



The Liberal

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Property Owners Share Too High

At a time when the Richmond Hill District High School Board is making determined efforts to reduce the share of its 1957 budget to be borne by the local taxpayer, public school supporters in Richmond Hill were disappointed to learn last week that they will have to bear 77 per cent of this year's public school budget. The province will only pay 23 per cent of the total cost.

The high school board in declining to accept a 59% - 41% ratio as between the province and the local taxpayer requested its Finance Committee to reconsider the estimates. It was hoped to further reduce the share borne by the local taxpayer and increase the province's portion. When re-presented Monday the committee had further reduced the ratio to 55% - 45%. This year's high school budget is an excellent example of what a group of trustees can do when they are really determined to give the property owner a better deal and place more of the financial responsibility on the shoulders of the provincial government. The high school board is to be congratulated on its efforts in this respect.

The public school budget has climbed

Should Seek T.T.C. Assurance

Recently, Richmond Hill and Markham Township councils set a definite policy to be followed during the present negotiations with the Toronto Transit Commission. Both these municipalities have agreed that a system of feeder lines may be started in North York, providing they do not adversely affect the North Yonge line. Vaughan Township, on the other hand, has expressed a greater interest in service than in the profits and a member of council has advocated that the owners agree to the breaking of the agreement as the T.T.C. requests.

While service is an important factor in the successful operation of the line, the owners should not lose sight of the fact that for many years, the taxpayers have made up the deficit on the operation of the line. It is only recently that any profit has accrued and has been returned as a dividend to taxpayers and now the municipalities are being asked in effect to give up this source of revenue for the sake of North York whose share of the line has been absorbed by the T.T.C. In recent weeks, North York has sent out a plea to the other municipalities asking for more co-operation to permit the establishment of feeder lines.

In considering the matter of feeder lines, Richmond Hill council in par-

Service Clubs Back Drive

Rotarians, Lions, Kiwanians and the rest of the service club members always seem to be busy attending luncheon meetings and conventions and playing practical jokes on one another in hotel lobbies.

But . . . behind all their 'madness' is a method. And for some 35 years they have been so dedicated to helping the handicapped child that they have become, as one official of the Ontario Society for Crippled Children put it, "the backbone of our work."

Without the backing of Ontario's 218 service clubs and their all-out promotion of the annual Easter Seal sale, the Society and its great and complex work could not function.

It was back in Windsor, Ont., in 1922 when a few physicians and surgeons with the members of 10 service clubs became appalled at the number of unattended cases of crippled children in Ontario and decided to do something positive about it. They formed the Ontario Society for Crippled Children

Beware Of Grass Fires

With the snow finally gone in the fields and disappearing in the bush, the most hazardous time of the year for grass fires is here. The dead grass of last year dries out rapidly in the sunny days of spring. This grass hasn't had time to rot as yet or become overtopped with new green grass, so anything can happen on a windy day if any of us are careless. Watch your matches, cigarettes and pipe heels.

A small fire may not appear serious to you — just some dead grass burning, but it can soon be a big fire, burning fields, brush, someone's house or barns, or even YOURS.

After a fire, people are heard to say,

ed to a record high of \$389,679.90. This is a jump of \$151,154.90 over the 1956 figure. In 1956 the province paid 22% of the total outlay and the local taxpayers a whopping 78%.

In a period of rising municipal taxation it was hoped a more equitable balance could be struck between the share to be borne by the province and the local residents. The educational system is a partnership arrangement between the province and the municipalities, and school boards should make a determined effort to capitalize to the fullest extent on any monies paid through the provincial grant system. This is especially true at a time when real estate taxes have been climbing steadily and show no signs of levelling off. When preparing its budget a board should lay particular stress on those items eligible for provincial grant while curtailing within reason any expenditures the province refuses to subsidize. Of course the problem would solve itself if Queen's Park could see its way clear to increase and expand its present grant system and thus give the local taxpayer more relief from the crushing burden of taxation.

Lying on her back (for she became bedridden towards the end) she surveyed the century through which she had lived. In her book she asked and answered the question of what was the most wonderful change she had seen in one hundred years. Her answer was, "The changed attitude of adults toward children."

She remembered her cousins and brothers, being severely flogged for minor offenses. She wrote: "I have known my boy cousin to return from school black and blue from bruises in-

particular might also explore the possibility of a feeder line service in Richmond Hill. The attempt to operate a local bus service has proven unsatisfactory and some town residents must walk as far as two miles to get to public transportation. These people are in as much need of extra facilities as the North York area and are as much entitled to it, being shareholders in the line. The interest shown in the plea of North York for added facilities is very commendable and shows that the northern municipalities are willing to co-operate. But they must have a definite assurance that the installation of feeder lines will not have a detrimental effect on the present profitable operation of the North Yonge system. A member of Richmond Hill council cautioned during the policy discussion against the possibility that the T.T.C. which operates the northern bus would hook up the feeder operations with it and thereby make the North Yonge bus absorb any deficit. The T.T.C. has already admitted that in most instances feeder lines do not pay for themselves. It should be definitely stipulated in any agreement the local municipalities make in the form of concessions to the existing agreement that the present financial status of the line will not be jeopardized.

which today needs \$700,000 to properly look after its growing case load of some 11,000 handicapped youngsters across the province.

Months before Easter, in every city, village and hamlet where a service club exists, members start whopping up enthusiasm as only service club men can do. Using Easter Seals at their media, they flood the mails with them and tirelessly follow through with their local canvasses until the final goal is reached.

Service club members comprise nearly 100 per cent of the Society's directorate . . . the committees of the Society's five summer camps are service club members . . . the orthopaedic surgeons who spend untold hours operating on crippled children's legs and arms are mostly service club men.

Small wonder, then, that the service clubs and the Society operate in a sort of partnership and that the whole affair is dedicated to a rehabilitation program second to none in the world.

"Oh it didn't do much damage, it only burned bush and didn't get near any buildings."

What about the bush it burned? How many dollars all through the years were tied up in that standing wood and the yearly interest that would have been obtained if the money had been invested elsewhere? How about all those yearly taxes and the work that the tax money could have done if used in some other way?

The co-operation of everybody is necessary to control the destructive scourge of fires which not only destroy timber but wildlife and the fertility of the soil.

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BETWEEN OURSELVES BY Archer Wallace

BACKWARD AND FORWARD

The end of the year is a good time to take stock and it is natural that we should ask ourselves what the world is coming to. Sometimes we get pessimistic and again occasionally hopeful, but we must take long views. I have often told the story of a remarkable old lady who lived part of her life in Newcastle-on-Tyne in England — about ten miles from where I was born and brought up. Here is the story.

A few years ago Elizabeth Haldane passed on in the north of England. She was born in April, 1825, and died in May, 1925. The old lady was remarkable, not only because of her great age, but because in the closing years of her life she wrote a book which was a record of the hundred years through which she had lived.

In that book Mrs. Haldane wrote of the changes of the century 1825-1925. It was a period of great change. She spent most of her life in Newcastle-on-Tyne, where George Stephenson invented the first locomotive and was busily engaged in improving it when she was a girl. She could recall the determined opposition to the first "traveling engines."

Later she saw the introduction of other methods of transportation: tricycles, bicycles, motor cars, and airplanes. It was a century of progress and discovery. She was keenly interested in radio, which made its appearance not long before her death. Her mind was clear to the end. The Archbishop of York, who visited her often, said, "Old age to her was not one of increasing weakness, but rather one of ever-growing spiritual power."

Lying on her back (for she became bedridden towards the end) she surveyed the century through which she had lived. In her book she asked and answered the question of what was the most wonderful change she had seen in one hundred years. Her answer was, "The changed attitude of adults toward children."

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High School Board

Suggest April Date Discuss Building Plans

The Richmond Hill District High School Board in session on Monday set Wednesday, April 17, as the tentative date for the holding of a joint meeting of representatives of the four municipalities (Vaughan, Markham, Richmond Hill, Woodbridge) which constitute the High School District, to discuss the Board's proposed building programme for 1957. The immediate objective is an addition to the Richmond Hill School and a new school at Woodbridge. Building Committee Chairman J. Howes, who is the Woodbridge representative on the Board, stated his committee had already interviewed Markham and Vaughan Councils preparatory to the holding of a joint meeting and is due to meet Woodbridge Council this week. They hope to confer with Richmond Hill Council very shortly.

Trustee M. Kinnee, who together with Messrs. H. Hayhoe and P. Macfarlane are Vaughan representatives on the High School Board, stated Vaughan Council had requested a meeting with its representatives some time ago to discuss overall costs and policy. Mr. Kinnee stated he had requested Council to delay the meeting until such time as the budget had been struck. Markham Township Council met with its three representatives, Messrs. S. Rumble, W. Middleton and H. Collard, in January to discuss matters of a similar nature.

Gyms and Cafeterias In a general discussion of building, Trustee R. Wood of Richmond Hill asked if the Board is obliged to build gyms and cafeterias for its schools. "No," replied Chairman Tamblin. "But the Department of Education states that we must teach physical education," remarked Trustee

flicted by the cane, while a school chum lived for three days, hiding in a chimney, in fear of the master's treatment. A girl cousin of mine was punished by being locked up in a barn and fed on bread and water." The Haldanes were quite well-to-do people, so we can only guess at the treatment handed out to less fortunate children.

She goes on to say that the same severity was used in religious training. It was a "wedge of torture and an instrument of cruelty. We were watched continually and our actions construed to mean what we had never dreamed. At family worship prayers were directed at us, rather than to the Almighty."

When she was fourteen, Elizabeth had a sharp attack of rheumatism, and seventy-five years later she still remembered the doctor's visit. He entered the room wearing a bright green coat with brass buttons, corduroy trousers, top boots and carrying a riding whip in his hand. He asked her if she would like to be "blinded." She meekly answered "Yes." He bound her arm tightly and with very old and crude instruments proceeded to bleed her. After two unsuccessful attempts he finally succeeded in getting a basin of blood. She did recover, but there was no babbling during convalescence. It was not thought the proper thing for young people to use warm water, and so, although it was a severe winter and water froze in her room, she had to break the ice and do her best.

There are depressing things in modern life, but here is an encouraging fact. It is a far better world for children than it has ever been. Elizabeth Haldane was right. The brutal methods of the past — due chiefly to ignorance — are passing, and there is a sincere effort on the part of adults to do what Jesus did when "He took a little child and set him in the midst of them."

Our quotation today is by Dr. Samuel: "Hope is like the sun, as we walk toward it, the shadows fall behind."



J. H. PASSMORE

Toronto man who was elected President of the Ontario Division Red Cross at the Annual Meeting, March 21st. Mr. Passmore is Associate Professor of the Ontario College of Education in charge of teacher training in Physical Health Education for men. He was born and raised in Hamilton and now lives at Jefferson. He was educated at Central Collegiate, Hamilton, and holds the following degrees: B.A. from McMaster University; B.P.H.E. from the University of Toronto; Bachelor of Education degree from the University of Toronto. For four years he was with the Royal Canadian Air Force, retiring with the rank of Squadron Leader.

As Chairman, Ontario Division Red Cross Water Safety Committee, he prepared the first Water Safety Manual for Red Cross. He has long been identified with Red Cross, holding these posts: Chairman of Water Safety Committee; Vice-President of Ontario Division. Chairman of the Branch Liaison Committee; President-Elect.

Metro Supply Water Markham - Vaughan

Metro council Tuesday agreed to negotiate an agreement with Markham and Vaughan townships for an eventual connection with the Metro sewer system for 30,000 residents in the southern part of both townships.

Fred G. Gardiner, Metro chairman, said Metro could not "build an iron curtain" about itself and "forget about what is going on beyond its northern boundary at Steeles Ave." If Metro failed to try to control the development by such an agreement, Mr. Gardiner said, the developers and the townships might obtain permission for a package sewage plant which would pour effluent into the Don river. Ald. Don Summerville said he was concerned with the volume of sewage which might be pumped into the main Metro sewage plant at Ashbridge's Bay. Immediate effect of Metro agreement for a connection, he said, would benefit land speculators. "Some subdividers have been likely stuck with a lot of land. Now he can unload it at a handsome profit."

Subdividers would prefer to pay for a package plant than be tied down to an agreement to pay for nearly two miles of main sewer, Mr. Gardiner said. Entire cost of the connection and enlargement of Metro plants would be paid by the subdividers through the two townships. No connection would be possible before 1959.

Council approved negotiations between Metro, the two townships, and the Ontario department of planning and development. Terms of any agreement are to be returned to Metro council for approval.

Markham Police Catch 65 Speeders

Markham Township Police caught 65 speeders Friday afternoon at Victoria Square with their speed trap. "It must have been the spring weather," said Chief C. Wideman. "It's the most we have caught speeding in a long time in a single afternoon."

Gov't Agency Buys Water Debentures

Markham Township received word this week that the Ontario Water Resources Commission has agreed to purchase the \$410,000 in water debentures from Markham Township to finance the development of Water Area No. 1. The water area extends from Steeles Avenue on the south to No. 7 Highway on the north.

With today's tight money market, the municipality decided to sell the water debentures through this government agency rather than wait any longer trying to locate a buyer on the open market.

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