

# 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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## Is A "New Deal" In Education Needed?

There's no more effective way of "putting your neck in a sling," to use a somewhat everyday but still expressive phrase, than to suggest that something should be paid for by somebody else.

But at times such suggestions are necessary. In a world in which both international and local conditions are changing with lightning-like rapidity the old and the accepted have to give place to present realities. What was perfect in 1800 was outmoded in 1900 — the thing that worked effectively in 1901 fails miserably in 1951.

Take education for instance. And take especially that angle of it which is concerned with dollars and cents. Take, above everything else, the question of who pays for what.

In its day and generation the old school section system was workable and effective. It turned out good citizens. Those who paid for education in the school section managed it. When a central authority in Toronto was a long way off, in terms of time and space, from a school section on Lake Simcoe the thing worked beautifully. Those who were taxed had a major part in deciding what should be done with their money and, with native commonsense worked out a reasonably sound solution.

But as has become in recent years, the day of the school section has gone or is going. In many districts the school area is taking its place. Especially is that the case in districts where population is growing rapidly. There it is becoming realized that the problem of providing educational facilities is more than a local one — that "busting-at-the-seams" districts must get together to ensure equal sharing of the load.

Farm owners, in this district and many others, are becoming increasingly concerned over the amount of taxes they have to pay. They are particularly concerned with the proportion of those taxes which is applied to education. Their outlook is understandable. In many cases they have, at the cost of considerable self-sacrifice, provided the best education in their power for their children and those of their neighbours.

But a new tide is washing over them. They find themselves asked to pay for the education of a new family — the children of those who decided to make one-time country roads their home. With a considerable amount of justification they feel that they are being asked to do a job twice.

The man who is moving out to the country, sweating and working to build a home and bring up his children properly in the same spirit and with the same energy that the pioneers displayed in bawling farms out of the bush, is on another horse on the same merry-go-round. He's fighting for education for his kids — is determined that they shall have the best chance that they can get.

Examine all these viewpoints. And what have you got? In two words — a problem. The Canadian who is a farmer — the Canadian who is not a farmer, both desirous of doing the right thing for their children but both somewhat bewildered by the problem which is on their doorstep. One man moves to the country to escape high taxation — the other man, living in the country, finds himself faced with high taxation because of the other man's motives. A "damned if you do and damned if you don't" proposition if ever there was one.

Then go a step further. Take the situation in Richmond Hill. Those living in the sections of Markham Township and Vaughan Township where the youngsters go to school in Richmond Hill contribute LESS, on the basis of school figures, than the citizens of Richmond Hill. Roughly fifty per cent of the children

in Richmond Hill Public School come from outside the municipality — seventy per cent of the cost of the school is paid for by Richmond Hill taxpayers. But those children receive the same education, in the same room, by the same teachers.

In the Oak Ridges-Lake Wilcox area there is another bad situation. There one school section has been split to make two. The new section is facing real difficulties in providing school accommodation. The cost of building a new school of the right size will create an almost unbearable tax load in an area where assessments are low. The Oak Ridges school is packed to such an extent that classes are being held in entry-ways. The trustees have been forced to tell the new Lake Wilcox school section that they cannot take care of children from the Lake.

In the new school area district which takes in the former Thornhill, Thornlea, Langstaff, Richvale school sections the trustees have been forced, as one of the first duties, to start on the building of a new school on Yonge Street. New accommodation is needed in the worst way at Thornlea, and must be provided soon.

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Moving south what do we find? A real contradiction! Thirty of Toronto's eighteen hundred school rooms were unused at the end of December. Many more, it has been stated, are unused or are being used as store-rooms. Eight classrooms in one school are rented to a suburban authority, which is waiting for its building program to catch up with its mushrooming school population. Rooms are rented to suburban school boards at three other schools. Classrooms at other schools are rented to a bank for personnel training; to an art school; to the Public Welfare Department for a nursery centre; to the Ontario School Trustees' Association for an office. On top of that school administrators have admitted that the average number of children per classroom is down to 34.5, just under the board's stated objective of 35 per classroom.

What an anomalous and contradictory situation! One educational authority renting its classrooms for offices — another a few miles away telling parents that it hasn't space to accommodate pupils.

Surely, in a country which prides itself on its initiative, on co-operative efforts which are rapidly bringing it to the forefront among the nations, there must be an answer to such things.

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We have no hesitation in saying that there is. And in giving what we believe to be the answer we assert that we have little liking for centralization, for "controlled economy," for anything which robs the average individual or community of its initiative and the direction of its own affairs. But we have equally little liking for the sort of situation which we are facing in connection with education at the present time. Consequently it becomes necessary to sink some prejudices for the sake of economy, of efficiency, and for proper sharing of the load.

If children were educated in one municipality, stayed there all their lives, then the education which they receive would be of value to that municipality only. But the opposite is true. Canadians, notoriously venturesome, spread out to all parts of the country. Therefore the education for which Richmond Hill taxpayers foot the bill becomes an asset to the country at large.

Under those circumstances doesn't it appear that education has become a matter requiring even broader administrative balance — of a more equitable distribution of both cost and facilities?

The day of the school section, in Ontario at least, has passed or is pass-

ing. The day of the school area is here. But isn't an even wider picture necessary?

Hasn't the time come when the cost of education should be regarded as a Federal affair? Or, to go part of the way along the road, hasn't it at least become completely a provincial responsibility in order that the present imbalance can be corrected?

As stated previously we have little use for centralization. There is always the fear that bureaucracy may run wild — that the power of the taxed to control their own destinies may be lost to those who sit in "ivory towers" and spend money without having to worry about where it comes from.

But facts are facts — and until they are faced we shall continue to have contradictory situations where school rooms are empty in one area — where passages are used as classrooms a few miles away. Both in finances and facilities we shall perpetuate the present unbalanced state of affairs. The rift between farmer and urban residents, both feeling that they are hard done by, will continue to grow.

Should the provincial Department of Education — the one central body which can exercise an overall view of conditions and of needs, now take over, assisted, of course, by local boards of management? There are, it is admitted, distinct objections to that solution. But it looks to be about the only one which will take us away from the present state of affairs, where under existing methods we are dealing with a number of local problems on a piecemeal basis, each solution being based on local conditions and bearing little relationship to the overall plan of education in the province. As we stand now we have a jig-saw puzzle without any master hand fitting the parts together to make an acceptable and finished whole.

There is, too, another angle. It concerns that outstandingly important part of our educational system — the teachers. As it is now their treatment can and does vary widely according to the area in which they work. Doing exactly similar duties, the teacher under one authority finds him or herself working for a strikingly different rate of pay from the contemporary of a few miles away. Because of that school boards find themselves in a box. If they wish to retain good teachers they are always under the implied threat of having to raise salaries in order to compete with other and wealthier boards. And, in many instances, that threat is a very real one. In other words, assumption by the province of the complete direction of schools might have a sound secondary effect in ensuring balanced and fair treatment for all those who make the education of the young their profession.

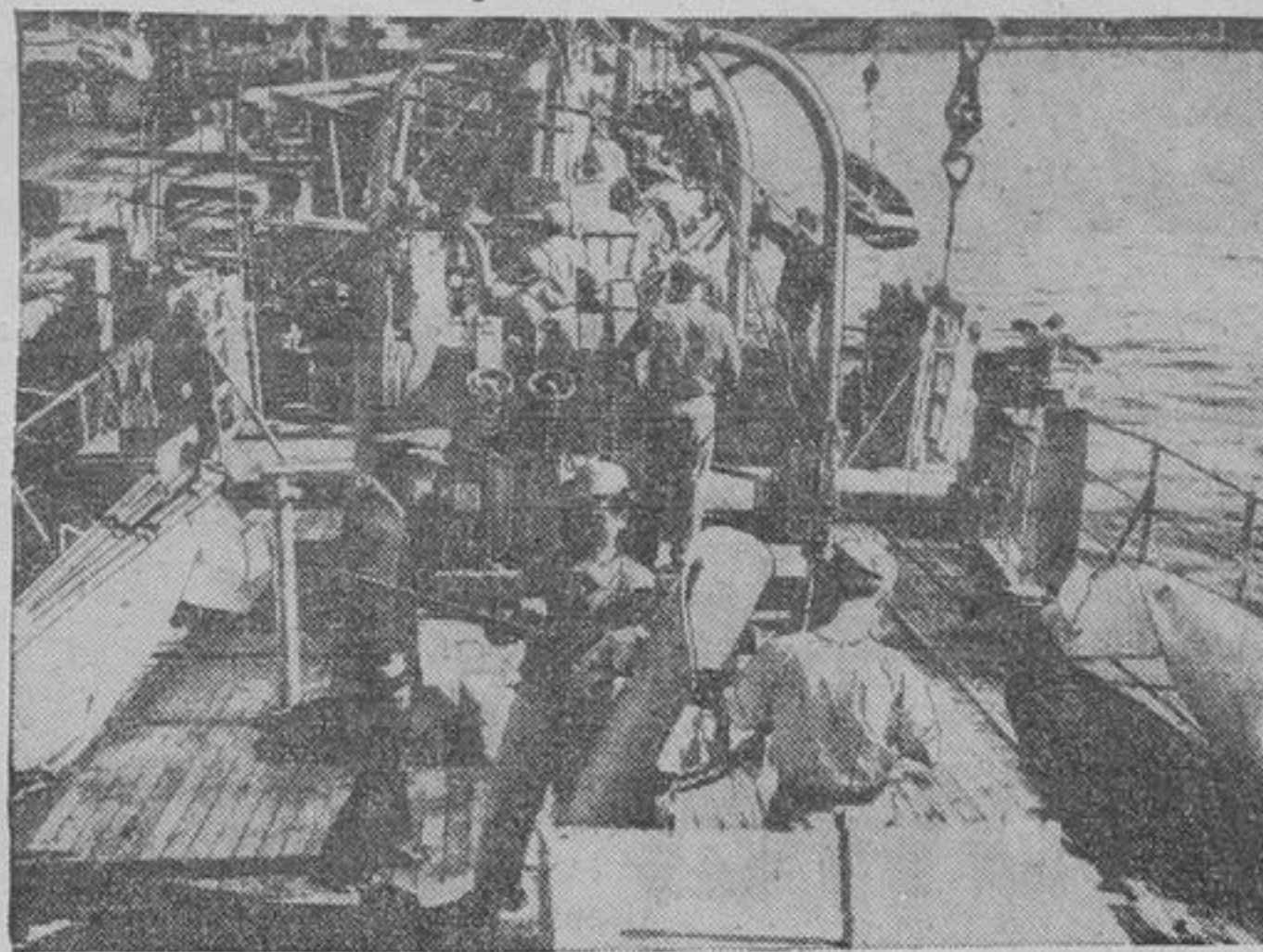
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Summing up, it can be said that our present state of affairs is a chaotic one. It appears to be completely lacking in balance and in proper distribution of costs and facilities. Some form of equalization is desperately needed — and it would look as if about the only place where that can be found is on the provincial level.

The suggested solution is by no means a novel idea. Not so many years ago, for instance, Great Britain, where problems are very much less than they are in this far-flung land, found itself forced to take steps along similar lines in connection with the centralization of educational control.

In any event, provincial government is now a major factor in local education. Through provincial grants, through departmental control, the Department of Education exercises a major influence on all school affairs. It would seem logical that that control should be extended in such a form that present contradictions, present imbalances, should be wiped out.

## On Sea Duty with U.N. Naval Forces



Ships from nine nations form the United Nations Blockading and Escort Force, in Korean waters, and a ship from a 10th nation is on its way. More than 400 vessels have taken part in support of U.N. efforts to repel armed attack against the Republic of Korea and to restore international peace. Above are shown seamen of the Republic of Korea readying an ROK minesweeper for service with U.N.

## "Dear Mister Editor"

I would like to do a little rambling or reminiscing, or whatever you like to call it.

First of all, I should like to thank members of the Richmond Hill Business Men's Association for the co-operation and good will I have received during the past year. I am happy because of the things we, as an association, have been able to accomplish for the good of Richmond Hill as a whole and in particular for the members of our association.

I am grateful too for the co-operation we have received from other organizations especially the Women's Institute, which plays a great part in our town and in our history. Also to the war veterans, who gave us their support in our first Trade Fair and again in the campaign for the Winnipeg Relief Fund.

I should like to thank our churches and our schools for their help in making Richmond Hill a better place in which to live and for the training of our children, who will be leaders in a greater Richmond Hill.

To the Lions Club I want to say "thank you" for the service its members are rendering to the community and for the many things they are doing to help both young and old.

And to the village council I should like to express my appreciation of the courteous and kindly way I have always been received when I had to go to them on behalf of the association and to recall the friendly introductions by our great leader in civic affairs, the late Reeve J. A. Greene, which gave me a very warm feeling for our council. I would like to pay my tribute to a man who loved Richmond Hill deeply, and who died in its service.

To the members of the Horticultural Society, also, I want to express appreciation of the outstanding co-operation which their organization has always given, both in connection with the Trade Fair and in many other constructive ways.

To The Liberal I should like to say thank you for the great work it has done in backing the town, its business men and all its citizens, and in publicizing Richmond Hill so favorably outside.

There may be some whom I have missed mentioning by name. If so I hope they will forgive me. I do appreciate all that has been done by all citizens in building up not only the business of our municipality but its goodwill. I

know that they will continue along those lines.

ARCHIE MURRAY,  
 President,  
 Richmond Hill Business Men's Association

Dear Mr. Editor: — I should be glad if you would let me have a little space in your columns this week to address a short message to Richmond Hill citizens.

The year which is facing us will be a difficult one in many ways. On the international front we are faced with problems which may wreck the peace of the world — problems which we must meet if we are to retain our freedom and all those things in our way of life which we value. But, fortunately, the nations which stand for peace and freedom are united and therein lies our hope.

It is something the same on the "home front" — except that we are not facing an enemy who would like to destroy all we value. We have problems there too — but they are problems of building up and not of destruction. Like the others, they can be met and solved if we all work together on a united front — for the welfare of all.

Richmond Hill and its council are facing a trying year. It is a year which, even more than its predecessors, will mark the change from the old to the new. Everything cannot be accomplished overnight as we go on with our job of building our municipality. It will take patience, thinking, and above all, co-operation.

I'd like to point out one thing. The village council is not a body separate and apart from all other citizens. In itself it is a body of citizens, elected by the others to carry on the work of the municipality. Those elected citizens have a job and it, too, is one which demands the co-operation and the good will of everybody. I should like to assure all our residents that the council's desire is to do everything in its power to carry out its job for both economy and efficiency.

If, on our own home front, we can continue the spirit of good will and co-operation which have been such an outstanding feature of life in Richmond Hill in recent years then I am sure that we can do much to further the interests of the municipality of which we are all proud.

WILLIAM NEAL  
 Reeve of Richmond Hill

## "Know Your Neighbour"

The depression of the early years of the "dirty thirties" did a lot of things to a lot of people, including Ken Tomlin of Richmond Hill, subject of this week's front page "Know Your Neighbour" picture. Because of it he is wearing the same type of collar as the ordinary man on the street instead of the clerical collar of a Church of England clergyman.

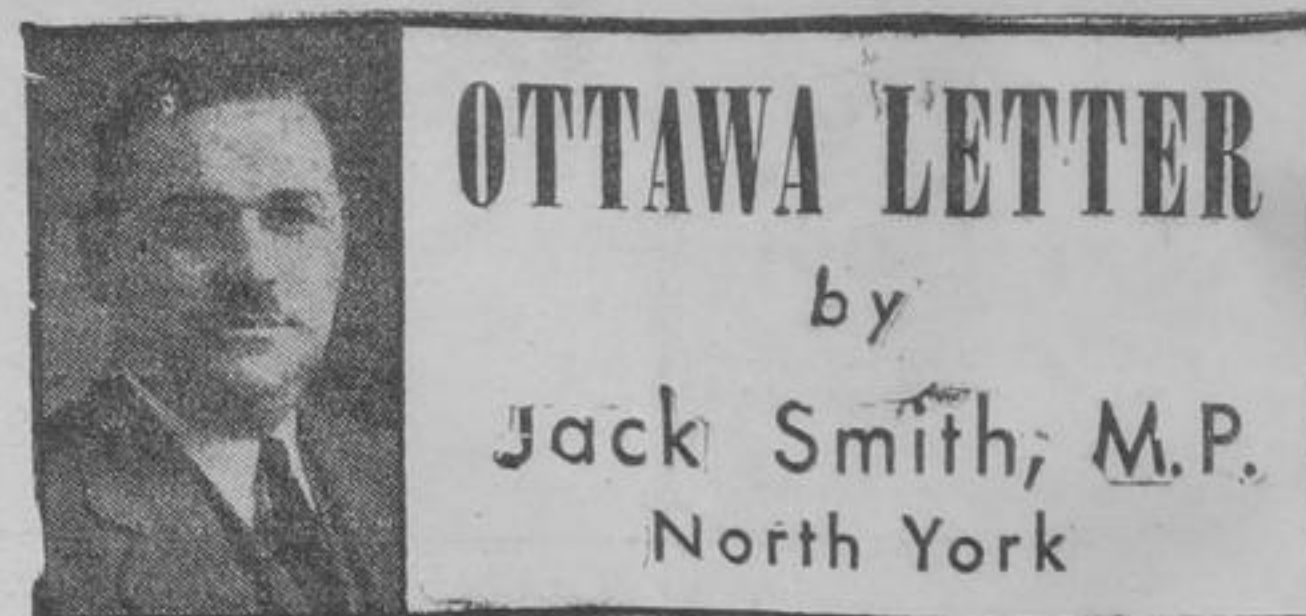
It had been his intention to go into the church but necessity forced a change of plans — the necessity of earning some money instead of being able to spend it on further education.

Born on the banks of the Humber, educated at Humbercrest Public School and at Humbercrest Collegiate, where he gained his senior matriculation, he, like many other graduates of those days faced a world where opportunities were limited to the point of being almost non-existent. So he took the first job he could grab — a five dollar a week one with the well-known firm of Mills and Hadwin of Toronto's northern Yonge Street. For that big sum he spent half a day as a clerk in the company's office — the other half a day making deliveries. However, the connection must have been satisfactory to both parties for after nineteen years he is still with the same firm, but now as office and personnel manager. After his early days of clerking and delivering he spent seven years as a salesman before going back into the administrative end of the concern with which he has spent all his business life.

It was nine years ago that he came to Richmond Hill. —hotfooted it to R. D. Little and rented the house which That happened because he saw an ad. in a Toronto paper he later bought. "I liked the house," he says, "I liked Richmond Hill, and I didn't let go of Bob until he had my cheque for the first month's rent in his pocket."

Since then he has taken an active part in village affairs. In 1946 he made his first bid for village council, running sixth in a field of nine. He tried again in 1947 — was elected. An acclamation put him back for 1948 and in 1949 he went down to defeat. Trying again last November he headed the poll for councillors. Chairman of the Hydro committee for the 3 years he has served on council, he is also the municipality's representative on

(Continued in next column)



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

The manpower question or conscription issue which unfortunately has been a sort of boogeyman in Canadian politics for many years was brought before the House last week by a Social Credit party amendment calling for compulsory service in the reserve forces for home defence.

The amendment was decisively defeated with the official opposition lining up almost solidly with the government.

At the very outset of this session the Prime Minister made a statement on the manpower issue which was well received throughout Canada and which inspired favourable comment among members of all parties here on Parliament Hill. The P.M. in defending pro-conscription or anti-conscription appeals based on racial or religious prejudice said, "Let us be men and let us face realities and do what we think will be the most efficient and the most effective as our contribution to the up-building of our international forces." Continuing and speaking of Canada's defence plans Mr. St. Laurent said "So far there has been brought to my attention nothing that would indicate that the institution of national selective service at this time would be beneficial. On the contrary the information we have is that it would hamper what is being done at this moment. Now that does not mean that the situation cannot change, and it does not mean that when and if it does change there will not be changes in which the manner in which our resources will be contributed to the pool of international strength." This was accepted as a very statesmanlike statement by a national leader and it was hoped the conscription issue would not be a political issue in our current defence plans.

The amendment put forward by the leader of the 10 man Social Credit group did not call for conscription for national service. It called merely for compulsory service in the reserve force for home defence.

Speaking for the official opposition Major Gen. Peakes, V. C., rejected the suggestion in a speech which won applause in all sections of the House. The Conservative member from Nanaimo, B.C., speaking with the long experience and training of a military man said sincerely, frankly and without any tinge of partisan consideration that he didn't think the adoption of such compulsory training at this time would be a

help to our defence efforts, and on the contrary he thought it would be a hindrance.

Last week along with one hundred other representatives of the House of Commons and Senate we visited the famous Canada plant at Montreal. We made the trip from Ottawa in RCA planes, leaving here at 9.30 a.m. and returning in time for the p.m. opening of the House.

Construction of the present Canadair plant was completed in 1942 and now is engaged in the manufacture of the F.86 Sabre jet plane. The plant now employs 5500 persons and more will be added as production is stepped up in keeping with Canada's defence program. The F.86 Sabre has a possible speed of 67 miles per hour and a demonstration of its flying ability given at Cartier Field greatly impressed us.

It is primarily a high speed high altitude fighter and is also used to attack ground naval objectives with gun fire bombs or rockets. The plane is powered by an axial flow turbo jet engine. The cost of one of these high speed fighters is approximately a half million dollars.

Defence Costs  
 My mail indicates there is pretty general satisfaction with the announcement of Canada's defence program. Some misgivings, no doubt inspired by misleading press articles that Canada was neglecting the all important job of adequate defence, have been dispelled by the clear cut program announced by the Minister of National Defence.

This is a three year program to involve the expenditure of some five billion dollars. Many times it has been said that while war is not inevitable, neither is peace certain. This large expenditure is felt to be justified as an increased premium to ensure peace. The government program is based on the view that the chance of maintaining peace will increase as the forces to oppose aggression grow stronger.

The large expenditures on defence are brought about by the staggering cost of modern war equipment.

A new anti-submarine vessel costs over \$8 million, and a two engine fighter, \$750,000; a single engine jet interceptor nearly half a million, a new airfield with runways and equipment \$20 million, a radar station from \$3 million to \$6 million.

and are stooing out, producing all foliage they become too crowded in their present pots. It's advisable to divide them. Separate into single crowns, repot into 3 inch pots, using a mixture of 2 parts loam and 1 part sand and give fertilizer once a month. It is better to water from the bottom as water dropped on the foliage when in the sun will leave spots.

Question  
 What do I do for Rose Chafers?  
 Answer  
 As this is a chewing insect feeding on buds and plant foliage use 50% DDT powder as directed.

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 If you have a gardening or plant problem and would like expert advice write to "The Gardener's Column," The Liberal, Richmond Hill." The reply will be published in this column, which is written by Al. Rice, Rice's Flower Shop, Richmond Hill.

## The Gardener's Column

(By Al Rice)

### The Care Of Evergreen

These plants are used very much as a foundation planting around the home, and the first year or two give the effect of a neat tidy planting. However as time passes they become overgrown and untidy having a tendency to thin out in the centre of the plants as the outer branches continue to grow. To control this and maintain their original beauty they can and should be pruned back. The early spring, March or April is the best time for this, before the new growth starts in June.

As the feeder roots of evergreens are near the surface of the ground and like it moist and cool they should have a mulch of manure and peat moss as soon as the snow has disappeared. This will cut down on maintenance, and as the peat moss tends to hold the moisture they will require less frequent watering.

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 African Violets  
 When they have quit blooming

the York County Health Unit — a project for which he fought hard when it was first inaugurated. He was, too, chairman of the first planning committee established by council.

A member of the Lions Club since 1944, he served for two years as secretary. He is a member of Richmond Lodge, A.F. and A.M. also.

An ardent conservationist and fisherman, he is a member of the Toronto Hunters and Anglers Association, the Gravenhurst Game and Fish Association, and is a deputy game warden. It's no use looking for him on summer week-ends — not around Richmond Hill anyway — for he's up at his cottage near Gravenhurst engaging in his favourite outdoor activities.

The artistic streak in his nature finds expression in piano playing, painting water colours, sketching and colour photography. And once on a time, he confesses, he was an amateur theatricals fan.

He started out as a Sunday School teacher at a pretty early age — fifteen and kept it up until he was twenty-three, afterwards being superintendent of St. Mary's Anglican Church Sunday School in Richmond Hill for a couple of years. It was through that activity that he met the lady who is now Mrs. Tomlin — then Kathleen Earl. Incidentally, both of them were christened, confirmed and married by the same Rector. With the boy and girl who make up the Tomlin family they expect to move to a new home on Centre Street West in April.

The photograph of Mr. Tomlin was taken by Garnet Barrager of Aurora.

## Gone But Not Forgotten

The hundreds of big red trucks which inundated the district some months ago have, as we pointed out previously, gone south even as the swallows. Outward symbol of conversion from 25 to 60 cycle power their loss is not regretted. The swallows we hope to see back soon — the trucks never. One conversion is enough for a lifetime — at least the particular type of conversion we are referring to.

The wave of soreness and dissatisfaction which swept over this district as residents and business men were discommoded by what they considered bad planning and lack of organization on the part of those res-

ponsible has subsided somewhat. But apparently all is not yet well.

The chairman of Richmond Hill's Public School Board found it necessary to state to trustees at a recent meeting that the Board and its employees had been put to considerable expense and inconvenience because of failures in connection with the changeover at the school. Men were forced to sleep on the premises to safeguard them. Efforts to have the situation adjusted had, according to Chairman James Pollard — and he is not a man given to over-statement — proved futile up to the present time.

We suggest again that if the scads of promotional matter emanat-

ing from Hydro's head office in the big tower on University Avenue were discontinued for a time — if their cost and the labour involved in producing them were replaced by an effort to satisfy those people in the province who are, as we are told so blithely on so many occasions, the real owners of Hydro, said owners would feel a lot happier about conversion than those in this district do.

We repeat our expressions of sympathy with those who yet have to suffer conversion in other parts of Ontario, that is unless there is a considerable change from what happened here.