



# The Liberal

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## Need Better Balance

The business of hiring teachers in Ontario is fast becoming a vicious circle as one board after another raises salary schedules in an attempt to grab the best of the limited number of teachers available. It is not an uncommon thing for school boards, both elementary and secondary to up schedules by several hundred dollars as an added inducement to teachers. Schools in less desirable locations in Canada's north are offering twice as much as Southern Ontario Boards are able to, in order to secure teachers, as an example.

Only last week, members of the Richmond Hill District High School Board heard a recommendation to raise salaries by as much as \$400 to compete on the open market in the Metropolitan Area. If such a recommendation is accepted, only Forest Hill and Etobicoke will offer a higher salary schedule in the entire Metro Area. The local Board deferred the measure until the recommendation can be further investigated.

Boards are not considering such wide-scale increases without trepidation. They realize that school taxes are already an unbearable load. However, theirs is the unhappy lot of having abuse heaped on them for not supplying top rate teachers while at the

same time being criticized for not keeping down educational costs — again the vicious circle.

It is an acknowledged fact that teachers have been exploited in years gone by and it is felt that the teacher is just coming into his own. However, the present "price war" on teachers, as it may be called, is a Bonanza to the teaching profession, but is at public expense and cannot be continued too much further.

As government agencies decide a fair ceiling for staple commodities and strive to maintain a fair level of consumer prices and supplies, so now, is it the responsibility of the Department of Education to see that there grows up a reasonable balance between supply and demand in the teaching profession. With things continuing at present rates without some sort of economic stabilization, the taxpayer will be bled more and more as school boards find it necessary to fight for an adequate teaching staff.

Unless there is some sort of moderation from the province on the soaring teachers' salaries, unless there is a levelling out in the entire field of education and an effort made to increase the supply of teachers, taxpayers will find their representatives competing for teachers in the business executive salary bracket, a field where there seems to be no limit.

## Poor Distribution Of Duties

For some time now there has been controversy over the duties of the Police Force in Richmond Hill and with the action taken last week in regard to an accident on Yonge Street North in which a child was struck down, we feel the matter deserves greater consideration by council and the Police Commission.

Councillors, at different discussions at their regular Monday night meetings, have more than once urged the police to use their judgment in distribution of duties and handling of cases to correspond to the size of the municipality and the importance of the offence.

When an outside force is called in to cover an accident, as was the case in the village last week, there is a definite

need for readjustment of police administration.

Richmond Hill has a three-man force, quite adequate for a town of this size, and which should be able to handle cases forthcoming.

We cannot see the wisdom of calling in Vaughan Township Police to do our men's work and we question the feelings of Vaughan in the matter. There is enough ground in the township to cover without taking on extra duties in Richmond Hill.

Court cases are one phase of police duty, but such should not overshadow other aspects of the job to the extent of leaving no officer on duty in the village. More judgment should be used on such matters and the police should realize their position in such a case. That is what we are paying them for.

## Water Safety Week

In an effort to reduce the terrible toll of summer drownings, the Ontario Red Cross is sponsoring Water Safety Week from June 19 to 25. In order to accomplish this important task, Red Cross branches in all communities are taking an active part in the safety programme.

Both children and adults will benefit from the plan which has been extended into the schools. Pamphlets have been given to all school children urging the utmost care when vacations

are spent near the water.

Every year, hundreds of lives are lost across Canada through accidental drowning. With the trend towards spending a holiday in the lake country, the potential hazard is increasing every year, making it more and more essential to carry out thorough water safety programme.

Whole-hearted support for the campaign is the obligation of everyone. The broader the safety-education programme, the greater will be the decline of the present mounting death toll.

## Towns, Villages Enjoy Best Traffic Record

Canadian towns and villages are showing Canadian cities the way to greater traffic safety. By far the smallest number of accidents occur in towns and in villages and at rural intersections, the National Highway Safety Conference concludes in an analysis of road traffic accidents.

Using a special study of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, the National Highway Safety Conference points out that in Ontario during 1953, 10 per cent of road accidents occurred in towns and villages, compared with 41 per cent on county and township roads. More than two-thirds of these accidents occurred in clear weather when the road was dry.

There is nothing in the road accident record to encourage complacency,

the National Highway Safety Conference points out.

"The record of our losses in human and material resources amounts to a national problem which only the concerted action of all of us can solve."

Canada's first National Highway Safety Conference was held in Ottawa last month, with delegates in attendance from all of the ten provinces. Agriculture was represented by a large contingent. H. H. Hannam, president of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, was chairman of the delegate division on agriculture; vice-chairman was J. Ferguson, president, Ontario Federation of Agriculture; secretary, Colin C. Groff, Canadian Federation of Agriculture.

## Your Canadian Vacation

For Canadians planning a vacation, the Canadian Tourist Association points out that Canadian holidays are not just for visitors but for Canadians too.

Inter-provincial travel is a remarkable eye-opener, and a vacation in Canada will enhance the pride which Canadians already have in their country.

The Canadian Tourist Association set up a committee at its annual meeting in October to study the development of inter-provincial travel. This seemed necessary because closeness of United States cities all along our southern boundary is a potent attraction. Canadian travellers spent \$293½ million in the United States in 1952.

Interest is growing, too, in telling Canadians about the year-round vacation possibilities we have. Every month can be a holiday month in this country; there is no reason for clinging to the old-fashioned idea of a twelve week va-

vacation period. There are some benefits to be had from taking a holiday in winter rather than in summer. Many industries and businesses offer their employees a two-week vacation, but three weeks if the vacation is taken in November to April. This offers an opportunity to employees for an extra week of holiday, and to resorts for an extension of their business if they make out-of-season holidaying interesting.

But whatever type of vacation you are planning this year, give serious consideration to the great possibilities of an all-Canadian holiday this year. All ten provinces across the breadth of Canada are publicizing their parks, their historic sites and their other tourist attractions in an attempt to make Canadians more conscious of the wonderful holiday potential in this country.

## Condemned Man Lifted To Scaffold

# Workshop Serves As Monument For Murderer Trial Of Strength Ends In Fatal Disaster

Before the advent of civilization in the village, long before Richmond Hill had acquired a local habitation and a name, the two miles immediately to the south was marked on the original map of this locality as the Black Ash Swamp. Subsequently divided by Yonge Street into east and west, surveyed into lots in the early part of the century, it began to open up for settlers.

For many years these lots and the town of Little York were reached by a corduroy bridge nearly a mile long, which trembled under the loaded team and in the rainy season sometimes floated in sections in the mud of its swampy bed.

The north part of our vicinity was settled by the French Refugees; the south by the United Empire loyalists. By years of clearing, draining, cultivation and hardship scarcely realized, these pioneers developed from the most miserable surroundings and cheerless circumstances the splendid farms their successors now enjoy.

As has been seen in a former series of sketches which have appeared in The Liberal of early pioneer life, these lots and early settlers have not been without their historic incidents, amusing, pathetic and instructive. Nor has the comedy in the history of the south end been without its tragedy.

One day during the latter part of August 1814, there were seen four men engaged in cutting and binding oats in a field on lot 38, in the township of Markham, once owned by James Russell, well-known agriculturist and stock-raiser.

One was a hired man of the name of Brock, another a wandering Frenchman called Bulger, the proprietor of the farm, and a neighbor who owned the farm opposite. On the temporary cessation of work caused by the completion of a job, the neighbor invited the others to his house with the promise of a treat.

**Trials of Strength**  
Those were the days of trials of strength, sports and athletics. For filling up the leisure hour the diary paper was a thing unknown, and a book from the Public Library a thing undreamed of. At any gathering, large or small, in village or field, with nothing special to attract attention, a challenge to a test of strength, speed, or agility, was always popular, and a pugilistic encounter was no unusual occurrence.

The two young farmers, the chief characters in this sketch, were athletes; one a sturdy son of brawn and muscle, good tempered in victory or defeat; the other his equal in size and strength, whole-souled and generous in many respects, but passionate and impulsive. The two young men were in the prime of manhood. They were rivals in the sports of that day. At the neighbor's home a wrestling match took place resulting in the defeat of the owner.

**War of Words**  
A war of words ensued, irritating still more the rising temper of the defeated athlete. A threat to shoot met with a daring defiance. The ever ready rifle was brought into requisition for its deadly service. The two men, thinking matters looked serious, fled for protection to a place of safety. The young farmer also sought safety in retreat. While endeavoring to clear a low fence he received the fatal bullet in his left side and fell.

The perpetrator of the terrible crime was arrested by a constable by the name of Dye, who took his prisoner before Captain James Fulton, Esq., U. E. Loyalist, a hero of Brandywine and Bunker Hill. Squire Fulton was the first Justice of the Peace, and at the time owned the Vanderburgh homestead.

After a preliminary investigation, the accused murderer was committed to await his trial at

the assizes at York, now Toronto. On the way the prisoner had to pass his home. He requested the privilege of going in for something he needed. Once inside he locked the door, leaving the constable on the outside. For some time he was successful in holding the fort. Just at this juncture, there passed a detachment of soldiers on their way from York to Penetanguishene, then the northern headquarters of the military. Dye induced some of the soldiers to make a charge on the dwelling. They entered the door with fixed bayonets. The prisoner was recaptured.

At the assizes on a Saturday afternoon, the prisoner was brought for trial before Chief Justice Scott, found guilty of wilful murder, and sentenced to be hanged on the following Monday.

**Scaffold Primitive Affair**  
The scaffold was a most primitive affair. It was erected on the street in front of the old jail. In those early days there were no arrangements for the modern and more scientific exit of such unfortunate violators of the law of God and man. All executions were in public and thousands flocked to the scene to gratify a morbid curiosity. On Monday, the guilty man was brought from his cell to suffer the demands of justice, and was requested to ascend the ladder for that purpose. Not liking the appearance of the arrangements above him, he finally refused to do so.

The late Rev. John Stachan, Bishop of Toronto, who from frequent pastoral visits to the early settlers in this vicinity, must have known both of the unfortunate young men, was then Prison Chaplain. To instruct his ward in the way he should go, the Chaplain mounted the ladder several times. His ward's perceptive faculties were somewhat slow in comprehension. Ultimately to facilitate the ends of justice, Sheriff Ridout got four strong men to lift the doomed man up to the fatal moose. Swinging into eternity he paid the penalty of his dreadful crime.

**Discover Coffin**  
In 1869 some men digging a cellar in the locality of the goal yard, Toronto, came upon a box about three feet below the surface of the ground containing a human skeleton. One of the Toronto newspapers, suggested that it might be the remains of the murderer of the young farmer of lot 38, Markham, near Richmond Hill, 55 years before. This elicited from the late Mr. Geo. Munshaw who resided here a correction of the supposition.

Mr. Munshaw was a near neighbor at the time and was on the ground a few minutes after the tragedy. He was drawn for the jury, but was challenged by the prisoner. He witnessed the execution.

Mr. Munshaw stated that immediately after the execution the condemned man's wife obtained the remains of her husband from the authorities and that they were buried on the farm in the garden a few rods from Yonge Street. The farm subsequently fell into the hands of Mr. Thomas Harris, builder. At that time the sunken burial spot, without headboard or stone, had become a nest for thistles. Each year the wild grass grew rank and tall above it. The murderer's resting place was fast becoming obliterated.

Early in the fifties, to save the surface from the plowshare, Mr. Harris placed over it a large workshop which stood as a monument to hide from the public gaze an ignominious grave.

Editor's Note: Information contained in this article was taken from the writings of William Harrison, local historian.

## Cut Down On Heavy Trucks Ruining Roads Says Deputy

Deputy-reeve Legge summarized the opinion of Whitechurch Township Council members when he declared at last Thursday's meeting that they should not permit trucks to carry heavier loads on township roads. Under new provincial legislation, permissible loads on Class A roads are reduced, but this lower limit may be increased upon payment of additional fees. Mr. Legge pointed out that heavy trucks were ruining township roads now, and all members agreed that the township would oppose any heavier load limits.

Council decided that no township roads were class A, so that the new licences would apply only on county or provincial roads. Whitechurch would then be the goat, as township roads would be used only as links between the other roads. Councillor Walkworth thought it was a scheme to get money from the truckers, who would be paying more to be able to carry greater loads, but would not be able to get from gravel pits, for example to the roads where their permits were valid.

Council considered a letter requesting information on a previous request to build a subdivision. One of the roads in the cemetery near Bogartown. A by-law was passed to authorize establishment of the cemetery, members feeling that further requests following this approval could be met with as they were forwarded.

**Performance Bond**  
Building regulations were strengthened with passing of a by-law providing for a performance bond to be completed before a building permit will be issued. This bond is to be in the amount of \$200, by cash or bond, and is refundable on completion of the building.

**Recreation Centre**  
The clerk informed council that the recreation centre at Lake Wilcox was to be deeded to Whitechurch Township, and the deeds were being completed. This enabled the township to take steps to prevent further damage to the building. Council was undecided as to uses for the building, and was pleased to hear a delegation headed by Mr. Cliff Lacey of Lake Wilcox. The group had formed a Recreational Committee, and proposed to tear down the badly-damaged building to construct a shed for sporting goods. The grounds would be used for sports activities, and later the committee hopes to build a community hall. Council advised that they would help the group as much as possible, and advised the committee of meetings of the Community Centre Board to be held soon.

## Edward Noble Receives M.D. Degree

# Three Generations Of Noble Family In Medical Profession

The graduation last week of Edward J. G. Noble, 24, marked the entrance of a third generation of the Noble family into the medical profession. He received his degree from the University of Toronto. His family owns Magiscroft Farm on the second concession of Markham where they have lived for a number of years.

His grandfather, Dr. Robert T. Noble, graduated from the same faculty in 1895, and today at the age of 84, the senior Dr. Noble is still carrying on an active practice in Toronto.

In 1925, 30 years later, his son, Dr. E. Clark Noble won his M.D. from the same university. Dr. Clark is now district medical officer for the department of transport, a medical officer with the Prudential Life Insurance Co. of America and in private practice.

Dr. Edward Noble will intern at Toronto General Hospital for one year which will be followed by post graduate study. His grandfather is registrar and secretary of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario. As registrar, the senior Dr. Noble issues the license to practice to his grandson. He is also a past president of the Academy of Medicine and the Alumni Federation of the University of Toronto.

Best for a year, following their discovery of insulin.

Embracing 60 years of medical history, the two senior members of the family have witnessed many changes in their profession.

The disappearance of the family physician and the corresponding increase in the number of specialists strikes me as the greatest change," said Dr. Robert Noble. "I was a horse and buggy doctor," when I started out, and I am still a family physician."

To Dr. Clark Noble the outstanding features of his years in medicine have been on the scientific front. "The advance in medical science — insulin, liver extract, a multitude of antibiotics and public health measures — have been perhaps more advances in the past 30 years than in any comparative period in medical history," he remarked.

"Consequently, students today have to learn far more and know infinitely more when they graduate than they did in my day," he said. "I know it certainly helped me to have a doctor for a father when I was studying. I would like to think I was a help to my son as well."

Adding to the medical tradition of the Noble family, one of Dr. Clark's brothers, Dr. Robert L. Noble, is director of medical research at the University of Western Ontario. And two of his daughters are graduate nurses. Susanne completed her training at Wellesley hospital this spring. Her older sister, Mrs. Strachan Heighington, graduated from Toronto General Hospital three years ago.

## Await Agreement Selkirk Subdivision

Markham township council and the Solicitors for the long-dormant Selkirk subdivision in Thornhill have yet to reach some agreement on a re-subdivision of the area. Solicitors Timmins and MacDiarmid, representing Mr. George Selkirk and Mr. J. May representing the builders waited on council Monday in an endeavour to determine if there is to be any change in policy regarding the subdivision. The majority of Council is still firm in its refusal to allow the development to proceed along the original lines.

Under the original plan the total development was to contain 145 homes east of the railway tracks which passes through the property and 65 west of the tracks. Approximately 90 homes were started when operations ceased. Under the terms of the original agreement certain roads were to be graded and paved and an administration fee of \$750, per lot was to be charged on all lots opened up over the figure of 100.

Recently Council agreed to reduce the \$750, per lot fee to \$218, providing Mr. Selkirk would agree to go into the proposed new water area. The Subdividers is objecting to the fee of \$218, per lot on top of the expenses of joining the water area. Council also wants several of the roads paved as part of any new agreement.

Council has approved subject to certain minor changes the plan of subdivision for the three-acre Granger subdivision located in Thornhill. The development lies between Secombe Ave. and the bed of the Don River. As part of the subdivision agreement, the developer has agreed to pay the township a \$400, administration fee per lot and also to pave the roads.

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