



The Liberal

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Historical Sites

The Don Valley Conservation Authority recently asked Vaughan Township Council to co-operate in listing a number of historical sites in the Don Valley Watershed. This is part of a plan to recognize a number of areas of historical interest in the river valley and is an integral part of the Conservation Authority's work.

It is encouraging for those interested in the history of the locality to know that a number of such agencies including the York Pioneer and Historical Society is making a definite effort to preserve a part of our historical heritage. Of vital necessity in compiling a record of our national growth are the little bits of local history which go together to form the panorama of Canadian development and it is only through the work of organizations such as these that local history can be retained for posterity.

While it is a natural part of national enthusiasm to be reluctant to look to our neighbours for inspiration, the vital interest of both Britain and the United States in preserving sites and items connected with their past is something very worthwhile to copy. Particularly in the United States which is close to Canada in social customs and comparatively close in age, both citizens and governments alike are keenly interested in preserving things of the past.

While Canada has not the resources of her American neighbour, she has a wealth of historical background of which all Canadians can be justly proud. Canada, carved out of the forest, has now become one of the top-ranking nations of the world and is still pushing her frontiers further north.

Items and events of the past serve as stepping stones to the future, surely they are worth preserving.

Progress In Medicine

It has been estimated that more than half the patients who seek physical treatment from doctors are actually in need of special psychological treatment. In many cases this kind of treatment is the cheapest kind of prevention of more serious mental complications later on. More specialists, facilities and greater public understanding of mental problems is the challenge.

Cancer is still the great unsolved problem. It is a problem that is growing by leaps and bounds; in 1930 it killed 97 out of every 100,000 citizens; last year it killed 123 out of 100,000. In a sense, preventive education is helpless against cancer itself. However, in many cases, education can prevent death from cancer. Early recognition of possible symptoms and consultation with a physician can save a life.

One of the greatest triumphs of preventive medicine is the virtual conquest of diphtheria, which can be prevented by immunization. In 1924 when Canada's population was a little over 9,000,000 there were 1,281 deaths from this disease. Last year, when the population was almost 15,000,000 there were only 15 deaths from diphtheria. Other diseases which can be prevented by immunization include whooping cough, typhoid, tetanus, and smallpox. In the very near future it is believed that polio will be added to this list and there is a vaccine called BCG which is effective in the prevention of tuberculosis.

Educational programs calling attention to the benefits of immunization are essential. Any long-term let-down in such education could bring these preventable diseases back in epidemic proportions.

Heart disease is now the leading killer in Canada, and its lead continues to grow from year to year. Hardening of the arteries is the chief offender in

causing heart disease in people over 40. Nearly half the deaths in people over 50 are owing to disease of the heart and blood vessels. This is one of the many problems posed by the fact that our life span is being increased by Preventive Medicine. By 1948 we had almost 1,000,000 people in Canada who were 65 or older, and this number is growing. This is more than 1 in 15. In 1884 it was less than 1 in 25. The new, and still groping science of geriatrics is meeting this challenge by teaching aging persons how to prevent or at least postpone degenerative ailments and thus prolong their usefulness to society, to industry and to themselves.

Tuberculosis and diabetes are no longer the killers they used to be. However, Preventive Medicine teaches that it is still of the utmost importance to recognize symptoms and seek early diagnosis. It is estimated that there may be as many as 70,000 people in Canada who have diabetes and don't know it. This is dangerous, as uncontrolled diabetes is a forerunner of many serious and frequently irreversible conditions. Constant vigilance and early detection of TB is the key to control of that disease, and everyone should take advantage of mass X-ray surveys when they are offered.

Perhaps the most basic of all fields of health education is the field of nutrition. Malnutrition or careless nutrition are not listed as causes of death in statistical tables in Canada, and yet they are great killers in other disguises. Bovine tuberculosis, for example is generally caused by consumption of unpasteurized milk, which is still obtainable in rural areas throughout Canada and in some cities. Even heart disease is sometimes attributable to obesity, which is a result of careless nutrition. Perhaps the greatest challenge in the entire field of prevention is teaching Canadians how to eat.

Seek School Site

It is rumoured that the Richmond Hill District High School Board is investigating the availability of school sites in the Woodbridge area. While no definite action has been taken on a site as yet, a committee of trustees has been considering the possible purchase of a site in the western side of the High School District before all suitable sites are snapped up for residential and industrial development.

At a recent meeting of the Board, a committee was authorized to consult with school inspectors, municipal officials and planning boards in an attempt to determine the trend in population in

the area. Such information will be invaluable in determining new sites.

The Board has agreed that with the present rapid growth in population it is becoming increasingly necessary to take a long term view in planning future school accommodation. If a site is purchased in the Woodbridge area, however, it will likely be another four or five years before another school is built. But if local expansion takes an unprecedented jump, the site will be available and will greatly decrease the length of time required to get another school operating.

Advance In Wheat Breeding

The development of Marquis wheat, half a century ago, by Canadian experimenters William and Charles Saunders, has been called "the greatest achievement in wheat-breeding history," says an article in the February Reader's Digest.

The story goes back a hundred years, to a day when a Glasgow dock-worker filled his hat with plump wheat kernels being unloaded from a Polish ship. He sent them to a friend in Canada, an Ontario farmer named David Fife, who planted the seed the next spring.

It was winter wheat, however, and should have been planted in the autumn, to be harvested early the following summer. All the stalks died except one. From that lone stalk came a good spring bread wheat called Red Fife, which swept west across southern Canada.

But the Fife had one fault; it

would not ripen in latitudes of early frost. Thus Canada's wheat belt remained for many years a narrow strip along the U.S. border. Finally William Saunders, head of the Dominion Experimental Farm in Ottawa, heard of an Indian wheat called Hard Red Calcutta which ripened remarkably early. Samples were obtained and Canadian wheat breeders went to work to cross the Fife and Calcutta strains. After a long series of disappointing experiments, the Digest article tells how Dr. Charles Saunders succeeded in 1903 in establishing "the thin line of heredity that was to extend Canadian wheat hundreds of miles northward." Saunders tagged it 'Marquis.'

Ripening six days earlier than its Fife parent, Marquis beat the frost. Just 15 years after Charles Saunders launched the new strain, North American farmers harvested 300 million bushels of Marquis wheat.



"Willie's quarantined with whooping cough. It's a darn shame. Yesterday, playing Indians, he could really give a war whoop."

BETWEEN OURSELVES

BY ANCHER WALLACE

A PLACE IN THE SUN

A little girl attended school for the first time and was quite chagrined to find she was not the centre of attention as she was at home. She was visibly bored and when there was a lull in the proceedings, said: "Let's talk about me."

"Older people have often felt the same way. The first world war started because Kaiser Wilhelm wanted a place in the sun. Today there are groups in nearly every country who are resentful because they think they are being overlooked."

I spent over thirty years as an Editor and was always interested in the fact that tens of thousands were led to express themselves in stories, poems and meditations. Over and over again I wished our need for material was four times as great: excellent material had to be returned because of space limitations. The father of Madame Curie took a depressing view of human nature. He said: "It would be impossible to exaggerate the unimportance of people."

I never cared for that point of view. It is like looking through the wrong end of a telescope and seeing everything tiny and dwarfed. There is always a danger of doing that; failing to recognize the worth and dignity of human beings. A really big man makes others feel great; that is an infallible sign of greatness. Just as a mean man despises others.

It was in this spirit that the Nazarenes said of Jesus: "Is not this the carpenter's son?" He had not belonged to a leading family so they resented his authority; they wanted him to stay where they thought he belonged and that was in a class they despised.

When the eloquent orator, Dr. James Gordon, was a lad he worked in Wannamaker's store in Philadelphia. Young Gordon was cleaning a show case. Mr. Wannamaker stopped and said: "Good morning,

Mr. Gordon, how are you getting along?" The lad never forgot that; to think that the owner knew his name was a big surprise.

It is a good thing to have self-respect and anything which can increase this quality, in young people especially, is a good thing. On the other hand it is a foolish and cruel thing to deflate people, especially children. Judge S. Mott told me that an irate parent, whose boy had got into trouble, said: "Take a look at him Judge, he is the worst boy in Ontario."

It is a well established truth that people tend to live up to what is expected of them. A lady living in a small village moved to a city where she made considerable advance. After a few years she visited her native village and realized that she did not count for much. The experience depressed her; she felt that if she stayed very long she would completely lose any sense of importance.

A few years ago I visited the school in England I attended as a boy. I spent several hours there, and at the invitation of the principal, I gave a short address. When asked how the school compared with that of thirty years ago I had a ready answer. There was a big improvement, and it was because youngsters were invited to cooperate. They no longer sat still and had dry facts and figures poured into them. They were given a chance to express themselves, and I was astonished at their eagerness and intelligence. The scholars were made to feel that they were worth while, and that they had a place in the sun. Which is all to the good.

Our quotation today is by Hugh Redwood: "Be tolerant; it's the man who looks only in one direction who gets the stiff neck."

Curtain Club Puts Finishing Touches To First Production

The lights are burning every evening now in the Curtain Club headquarters in Richmond Hill as John P. G. Grosvenor and his cast work to put the finishing touches to "Rebecca" by Daphne du Maurier, the first play the Curtain Club is to present this season.

Taking turn about with the actors is the stage crew, headed by stage manager George Sweeney. A great deal of detailed measuring fitting and bracing has to be done as they prepare scenery to represent the hall of Manderley, the "walnut" doors, the "panelled walls", the staircase and the windows must all be completed before the great day of moving to the Lions' Hall where "Rebecca" will be presented February 4th and 5th.

"Manderley", the ancestral home of the de Winter family, is a sprawling Tudor Manor House atop the cliffs, high above the wild Cornish sea. It is to this great, rather frightening house that Maxim de Winter brings his young shy bride, Stuart Parker and Marguerite Grosvenor take these two parts. Marguerite Grosvenor is a newcomer to this district but she is not a newcomer to the stage. As Catherine Earnshaw in "Wuthering Heights" last year she received warm critical praise. Stuart Parker has been connected with theatre since he took the part of Robin Hood with the Toronto Children's Players. Later he was a very active member of the Trinity College Dramatic Club, and since the war, besides doing freelance acting with Toronto amateur dramatic societies, was prominent in the New Play Society.

Maxim de Winter's amusing "country" sister and her husband Giles Lacey are taken by Elizabeth and Gordon Lewis of Richmond Hill. The part of Frank Crawley is played by Paul Morley. Cicely Thomson portrays Mrs. Danvers, the housekeeper devoted to the memory of the

Charge School Fees For Foster Children

At a recent meeting of the Vaughan Township Council, a resolution was endorsed whereby school fees will be charged for children placed in foster homes attending school. The resolution has been accepted by a number of neighbouring municipalities and will be forwarded to the County of York from whence representation to the Provincial legislature will be made.

The move was prompted by the increasing number of foster children in the schools.

"Dear Mr. Editor"

Re High Cost of Education Dear Mr. Editor:

I was one of the fortunate few who were privileged to hear Mr. C. J. Laurin of the Markham Township Planning Board, address the Doncaster Ratepayers at Henderson Ave. School.

I was amazed at the mass of detailed knowledge required by this gentleman, also the scope of the overall view necessary to plan future development. The proposed plans of the Metro Council have to be borne in mind before any local decisions are made or approved.

One fact stands out like a sore thumb and that is the influence of the heavy cost of education upon future development. Boiled down it would seem that the choice lies between \$18,000 houses which will produce enough revenue to pay the full cost of all services, or the noise and smoke of industries which will pay school taxes but send no children to school.

Until recently any intention to include industry among Housing, was vigorously opposed, but on account of the cost of schooling, it is now welcomed. If future Housing development is to consist of houses of the Casa Loma type where will the working man live? Mr. Laurin stated there are on an average 2 1/4 children to each house. We know the cost of education varies but it would be at least \$500.00 per house. Imagine paying this in taxes besides the other substantial items. The additional cost of sewers, sidewalks, roadways, etc., on these proposed mansions would be far beyond the means of 90 per cent of the population.

Arthur Bursill, Doncaster

Re: Cancer Gift Cupboard

Dear Mr. Editor: Once again we are inviting you to the Annual Bridge and Euchre of Buttonville Women's Institute, to be held on Friday, January 21, at 8 p.m. in the Buttonville W. I. Community Hall, Don Mills Rd. (Con. 4), about one mile north of No. 7 Highway. Admission is 50c.

The proceeds are to pay for the gifts we purchased on faith in December, and delivered to The Canadian Cancer Society's Gift Cupboard at 276 Simcoe St., Toronto. The need was urgent. This is what we delivered:

30 women's nightgowns in pastel shades of flannelette, beautifully embroidered by an interested friend, to give that lift to the very sick patients; 6 pairs men's flannelette pyjamas, 16 jars of jam, donated by a member and about 40 jars of jam and jelly contributed to our effort by the Thornhill W. I. branch.

You will be delighted to learn that the gowns and pyjamas were sent to patients, by the Gift Cupboard Committee, who were located in the outlying districts of Ontario, where we have no local Cancer Unit. The joy these beautiful gifts brought is evident in the letters of thanks, received to date, by the Cancer Society headquarters, Ontario Division.

We know we can count on you to help us by your presence at the Euchre and Bridge, and by your donations. There will be good prizes and the draw prize will be a turkey. There will be refreshments. Do come and join the fun.

This is our fifth effort, since our first bridge and euchre in October 1951. To date (including the December 1954 donation, and also an effort of the small groups carried on during the summer months) we have contributed to the Canadian Cancer Society's Gift Cupboard the following articles: 1 pair percale pillow slips and 1 pair flannelette sheets; 2 woollen blankets, 3 hand-made patchwork quilts, 1 hot water bottle cover, 4 Johnny coats, 55 pairs men's, 50 or bed socks, 19 pairs knee throws or baby's caps, 70 pairs men's flannelette nightgowns, 119 ladies flannelette nightgowns, 22 ladies and baby's jackets, and a total of 27 jars of jam or jelly of which Thornhill W.I. contributed 120 jars.

Thus we strive as our Creed says, "to realize that in the big things of life we are one and to touch and know the great human heart, common to us all, and to pray, O Lord God, let us not forget to be kind."

Respectfully submitted, A. Edna Purves, Convener Canadian Cancer Society Women's Service Div. E. McGimpsey, Work Convener, Buttonville Women's Institute

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