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 J. E. SMITH, M.P., Publisher  
 ALVERNA SMITH, Associate Editor  
 W. S. COOK, Editor  
 Telephone Turner 4-1261  
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### Our National Holiday

Last Thursday was Dominion Day, a national holiday marking the anniversary of Confederation in Canada, but there was very little in the way of public celebration. It was to a very large extent, just another holiday.

There was a ceremony of trooping the colors on Parliament Hill at Ottawa, flags flew over our public buildings and some public places, there were salutes on some radio stations, but in the main very little in the way of public recognition of the significance of the day. This is regrettable and something should be done to give to Canada's national holiday a greater and more important place in our national life.

The trooping of the colors was an

impressive ceremony at Ottawa but it was notable that in such a ceremony Canada lacked an official Canadian flag.

A national holiday should play an important part in the lives of the people of any nation. On that day there should be local celebrations all across the land telling in pageantry and words the colorful and proud history of our country. Such celebrations could be a lesson to new Canadians in the history and traditions of the nation and a reminder to older Canadians of the greatness of our heritage.

Canada should have an official flag and a national holiday, the annual observance of which would have some real significance in our national life.

### Need For Reorganization

As we listen each week to the problems of town councils, school boards and the county, in regards to methods of taxation, we often feel the only way to combat the situation is to throw our problems into the laps of the provincial authorities and say, "get us out of this mess." The provincial government, for some time now, has been receiving criticism for its administrative methods which are creating undue financial burden and problems for our councils and school trustees. The Department of Municipal Affairs, and Education, and the government-appointed Municipal Board are three arms of provincial government whose actions are constantly under public denouncement.

Industry, with the breaking up of the county, and placed it in the Metropolitan area, leaving the 14 municipalities remaining in the county to bear the heavy tax burden with a minimum of industry to ease the load. High education costs are criticized because education in the municipalities today is financed by real estate tax levies. The Municipal Board is criticized for its autocratic methods and the countless delays caused school boards, in particular, in obtaining hearings for debenture issues for proposed new schools. All these factors add to much dissatisfaction.

George Dunbar's Municipal Affairs Department was subjected to more scrutiny recently when two of our local representatives to County Council, openly criticized the Department "for permitting the raising of tax money by old-fashioned methods." They were referring to the passing of Bill 80 which took 80 per cent of York County's in-

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### Fishing in Lake Simcoe

The people of York County are fortunate in having a beautiful natural playground close to home and there is good news for thousands of fishermen who swarm each year to the Lake Simcoe area. The news is that fish in Simcoe are doing well and that fishing is good.

Despite innumerable difficulties, conservation officers have protected spawning pike in the Holland Marsh and Cook's Bay areas. As a result, boat livery operators claim business this year has never been better. They estimate an average of 500 boats and up to 1,200 anglers on the water every week-end. This does not take into account, of course, the additional hundreds of boats and thousands of summer resident fishermen.

Lake Simcoe has the reputation of being able to produce, summer and winter, perhaps more game fish than any other lake of comparable size in

North America. Certainly there are few lakes within reach of a metropolitan area of more than a million people which do as well.

Bass populations in a sanctuary at Pefferlaw and Beach Rivers have increased greatly. These areas were closed to fishing between May 15 and July 1 five years ago and results of the closure are reported most satisfactory. The rivers provide natural spawning grounds — regarded as even better than hatcheries for propagation — and more bass have been observed on the beds each year since the areas were set aside.

Lake trout are doing well with many limit catches reported, yet they are fished the year round. Vague rumour has it that speckled also may be found in parts of Lake Simcoe. One thing is certain: There is good fishing for bass, pike, lake trout, whitefish and herring.

### "I Will Take Vanilla"

Some motor car manufacturers and newspapers were engaged recently in a rather interesting debate. A committee of the Ontario Legislature, for example, was told some days ago that the manufacturers are planning an increase in horsepower for 1955 and 1956 models, the committee's informant being no less an authority than the representative of a company that turns out a rather high priced car. That means, points out The Toronto Star, referring to the revelation that "no end to the power race is yet in sight." The Toronto paper then continues: —

"Larger engines will presumably mean larger cars, which will aggravate the problem of traffic congestion and parking in cities. Worst of all, higher power stands to raise the toll of death

and serious injury in highway accidents."

Discussing speed and accidents, the aforementioned company representative said that more accidents occur at speeds under 50 miles per hour than over 50. Critics concede the fact, but point out that most cars travel under 50 most of the time. They aver that the higher the speed the less the chance of escaping the possibility of accidents for the reason that few people have swift enough reactions to cope with all emergencies, and that few would be bold enough to claim that speeds of 100 to 120 are safe on any highway.

Until the debate goes further, the adjudicator apparently must put himself in somewhat the same role as the man who solemnly says: "I will take vanilla."

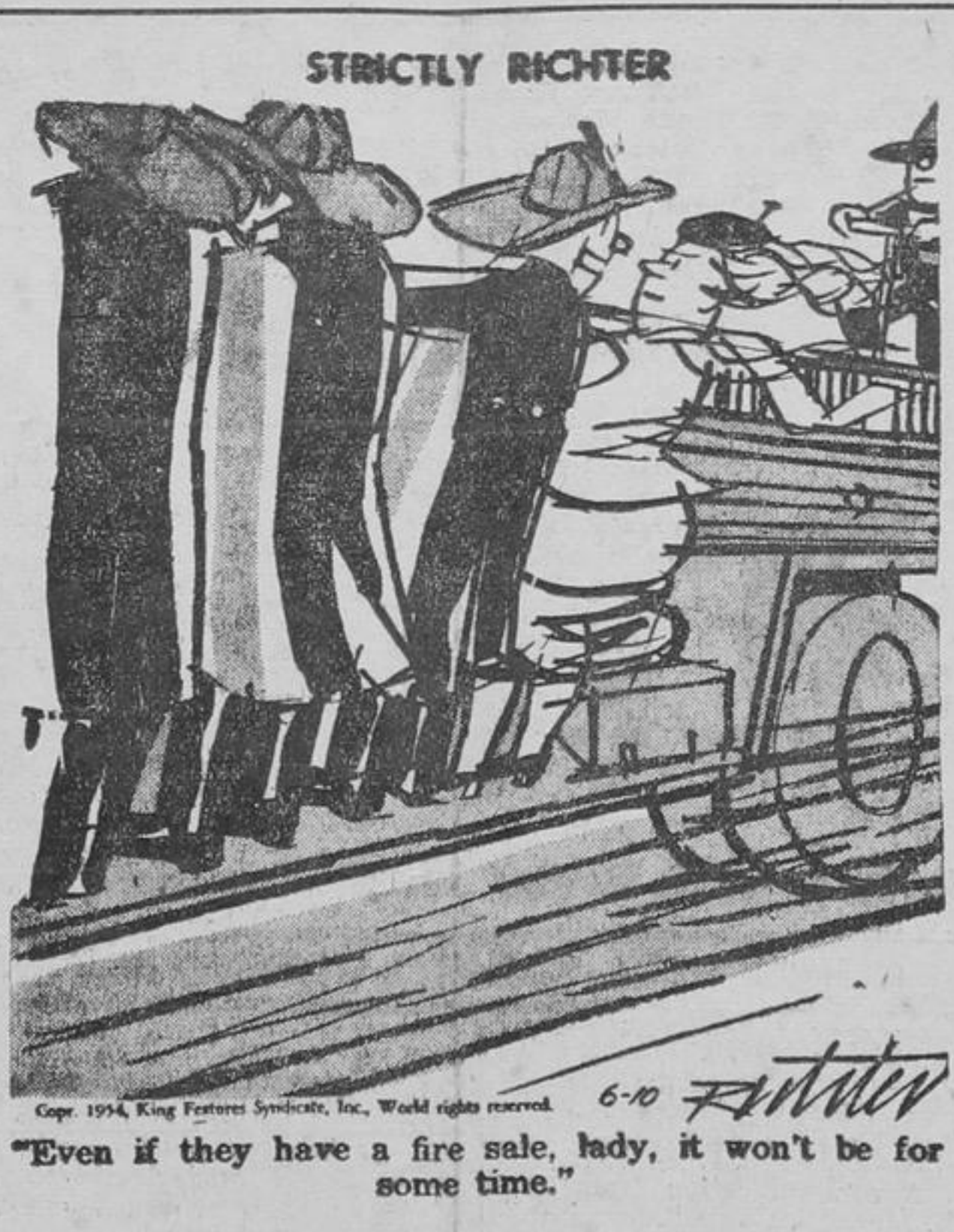
### Our Welfare Workers

A third service club, the Kinsmen, has been organized in Richmond Hill under the presidency of a local business man, Dalton Hicks. The Kinsmen, who held their first meeting recently, have banded together to join the ranks of the other service clubs, the Lions and the Rotarians and to do their part in contributing towards the welfare of the district.

We have heard remarks to the effect that three service clubs are too many for a village the size of Richmond Hill. What we have been calling a vil-

age is no longer a village but a town of 3,310, which is expected to double its population very soon. When we stop to consider our status we are almost as large as our neighbour eight miles to the north of us, and will be larger when the new sub-division developments take place this year.

When our town reaches 5,000 or 6,000 population three service clubs do not seem too many, and will offer a freedom of choice to our prospective residents interested in becoming active in community life.



### Public Opinion: The Problems School Boards Face To-Day

by James Pollard, Chairman Richmond Hill Public School Board

Many parents and taxpayers in our School Section will be anxious to know of the progress being made by the School Board, in the providing of accommodation for classes in the Public School at Richmond Hill for the coming year. This has been, so far, for the Board, a period of numerous meetings, disappointments, frustration and obstacles. First we had to convince our Council of the pressing need to pass a By-law to issue debentures to build a school and our council, the custodian of the people's money, do not capitulate till they are agreed that no other course is possible.

Meetings then were arranged with the Municipal Board and the Councils of Markham and Vaughan, including their respective solicitors, the result of the first meeting being that the Municipal Board refused to permit any further issue of debentures by Richmond Hill till the existing debt is reduced, this in spite of the fact that a large portion of this debt is the responsibility of the neighboring townships.

A second meeting with the same bodies resulted in a reversal of the first decision and Richmond Hill received permission to issue further debentures in the amount of \$200,000.00.

The next move was to complete the plans and invite tenders, and in due time tenders were received from nine contractors, all of which exceeded the tentative amount considerably; more meetings with the architect, at which several items in the construction were deleted and various changes made to reduce the cost. Next a visit was made to Council, to discuss the cost and now a further effort to make other changes, to bring the total cost of contract, architects fee, fencing, etc., within the amount of \$200,000, which is being carefully considered at the present time, so that no difficulty should be encountered in obtaining final approval of the Municipal Board.

A substantial reduction in cost (\$6,000.) can be made if the provision for the extension of the new school is deleted, but if this is deleted and future requirements should make it necessary to extend the new school, the cost of replacing these facilities for extension will be three times the saving effected by deletion at the present time, a problem which must be faced.

I would like at this time to pay tribute to the members of this year's Board for the excellent work performed by the various committees, and their untiring efforts. There have of necessity been many special meetings and long hours of work.

**Sunday Afternoon**  
 By Dr. Archer Wallace  
**IS LIFE WORTH LIVING?**  
 According to the annual report of the Bureau of Suicide in Washington, the number of people who take their own lives is steadily increasing; last year well over 200,000 committed suicide in the United States. Even when we consider the steady increase in population the situation is alarming. The report is studied each year by a committee of experts in an effort to understand the causes of such despair and unhappiness.

When we remember the vast strides made in living conditions; the cars, radios; the ingenious devices of every kind together with the material prosperity of the nation, we are forced to conclude that peace of mind is not attained by labour-saving devices and a million contrivances.

This is all the more noticeable when we study the committee's report on suicides. It states that the highest percentage of suicides is from the wealthy classes. Those who think that life is not worth living are ten times as great in the millionaire class as in the families of working people.

Jesus said: "A man's life consisteth not in the abundance of things which he possesseth, and all we know of life, makes that truth clearer. Dr. Henry Van Dyke wrote: "The population of the world seems to be divided between those who are millionaires and those who would like to be." The truth is that a child born in a wealthy home has less chance of being happy than one born where living is frugal and hard work a necessity. There is no ready answer to the problem of discontent which leads to despair, but it is certain that occupation of one's powers leads to a healthy mind. To have nothing to do is dangerous. Many a lad who was born with a silver spoon in his mouth has been choked to death by it. Nearly thirty centuries ago a devout Hebrew wrote: "Give me neither poverty nor riches."

A spiritual interpretation of life is the surest way to satisfaction and peace. When one man was asked: "Is life worth living?" he answered: "It all depends on the liver!" That is true, whichever way you take it. Just now we are thinking of the liver, the man himself, his thoughts, and conduct, his outlook on life. No man or woman whose eyes are turned inward can ever be happy. It is only as we learn to think of others and get our minds diverted to them can we find serenity.

It always distresses me to read of the feverish excitement caused by a new discovery of gold or oil or some other way of getting rich quickly. The seekers are ready to undergo all manner of privation and hardship to get that which they think will make life really worthwhile. It is a false standard of values. They are chasing bubbles.

I have known many people who are thoroughly happy; often they are financially poor, some were illiterate but they all had this in common, they were kind and forgot themselves in the service of others. Not only so regards money but in every way they knew it was better to give than to receive.

Once I was asked to speak to the students of a university. My address was followed by a round-table discussion. I was delighted with these young people and their outlook on life. They were frank, clean-cut, wholesome with an outlook on life that warmed my heart. They had fine ideals with a thoroughly wholesome way of looking at things. Like St. Paul, I thanked God and took courage.

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### "Way Back When"

Excerpts from the files of The Liberal  
 Home paper of the Richmond Hill District since 1878

**JULY 6, 1950**  
 Installation of water on Edgar, Oak, Spruce, Birch and Carville Aves. has been estimated at a possible cost of \$90,000. Vaughan Township Council has been informed. This would mean a 15-mill tax increase.

The \$1,315,300 value of Markham Township Building permits for half the year is crowding the total value for the whole of 1949.

Richmond Hill Building permits have topped the half million mark in the first half of the year. The actual number of permits is down but the \$25,000 addition to the Canadian Bank of Commerce and the \$300,000 extension to the high school in addition to 29 new homes has added the figure.

The fund raising campaign for a new rectory at St. Mary's Catholic Church has exceeded \$6,500, the figure set for the commencement of building.

Recreation activities will begin next week in the village park. Sponsored by the village Business and Professional Women's Assn., Darwin Ralley will be Sports Director.

Village Council has expressed its objection to the building of a school in the village park. Over 1500 people attended the Reesor Family Reunion in Markham recently.

**JULY 3, 1924**  
 The Orange celebration will be held in Richmond Hill on July 12 when a monster parade headed by bands and followed by children from the orphanage and members from various lod-

### Thursday's Chuckle

IT PAYS TO ASK QUESTIONS  
 At a bad railroad crossing there was an elderly negro who acted as flagman. One dark and rainy night an express train ground an automobile and its four occupants to bits. The principal witness was, of course, the negro flagman, and his testimony was so good that the jury brought in a verdict in favour of the railroad.

Rastus was brought into headquarters office and congratulated upon the steadfastness with which he stuck to his story, "answered all questions." His story related briefly was: "It was a dark and rainy night. He waved his lantern frantically. The autoists paid no heed. The express thundered on. There was a crash and the automobile and occupants were gone."

Rastus accepted the compliment and then added: "But do you know sah, all the time I was in the witness stand I was so darned scared the lawyer man was gwine ask me if mah lantern was lit?"

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