

# The Liberal

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## The Sewerage Plebiscite

We do not believe in telling other people how to spend their own money.

In other words, we feel that the decision as to whether Richmond Hill should have a sewerage system or not is definitely the business of those who must pay for it. It would be easy to find arguments both for and against the installation of a system. The expenditure of the large amount of \$75,000 by a comparatively small number of citizens, even though that expenditure is spread over a long term, might be considered as an argument against it.

On the other hand it would be equally sound to point out that the present system of septic tanks has many grave disadvantages both to home-owner and general public — at the installation of sewers is something which must eventually come sooner or later — that public health is endangered by the lack of a proper system and that municipal development is hampered until a system is installed.

Arguments, both pro and con, could be developed at length but, as we have pointed out, we do not believe that they fall within our present scope.

The village council has acted wisely in giving taxpayers information as to the cost of the system and particularly in reducing that cost to common, understandable terms by its illustrations of what the figures mean to the individual taxpayer.

We do believe that we are justified in pointing out, however, that the matter is one of considerable importance to the whole community and deserves the most careful study by those who are entitled to vote in the forthcoming plebiscite. The subject is perhaps a little broader than the impact, important as it may be, upon the individual property owner and we feel sure that the question will be studied with that factor in mind.

On this important question we feel that something as far as possible to a one hundred per cent expression of opinion should be given and we urge all voters to mark their ballots on election day in order that the incoming council may have a clear mandate one way or the other.

## Timely Planning

The action of members of the Richmond Hill Public School Board in appointing a committee to investigate possible sites for a second public school, if and when needed, is to be commended.

Day by day it becomes more evident that the growth of population in this vicinity is more than a passing phase. With that growth comes an increased school population which, whether we like it or not, will have to be provided for.

It becomes equally evident that possible sites for another school are becoming scarcer with each passing week. It is not suggested that another public school will have to be built in the very near future but it does become increasingly obvious that the problem will not be as long deferred as appeared a short time ago.

In deciding to look into the situation without further delay members of the Public School Board are showing a commendable foresight which may react largely to the benefit of taxpayers in the future and which, in any event, is indicative of a desire to carry out timely planning rather than waiting until the condition of affairs forces action.

## Co-operation Among Veterans

It is regrettable but true that the men who served together in the ranks of Canada's armed forces have not always been able to get along together as well in days of peace as they did in the stress and strain of war days.

Naturally we do not expect them to see eye to eye on subjects, even in connection with their own affairs and the plans of their associations. That would be expecting a bit too much of human nature. Fortunately, however, they are in the long run been able to agree on main principles and to put them into effect for the good of themselves and country which they served.

And, on occasion, they come through with a demonstration of good fellowship, good comradeship and solidarity which is a source of gratification to all connected with them and interested in their welfare.

Such a demonstration was the one given by our local veterans during the Remembrance Day period. The spirit of good will which was made very evident during that time, the way in which various organizations co-operated during their meetings and observances was something of which we are proud. The time when various associations would have nothing to do with each other seems to have passed. The way in which groups from within and without the district teamed up during the November 11 period is any criticism.

That, we believe, is as it should be, and it is a distinct source of satisfaction to be able to record that such a harmonious state of affairs exists in this area.

## Satisfaction — But Not Complacency

News of an improved bus service during evening rush hours will bring a great deal of satisfaction to those whose money has made recent glowing financial statements possible. The fact that a twenty minute rush hour service to Richmond Hill is being planned to come into operation as rapidly as possible is a tribute to those civic officials whose pressure in behalf of their constituents has brought about a proposed improvement of the service.

Equally satisfactory, too, is the announcement of the terms which have been received for the old radial tracks and equipment. While, up to the time tenders were opened, there was some little doubt as to what could actually be realized, the final result will, we believe, be considered very advantageous.

It must be emphasized, however, that these pleasing developments must not lead to self-complacency and smugness. All might be well, or comparatively well, at the moment. But it is the firm belief of this paper, as expressed emphatically at the time of the bus vote, that people are more important than hogs or cheques. In other words, we believe that the utmost in comfort and good service is due those whose money goes through the ticket wicket and into the conductor's coin-box, and that they are entitled to at least the same amount of consideration as an animal being shipped to market.

As we have pointed out before, a great deal of responsibility rests on the shoulders of municipal leaders, particularly those who form the board of directors of the transportation system. With a new agreement between the T.C. and municipalities up for consideration, we believe that it is of paramount importance to this district that they should guard the rights not only of their municipalities and taxpayers, but also those whose money in the way of fares helps the buses on a profitable operating basis.

The money that goes into the bus system coffers is good. The service given in return for it should be of equal standard.



## OTTAWA LETTER

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

Combiners have been the subject of a lot of consideration here this week. Not combiners used in harvesting crops, but combiners in restraint of trade, and combiners which by monopoly seek to exploit the public.

The Minister of Justice has introduced amendments to the present combiners' Investigation Act. The Bill proposes a number of clauses intended to remove certain procedural difficulties which have hampered the enforcement of the Act in the past. The whole aim of the Amendments is to plug holes which have in the past made successful prosecutions difficult.

The question of the operation of combiners first came before Parliament back in 1889 when there was some question as to the operations of those engaged in the sale of oatmeal, sugar, stoves and binder twine. The first anti-combiners Act was passed in that year. There have been many changes in the Act, but the problem of combating price-fixing against the public interest is still with us as evidenced by the amendments now being considered.

The present Combes Commission, F. A. McGregor, resigned due to a difference with the government over his report on the operations of the milling industry, is well known to many in North York. He was for many years private secretary to Mackenzie King and campaigned, with the former premier in North York on many occasions.

The relaxing of regulations governing rent control caused quite a furor here last week. The move was in line with government policy to relinquish controls, but to de-control in a gradual and orderly manner.

A few years ago there were government controls on wages, and prices on a wide range of goods. These controls have now disappeared, leaving rental control the sole survivor of the major controls. Having abandoned other controls the government decided that the time had come for a modification of rental control regulations.

Naturally they do not suit everyone and the opposition parties have been very critical of government action.

However, the government had to face the fact that the housing shortage is still acute in some sections of Canada and therefore rental control, but at the same time take steps to extend some relief to owners of property who were suffering from discrimination. It is just another step along the road to complete decontrol, which likely will come before very long unless the provinces decide to step into the housing control field. The whole matter of whether or not control of housing is within federal jurisdiction at this time has been submitted to

the supreme court for a ruling. The government takes the view that a housing emergency still exists in Canada and therefore the federal government is justified in acting under the War Measures Act as long as the provinces refuse to assume the responsibility. If this view is upheld by the Supreme Court federal control will likely continue at least through 1950.

**Dominion Conference**  
The constitutional changes before parliament propose to give the Parliament of Canada the right and power to amend our constitution on federal matters. The constitutional changes which involve matters under federal jurisdiction will be discussed at Dominion-Provincial Conference which will commence January 10.

Representatives of all ten provinces will attend for conference with representatives of the Government of Canada. Some recent Dominion-Provincial conferences have not been too successful but we hope the 1950 conference will be less political and get down to the serious business of facing our national problems without too much concern for provincialism or political advantage.

**Budget Adopted**  
The budget debate ended with some considerable suddenness last week. The Abbott budget was adopted by the House without a formal division, and while the official opposition presented an amendment they did not even ask for a vote of the members. This was as far as can be ascertained the first time in history of Parliament that a budget was adopted without even the formality of a vote.

**Industrial Expansion**  
Canada's growing manufacturing industries had their biggest year in history in 1948. They turned out products with a gross value of \$11,800,877,000 — nearly \$950 for every man, woman and child in the country. The value of production was 17 per cent higher than in 1947, itself a record year.

**Record Vote**  
A record number of Canadians — 5,908,570 — voted in the June 27 Federal Election, Nelson Castonguay, the Chief Electoral Officer reported to the House this week. That was roughly 600,000 more than voted in the 1945 election.

There were 7,893,425 eligible voters, about 900,000 more than in 1945. A total of 54,600 ballots were rejected, 4,463 fewer than in 1945.

There was an increase too, in the number of voters who actually voted. Nearly 75 per cent of the eligible voters cast their ballots, roughly one percent more than in 1945 and slightly higher than the long-term average.



## COMMONPLACE THINGS

The vast majority of people spend their lives doing very humble and obscure things, and in the very nature of the case this must be so. Abraham Lincoln said that God must love common people because he made so many of them. That is a fact which must be borne in mind. What is needed is a fuller appreciation of the truth that true dignity does not mean separation from the common things of everyday life, that nothing need be common or unclean, that home, toil and every daily duty can be made worthwhile.

Earth's crammed with heaven  
And every common bush  
afire with God,  
But only he who sees takes off his shoes.

One writer says that when gold was first discovered in California it seemed reasonable to suppose that gold lay very deep in the bowels of the earth. Very deep drilling was resorted to but the results were not satisfactory. Deep drilling proved an expensive failure. It was then discovered that by far the most valuable deposits were near a hand, almost on the surface. In their eagerness to penetrate the great depths men had overlooked the gold which was near the surface. This passage from the Book of Proverbs shows how prone men have ever been to undervalue that which is near. "Wisdom is before the face of him that hath understanding, but the eyes of a fool are in the ends of the earth."

There has been, especially during recent years, a recognition of the fact that it is just possible to serve God and man by doing well the ordinary tasks of life as in any other way.

That is why one of the most popular hymns is John Keble's morning song which contains the lines:

The trivial round, the common task,  
Will furnish all we ought to ask,  
Room to deny ourselves, a road  
To bring us daily nearer God.

Jesus fulfilled none of the popular expectations. He was born in a manger and brought up in the home of a village carpenter. His mother was a humble peasant woman of Nazareth and throughout his life Jesus knew poverty and toil. "He slept in huts where poor men lay; he won his difficult bread as poor men win it. His friends and disciples were fishermen, the princes of the nation knew him not. When he lifted his hands to bless the multitude they were the hands of a workman disfigured by daily toil.

Jesus moved from first to last among the common things of life. It is small wonder that in his day many were staggered into incredulity which soon became bitter hostility. It has been said that probably King Solomon never stopped to notice a little child. He would have considered it beneath his dignity and nobody would have expected him to forget himself so far. Jesus took the children in his arms, put his hands upon them and blessed them. When his disciples wrangled about prestige and position and greatness, he took a little child and set him in the midst of them and said "Whoever shall humble himself as this little child the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven." It was an altogether new conception of dignity and one which not only became a stumbling-block to his contemporaries but has only been imperfectly understood ever since.

Nothing is more striking in the teaching of Jesus, than his recognition of humble and lowly people who did their tasks as unto God: the widow who gave her two mites to the treasury and the man who made full use of the one talent he had. There is something for our encouragement in the thought that, as the former Prime Minister, Stanley Baldwin, said: "All service ranks the same with God."

Our quotation today is by Samuel Smiles:  
"Very few have the opportunity of being great, but all can be true, honest and faithful."

## News Of Our Neighbours

Coin Collection: Harry Lennox, who now looks after Barrie's parking meters, is daily adding to his unusual coin collection. To date this year the meters have released coins from Portugal, Italy, Germany, Holland, and England. There have also been 84 bingo slugs, 25 slot machine tokens, one wartime meat token, 48 washers, and one button.

An amateur radio operator from Edmonton, J. W. McClure, has had words with a Russian behind the iron curtain. Trying out a mobile transmitter, McClure spoke by radio with the Russian who informed his Canadian listener that the weather in his district was cool.

While working in the gravel pit on concession 11, lot 7, in Bradford district, Mr. Ernest Hodgson unearthed a piece of metal which when cleaned up, proved to be a coffin plate bearing the inscription "Ida Reynolds, aged 5 months, died March 8, 1885." The nail holes are in the plate.

White elephant stalls at church bazaars may do a booming business once this story goes the rounds. A woman at a recent church bazaar in Victoria B.C. sorted through some trinkets on a miscellaneous counter and noticed a large, old-fashioned brooch priced at 15 cents. She bought the article and then took it to a jeweller to have it valued. The jeweller found it to be of solid white 18K gold with a setting of 10 fine diamonds. He valued it at \$150.

A link with Canada's early days was uncovered during the alteration work at the Tally Ho Inn and Restaurant in Sutton when Jack Russ, the proprietor, found an old newspaper page of the "Montreal Star" of 1878, laid between layers of wall. Many people have been greatly interested in the news and 'ads' of the old issue. At the time, the Star had an issue of 20,000, as compared with today's circulation of several hundred thousand.

The tail of the beaver, when properly cooked, has been considered a delicacy since the first settlement of North America.

New Canadian citizens receiving citizen papers in Simcoe County in October, totalled 23, including three from Barrie. The applicants' countries of origin totalled 12. There have been 32 other applicants during the year, some of them passed and some of them pending.

South African scientists carrying out research into insect control and the wiping out of malaria have played havoc with a mosquito's love life. They reproduced with a tuning fork the wing-tones of a flying female mosquito. An amorous male mosquito nearby dived on the tuning fork. But when the scientist cut off ten antennae of the male mosquito — the organs through which he heard the female hum — the male mosquito shunned both female and the tuning fork.

Scientists are investigating further this new method of controlling malaria-carrying mosquitoes. They already know that if a female's wing-hum is below or above normal pitch male mosquitoes ignore her.

According to Town Planning Board figures, value of 1949 building in Barrie is \$1,846,445, while the figure for all of 1948 was \$744,820. The number of property owners has jumped accordingly, showing an increase of 453 over 1948.

Barrie seems to be an excellent spot for Easter lilies. Doug Stevens, 123 Collier St., grew such a plant 14 inches high with a bloom five inches in length and about four inches in diameter. It was first planted in the garden, but brought in and potted before the frost.

Believed frightened into shallow waters by loons and ducks, hundreds of thousands of small fish were observed in the past few days swarming at several points on the Barrie Waterfront.



U.N. Staff Holds Benefit Art Show  
An international art show composed of some 200 exhibits by 50 members of the United Nations Secretariat was held recently at U.N. Headquarters, Lake Success, N. Y. Visitors to the exhibit, some of which are shown here, were invited to contribute to the U.N. International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF). Their gifts entitled them to win one of a group of pictures donated by artists.

## From The Hilltop

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

There's a road between Owen Sound and Wiarton unknown to a lot of tourists and, indeed, to a lot of Ontarians.

It isn't the cement ribbon which connects the two municipalities — the road maintained by the Ontario Department of Highways.

It's a back road which runs through the little village of Kempton — a road which skirts the edges of the Sound, of Colpoys Bay, a road which, for sheer beauty, is hard to equal anywhere in a province which is far from lacking in scenic attractions.

There's a spot on that road where, suddenly, one comes to the brow of a hill and sees, in a breath-taking second, the sweep of Georgian Bay — the long line of limestone cliffs that edge the Bruce Peninsula — the islands of White Cloud and Hay and Griffiths lying far below on their pillow of azure water.

There's another spot not so far away from Pembroke where once more from the top of a hill lovely Ontario unfolds itself. From the crest at Killaloe lakes and river blend in a panorama of beauty which those viewing it would talk had travelled to a far land to see it.

And from the hill at Huntsville still another lovely vista of lakes and trees and sky reveals itself to those who take the trouble to leave the highway for a moment to glimpse the beauty that is there. So one could go on, mile after mile, from this height to the next — from the hills of the Haliburton Highlands to the Mountain at Hamilton — from the top of the long slope leading up to Orangeville, with its glorious view of the rolling terrain which ends at Lake Ontario's shores, to the hills near Ottawa with their magical view of a nation's capital.

And, like Moses on the mount, they could see from all of these and from many more, another "promised land."

But all roads lead back at last to their beginnings, and to "the hills of home."

For us, of course, that means the friendly slopes of North York, with a beauty all their own. Perhaps they haven't the majesty of the Laurentians — the grandeur of the Rockies, but in their own way they have a charm that is hard to equal.

And from there we go on to an argument as to whether man can improve on nature or not — an age-old argument that has never been settled to the complete satisfaction of everybody.

For once, however, I'm going to be on the "yes" side of the debate and say that I think that we have a grand and glorious opportunity right here to do a bit of that improving.

My idea is by no means a new one. Our Horticultural Society has given definite and prior expression to it and its plans along these lines are very much to be commended.

## Know Your Neighbour

(Continued from page 1)

realities to him. Taking up a sea career he had sailed round Cape Horn in full-rigged sailing ships and bargues. Valparaiso, Callao, Iquique, Antofagasta, Buenos Aires, Monte Video, Rio de Janeiro, a score of other harbours with the glamour of tropical names had become ports of call to him at an early age. Coal from Swansea, nitrates from the west coast of South America, hides and tallow, baled wool and many other cargoes were only a few of the products of one country and another which he helped transport around the globe to their ultimate destinations.

Adventures in those early days before steam began to rule the ocean courses were plentiful. There was, for instance, the time when adverse winds carried his ship off course to the lonely island of Tristan da Cunha, fifteen hundred miles southeast of the Cape of Good Hope where, over to for a couple of days, the crew bartered with the eighty-two persons who then made up the population of the island. Another incident outstanding in his book of memories is the time his ship caught fire in the far south Atlantic and he and his shipmates were in open boats for four days before being picked up and landed on the Falkland Islands, scene of one of the great naval battles of the first Great War.

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