

The Liberal

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J. E. SMITH, M.P., Publisher

ALVERNA SMITH, Associate Editor

Telephone, Richmond Hill 9

SAM COOK, Editor

1952's Challenge

Now that the people have spoken and the Municipal Councils have been elected for the coming year, these representatives can begin to formulate their plans for what promises to be a very busy and important term of office.

The village of Richmond Hill and the townships of Markham and Vaughan are passing through very changing and trying times. The rapid growth of the city of Toronto has created many new problems for the surrounding municipalities which are all experiencing rapid increases in population. With these increases in population come added responsibilities. The future will call for positive policies and aggressive action on the part of each municipal body. In these challenging times there is no place for thinking that is negative and sterile.

As these municipalities continue to grow, more and more services and facilities will have to be made available. The residents of Richmond Hill, for example, are faced with the dual problem of sanitation and education. They must retire the sew-

er debentures and at the same time supply new educational facilities for the children. Increased commitments mean increased costs, and we soon reach a point where to remain in the black we must either decrease our expenditures or increase our revenue. The only plausible answer to this situation is to pursue the latter course, whereby each municipality would investigate the ways and means by which to increase its revenue.

One sensible method is to encourage new industry to settle in this area, thereby making available a new and valuable source of taxation. We are rapidly reaching the point where residential taxation cannot be expected to carry the load of an expanding community. New industry is the answer to this problem and its introduction would bring a measure of relief to our ratepayers. Municipal councils should investigate this possibility and do everything in their power to remove any remaining barriers which might prove discouraging to new industries wishing to establish themselves in this area.

A Tribute

This year has seen the retirement from municipal politics of two gentlemen who over a period of years have been prominent in the life of the community. The year 1951 will mark the retirement of both Reeve William Neal of Richmond Hill and Reeve John Hostrawser of Vaughan Township.

Mr. Neal has served the village of Richmond Hill for five years as Councillor and five years as Reeve while Mr. Hostrawser has served the Township of Vaughan eight years as a Councillor, five years as Deputy-reeve and three years as Reeve. Between the two of them they have run up a total of 26 years of service.

Both these men have been untiring in their efforts to serve the community. People often fail to realize he time and effort every public servant must devote to his office with little financial remuneration. On many occasions it proves a thankless job and their honest efforts are met by unfair criticism from the public.

Both Mr. Neal and Mr. Hostrawser gave their respective municipalities able leadership during their terms of office. They have always supplied a steady influence to their Municipal Councils, and helped steer their thoughts down constructive channels.

Both gentlemen have helped guide the destinies of their communities through years that have seen many changes in the economic and national life of this Dominion. They have witnessed Canada and their own municipalities go through a period of depression, a World War, and a time of inflation and a rising cost of living. These have not been easy times, but yet they never failed to devote countless hours to the welfare of their people, and the protection of their public business.

What every region needs is men of the calibre of Mr. Neal and Mr. Hostrawser — men of purpose and vision ready and willing to lead their municipalities along the path of sane government.

An Hour's Worth Of Food

So loud are the complaints about inflation these days — and so complicated some of the arguments — that we are often apt to lose sight of one important fact: A high cost of living doesn't always mean a lower standard of living.

High prices are creating real hardships for those whose incomes are stationary or lagging well behind the pace. But a very large section of the population is still ahead of the game.

Prime Minister St. Laurent drew attention to this in the House recently when he pointed out that wage-earners are now able to buy more for their work time than in 1939 or 1950. Backing up his statement with arithmetic, he gave the follow-

ing figures on how much food could be purchased with an hour's work at average wage rates:

	Oct. 1939	Oct. 1950	June 1951
Sirloin Beef ..	1.6 lbs.	1.2 lbs.	1.1 lbs.
Bacon	1.3 lbs.	1.5 lbs.	1.7 lbs.
Eggs	1.2 doz.	1.5 doz.	1.6 doz.
Poatoes	22.8 lbs.	36.5 lbs.	39.1 lbs.
Bread	7.3 lbs.	9.5 lbs.	9.9 lbs.
Milk	4.1 qts.	5.6 qts.	5.9 qts.
Tea	0.7 lbs.	1.0 lbs.	1.1 lbs.
Coffee	1.1 lbs.	1.1 lbs.	1.1 lbs.
Sugar	6.8 lbs.	8.5 lbs.	9.0 lbs.
Butter	1.4 lbs.	1.5 lbs.	1.7 lbs.

Canada's Capacity For Immigrants

The need for immigration to this country is widely recognized. Our present defence and civilian production is making large demands on our labour force, and if all-out war should come the labour force will have to be augmented by every means possible. For the future, too, it is important that our population increase so that we can take advantage of all our resources and industrial potentialities.

However, a question naturally arises as to the number of immigrants that can be safely brought to this country without endangering the job security of those already working here. In other words, how close are present immigration levels to Canada's capacity for absorbing immigrants?

Immigration in the present century was greatest during the years before the first World War, the period of large-scale railroad building and of the opening up of the West. In 1913, the peak year, when 400,000 landed, the immigrants of working age amounted to about 25 per cent of the labour force of that time. These workers were needed, but the influx caused some employment dislocations.

In the past five years, immigrant workers have amounted to from one-half of one per cent to 1.5 per cent of the labour force, and a large proportion — most of those brought from Europe — have been selected to fit into Canada's employment pattern. This selective policy helped to secure that post-war immigration was absorbed without causing employment dislocations.

This year's estimate of 150,000 immigrants is higher than for other post-war years, but a consideration of the chief factors which determine our capacity for immigration indicates that they can be absorbed without any difficulty.

Our present absorptive capacity depends on a number of factors over the next few years. One of these factors is the development of our natural resources. Recent discoveries of such resources as oil, iron

ore, titanium and uranium have led to considerable industrial expansion. There has been an accelerated development of hydro-electric power, base metals and timber resources. All of these developments increase our ability to sustain a growing population.

Part of this growth in the discovery and use of our natural resources is due to a second factor, the rate of technological progress, which has made it possible to use these resources more intensively or to take advantage of those not previously developed. New industries have grown out of the invention of synthetic materials, and progress in the field of atomic energy holds out the promise of a new source of power.

Another factor governing our absorptive capacity is the strength of our external markets. Events over which we have no control can alter the picture, but at present our position is favourable since many of our important export commodities are basic to the defence programs of the Western nations.

The present employment level, and the expected future level, must also be taken into consideration. It appears probable that the present high levels of employment will be maintained for at least the next few years. The investment level is high and export markets are firm, while the country is committed to large defence expenditures over the next two or three years.

A country's working force increases as young people come of working age and take jobs. Due to the generally low birth rates of the depression years in Canada, the number of young people reaching working age is today below normal, and will remain low until 1965. During this time, the number of older workers in the labour force will, of course, continue to increase, but the small supply of younger workers is still likely to pose some manpower problems and immigrant workers can make up the deficiency.

OTTAWA LETTER

by
Jack Smith, M.P.
North York

I refrained from writing my Ottawa letter in recent weeks for two reasons. I appreciate that during a provincial election weekly newspaper publishers are hard pressed for valuable space, and I did not want to presume on the good nature of my fellow-publishers who are good enough to give regular space to these weekly reports. Secondly, a provincial election was being fought and I had no desire in any way to be open to the charge that these reports are in any way political. I have endeavoured to make these weekly letters informative rather than political and this will continue to be my policy.

However, the election now is over and I think we all should heed the words of Premier Frost who said the duty of all now is to unite and work for the good of the province and Canada.

The people of Ontario have elected a government and your government here at Ottawa accepts that verdict and will gladly work with your elected representatives in any matters pertaining to the province and Dominion.

Here in North York I extend congratulations to the elected representative Major Lex Mackenzie. In all matters pertaining to the good and welfare of North York I will be most happy to co-operate with him to the fullest extent in the future as I have in the past.

Old Age Pensions

I receive many representations and complaints about the difficulties of many applicants for pension in providing proof of age.

In individual cases this concern is understandable, but I wish to assure everyone that every assistance will be given to those who do not have birth certificates or other proof of birth.

I know you will appreciate the position of the government charged with the responsibility of administering the Act. The government wants the new Act administered humanely, but it must insist too that it be efficiently administered.

Every precaution must be taken against fraud and I learned from the Department of Health and Welfare that already many hundred cases of attempted fraud have already been discovered.

The government must insist on proof of age. Every help will be given by myself and the Department to those who may experience difficulty, and in time I am sure all cases can be solved satisfactorily. Every facility including our census records will be made available.

I am happy to report that already applications of 70% of eligible recipients have been approved, and I am confident that by year's end 95% of the application will

have been approved. This is a very creditable record for the Department of National Health and Welfare which accomplished this very sizeable task with an addition of only 100 persons to the staff all across Canada.

To appreciate the size of the Department's task it must be remembered that it is estimated the old age assistance and universal pensions will benefit more than 800,000 Canadians next year.

Veterans' Pensions

An important item of business at this session concerns pensions for war veterans. For a long time it has been felt that due to the increase in the cost of living over the years there should be an increase in the basic rate of pension.

The government was pleased to receive representation from Canadian Legion and from veterans in all parts of Canada and after careful consideration decided on one-third increase in basic pension rate. This means that a pensioner who is totally disabled as a result of his war service, receives a 100 per cent pension, which at the present is \$94 monthly. This will be increased to \$125, which represents a thirty-three and one-third per cent increase.

From correspondence I have received I am pleased to conclude that this action by your government, which received support from all parties in the House, has met with the approval of veterans, and the people of Canada generally who want to see them get nothing short of a square deal.

The increase in the basic rates will be effective on January 1, 1952.

Governor General

There is quite a general feeling that the reason for the extension of the term of Governor-General Viscount Alexander is the desire of the government to have a Canadian appointed to this post.

Those who take this view overlook the fact that the present Governor-General has proven a most popular King's representative and that there is a very unanimous wish here to keep him in Canada as long as possible.

In regard to a choice of a successor there certainly is a large element of public support for the appointment of a Canadian. On the other hand many feel the high office would lose something of its color and significance should a Canadian be appointed.

Certainly no decision has been made on the subject and opinions expressed are pure speculation. Canadians may rest assured the matter will be given the most careful attention and consideration by the government. I have received many expressions of opinions from North York people on the subject and would be happy to hear from others.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON

by DR. ARCHER WALLACE

HAPPINESS NOW

Most people believe that happiness is possible under certain conditions. With a bigger income or a more congenial job or better health they could be happy but until that setting is secured life is endurable but not enjoyable.

One night, over twenty years ago, David Dunn, a commercial traveller, lying in a berth on the Century Limited Express, going from Chicago to New York, was tossing wakefully, trying to sleep and not succeeding. He wondered why he, and most of his friends who were average people, were not getting more out of life; why so many were worried, harassed and unhappy a good part of the time.

Right here he concluded that happiness was an achievement of the soul, the inner life, and that outward circumstances had very little to do with it; that most things upon which people had set their hearts and hopes were bubbles and generally brought disappointment.

TODAY'S QUOTATION

Our quotation to-day is by Shakespeare: "The fault is not in our stars, but in ourselves, that we are underlings."

Now there wasn't anything new about David Dunn's idea except that he had never tried living selflessly; he had been a go-getter, convinced in his mind that some day he would be on easy street and as a result, happiness would follow.

How much he slept that night I do not know but the experience changed his life. He decided to grasp the full meaning of Christ's saying "The Kingdom of God is within"; to stop building up for a remote future and to cultivate a spiritual outlook that would bring happiness here and now; that the time for happiness was today — not tomorrow or the day after that.

The intervening years have proved that David Dunn's idea was no pipe-dream. He has cultivated gratitude, good-will and a Christ-like attitude to others and mental

distress has been banished. He published a little book entitled "Try Giving Yourself Away," and with the consent of the publishers (The Updegraff Press), I quote a message:

"We permit too many opportunities for happiness to slip by us because we think we shall be happy

WHEN we arrive at a certain destination;

WHEN we can be with a certain person or in a certain place;

WHEN our schooling is finished;

WHEN we get a better job;

WHEN we arrive at a certain income;

WHEN we are married;

WHEN the baby is born;

WHEN we recover from our illness;

WHEN our bills are all paid;

WHEN we move into a new home;

WHEN we own a new car;

WHEN some disagreeable task is finished;

WHEN we are free from some encumbrance.

Much unhappiness is caused by our resolutions about tomorrow; unpleasant tasks and irksome duties are put off; what most of us need is to change our motto from "tomorrow," to "today," as the Psalmist wrote: "This is the day which the Lord hath made, we will rejoice and be glad in it."

Robert Louis Stevenson, blithe and gay spirit once said he would rejoice in every inch of life's journey; that is in the inch at his feet," or as F. C. Hoggarth wrote, "The tiny bit of road at his toes." He could have said with Newman that he did not wish to see the distant scene, one step was enough.

The late Dr. Frank Crane wrote: "If you can't change the world, change yourself." This is exactly the truth that David Dunn grasped so fully and has found happiness by living up to it.

John Wesley showed spiritual insight when he said: "The righteous do not suffer." What he meant was that when the inner life is developed one is not at the mercy of circumstances or environment. We can all be happy; here and now.

THORNLEA NEWS

Correspondent:
Mrs. J. Gribble
Telephone Thornhill 36r31

To Be Commended

One of Thornlea's gentlemen is to be commended on his talent in his artistic showing of Xmas arrangements. Mr. Ernest Kohler can be a magician with the surprises he brings out of his workmanship. "A teacher by his demonstrations and an artist with his paint box and art colorings," such was the tribute paid him at the Horticultural Society last week. Some of Thornlea's young gardeners were the happy winners in the juvenile class. Miss Audrey Thompson won a special prize for her garden plot. Harold Gribble was presented with a book as a memento of obtaining highest points in 1950. Miss Mary Harrison of Langstaff is the proud possessor of the silver cup this year which has to be won two years in succession to keep. Alvin Thompson and Ernest Gribble did very well too with their cash awards.

Jean Lak
Last Friday night at Earl Haig Commencement there was one very happy girl and proud parents and brother, when Miss Jean Lak was presented with the scholarships she had won with hard studying. Jean was presented with the J. C. Simpson Memorial Scholarship valued at \$1,000; also the Canada Packers award for the highest standing in Upper School examinations. We wish you every success at University, Jean.

Home & School
Thornlea Home and School Association will hold a Christmas party for parents and teachers on Wednesday evening, December 12, at 8 p.m. at the school. Carol singing will take place instead of the regular meeting. There will be a movie, presentation of pins to the 1950 graduating class, a sale of home made candy. Buffet lunch will be served. Do plan to attend and join in the Christmas fun. This is an invitation to all who are interested in Home and School.

Welcome
We welcome Mr. and Mrs. Molard and children into our neighborhood. We are glad their home was built in time for them to get settled before Christmas.

Wedding
Baskets of yellow and bronze mums and coloured pampas grass formed the setting of a wedding in Thornhill United Church, Saturday afternoon Nov. 24 when Rev. E. E. Kent solemnized the marriage of Miss Edna Abbott, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Abbott, to Mr. Murray Fox, son of Mr. and Mrs. Eric Fox, Thornlea.

The bride who was given in marriage by Mr. E. Kohler, was gowned in ivory slipper satin with veil of embroidered net, carried a cascade bouquet of white and pink mums. Mrs. Kenneth Fox who was matron of honor wore a French blue satin dress, with lace jacket and carried a cascade of bronze mums.

The best man was Mr. Kenneth Fox, brother of the groom. The ushers were Mr. Bill Walker and Mr. Michael Marsbergen. The bride's mother wore a black and white figured silk dress with black accessories and wore a corsage of pink roses. The groom's mother wore a royal blue dress with grey accessories and a corsage of gold mums. After the reception which was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Eric Fox, John Street, the happy couple left for a short motor trip north.

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