



# The Liberal

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W. S. COOK, Editor

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

ALVERNA SMITH, Associate Editor

Telephone Turner 4-1261

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## Meet Problem Now

In a recent report to the York County Health Unit, Dr. Robert M. King, director of the unit, warned those present that a major sanitation problem was arising in the County. Dr. King said that the increasing number of subdivisions depending on septic tank disposals was creating an acute problem. "The necessity for cleaning out septic tanks has resulted in the development of a thriving trade of pumping and hauling septic tank waste", he said.

Municipal Councillors in both Markham and Vaughan Townships have expressed alarm at sewerage waste being dumped in the area and Markham Council has already ordered one haulage company to cease dumping domestic waste on a second concession farm. Vaughan Councillors have directed that complaints regarding the waste disposal in the township should

be referred to the Health Unit until further study of the problem is made.

Random dumping of such domestic waste in any municipality or community is detrimental from both a sociological and health standpoint but unless municipalities prepare legislation to meet such a problem, indiscriminate waste disposal will continue and with the growth of the Metropolitan area and the fringe municipalities will rapidly increase.

Dr. King's recommendation should provide the impetus for immediate action on the part of municipal councils to provide suitable dumping facilities for large quantities of the waste from other municipalities and from outside trucks. Only immediate action on this question will prevent what now is only starting from becoming a serious health menace to the entire area.

## Changes In The Municipal Act

Legislation extending advance polling privileges to all voters who expect to be away from their home municipalities on an election day is among 57 revisions and amendments to the Ontario Municipal Act recently introduced into the Ontario legislature.

The bill clarified procedures dealing with biennial elections and the staggered system of elections.

The authority to vote at advance polls is extended to cover any person who expects to be absent from the municipality on the day of polling and covers an election officer who will be working elsewhere than in the poll in which he is entitled to vote on election day.

Previously the advance poll was restricted to persons whose employment required that they be absent on election day.

Another amendment authorizes the payment of retirement allowances to municipal employees based on length of service in any municipality defined in the Municipal Affairs Act. At present, retirement allowance can only be granted for service in the municipality granting the allowance.

A section has been added allowing

## Increase In Administration Authority

The rapid growth of our public bodies, both municipal councils and school boards throughout the areas adjacent to Metropolitan Toronto has been marked by a subsequent increase in the number and authority of Administrative officials. Naturally the increase in legislative responsibilities has necessitated the delegation of more of the routine work to those administrative officials. The broad lines of general policy still remain with the people's elected representatives.

Although satisfactory in theory this overall division of powers sometimes proves unacceptable in actual practice.

The question to be faced by a local body is how far should this division be permitted to extend. Where is the line to be drawn?

In most cases our democratic legislators are very jealous of their responsibilities and position, as the direct

representatives of the people.

However, there is a tendency in some quarters to shift more than a routine responsibility over to the administrative officials. This shift of additional responsibility is the result of varying factors depending on the individuals concerned.

If the elected representatives either through a lack of knowledge or misunderstanding fail to exercise their prerogatives, then the administrative officials may very well find themselves making policy decisions.

It is the duty of an enlightened public opinion to continually follow the activities and accomplishments of their elected representatives. Public apathy and a lack of interest in the execution of public business can only result in more and more of the powers of government being vested in the administrative officials and less and less in the elected representatives.

## Making Use Of Knowledge

There is an old saying to the effect that if you wish to train a dog the first requirement is that you must know more than the dog. However, the problem is more complex than that — as any dog trainer knows.

To improve a practice it is first necessary to know as much as possible about it, but securing that knowledge is just the first step in the process. The second step is to disseminate the knowledge to those who can use it.

This may sound elementary, but actually it is difficult. Talking, writing, and the use of visual aids and demonstrations, are all techniques which are used for the dissemination of knowledge but unless the learner is interested these may not be successful.

Given adequate knowledge; the means to disseminate that knowledge and learners who are sufficiently interested to assimilate it, there is still one

important requirement before practice is influenced. Sometimes this is the greatest problem of all: it is to create the desire for improvement to such a degree of intensity that something will be done about it.

In this respect none of us are different from other folks. Someone is reported to have said, "If I farmed half as well as I know how I would be farming twice as well as I am." Nearly all of us could make a similar statement about ourselves and our work and not be far from the truth. Few, if any, are taking advantage of all available information for the improvement of life and work.

Getting knowledge, disseminating knowledge, assimilating knowledge and putting knowledge to work; these are all important — and the latter is probably the most difficult to achieve.



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"Not so much soap. Just get me clean, I don't want to be a movie star."

## Dear Mister Editor

Re: Dog Situation

Dear Mr. Editor:

As a new resident of Richmond Hill I would like to assure your correspondent, "An Unhappy Neighbour", that I thoroughly agree with him regarding the necessity of doing something about dogs running at large. I have been a dog breeder, exhibitor and an official of a breed organization and am still very fond of dogs, but that does not mean that I do not think that dogs are unmitigated nuisance and dangerous, if allowed to run uncontrolled through the streets. In my section of the village I can always count at least half a dozen dogs, both large and small, running around scaring the wits out of children, women and delivery men, tearing after cars, messing on lawns, upsetting garbage pails, etc., etc. This situation can be and should be controlled. If our Town Council has no idea of how to solve the problem I suggest that they contact the neighbouring village of Stouffville and enquire how it is handled so efficiently there.

Yours truly,  
"Fair Play"

Objects To Big Dogs Running At Large

Dear Editor —

I am one person who sympathizes with the authorities responsible for enforcing regulations regarding dogs running at large, and I hesitate to be critical.

However at this time of year I think in the first place those who own dogs should be sufficiently concerned about their responsibility to keep dogs tied up, and secondly that if at no other season, at least in spring the authorities should enforce the by-law.

For small dogs I would make some allowance as they do little if any damage. But some of the great romping canines which tear about Richmond Hill are more damaging than wild horses or a herd of Buffalo. In Spring, gardens are particularly vulnerable. I would suggest that the Dog By-Law be made effective not for the whole year, but for spring and early summer only. With this modification dog owners who now pay no attention whatsoever to the regulations might observe the local by-law that dogs must not run at large.

Gardener



Sidney Dark, a well-known English writer, says: "The reason there are so many discontented and unhappy people is because they lack a sense of proportion." They take little things too seriously and exaggerate trifles. But if they could only laugh at themselves their worries would vanish. I know a man who is a good deal in the public eye. Frequently his picture was in the newspapers and the references generally flattering. One day I asked him how he kept humble. This was his reply: "My dear wife suggests me humble. If publicity goes to my head she undertakes to flatten me out. When she has had her say I am as flat as a pancake."

I know a minister who asked his wife if she noticed any difference in his sermons. She replied: "Yes, some are worse than others. But what about the man who isn't married, or worse still, the man whose wife flatters him and thus pours oil on the flames? Disraeli's wife often said in public that he was the handsomest man alive. But it is in relation to conduct that we get lop-sided. A dying man was going over his virtues. He said that never once in a long life had he forgotten his umbrella. He must have been a fussy man.

There is a quaint passage in the Bible which runs: "Ephraim is a cake not turned." That is a reference to the manner of baking in the East. Sometimes a cake got overdone on one side, neglected on the other. That is why we refer to some

people as "half-baked."

If you put a five-cent piece close to the eye it will shut out the sun. It would take billions and billions of nickles to equal the sun, but it can block out everything because it is so close. That is what Paul meant when he wrote: "Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world." That is the trouble with material things, they are so present, appear so real.

It is hard to know what is important; to keep a sense of proportion. A lady once brought an ambitious lad to the painter Joshua Reynolds. She said: "I thought my boy might do some little things to your picture, like painting the background."

Reynolds replied: "Anyone who can paint my background, can paint the whole picture."

It seems to me that is the chief value of public worship. It isn't so much what we hear from the pulpit that counts but rather that by quiet and reverent meditation we may get hold of ourselves. These are busy times and we imagine we must hurry. Some people get mad if they lose one turn of a revolving door. When a motorist passes me at seventy-five miles an hour, I wonder if what he is doing is so very important. Perhaps when he gets there he will hang around doing nothing.

Yes, a sense of proportion is necessary. The first time Tennyson saw stars through a telescope, he said, "Perhaps our leading families are not so important after all."

## "Way Back When"

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

JANUARY 31, 1929

The three members appointed to an Industrial Commission for Richmond Hill at an executive meeting of the Board of Trade were: Wm. Davis, president of the Board of Trade; Reeve T. H. Trench and Wilfred Thompson, president of the Ratepayers' Association. Garfield Verex of Elgin Mills is the Whippet and Willys-Knight dealer in this district. Inspector W. W. A. Trench, W. Scott, Miss F. M. Brown, Miss Webb, Miss Corner and Miss Haggerty attended the York County Teachers' annual banquet at the Prince George Hotel in Toronto.

FEBRUARY 12, 1948

Hydro manager Duncan Chamney is entering his 25th year as manager of the local hydro office.

The Roman Catholic congregation has organized a Separate School Board which plans to erect a school as soon as possible. Members of the newly elected board are Rev. F. Maginn, Mrs. Ned Hill, Paul Dubois, Theo Van Wieringen, and Russell Fox.

Markham Township Council has adopted the card system of assessments. It is expected that the changeover will take about two years to complete.

York County Council has voted in favour of erecting a \$357,800 county office building on Adelaide Street, Toronto.

Last Friday, the Literary Society of Richmond Hill High School presented an engraved silver tray to former principal James Stewart.

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