that a paper such as The Liberal is definitely allied with such conditions. Nevertheless the fact exists.

In this scheme of living which we call "democracy" government begins at home. Decisions as to how they shall live are not made for the people of the nation in a dictator's chancellery. They are made by the people themselves, exercising their fundamental right to determine how "government of the people, by the people, for the people," shall be carried out. Not in a closely guarded seat of autocratic power but in the little towns, on the back concessions, on the side roads, are the decisions made.

And it is in the reaching of such decisions that the weekly press of Canada, of which The Liberal is proud to be a part, forms an important cog in the printing of the facts as they are. They may only concern local government — but that local government is the basic foundation of our whole structure of freedom.

So, as National Newspaper Week is being observed, this paper re-emphasizes its decades old policy — that anyone who has a legitimate story to tell will find its pages open for the facts. And, if a dispute arises concerning those facts, the other side of the story will be told too. For editors know, from the experience of others in totalitarian lands, that suppression of the news breeds "smart men" like Adolph Hitler.

## Don't Use Water

A recent fire, in which water was thrown on burning grease, has prompted Fire Chief Bert Cook of Richmond Hill to issue a warning — "Don't use water in the case of grease or oil fires."

Many times has that warning been repeated but another repetition seems necessary, says the chief. Unless the blaze is very small water will not extinguish it. Rather, it tends to scatter the burning material and in so doing spreads the fire.

The best way to handle a grease fire is to smother it with sand or earth. Failing that it might be smothered with whatever is handy. The big points are: — do not scatter the fire — prevent it from getting oxygen on which it feeds.

Naturally the first thing to do is to call the fire brigade. But after that is done follow the precautions which will make the fire-fighters' job that of extinguishing a small blaze rather than a big one.

A simple form of insurance, particularly in the country and especially where gas and oil stoves are in use is to have a pail of sand or earth kept in a certain spot and, importantly, constantly filled and reserved for one purpose.

It may, we hope, never be needed. On the other hand it may save a life or at the least considerable damage and expense.

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## Memorial to a Soldier of Peace



The memory and work of Count Folke Bernadotte, U.N. Mediator in Palestine who was slain in Jerusalem a year ago, is now permanently honored at United Nations headquarters by a bronze tablet. Here U.N. Secretary-General Trygve Lie, in a simple ceremony, unveils the tablet. Behind him are Dr. Ralph Bunche, who carried on Count Bernadotte's work in bringing peace to the Holy Land; Sir Alexander Cadogan, permanent representative of the United Kingdom to U.N.; and Sven Grafstrom, permanent representative of Sweden, Count Bernadotte's native land, to the United Nations.

## From The Hilltop

A COLUMN OF VIEWS AND OBSERVATIONS

(By F. J. Picking)

Recent mention of a desire to collect historical data relating to this part of the world, and a request to readers for their help in order that its intimate history might be recorded, has brought some speedy responses.

For those who didn't happen to see the article in question the point of it was that I volunteered to consolidate the district's history, providing readers who had them would help me by supplying interesting facts, figures, records, etc., to assist in compilation.

In the same article I asked if many people knew where Paisaye Town was, and stated that it was apparently the district to the north of Richmond Hill, which had been settled by French Royalist refugees.

As a result much valuable material has come to me from Mr. C. M. Chandler of King — to whom my thanks. Among the documentary material with which he has supplied me are extracts from the writings of one of Canada's foremost writers and historians — the late Fred Williams, well-known newspaperman of his day and for years an outstanding columnist on the old Mail and Empire.

Says Williams, in part:—"What a parade it would make of the ghosts of the men who during their lives went up or came down Yonge Street! Not only was it the highway, to the west for the Northwest Company and other fur traders, but over it went Sir John Franklin and his men when they undertook their overland journey to reat Bear Lake. The French Royalist refugees, under Comte de Paisaye, whose aristocratic hands were unfitted for the upper Canada bush, would appear again on Yonge Street; and the Ketchums, with their pluck and their romance, they are ever associated with Yonge Street; while just a century ago its surface was tramped by the yeomen of York as they responded to the call to rebellion from William Lyon Mackenzie."

In the same article mention was made of the "Home District" and a question raised as to what it comprised.

Again Mr. Chandler comes to the rescue. My lazy streak again coming to the top, I'm going to let him tell the story from here in. Something of what he has to say is, of course, recorded in the history books. Much is not. In any event I think that a refreshing of memories is of value. So here's Mr. Chandler's explanation of the "Home District" term:—"The Districts of Upper Canada. The Canada Act of 1791 divided Canada into two separate provinces — Lower and Upper Canada — so that in the one the French

could retain their French laws and customs and their church while in the other the English could have their English laws and customs. Late in 1791 Colonel John Graves Simcoe sailed from England to assume the arduous task of Governor of the new Province. He wintered over at Quebec, and after a tedious journey by boat landed at Niagara-on-the-Lake in July 1792, where he set up the first Parliament in Upper Canada. Here were no traditions as at Quebec; everything was new. The first session assembled September 17, 1792.

With this background in mind, consideration can now be given to that vast tract of land which comprised Upper Canada — northerly to boundaries unknown; westerly to Great Lakes and the limitless prairies extending beyond. Great forests, lakes, rivers and wilderness. Roads were trails, rivers were unbridged, distances were great, and settlers scattered. Lands along the trails were naturally settled first, notably Kingston to York, York to Niagara and York to Simcoe.

For administrative and judicial purposes the area had been divided into Districts as early as 1788 and from East to West these Districts were defined and named: Lunenburg, Mecklenburg, Nassau and Hesse. Obstinate George III was still King, and it was intended to honour him by selecting German names. Additionally, some of the first settlements on the lakefront were named after his wife and daughters.

These names were changed in 1792 to be: Eastern, Midland, Home, Western, and in 1800 there were further divisions:

- Eastern became Eastern and Johnston.
- Midland became Midland and Newcastle.
- Home became Niagara and Home.
- Western became London and Western.

This was effected under Statute of 1798: 38 Geo. III Chap. 5, and the date of Proclamation is important: 1st January, 1800. Extracts from this statute are attached for purpose of reference, and it will be seen that the "Home District" comprised the counties of Northumberland, Durham, York and Simcoe. There is no mention of Ontario County at this time because it was not until some years later that Ontario County was created out of part of York County.

By 1821 the Districts were again re-named as follows: Ottawa, Eastern, Johnston, Midland, Newcastle, Home, Gore, Niagara, London, Western.

On 30th May 1849, an Act was passed abolishing the Districts and leaving administration to the Counties — one hundred years ago.

## "Know Your Neighbour"

(Continued from page 1)

Since then he has continued with his old occupations of painting, decorating and looking after His Majesty's property at the Hill.

There's another interesting angle to his war service. He and his daughter Jean, now Mrs. Patrick Carle, formed one of the second war's "father and daughter" combinations, something which was rare locally. While he was serving in the Veterans Guard she was a member of the Canadian Women's Army Corps.

Those jobs have been varied by a bit of fishing, wood-working, and an intense interest in Orange Lodge activities. He is a Past Master of Victoria Lodge in Richmond Hill and in addition Worshipful Preceptor (which to the uninitiated is "top dog") of the Royal Black Knights of Ireland, RBP 1061, at Aurora. He is also a County Master of West York L.O.L.

As a veteran of two wars he has always taken a keen interest in ex-service-men's activities and has been a member of the local veterans' organization for twenty-seven years.

The photograph of Mr. Zuefelt, like all others in the "Know Your Neighbour" series, was taken by Edmund Soame of "The Studio," 1720 Avenue Road.

## News Of Our Neighbours

Incendiarism is suspected in a fire which gutted the home of Mr. and Mrs. Rogers in Bradford. The family had been away from home for several days, and only had small insurance.

Strong exception has been taken by the South Ward Ratepayers' Association in Orillia to certain angles of the town's zoning regulations. Pointing out that one section was a mile from the main shopping district the association objected to restrictions against the opening of businesses to which residents had no objections.

The Orillia Community Centre Association now has \$75,000. in cash and pledges and intends to send a deputation to the next meeting of the town council to get a decision on the installation of an artificial ice rink.

Scarboro's building program for 1949 is nearing the ten million dollar mark. Permits issued up to the end of August amounted to \$9,794,550, as compared with \$7,068,585, in the same period in 1948.

Overcrowding conditions in Scarboro schools have made the board of school area No. 2 decide to add two rooms to each of four public schools. It is hoped to start work this fall.

First sod has been turned in connection with the building of an \$800,000 incinerator to serve York and North York townships. It is located east of Keele Street on the boundary between the two townships.

Lindsay has been suffering from an epidemic of break-ins. Three oil company warehouses and offices were entered, also a house from which a \$160. electric steel saw was stolen.

Three fires were burning at one time in Cannington village recently, with Beaverton and Sutton fire brigades responding to calls for help. Starting in the A. O. Mix Coal Company offices, the blaze spread to two barns. Records of the Cannington School Board were lost in the fire.

The site for the new High School building at Aurora has been approved by the Ontario Department of Education.

The early turnip crop in the Stouffville district was seriously damaged by a small parasite. Late planted turnips escaped the visitation fairly well.

The assessor's list discloses that Stouffville has the largest population recorded since its incorporation in 1877. It totals 1,571. Assessment shows a valuation of \$843,630. divided as follows: Land, \$168,065; Buildings, \$630,825; Business, \$44,740. A queer quirk revealed by the assessment shows that there are 99 bachelors and widowers over the age of 21, and a similar number of spinsters and widows. "If these two groups of ninety and nine could come to terms there wouldn't be a person of marriageable age left in the village," says the Stouffville Tribune.

Gib. Wright, postmaster at Balantrae, has been moved to Western Hospital, Toronto, following a severe heart attack.

Renting a special machine from City of Toronto, the village of Stouffville was able to attach a four inch water line to the main local water supply. The new line is for the purpose of supplying water to the new artificial ice arena.

Rev. L. K. Sider, pastor at Owen Sound, has been appointed to the Gormley United Church.

Prompt work by North York police resulted in the arrest of four men within ten minutes after they had broken into Jackson's Hardware Store at Newtonbrook. Awakened by the sound of breaking glass at 2 a.m., the owner telephoned police, who apprehended the quartette in their speeding car and recovered radios and a sum of money.

Claimant for "biggest potato" honours in the Woodbridge area is William Hollingshead, who has one weighing 1 pound, 13 ounces.

## "Dear Mr. Editor"

May I, through your paper, extend to all the women of Richmond Hill and vicinity a hearty invitation to attend our Women's Institute meeting.

We meet on the second Thursday of each month at 2:30 p.m. in the Municipal Hall.

For the information of the newcomers and those who have wished they could join us: We are inter-denominational and a community organization. Our aims are to make our meetings interesting and educational, to create a pleasant community atmosphere. Hence our motto "For Home and Country."

So why not come along and meet us and let's get acquainted at our next meeting on October 13 — notice of which meeting appears elsewhere in this issue.

GRACE SAYERS, President.

**OTTAWA LETTER**  
by  
**"Jack" Smith, M.P.**  
North York

This is a very quiet and harmonious session of Parliament. The highlight so far has been the constitutional changes brought forward by the government and they are being passed with very little serious opposition.

The charges when brought about will abolish appeals to the Privy Council in London, and give the Canadian Parliament full authority to change our own constitution.

There has been a consistently growing demand over a long period of years for abolition of appeals to the Privy Council. Making our own Canadian Supreme Court the final court of appeal will mean a saving in time and money to those who have cases in court, as London appeals often have been drawn out and costly experiences. Canadian courts are second to none in the world and we are satisfied the administration of Justice will not suffer by this long over-due change in our judicial system. The opposition suggests a six months delay in making the change effective but does not oppose the bill in principle.

Changes in Canadian Constitution have in the past been brought about by an appeal from the Canadian Parliament to the Parliament at Westminster. For many years the action of Westminster has been a mere formality, as any change asked by the Canadian Government was granted as a matter of form. The change merely goes away with this formality and gives the Canadian Parliament the power to do what it has been doing in effect for many years.

The debate on the address in reply to the speech from the throne has ended and of course in this Parliament there is no great concern of government majorities on divisions. The address was adopted without a formal vote. In the old days the speech from the throne was the deep speech of early English Kings. Today it is the King's speech in name only. The King's representative reads it, but it is prepared by the Prime Minister and members of the Cabinet. It outlined the business program of the present session. After it is read the Members of the House of Commons return to their Chamber, but before the speech from the throne was considered the Prime Minister rose to move the first reading of a Bill. It is only a formality, a Bill respecting the oaths of office, but it has a history.

Technically, the speech from the throne is business from the Crown. By giving first reading to the Bill respecting Oaths of Office the House of Commons asserts its right to transact business of its own, before it transacts business from the Crown.

A bell every day during the session rings at three o'clock, to summons the members to the sitting of the House. As soon as a quorum (twenty) or more are seated, the Speaker calls "order," and the members rise for the reading of prayers. When prayers are

ended the Speaker says "Let the doors be opened" and the visitors are allowed in the various galleries.

This week Rev. Dan McIvor the veteran Liberal member from Fort William made a plea for a change in this accustomed routine. He suggests visitors be admitted to the galleries before prayers and there are many who agree with the Rev. and Honourable member. As it may be some time at least before the suggestion bears fruit, I thought readers might be interested in knowing the form of the daily prayers. The following prayer is said by the Speaker at the opening of the House every day, one day in English and the next in French. The prayer —

"O Lord, our Heavenly Father, high and mighty, King of Kings, Lord of lords, and only Ruler of princes, who dost from thy throne behold all the dwellers upon earth; most heartily we beseech Thee with Thy favour to behold His Most Gracious Majesty King George, and so replenish him with the grace of Thy Holy Spirit that he may always incline to Thy will and walk in Thy way; endue him plentifully with Heavenly gifts; grant him in health and wealth long to live; strengthen him that he may vanquish and overcome all his enemies; and finally after this life, he may attain everlasting joy and felicity, through Jesus Christ our Lord — AMEN.

Almighty God, the Fountain of all goodness, we humbly beseech Thee to bless our Gracious Queen Elizabeth, Mary the Queen Mother, the Princess Elizabeth, and all the Royal Family; endue them with Thy Holy Spirit; enrich them with Thy Heavenly Grace; prosper them with all happiness; and bring them to Thine everlasting Kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord — AMEN.

Most Gracious God, we humbly beseech Thee, as for Great Britain, Ireland and His Majesty's other Dominions, so especially for Canada, and herein more particularly for the Governor-General, the Senate, and the House of Commons, in their legislative capacity at this time assembled; that Thou wouldst be pleased to direct and prosper all their consultations, to the advancement of Thy glory, the safety, honour, and welfare of our Sovereign and His Dominions, that all things may be ordered and settled by their endeavours, upon the best and surest foundations, that peace and happiness, truth, and justice, religion and piety, may be established among us for all generations. These, and all other necessities for them, and for us, we humbly beg in the name and through the meditation of Jesus Christ, our most blessed Lord and Saviour. — AMEN.

Our Father which art in Heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done in Earth, as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. — AMEN.

**SUNDAY AFTERNOON**  
By  
**DR. ARCHER WALLACE**

## THE OVERLOOKERS

A clergyman we know preached anniversary sermons in an Ontario town he had not visited previously. He enjoyed meeting the people and told them so. After the service a lady said: "You like these people?" "I do," he replied. "That is because you don't know them," she went on. "They are a poor lot; in fact, all the Christians in this town are in the cemetery!"

There she was, a well-meaning lady, but devastating in her judgment of others. There are a lot of people like that; ultra-critical and swift in their judgment of others. One writer compares them to the monkey whose chief characteristic is a mania for pulling things to pieces. That is too harsh an estimate, for these critics are generally decent, sincere people, who have allowed their outlook to become severe and censorious.

I suppose that is why we don't like the elder brother in the parable of the Prodigal Son. He was a decent hardworking fellow but he was so relentless and unsparring in his criticism of his wayward brother.

The writer of Psalm 73:21 (Moffatt translation) says that his heart became sour. That is a perfect definition of what happens to many whose experiences have been bitterly disappointing. Dr. Harold Luccock says it is like the tragedy of having a blind eye which is powerless to convey the beauty of any landscape no matter how it may thrill others. Furthermore the sour heart is a condition which may beset anyone, rich or poor, learned or illiterate. There have probably been as many embittered people in favorable circumstances as among the unfortunate.

When people are stricken with jaundice, things look yellow but that is because certain organs are

diseased; it is an inward physical condition. There is something akin to this in spiritual affairs. We say that those so afflicted have got out of bed on the wrong side.

Such an unhappy condition is serious, both for the afflicted and those who are associated with them. The sky is overcast and discontent prevails. We don't have to think of such people in the third person. It is a spiritual condition about which most of us know something. We have our moods of discontent and sourness; let's hope and pray, they don't become chronic.

The late Dr. Frank Crane had a warm word of eulogy for those whom he called the "over-lookers." He did not mean that they had an easy tolerance of wrongdoing but that they made allowance for the handicaps and weaknesses and besetting sins which overtook some well-meaning people. We are encouraged in this attitude by the example of Jesus himself. When a woman who was a sinner was brought to Him by those whose condemnation of her was hard and unqualified, Jesus said to them: "He that is without sin among you, let him cast the first stone at her." And to the woman he said: "Neither do I condemn thee; go, and sin no more."

There is only one way to overcome sourness of spirit and that is to love people. Criticizing and finding fault with what they say or do, won't get us, n't they, anywhere. What the world needs is more love. That does not mean that we must condone everything they do; or may have to rebuke, but it should be done with toleration and genuine love.

Our quotation to-day is a reply David Livingstone made when asked how he could be so patient with bad people. He said: "I have faults of my own."

## Public Business And The Press

(An editorial from the Financial Post)

Because an editorial of his criticized the proposal of the town council to hold a series of public-excluded committee meetings, a writer on the Cobourg Sentinel-Star was subjected to violent personal abuse by the local mayor.

Among other things the mayor suggested that the writer was unfamiliar with the Ontario Municipal Act which, under certain conditions permits holding of closed meetings. The mayor may have been right in that opinion but he showed himself woefully wrong about the responsibilities of the press and the conducting of public business.

In this case a matter of vital importance was to be discussed and one that concerned a substantial expenditure of public funds. At such meetings the public expects that the press will be represented and that a fair and full report will be published in the local newspapers.

When public officials attempt to conceal public business from the public there is bound to be criticism. And there should be.

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