

# The Liberal

An Independent Weekly — Established 1878

Subscription Rate, \$2.00 per year; To the United States \$2.50

Member Canadian Weekly Newspapers Association

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## "WELL DONE" — FIREMEN AND PHONE GIRLS

Protection at thirteen cents per man-hour seems pretty cheap.

Yet, in one sense, that is exactly what is being given to Richmond Hill district residents.

The contributors at that rate are the members of Richmond Hill's fire brigade — the men who get \$2.00 every time they attend a fire within the corporation's limits and \$1.50 for each fire they go to outside.

When a fire like the recent one in Thornhill comes along — a duty which required nearly twelve hours' attendance by local men in some cases — the remuneration received by the fire-fighters works out to the hourly rate mentioned at the beginning of this editorial.

Fortunately our firemen are not in the job for the money that's in it. Impelled by a strong sense of duty and an outstanding civic consciousness they give their services irrespective of the financial reward involved.

This paper has in the past paid tribute to those who drop everything else when the call comes and go out and do a job for their fellow-citizens — a job, it might be mentioned, which contains more than a minimum of personal risk. It feels that this tribute should be repeated after the events of the last few days and that the attention of all citizens should be drawn, in a most forceful manner, to the

public service which is being given cheerfully, undemandingly, by the village's firemen.

The task is not a light one. During the week in which Thornhill suffered its disastrous blaze the Hill's firefighters answered five calls in just a fraction over seventy-two hours.

While mentioning the Thornhill fire we feel that it is only fitting that tribute should be paid to another group of public servants — the girls who operate the telephone service. The behaviour of those representatives of the Bell Telephone Company who faced grave danger while the fire was in progress — the willing cooperation of those who, while off duty, turned to and gave a hand, deserves the utmost in the way of commendation. It was in no small measure due to their efforts that the disaster did not assume even greater proportions.

There is a military award which, in its citation, speaks of "devotion over and above the call of duty."

That devotion was shown by both our firemen and our telephone operators recently. It is, as a matter of fact, shown all the time. Believing that it should be publicly acknowledged, it is with pride and gratitude that we say to both groups, in the words of that famous Navy signal — "WELL DONE."

## DONCASTER RATEPAYERS' ASSOCIATION

Ratepayers' associations can fall into two distinct classes. Conscientiously, honestly administered, they can be a power for good in a district and play an exceedingly valuable part in promoting the welfare of a community and its citizens. Spurred by high, yet practical idealism, they can form a worth-while part of our democratic processes.

Improperly used, they can become a tool of those who would use them for their own preferment, political or otherwise — a sounding board for the trumpeting of those who are much more interested in their own advancement than in the good of their area.

We have every reason to believe that the newly formed Doncaster Ratepayers' Association will fall into the first category. The hard-headed common sense which refused to let those present be stampeded, during the early moments of their inaugural meeting, into a choice of leadership

which was not their own, indicated a real ability to think things out clearly. The constructive thought given to community problems during the course of that gathering was encouraging to witness.

Undoubtedly the problems of the Doncaster district are great. They concern many fundamental things — among them being roads in connection with which the word "disgraceful" would be a mild understatement.

The Doncaster Ratepayers' Association is by no means a minority group. The exceedingly good attendance, the evident desire of most of those present for the good of each other and the community, mark it as an organization which can be of distinct value if it continues along sane, progressive lines.

We have little doubt but that it will — and we wish it "good luck" in its efforts.

## MOVIE MANNERS

There's an unbalanced sense of humor which makes a certain type of moviegoers — let's call them "movie morons" — a pest to those who go to the theatre for amusement and relaxation and who are entitled to get what they pay for.

This "sense of humour" is demonstrated by howling, screaming, stomping and whistling at anything which happens to cross the screen and which appeals to the so-called "wit" of the pests in question. Their main interest in going to the theatre, apparently is not in the entertainment provided by the pictures but in seeing which one of the exhibitionists can attract most attention to himself or herself.

What they seem to forget is that others who seek amusement are entitled to consideration and, having paid for a comfortable seat, are entitled to its use, minus kicking at the back of it and the shouting, whistling and running conversations of ill-mannered neighbours.

Quieter in their demonstrations, but still nevertheless a pest, are those ardent lovers who have mistaken the movie seats

for a park bench. Even though we admit that "young love must have its day" we still believe that those who go to the movies prefer to see this sort of thing on the screen rather than on the seats immediately in front of them.

While on the subject of "movie manners" it wouldn't be proper to end this little lecture without some reference to the closing of the program, when our National Anthem is played. The first bars of "God Save the King" seem to be the cue for many people to start putting coats and hats on. Others just make a mad dash for the nearest exit. Here, it seems to us, is an opportunity for our older people to set an example to the younger generation and to put across the idea that our National Anthem, voicing those sentiments for which we stand, is entitled to more than a little respect.

There is plenty of room for improvement in many things but in few more so than in our "movie manners." "Peace — perfect peace!" Let's have some in our theatres.

## GOOD ADVERTISING

The news that the directors of the Richmond Hill Horticultural Society have placed the "must" sign on the beautification of the north and south entrances to the village is good. Removal of the old radial tracks provides an opportunity to carry out a civic improvement which is sadly needed and which we believe constitutes one of the best forms of advertising that the village can have.

We have stated previously — and repeat — that the Hill is, first and last — a residential community. While we need

and should do everything possible to encourage light industry of a desirable type, we still maintain that the encouragement of a good type of citizen to settle in the village is of primary importance.

Many thousands, even tens of thousands, of those who are looking for new home sites pass through Richmond Hill every year. The lodging in their minds of the fact that the village is a clean, pretty and attractive place to consider as a future home is all-important. The work proposed by the Horticultural Society will go far in accomplishing that purpose.

## WHAT — AGAIN????

It getting to be almost a weekly habit — this business of having to write an editorial complimenting someone in the district on an outstanding achievement. But it's a habit that we're mighty glad to have the opportunity of forming.

Once again this truly versatile district, which seems to be able to win awards in almost any form of human en-

deavour from astronomy to bowling, is in the news. So, without further ado — congratulations to Mrs. Warwick of Hunt's Lane, whose cats won top honours in the International show at Buffalo — to George Paterson of Richmond Hill, who won a Pontiac car in the Kiwanis Club Safety Contest — to Ruth Gibson of White Ridge Farm, winner of a scholarship at Northern Vocational School.

## "Dear Mr. Editor"

Dear Mr. Editor:

I do not intend to be facetious when I say that it is an astonishing experience to have a municipality refuse (as, according to your report our council intends to do) to accept a building, valued at \$35,000.00 to \$40,000.00 free of cost to the taxpayers, and without any strings attached. One does not often encounter such an experience.

And still the wonder grows. Two years ago our council passed a by-law setting up a Board to build and operate a Community Hall, for which it now indicates it will refuse a permit to build.

It is said that conditions have changed since this project began so that what was needed then is not needed now. Let us see.

This project began in the Spring of 1948, just two years ago, and the chief change during those two years has been a steady increase in population, which increases the need for a Community Hall. The assembly hall in the Public School has been completed but it does not meet the need. It is too small, has no kitchen facilities, and is only available evenings. Mention is made of enlarged accommodation to be provided in the new addition to the High School. There will be no auditorium in this building, only an enlarged Gymnasium is provided, which the enlarged school population will undoubtedly occupy most of the time. The only change I can see which adversely affects the need for a Community Hall is the change in some men's minds.

Most astonishing of all the recent developments, is the suggestion that the Community Hall Board be convinced that there are more worthy projects than a Community Hall, and that the money available, be used for some other purpose. This board was created for one purpose only, and the money now available was collected for the specific purpose of building a Community Hall, and I for one will not even entertain the suggestion that this money be used for any other purpose.

Finally Mr. Editor, there are two important features I would point out to your readers.

(1st) It should always be remembered that the proposed Community Hall has, from the beginning, been considered as only a unit in a complete community centre, part of which we already have, in the skating and curling rinks, and playing fields, in our park, and the rest of which would ultimately provide complete facilities for the cultural and recreational activities of the community, both in and out of doors. The official title of the appeal for funds from which came much of the money now on hand was: "Richmond Hill and District Community Centre Appeal." Surely this picture fully explains the desire to have the proposed hall erected in the park.

(2nd) The Community Hall Board has, with the approval of council, been working for almost two years on plans. We were just about ready to announce them to the public and had hoped to begin work this Spring. Now where do we go from here.

Paul E. Angle,  
Chairman Community Hall Board

Dear Mr. Editor:

There recently appears to have been some opposition developed by individuals in the village to the Lions Club project of the building of the first unit of the community centre, in the form of a community hall, to be fully paid for and presented to the village. The architect's plans for this hall have been approved and construction planned to start this spring.

This opposition is evidently caused by certain individuals who think if they can obstruct and block the building of this hall by any means, they could arrange to divert the funds subscribed in good faith for a community hall, to the construction of an artificial ice plant for the village arena.

These funds are in the possession of the community hall commission, appointed by the village council, the women's institute, the veterans' association, and the Lions club. These funds can be used only for the building of a community hall. It would appear therefore that it would be not only illegal but a breach of faith should an attempt be made by anyone to divert these funds for any other purpose.

Yours truly,  
T. Lamb,  
Richmond Hill.

Dear Mr. Editor:

Many of our citizens must have thought it a bit odd when they read the press reports of the special meeting called by council to discuss the Community Hall project, and noted that only those in opposition were heard. The reeve and councillors were well aware that many citizens — genuinely interested in the progress and welfare of our village — had spent a

great deal of time formulating plans, obtaining contributions, etc. for this project, yet none of these were invited to the meeting. Would it not have been common courtesy to invite the members of the Richmond Hill Community Hall Board — which board was appointed by the council to administer this fund — and allow them to state their views?

One can only come to the conclusion that some of the council were interested only in publicising the views of those opposed to this project, and consequently a distorted picture of the undertaking appeared in last week's columns of The Liberal. It must have amazed the people throughout this district (especially those who do not reside in the village) many of whom contributed generously to the fund.

If the council persist in their present attitude, and the Hall is not built, it means that the citizens of Richmond Hill will lose some \$26,000, which is now available. Does that sound like common sense to the taxpayers? The funds now on hand could not be used for any other purpose without the consent of those who contributed. Artificial ice in our arena certainly would be desirable, and I heartily endorse the plan for obtaining same as outlined in a letter to the Liberal by Mr. Ken Tomlin. It is unfortunate that the council does not this year have the benefit of Mr. Tomlin's advice. I would like to commend the younger group led by Mr. Harold Mills, who appear to have the interests of our youth at heart, where hockey and sport is concerned, just as have those who envisioned a community Hall, where many other needs of our young people would be met.

Very truly yours,  
R. D. Little,  
Richmond Hill

Dear Mr. Editor:

I hope that you will be able to give as much prominence to the "positive" opinions of your readers as was given to the negative reports displayed in your issue of January 26 concerning a very obviously "rigged" Council meeting.

It is my contention that a Community Hall is a "must" for Richmond Hill for the following reasons:

(a) A strictly "neutral" meeting place is a necessity. All present halls are controlled by groups whose policies could possibly be at variance with the aims or purposes of any prospective users.

(b) A Community hall would be available to any local organization on a strictly first come first served basis.

(c) If the annual fair on the 24th of May is not to further degenerate into a cheap carnival with the great majority of the "take" leaving the village in the pockets of small time gamblers, a decent building is needed in the park where displays of local schools, merchants and manufacturers could be housed.

(d) The dignity that follows public ownership of premises devoted (primarily) to public use and not at the pleasure of any body with prior responsibilities, is something that should not be lightly passed over.

(e) The present trend, thank goodness, is to more community living and less to selfish individual activity. This trend calls for a centre — a hub from which radiates ideas and programs, entertainment and education, and which draws together our common purposes.

Yours truly,  
Douglas Boyd,  
Richmond Hill.

Dear Mr. Editor:

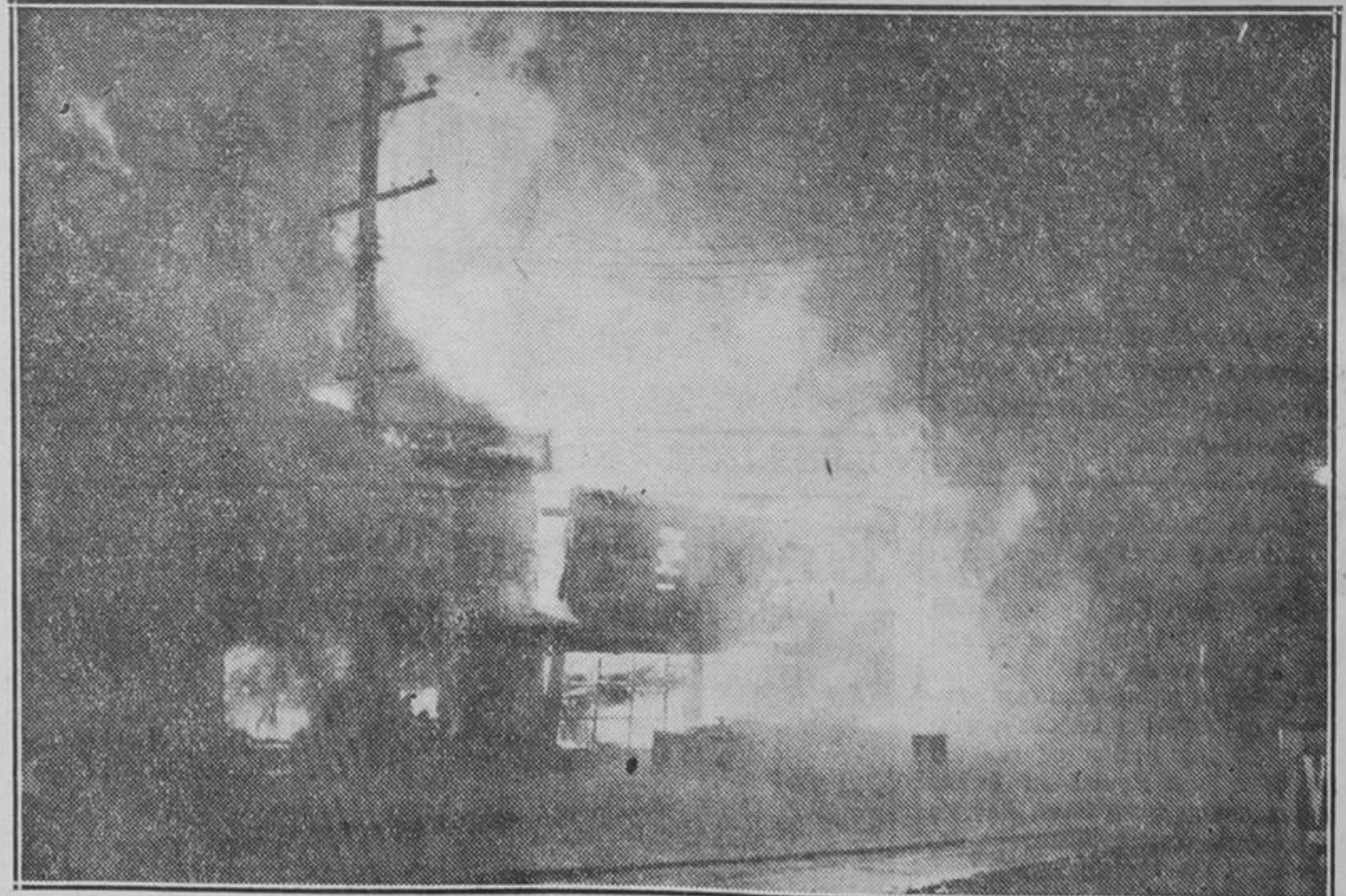
Following my letter in your column of last week's issue, I had many expressions of agreement with my suggestions regarding the installation of artificial ice in the Richmond Hill Arena. The possibility of making this project a reality naturally depends on our ability to finance it. The Village has come back to it this year a sizeable capital return of approximately \$10,000.00 realized from the sale of the effects of the North York Radial line. Would it not be a good idea to apply this money to the cost of installing artificial ice?

I think that it would be an excellent use to put the money to especially as the general finances of the Village are in excellent condition and backed by a reasonable reserve. The possibility of making it a profitable utility would be much enhanced by the smaller amount of money to be raised by borrowing or otherwise.

Yours truly,  
K. W. Tomlin.

## Editor's Note

Several other letters regarding the Community Hall question have been received. We regret that space prohibits their publication. The foregoing letters have been chosen as representative of a number received. EDITOR.



One of the most striking pictures of the recent Thornhill fire is the one shown above, which illustrates the blaze at its height. It was taken at the instant the front of the Petrolene Corporation offices and show rooms was falling.



## HE SAW THE RAINBOW

The reading of biography is the most inspiring of all. I have just re-read the life of the blind Scottish preacher, Rev. George Matheson. This remarkable man — preacher, author, hymn-writer and above all, valiant soul — first saw the light in Glasgow, March 27, 1842. His great hymn: "O Love that will not let me go" has been translated into a score of languages and is known and loved throughout the whole world. The popularity of this hymn has to some extent obscured his great gifts as a preacher of unusual power and a writer of devotional books, rich in original thought and in spiritual insight.

The failure of his eyesight was gradual. For several years he could see fairly well. During the greater part of his school-life he could read and write by using powerful eye-glasses and large type. He was permitted to sit near the window so that he might get the full benefit of the sunlight. In spite of the serious difficulties which faced him during those years, George Matheson took high standing in his class. He managed to learn French, German, Latin and Greek, and in some subjects he led his class.

In 1866 George Matheson, now almost completely blind, was called to St. Bernard's Church, Edinburgh. In May of that year he began his work as minister to that congregation, and remained for thirteen years. It was a very large congregation. There were nearly fifteen hundred members, in addition to hundreds of others who were simply attendants.

Dr. Matheson resolved that he would not only preach to his people, but would visit them in their homes. His sister was deeply attached to him, and accompanied him wherever he went. Before he had been six months at Edinburgh he had visited six hundred families, besides calling upon the sick, the aged, the infirm and the dying. In addition to all this he was preparing sermons of rare quality and working in close sympathy with all the associations of his church. The visits he made upon his people were occasions long to be remembered. He was so warm-hearted and full of sympathy, that every person he met realized that it was no formal visitation. Dr. Matheson kept up this method of visitation throughout his whole ministry; yet he made a determined effort to keep in close touch with them. All he succeeded much better than most men would have done who had perfect vision.

In addition to his preaching and visiting, he was the author of many fine books. In 1882 he published a book of meditations with the title "My Aspirations." The success of this book was instantaneous, and in a very short time the entire edition was sold out, and several other editions followed. Later he published many other volumes, among them many "Moments on the Mount," "Voices of the Spirit," "Marching in Silence," "Times of Refreshing," "Leaves for Quiet Hours," and "Rests by the River." His books proved helpful to thousands of people. From every part of the world letters came from people whose lives had been greatly blessed by reading the works of the blind author. Great numbers of people, around whose lives heavy clouds had gathered, had their hearts strengthened, and their faith in God renewed, as

they read George Matheson's books.

In 1882 he wrote his famous hymn, now known the world over, "O Love, that will not let me go." It would be impossible to tell just what this hymn has meant to thousands of people. The hymn is now found in most hymnals and has become a great favorite. George Matheson gives the following account of how he came to write it: "The hymn was composed in the manse of Inellan on the evening of the 6th of June, 1882. I was at that time alone. It was the day of my sister's marriage, and the rest of the family were staying over in Glasgow. Something had happened to me, which was known only to myself, and which caused me the most severe mental suffering. It was the quickest bit of work I ever did in my life. I had the impression of having it dictated to me by some inward voice rather than of working it out myself. I am quite sure that the whole work was completed in five minutes and equally sure that it never received at my hands any retouching or correction."

Our quotation today is a stanza from Matheson's famous hymn: "O joy, that seekest me through pain, I cannot close my heart to Thee; I trace the rainbow through the rain, And feel the promise is not vain That morn shall tearless be."



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Mr. ADVERTISER

?

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## The Liberal

RICHMOND HILL 9

# INTERMEDIATE O. H. A. HOCKEY

# Navy Veterans Vs. BRADFORD

# Richmond Hill Arena February 8th 8-30 p.m.