



The Liberal



An Independent Weekly: Established 1878
 Subscription Rate \$2.50 per year; to the United States \$3.00; 5c Single Copy
 Member Audit Bureau of Circulations
 Member Canadian Weekly Newspapers Association
 J. E. SMITH, M.P., Publisher
 ALVERNA SMITH, Associate Editor
 W. S. COOK, Editor
 Telephone TU 4-1261
 "Authorized as second class mail, Post Office Department, Ottawa"

Keep The Wheels Turning

The National budget presented in the House of Commons Tuesday by the Minister of Finance showed Canada in a healthy economic condition and reflected the vigor of a great and rapidly expanding young nation. Apart altogether from the details of the budget the over-all picture reflected by the Finance Minister's presentations must have inspired genuine pride in the hearts of all Canadians. Few if any countries in the world could present a budget comparable to that presented to Canadians this week.

The figures of the budget indicate that public administration in a growing country costs a lot of money. In December last, the Government of Canada paid out in wages and salaries alone \$79,192,676 — or eighty million dollars in round figures. This is exclusive of pay to the members of the armed forces, and does not include overtime pay or wage increases in the month reported upon.

That is crowding a billion dollars a year for the civilian payroll of the Dominion Government and the trend would appear to be upward.

Figures of that magnitude get beyond human comprehension entirely in a country with something like fifteen millions of population.

It was not until 1906 that the total receipts of the Dominion Government reached the eighty millions mark, and two more years were to pass before the one hundred million mark was reached. In other words, we are distributing in annual Federal Government payroll alone in 1954 ten times as much as it took to run the whole country and all

its Federal services for a twelve-month in the years leading up to the First Great War.

This is not to suggest that any part of today's Federal payroll is wasted money; it is merely a recognition of what used to be and what is now, an examination of figures which make expenditures of other times look like mere "chicken feed" by comparison.

And no doubt if one took the trouble to refer back to the parliamentary debates of that older era, they would be found to contain opposition charges of "waste and extravagance" in the public service.

Eighty millions a month \$960,000,000 a year that is a fabulous figure in any language. But it is money distributed in every part of the country. And that is the function of money, to be kept in circulation. Money hidden away in the "old sock" or under a brick of the fireplace is quite as useless as the gold hoarded in Fort Knox, which, as Sir Winston Churchill has said, "might just as well be in the virgin rock".

No sensible person believes that governments should throw money about with reckless abandon, but the idea that money spent is money wasted is just about the most fallacious economic doctrine possible to be imagined. We should not, therefore, be horrified at a public payroll of the magnitude indicated; rather, we should remember that this money, and a great deal more along with it, flows from the Federal treasury as part of the blood-stream of trade and commerce and industry, without which no nation could endure.

Municipal Government in Newfoundland

Local government in Canada is, by and large, a fairly well-established political institution. The incorporation of a new municipal unit no longer evokes widespread interest. The single exception to this general statement is provided by the comparatively recent and rapid development of local government units in the Province of Newfoundland.

Until 1938 the only incorporated municipality in the Province was the capital city of St. John's. In that year the second municipality was incorporated, the third in 1942, the fourth in 1943. From 1945 to 1952 over thirty additional municipalities were established.

In the absence of organized municipalities the provision of municipal services had largely become the responsibility of the Provincial Government. Newfoundland's history, geography, and the fact that the bulk of its population was scattered through a large number of small settlements, provides a partial explanation for the somewhat late development of municipal institutions.

The impetus for the expansion and development of municipal government in recent years has been provided partly by the shift in the character of settlement brought about by changing economic conditions, i. e., population growth in some areas. As a result it has become increasingly difficult for the Provincial Government to administer municipal

services directly to larger population centres. The expansion and increasing cost of these services has made it necessary to provide for their financing through local taxation, principally property taxes which had hitherto been little used in Newfoundland.

The recent and rapid organization of municipal government in Newfoundland has been accomplished in the face of not a few difficulties. In many cases newly elected councils, facing the responsibilities of civic office for the first time, have had to meet urgent demands for basic municipal services with the limited finances provided by new and relatively undeveloped tax sources. Added to this is the real difficulty provided by the absence of a tradition of local government which would enable the citizens to understand the objectives and functions of municipal government.

Despite these obstacles, residents of the newly incorporated municipalities have responded to the challenges presented by the establishment of municipal institutions. Ordinary citizens have come forward in sufficient numbers to assume the responsibilities of civic office for the first time. They have accepted the obligations imposed by local self-government with enthusiasm and a willingness to face problems realistically. In their efforts to discharge these new responsibilities they can be assured of the support and continuing interest of the whole of municipal Canada.

Safety In The Home

Accidents around the home can cause injury, death and expense unless adequate safety measures are taken, warns the All Canada Insurance Federation.

Insurance experts report that carelessness is the chief cause of accidents in the area right around the home. Whether the injury is to family, visitors, or a passerby, the property owner is legally liable for the damages.

Officials of the Federation, which represents more than 200 fire, automobile and casualty insurance companies, recommend a general home cleanup as the best safeguard against accidents, with the following suggestions:

1. Have rotten or broken porches, steps and railings fixed.
2. Never leave toys, garden tools,

or snow shovels where people might fall over them.

3. Broken sidewalks and cement work should be fixed.

4. Old, broken garden furniture should be discarded, or properly fixed.

5. Clear away broken glass, bricks, nails, and other dangerous debris.

6. See that ladders are safely propped.

7. Holes in lawns are dangerous and should be filled in or adequately marked.

8. Check roofs and walls to see that there is no danger of falling snow, icicles, bricks, or masonry.

9. Rotten or broken tree branches that might fall should be removed.

10. Check for nails sticking out of garages and sheds.

He Started At The Top



Alexander Bruce posed for this picture beside his company's first switchboard, which served ten lines. The company now serves 2,000 telephones.

Adventures in telephony by the Jolly Miller of Markham Township, who has been President of the Bethesda and Stouffville Telephone Company for 50 years

Alexander Bruce, for half a century President and a Director of the Bethesda and Stouffville Telephone Company, is a most unusual personality. Bright, rosy-cheeked, with thick snow-white hair creeping into his collar, the old gentleman reminded me of Lloyd George and I doubt if that fiery Welsh leader ever tackled any of the many problems that confronted him as Prime Minister with more enthusiasm and verve than Mr. Bruce displayed in discussing his favourite subject — the development of the telephone in Stouffville and its vicinity.

Being President of a telephone company that owns 2,000 telephones is a part-time job. Mr. Bruce's main occupation is operating the mill his father ran before him. And I doubt that the jolly miller who lived beside the River Dee had a keener zest for living than has this blithe miller of Markham Township.

It was Reg Manewell, Commercial Supervisor — Independent Company Inspections and Training, who drew Mr. Bruce's outstanding record to our attention. He and I had lunch with Mr. Bruce and Thomas Rae, Secretary of the B. & S. Company, on the eve of Mr. Bruce's 85th birthday. This is a brief account of the telephone growth and development in and around Bethesda and Stouffville as told by Mr. Bruce.

Alexander Bruce was four months short of his eighth birthday when his father excitedly read to the family the sensational announcement of Alexander's experimental telephony at Brantford. Two years later, in September, 1878, a travelling showman appeared in the district and thrilled his audience by making it possible for them to talk and listen to voices over a wire. Among a collection of gadgets that included a primitive gramophone and a battery arrangement for shocking the customer, the showman had two or three transmitter-receivers set up in the Bethesda school house and connected by some 50 feet of wire to an instrument outside. The showman's son was sent outside to carry on a conversation with those members of the audience whose curiosity gave them courage enough to try.

In 1880 young Alexander went with his father to Newmarket. While there, the merchant had occasion to talk to Aurora three miles away. He invited Alex's dad to try. This was the talk of the Bruce home for several days.

Stouffville's first telephone exchange was opened in the late fall of 1884. The small Gilliland switchboard was installed in Coulson and Freely's drug store on Main Street. Telephone service was provided from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on week days, from 2 to 4 p.m. on Sundays, and from 10 a.m. to 12 noon and 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. on holidays. In 1914 the Bethesda and Stouffville Telephone Company became agent for the Bell Telephone Company's business in Stouffville.

The Bethesda and Stouffville Telephone Company had its origin in a meeting which took place in the Bethesda schoolhouse on January 2, 1904. The six who took part wanted to establish a service primarily for farmers and other who lived in rural districts. It was the feeling of that little group that they should have a minimum of 12 subscribers before building a line. They were confident that they could obtain the required number, and the Secretary was authorized to buy 400 poles at 25 cents each on the stump.

Before August there were 20 subscribers and by the year's end there were 25. It was resolved not to accept any more for the time being.

Each member of the newly formed association was required to pay \$10. Later an assessment of \$50 was made, and eventually the total was brought to \$100. Each subscriber had the responsibility of keeping his own telephone in repair.

With Alexander Bruce at that first meeting were: David Heise, storekeeper and postmaster, at Bethesda, who was the main-spring behind the plan; George A. Brodie, a first-class farmer; Robert Miller, stock breeder and importer; P. P. Steele; and W. C. Renfrew. Robert Miller was elected Chairman of the association, and David Heise Secretary-Treasurer and Superintendent of Construction. At the first annual meeting, Mr. Bruce was elected President. Thus he is in his 50th year as President and his 51st as a Director.

There were some who wanted a telephone but were unwilling to risk unlimited liability. Accordingly it was agreed by the members that in addition to selling memberships they would also

rent telephones. Dr. Ira Freely was the first to rent a telephone. The agreed price was \$15 a year, and Dr. Freely paid five years in advance in order to assist the young association over its financial hurdle.

As there was no money with which to extend the line, renters were asked to pay \$20 in advance and a sum sufficient to extend the line to their own premises. This money was taken as an advance on the yearly rental. Dr. Freely's brother and Isaac Pike, the Bethesda school-teacher, soon signed up on list basis.

The little 10-line switchboard was installed in Ratcliff's grocery store. At first there was no recognized operator. Whoever happened to be around made the connections. No one in the Association knew too much about telephony and some errors were made. Even after the enterprise was underway for a few years, they were still working by trial and error. When the first cable was constructed in 1909, they were told it was not necessary to suspend it on poles but simply to bury it in the ground. No one mentioned the need for protection against lightning, and the first storm saw the cable hopelessly ripped apart.

That first line was also badly overloaded. No one had heard of balance and various types of telephones were installed. If the atmospheric conditions were not right one could ring his head off without causing any sound whatever on the called telephone. It became the practice to call a person situated halfway and ask him to ring the person wanted.

By the Spring of 1905 the service was just about hopeless. To relieve the overloaded line, the area was divided into two sections. It was decided to place crossarms on the existing poles to carry additional wire.

However, it was evident that there would be a continued demand for further financing and to avoid the spectre of unlimited liability hanging over their heads, the members of the association decided to incorporate. A charter was obtained and the transfer to the incorporated company was made September 18, 1905.

Following the incorporation of the company, stock was sold to anyone who would buy it. The members for their original investments of \$100 each received four of the shares, which had a par value of \$25. There was a total of 31 members in the association when it was taken over. A 50-line switchboard was ordered for the Spring of 1906. When it was installed, Belle Ratcliff, a daughter of one of the grocers, was hired as Operator.

While from the beginning night service of a sort had been given, it was far from perfect. Finally in 1911 it was decided that better night service was necessary and Thomas B. Rae was engaged as Night Operator. He is now Secretary-Treasurer of the company.

In the year 1905 the Bethesda and Stouffville Telephone Company invited four other telephone systems to meet with it to discuss boundaries and other matters of common interest. The systems included the Markham and Pickering Telephone Company, the Neilson (Scarborough) Telephone Association, the Brodie (Claremont) Telephone System, and the Central Telephone Association. All accepted the invitation and at the meeting the five groups formed themselves into the York and Ontario Telephone Union. Alexander Bruce was elected President, with A. F. Wilson of the Markham and Pickering Company as secretary.

It was an invitation issued by this York and Ontario Telephone Union to all known telephone groups to meet in Toronto that resulted in the formation of the Canadian Independent Telephone Association, which held its first gathering in Toronto City Hall. Truly it would seem that this jolly miller, who incidentally, still lives in the house in which he was born, has had an interesting telephone career.

— R.H.S. Reproduced by kind permission of the "Blue Bell"

York Holstein Club Hear Talk On North

Over 300 persons enjoyed the York County Holstein Club annual banquet held recently in the Markham United Church hall. The special speaker of the evening, introduced by Harold Clapp of Concord, was Dr. R. N. Robertson, Cobourg dentist, Guernsey breeder and Arctic traveller. Dr. Robertson has travelled on the Government supply ship, C. D. Howe, which makes annual stops at the various posts beyond the Arctic circle.

Dr. Robertson described the far north as a truly desolate barren waste and excellent coloured slides of the terrain and its Eskimo population supported this statement. The Eskimo, he described as incapable of lying, though in some respects he is amoral. As a dentist, Dr. Robertson regretted that his greatest amount of work existed where the Eskimo had adopted some of the white man's food habits.

Also featured during the evening was the Unionville Junior Farmers' Quartette and sing-song ably led by Rev. Beatty of Agincourt United Church. Mr. Bruce Watson of Woodbridge, President of the York Holstein Club, was chairman of the evening. A special vote of thanks was tendered to Mr. S. B. Watson, Markham, the chairman of the banquet committee for his fine work in the organization of the banquet.

WANTED

Man required for maintenance department, Village of Richmond Hill. Applications will be received up to Monday, April 19, 1954. For further particulars, contact the Clerk at the Municipal Hall.

RUSSELL LYNETT, Clerk
 Village of Richmond Hill

VILLAGE OF RICHMOND HILL

Applications For Position of Assessor

Applications clearly marked as to contents will be received by the undersigned up to Monday, April 19, 1954, for the position of assessor for the Village of Richmond Hill. For further particulars contact the Clerk at the Municipal Hall.

Any application not necessarily accepted.

RUSSELL LYNETT, Clerk,
 Village of Richmond Hill

\$10.00 FOR YOUR OLD GARBAGE CAN

I'll rid your home forever of GARBAGE and TRASH problems

FOR JUST PENNIES a WEEK!

CALCINATOR

AT A COST OF ONLY PENNIES A WEEK you can rid your home of all food wastes and burnable trash.

SYBAR WARRANTY

AGA AND UL APPROVED

Sold Only At Buchanan's Appliance TU. 4-3331

For Job Printing AT THE RIGHT PRICE

CONSULT "THE LIBERAL" TELEPHONE TU. 4-1261

The Richmond THEATRE

Richmond Hill, Ontario
 Telephone TU 4-1212

Friday & Saturday — April 9 & 10

ONCE TO EVERY GENERATION!



Boots Malone



Monday & Tuesday — April 12 & 13

What Man... could withstand the bait of \$1,000,000 for the taking!

What Woman... could resist the temptation of going along!

The Steel Trap

starring JOSEPH COTTEN TERESA WRIGHT
 Produced by BEST & FRIENDLON
 Written and Directed by ANDREW STONE - Music Written and Directed by Dimitri Tomkins
 Released by 20th Century-Fox

Wednesday & Thursday — April 14 & 15

HIGH ADVENTURE STORMS THE HIGH SEAS!

RAIDERS of the SEVEN SEAS
 COLOR BY Technicolor

starring JOHN PAYNE DONNA REED

Produced and Directed by SIDNEY SALKOW - Story and Screenplay by GERALD MOHR - LON CHANEY
 Written and Directed by EDWARD SMALL - Released thru UNITED ARTISTS

plus

THEY'VE GOT A BRAND NEW BABY... A SECOND HAND CAR... AND THEY'RE STUCK IN A ONE HORSE TOWN!

LORETTA YOUNG JOHN FORSYTHE

IT HAPPENS EVERY THURSDAY

HAPPILY Yours FROM UNIVERSAL-INTERNATIONAL
 THEATRE MAT No. 204

FRANK McHUGH - CLAY'S GEORGE - EDGAR BUCHANAN - PALMER LEE - REBIS TOOMEY - JANE DARVELL
 Please note last complete show Wed., Thurs., April 14 & 15, 8.30 p.m.

FIGHT CANCER GIVE NOW

PERRY'S PHARMACY

MAPLE KING