



The Liberal

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Worthy Experiment

The snow and frost of our Canadian winters can make even the strongest of us wish for a quick return of the summer heat we complained of a few months ago. But, is there one of us who would feel right if we did not have that blanket of cold to warm our hearts during the Christmas season?

One of the unfortunate happenings of the yuletide is that the universal warmth it releases in man dies with the Christmas trees we toss in the backyard soon after we finish wishing friends and strangers the very best for the coming season. We sometimes wonder, if we, as people, could steel ourselves to experiment for only one year and carry into the year ahead the feelings of warmth, comradeship and spirit of Christmas prevailing everywhere, if we would have developed a broader, more tolerant approach to the wishes and welfare of people everywhere. Dare we experiment for a better world or

shall we continue to store the CHRISTMAS spirit with the tinsel and good wishes — carefully packed so that it and the other delicate decorations will not be lost — until next Xmas?

What could we lose if we dared to experiment? (We would have experienced a wonderful feeling of warmth for a whole year — could we stand that?) If our efforts were successful, we would have developed peace on and removed selfishness from the local, national and international scene. If, on the other hand, our year's experiment was a failure, what would we have lost other than a year from our lives — and will we miss that after we are dead?

Maybe we are idealistic dreamers. And yet, maybe someday in the evolution of human development future generations may live in a continuing rebirth of the Christmas spirit as their way of life. But, WHY WAIT?

Need Assessment Balance

In a recent report prepared by a staff member of the Department of Political Economy of the University of Toronto the ill-balance of residential assessment over industrial in Scarborough township has been termed irreparable damage.

The report deals with the frenzied land development and speculation which made Scarborough a "new bonanza". Professor Clark who is a professor of Sociology at the University has blamed the municipal government itself for exploiting the situation basically by not standing in the way of any development which might take place.

However, one of the saving graces of the whole situation, the report notes, is the growing awareness on the part of the township government which brings hope that the mistakes of the past may be corrected.

While the municipalities in the Richmond Hill district have not reached such disastrous straits, there is still an increasing need for "awareness" on the part of our municipal government officials

to see that expansion is carefully regulated. The ill-balanced assessment referred to in the report shows that Scarborough is faced with a residential assessment today of 75.1 per cent.

The lack of industrial assessment in this area is causing alarm in municipal circles and it formed one of the main planks in the campaign platforms of a number of election candidates in the area. The pinch of heavy residential development not balanced by adequate industrial assessment is making itself apparent and it is taking all the ingenuity of municipal officials to keep things on an even keel.

We in this district have been fortunate that the situation has not become as desperate as it has in Scarborough, however, municipalities must be constantly on their guard now against a similar dangerous upsurge in our development. Municipalities should strive to retain a proportionate relationship between these two assessments as an insurance against disastrous results of poor planning.

Psychologists Offer Tips On How To Think

Tips on ways to get more power out of your brain cells are offered by Morton M. Hunt in an article, "How to Overcome Mental Blocks," appearing in January Reader's Digest.

Psychologists have found that mental blocks may be set up by even slight apprehension, pressure (as in examinations), or too much eagerness to succeed (as in applying for a job). Preconceptions — "fixed ideas" about certain problems — may make it difficult to see even simple solutions.

Masquerading as "experience", such preconceptions so seriously block creative thinking that organizations like the Bell Laboratories have devised techniques to counter this. When a group of scientists attack a project, one man new to the problem is placed with them.

His fresh approach and lack of preconceived solution drawn from past experience shakes up the group's thinking

and often results in new and better ideas.

Psychologists suggest that you, when stymied by a problem, talk it over with people with backgrounds and training different from yours. They may offer a fresh viewpoint.

An especially successful technique for countering mental blocks is the "brainstorm" session — a conference where 1) anything goes, 2) the wilder the ideas the better and 3) nobody is allowed to criticize. Later, the brainstormers go over ideas critically, and expand and refine the best ones.

Most problems are less difficult than they seem, and deserve less attention than they get. The author suggests jumping into the middle of the problem and tackling it from any angle. "Once you jump", he declares, "the problem doesn't exist."



"The first thing we do is convert it to travelers cheques!"

"Dear Mr. Editor"

Deplores Local Dog Situation

Dear Mr. Editor:
Please let me add my emphasis to Disgusted Citizen's remarks about the dog nuisance. In my section of this growing metropolis they not only run at large, play havoc with garbage piles and destroy evergreens, but they add to this an incessant barking all day long and into the night, that is most harrowing and hard on the nerves, to say nothing of its sleep destroying propensities. Generally one yapper starts the serenade for some insignificant reason and then half a dozen others, ranging from high treble to deep bass, join in the chorus and the noise is deafening. The owners don't bother to try and stop them.

I certainly hope that Reeve Taylor's suggestion of a stiff license fee will be put into effect. Let dog lovers who think more of their dogs than they do of their responsibilities to their fellow citizens (which fellow citizens, by the way, constitute the large majority of taxpayers) pay for their dog hobby in hard cash and then see how quickly they will discard their canine idiosyncrasies and come down to earth.

As far as Richmond Hill by-laws are concerned Disgusted Citizen had better forget about them. At present they seem to be either non-existent or non-enforceable. Unless Mayor Neal shows more backbone and a stronger hand than did some of his predecessors on Council, the police will still have a lot of weak spots in their armor of protective usefulness.

"Don Quixote"

Raps Bell Service

Dear Mr. Editor:
I am sure that there are many of your readers in the district who will agree with me that the Bell Telephone Public Relations Department has really "goofed" this time. It would be very interesting to know the theory behind publishing a new telephone directory and then about two weeks later changing half the telephone numbers in the area.

To add to the confusion, there are a number of business and private telephones not listed in the directory. It is understandable that telephones installed just before publication date could not possibly be included in the new directory and still allow the publishers time to do their work, but in the course of recent weeks, I have tried to reach several district business houses and private homes which have had telephones for a number of months and find no listing for them. I am sure this must be very inconvenient for them as well as for their customers and friends. These facts, combined with the problem of playing "heads or tails" when deciding whether to look for numbers in the Langstaff-Richvale region in the Newmarket directory of the Toronto Suburban-North book, have considerably detracted from the convenience of telephone service.

The rapid growth of the district no doubt causes a certain amount of pressure on telephone services, but it is to be hoped that further expansion and changes in the local telephone service will be a little better timed with the publication of the directories.

Yours truly,
Telephone Subscriber

Turkey — the Key to the Middle East

Dear Mr. Editor:
After the war with Russia in 1877 Turkey was reduced in size by having to give up some of her domains to the surrounding countries of Bulgaria, Roumania, Serbia, Montenegro, etc. Britain, in return for promising to defend Turkey's possessions in Asia, was given the right to occupy and administer Cyprus. How Greece ever came to have any claim on this island is beyond me. Of course, there are many Greeks on Cyprus and there are also many in Turkey, the population of which is a heterogeneous aggregation of Turks, Greeks, Slavs, Roumanians, Albanians and Franks, with

about one Greek for every two Turks. Turkey's army in the Russian war was about 750,000 men, well armed. She had a pretty good navy. Both army and navy were much reduced after this war because of the huge debts accumulated at this time. She was able to remain an independent nation only by the help of the European powers who have always recognized her importance as a buffer state between Russia, Southeast Asia and Africa. By retaining control of the Dardanelles, she keeps Russia from dominating the Mediterranean where she could do much damage to the fleets of the western powers by using her submarines based in the Black Sea.

Tito has lulled the Western Powers into the belief that he is a greater friend to them than he is to Russia, and has built up his supplies and military power with their help, until today no one knows just how powerful he is. To my mind he is another Hitler, and with the help of Russian armies he might easily surprise Turkey into a quick surrender.

About the only thing that gives him pause is the strong position of Great Britain on Cyprus and Malta, along with the presence of English, French and U. S. fleets in the Mediterranean.

I believe Tito will make his bid as soon as one or all of these powers withdraw, and if he can gain control of the Dardanelles, the situation becomes dark indeed for the West.

When Dulles makes the bald statement that the U.S. intends to shoot first and talk afterwards, he is on the right road.

I believe that Eden's knowledge of these conditions, concerning Turkey, was the reason he attacked Egypt and where the East was given a much needed lesson as to the vitality of the British Lion.

Wake up America!
E. P. Roblin Sr.,
Richmond Hill

Thank You

Dear Mr. Editor:
I noticed an item in last week's issue re the drawing power of advertising in your paper.

I want to congratulate you on the excellence of your weekly paper and its service to the community. I am a new resident here and I have found it very useful and helpful. The messages from the merchants have been helpful to us as new residents in doing our shopping and I have used your classifieds with great success. I have been able to arrange transportation, secure some needed articles and as well sell some unused articles of furniture and turn them into needed cash.

Thank you, Mr. Editor, I am glad my new home community is served so well by a local paper. It is a new experience for many of us who used to live in the big city.

Newcomer

March of Dimes

Dear Mr. Editor:
For the past five years, this Foundation has been engaged in the relief of suffering caused by Poliomyelitis.

Something new is being added. Starting as soon as possible, we expect to be accepting cases, in addition to poliomyelitis, of persons disabled by other diseases or accident who need to be rehabilitated.

Details of the new program are being worked out by a special committee of our Medical Advisory Committee, and will be sent to you for publication within the next week or ten days.

During January, our annual March of Dimes appeal for funds will be carried out. In view of our added responsibilities, we request your co-operation in helping us to make this the biggest March of Dimes campaign in our five-year history.

Thanking you for your help in the past in outlining our program to the people of our community, we remain,
Yours sincerely,
W. Denis Whitaker,
President,

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Our quotation today is by Archdeacon Farrar:
"We must learn to read the future by the past."

BETWEEN OURSELVES

BY Archer Wallace

THE IRON GATES

At the beginning of a new year, we know that often we shall meet situations which harass and distress us; we ought to know that much of the worry is futile and unnecessary. In the Book of Acts (Chapter 12) there is an account of Peter's deliverance from prison by the assistance of an angel. With a heart full of fear and misgiving the Apostle passed through the first and second gate and then approached the iron gate. Here is the Scriptural account of what happened: "They came upon the iron gate that leadeth unto the city which opened to them of its own accord and they went out and passed on through one street."

There are hundreds of books written about the utter futility of worry and thousands of sermons have been preached on the subject; the sad truth is that many of those who write the books or preach the sermons often find it hard to take their own advice. That doesn't mean the advice is futile; it does indicate how much harder it is to practice than to preach. Not only is it useless but it is dangerous. It unfits us to meet the very experience we dread. I once knew a student in England who had to face a difficult examination. It was a critical one for him in more ways than one. As the day drew near, he became more and more nervous and soon after the written exam

began, he was taken ill; had to leave the room and, of course, was not allowed to return. It was a perfect example of how worry saps the strength.

We often say that some are born worriers. It is true that there are men and women who have that tendency. Yet in their better moods these people laugh at themselves. They know from experience what they have previously suffered from scare-crows and so hope begins to glimmer. One of the loveliest poems I know on this subject is by Karle Wilson Baker:

"I love the friendly faces of old sorrows;
I have no secrets that they do not know.
They are so old I think they have forgotten
What bitter words were spoken long ago.
I hate the cold stern faces of new sorrows
Who stand and watch and catch me all alone.
I should be braver if I could remember
How different the older ones have grown."

We must learn to live one day at a time; otherwise we shall have no peace of mind. It is certain that we cannot carry today's burden and tomorrow's burden with today's strength. Newspapers told recently of an old couple who happily celebrated the sixtieth anniversary

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