

**The Liberal**  
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### Need Tax Readjustment

One of the most interesting planks in the Liberal Party Platform in the forthcoming provincial election and one that will probably influence a large number of voters, particularly in small municipalities, is the Liberal promise to fight for a readjustment in the tax load. The present method of taxation which puts the heaviest burden of taxation on property owners is outdated, the Liberals charge. And if the Liberals are in the majority at Queen's Park after June 9, Ontario property owners can expect a reform in the present Conservative government's reactionary tax structure.

Liberal interests in the province feel that the cost of maintaining services available to and benefitting the general public as a whole should be shifted to "broader shoulders" and be paid for by the general community. The provincial government, with a wide field of tax revenues available, is in the best position to make this tax readjustment. However, Mr. Frost's government has continued to penalize the home owner by making him carry the load of municipal costs.

Rising taxes on the municipal level today are one of the chief concerns of Ontario residents. Particularly in the Toronto area, domestic taxes have risen

to a record high and there is every indication that they will go even higher. Such costs as education and welfare are skyrocketing Mr. Homeowner's taxes while the man who rents gets the same services at no cost. It is natural that such tax costs as those for roads, police and fire prevention should be borne principally by the home owner, for their existence is an advantage to real estate values but it is unfair for any government which has the best interest of its constituents at heart to burden one group with excess costs.

In brief, much of the trouble lies in the fact that municipalities are still responsible for services which do not directly affect property, but which must be financed out of taxes raised from property. At one time this did not matter so much because such services, set up under provincial law, were comparatively inexpensive. It's a different story now when welfare and education often combine to take up half the budgets of many Ontario municipalities.

It is felt that if the Liberals have the opportunity to put their tax adjustment scheme into operation, it could have a two-fold advantage to citizens in Ontario in that it will encourage home ownership and could result in improved services.

### It's What You Make It

It has often been said "The old Home Town is exactly what you make it," and it seems true. Any community is generally a pretty good reflection of the people who live in it. In so many cases, the whole job of giving a town or village that little bit of "something extra" is left to a few energetic people. Whether or not this little group be the local council or a collection of private citizens, there is a limit to what they can do without the support of the whole community.

Enthusiasm is a fluctuating thing and when it is experienced by only a portion of any society, it can often be overshadowed by matters of more general interest or concern. It appears that over the years, the projects with wholehearted support of a community, not by just a few, but by everybody, are the most successful. Sports, for example, might be a great success in one community largely because of general interest, while in another, they might live only a meagre existence.

As we said earlier, a community effort must have community support. When a town's society turns cosmopolitan, and turns its interest to the big city, the local community suffers. This is evident not only in local projects but in every-day business affairs. To ask which came first: the lack of local things in which to be interested or the lack of interest in local things, reverts back to the old question of the chicken and the egg. It doesn't really matter — the main thing is that the situation exists in many small communities.

In so many cases, those who are disgruntled with their home town don't stop to realize that the blame cannot be dumped entirely on the doorstep of a local council and left at that, leaving the good citizen free of any further obligation or compunction. It's not so easy as all that. In so many of

the little things which are important in a small community, the whole thing really by-passes councils and gets back to the citizen himself.

For example, if the home town streets, appear messy and untidy, one might easily ask, who spread all the litter around — who dropped an empty cigarette package outside the corner drug store or threw a crumpled candy wrapper on the boulevard, and speaking of the muddy boulevard, whose children tramped across the soft, wet grass on the boulevard all spring until there was no grass left? Well — there's no getting around it, it seems to get right back to the citizen, almost every time.

An old-timer on the street remarked the other day, "You only get what you pay for"; "And I wonder if we even get that", quipped his companion. It's rather a difficult question — whether Mr. Citizen gets his money's-worth or not, but it's one thing certain that with the increasing needs in a community, things are going to cost more. Even the bare necessities are costly these days, but when a municipality gets into the luxuries then things can go sky-high. It's one thing to call for more and more facilities in a small town, but it's another when the big tax-bill to pay for them comes in.

Activities in other communities may make the old home town look like Birdseye Centre but there is one thing outstanding in all these ideal appearing communities — and that's community spirit, an intangible thing, but oh-so-important. Big cities like Toronto may get along to satisfy the citizens and provide the facilities and still remain on a cosmopolitan level, but little Home Town can't do much unless it's backed by whole-hearted community support and co-operation.

### Modern Farming Demands Trained Minds

Agriculture has accepted the responsibility of feeding and partially clothing the peoples of the world. This is no small task and one which cannot be entered upon lightly. Most of us take food for granted with little thought for those who put it on our tables. Yet it must be grown, assembled, graded, packaged and transported for our convenience. Once having engaged in this task there is a moral responsibility to provide a continuity of supply. Man has become accustomed to eating regularly.

An additional responsibility has been assumed. Some might say a moral responsibility only, but a responsibility nevertheless. This volume and continuity of supply must be provided without impairment of the soil. This generation does not own the soil. We are merely tenants and if civilization is to endure we must pass the soil on in a state of fertility as high as, or higher

than that in which it was received. This is a sacred trust.

A third responsibility is also assumed, the responsibility of providing a standard of living for the farm family comparable to that enjoyed by other segments of society. Farm people enjoy the good things of life as do other people and are as entitled to them. Again this must be done without impairment of the soil and other capital assets.

The responsibility of being good citizens in the several communities is also assumed. A man may farm to provide a living for his family and himself, but in addition is a citizen in his community. As a citizen certain responsibilities must be assumed. Offices of church and state must be manned.

What industry would place such responsibilities in untrained hands? Every industry must have trained personnel. Agriculture is no exception.



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### BETWEEN OURSELVES BY Archer Wallace

**HERE'S WHERE I QUIT**

After spending several years in what could be called backwoods I arrived in Toronto on a very hot July day — quite a long time ago. The only friend I had in the big city was the late Dr. Peter Bryce, and he says I was wearing rubbers and it was over ninety in the shade. I still remember that one of my first thoughts was that I must get my pants pressed, and "spruce up".

Honestly I can still remember some "boners" I committed, and I never see new arrivals, no matter where they are from, without feeling I want to lend a helping hand. I once saw a newspaper article to the effect that over 40,000 young people arrive in Toronto every year, and every Canadian city has a steady influx of newcomers. Make no mistake about it, this steady stream of young people especially has a wholesome, stimulating effect upon life in larger centres.

A great Canadian citizen said recently that he had never seen a railway train until at nineteen he got on board one for a big city. He wrote home to tell his parents about men eating in the dining-car, he could hardly believe it.

I hope young people do not feel self-conscious when they launch out in their new surroundings. I think young men feel worse than the girls when exposed to any kind of ridicule. No lad likes to be laughed at, and ridicule can be a cruel, keen weapon.

Quite a number of years ago a young man left his village to enter a college in a large city. Everything was new to him, and for several weeks his eyes opened wide with wonder. He had all the nervousness and awkwardness which so many feel when first making acquaintance with city life.

In his pocket he carried a letter from his home minister to the pastor of a city church. He wisely handed in his introduction and began to feel more at home. When college opened the real thrills began. Gradually he overcame his shyness, made quite a few friends and began to feel more at home.

He was asked to join a college fraternity and after a little hesitation, he agreed to do so. His friends told him it was an honour and he felt flattered. Some of the fellows seemed a bit noisy and talkative, but he knew that it took all kinds to make a world, so said nothing.

The first meeting of that fraternity disappointed him. He didn't care for the conversation which was mainly profane and when the president of the group took out a pocket flask and passed it around he made a quick decision. To the boy sitting next to him he said, "Here's where I quit," and he did.

He was a quitter, and that isn't a nice word but it all depends upon what it is we quit. As a matter of fact it took a great deal of courage to leave the group and to tell them later why he had done so. The easy thing for him to do at that moment was to have sat still and said nothing. There isn't anything in the world harder to face than ridicule, and that is what he faced that day.

That student is now a man — no longer young, but widely known and respected. In speaking to some friends recently about that experience, he said: "I was a quitter that day, but I know now it was one of the wisest decisions I have ever made in my life."

### Dear Mister Editor

**Deplores Use Land Around Municipal Offices for Parking**

Dear Mr. Editor:

My letter of April 23 to your paper was an endeavour to make the Citizens and Council of Richmond Hill think. It, unfortunately, put W. K. Ellis on the defensive, a condition not conducive to clear thinking.

In reply to Mr. Ellis the writer would like to say that he is very much aware of the gigantic efforts made by the citizens of this Village in raising money for an artificial ice rink and the fact that such a rink is in existence is indeed a great credit to their tremendous efforts. However in my letter to your paper I pointed out that there is no MUNICIPAL rink of this kind. Unless one has sprung up overnight there still isn't.

I also pointed out that municipal projects by way of golf courses, auditoriums, etc., almost always pay good dividends. In other words given time such projects are a good investment of the peoples' taxes. But such interesting statistics, which are available from other municipalities, do not seem to encourage our Council to provide any such amenities for this Village.

The writer also observes from the May 5 issue of the Liberal that Village Council has not yet abandoned the idea of using the area around the Municipal offices to the south for a parking area. This small plot of ground is the last few square feet of grass and trees owned by the people of this Village that has as yet not been mutilated by Councils past and present. The work of the Horticultural Society over the years in planting and caring for this area is not being given much consideration. Only the leaves of the trees around the Pond on Mill Street help to shade the ravage of that area caused by the permission of Council to allow dumping of anything from old bed springs to rubble and garbage. On the East side of Yonge Street the stream there is being polluted and no doubt Council will find itself in hot water over this. Everyone recognizes that Richmond Hill is a fast growing Village, complete with the many headaches relative to such rapid growth but is this any reason why parks cannot be provided for the restful enjoyment or active pleasure of citizens at all age levels?

Yours faithfully,  
John Citizen

### Editorial Comment

**MORE HELP FOR THE MUNICIPALITIES**

"Hon Farquhar Oliver . . . in the program of 25 points which he announced this week in London, is much more moderate and much more sensible in his proposals (than in the previous campaign)."

"Generally, Mr. Oliver is pursuing the policies of Mr. Frost, but feels that the economy of the Province can afford to be more generous to the hard-pressed municipalities."

— The London Free Press

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