



The Liberal

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Fire Prevention Week

By royal proclamation the week of October 5-11 has been set aside as Fire Prevention Week. The proclamation made in the name of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth of Canada, appeals to all citizens to curb careless causes of fire which last year claimed a record toll of human life and property waste.

The shocking story is told by 1957 provincial reports: a total of 640 lives and a direct property loss of \$134,700,000. Both figures are an all-time high.

The massive proportions of the toll over a decade are set out by the proclamation: 5,337 lives and an estimated 16,000 scarred and disfigured. The waste to our living and working places was \$967 million, more than enough to build two seaways. The indirect loss to the national economy was perhaps ten times this amount.

Nor do the figures include forest fire waste.

The tragedy is that most of the 686,202 fires in the decade were caused by human carelessness and neglect of simple rules of fire safety and common-sense.

This is the message for Fire Prevention Week from Canada's fire services, a force of 27,000 fire fighters, professional and volunteer. The message is high-lighted at Fire Prevention Week but it holds for every day of the year in every place of Canada.

The message is: DON'T GIVE FIRE A PLACE TO START. And, giving voice to the hapless victims, especially children, women and elderly folk: DON'T LEAVE US ALONE WITH THE HAZARDS OF FIRE.

Grimly underlying the situation is the disgraceful fact that, per capita, Canada's fire loss is one of the world's worst, if not the worst.

If more people thought in terms of more and larger ash trays for smokers in the home, Canada's fire fighters say, the fewer would be the number of small fires. And even small fires can mean disaster.

The four seasons of fire prevention: Spring's clean-up. Summer's dryness. Autumn's get-ready. Winter's hot fires.

Want Council Take Back Markham Rd.

(Continued from page 1) a successful municipal official out west who made it a policy to tell any ratepayer who approached him seeking a firm answer regarding a petition or leading question. "If it's in the best interest of the municipality I am for it. If it is not, I am against it." This, said the mayor, sent the ratepayer happily on his way — but on reflection the petitioner wondered just what the official's marvelous solution to his problem had really been. "When this council was elected," Mayor Tomlin continued, "it promised to look into this water problem and it has proceeded as quickly as possible. I urge that any further delay be brought to a minimum."

Councillor Bradstock suggested that Councillors Haggart and Paterson hold their motion in abeyance, with the understanding that Councillor Haggart could meet with the engineers and investigate the matter of prices re water-softening. A vote was then taken on the motion which was passed by Councillors Haggart, Paterson and Bradstock with Deputy Reeve Plaxton and Councillor Tinker registering opposition. The engineers and Councillor Haggart

will now arrange a meeting with various suppliers to compile their estimated costs for supplies and equipment as well as building costs, in the meantime the bids for tenders will be held up since the net result of this meeting may, or may not mean, (1) the hoped for lower-cost of iron removal and water-softening which this program at once, rather than waiting for several years or, (2) that the estimated cost will be prohibitive to having a water softening program at this time and that only the plan for iron removal and removal of odour in the water will go forward instead. Councillor Paterson stated that if the town succeeded in having a water-softening plan it will be the only municipality in the province to send 60% of water-softened water down the drain, since industry and such other water-consuming items as lawns and gardens use that amount, residences use only 40%, he maintained. **Correspondence** Replying to a letter from Mr. R. Markham of Elmwood Avenue, council passed a bylaw proclaiming the week of October 5-11 as

Jaycee Week. **Arnold and Yonge St.** Mayor Tomlin said that there has been much discussion and several queries from individuals regarding the re-building of the property known as the Arnold building at the corner of Yonge St. and Arnold Ave. In answering these queries he stated, "Council has no power whatsoever to interfere with a private owner's building and the town has no choice but to meet with such an owner's request for a building permit if a building may be safely re-constructed. Consequently it should be made very clear this building (damaged earlier this year by fire) is still structurally sound. And there is no reason why a building permit should not be issued." Council, the mayor concluded, is not a panacea for all ills. **Request Turned Down** Council regretfully but firmly turned down the petition of a subdivider who made application for water and sewage facilities to be supplied by the town of Richmond Hill for a 150 acres proposed subdivision on the west side of Yonge Sts. in the Elgin Mills area. Councillor Haggart moved at once to state, "The town should not extend its services outside the town limits." Mayor Tomlin said the existing boundaries of Richmond Hill where the only territory that could have services since, "we don't even know yet if we can ever get a plant on the west side of town."

FACTS and FAITH

A Weekly Comment On
Christian Life And Action
— By Calvin H. Chambers —



DOUBT MASTERED BY COMMITMENT
There are many things in daily life which lead us to doubt the reality of God. The trials, troubles, disappointments, sufferings and bereavements of life often cloud the vision of God. Death is perhaps the sharpest challenge to faith. Doubt and unbelief spring from many sources, and are evidence of our imperfect moral and spiritual nature. How often have we felt like the man in the Bible who said to Jesus, "Lord, I believe, but help Thou my unbelief."
Doubt can be readily overcome if we keep several things in mind. In the first place, honest doubts are nothing to be ashamed of, as long as we do not embalm them, and refuse to take steps to be rid of them. The person who boasts of his doubts and displays them like a collection of butterflies, is not an honest doubter. Many people act like the great American literary critic G. K. Chesterton, who once said that he had never read the New Testament for fear of changing some of his long held views. Doubt can never be overcome, if we do not open our minds and seek the truth where it is to be found.
Doubt is often the result of resisting the truth of God: Sometimes people assert that they cannot believe certain things in Christianity because they don't square with reason. What is often meant is that if they accepted the radical claims made by Jesus Christ, a revolutionary change would take place in their lives. Doubts are often used as "smoke screens". Some people will do almost anything to escape from an encounter with the God who comes not only to save but to judge. Religion can be used as an escape mechanism by which we try to hide the real issue of our "lack of fellowship with the God we profess to believe in." We set up "self barriers" against the truth, because we do not want to get too serious with anything which might change the pattern of our lives.
Christianity teaches that doubt can only be overcome as we surrender the right to be our own

masters. We must confess that we have been guilty of the original sin, which is self centred pride and rebellion. The Christian Church, in its best and highest moments, has always claimed that faith and reason are not against each other. It is only when we make our own will the sole arbitrator in things of faith, and we fall prey to doubt. It is not faith which conflicts with reason, but self centred pride. Dean Inge writes, "Faith is not the sacrifice of our reasoning powers, but only the realization that our reason cannot take us everywhere."
If we want to overcome the doubts of life which molest our inner peace, we must not run away from God. For every step we take toward Him, He will take toward us. But our search must not be merely with our 'heads' but with our 'hearts'. God says, "If ye shall seek me with a whole heart, ye shall surely find Me."
Faith ultimately has to do with our personal relationship to God, and not with the many problems which arise, such as the reason for pain and suffering, the meaning of death, there is such a thing as predestination, what about the after life. Faith is generated in us as we abandon ourselves to a personal God who has made it possible for us to come to Him, because He has first of all come to us, in Christ. Real faith and not just intellectual belief, is born in us when we find ourselves stripped of every rag of excuse and deprived of every support. We stand alone before Christ. It is this final anguish of spirit in which we let go of ourselves and reach out to Him, that He comes the Only Way. He is inevitable. We may still have many questions to ask. We may still feel there is much we do not know nor understand. But somehow, the problems are minimized in the encounter of one's soul with Christ. In this state of spiritual despair, as we cast ourselves and our doubts upon God, the dark clouds dispell and we find ourselves coming alive in the presence of Him, who is the Light of the world.

"Dear Mr. Editor"
Sees No Need For Further Expansion
Dear Mr. Editor —
Tucked away very inconspicuously in your last week's news story about the new sewage disposal plant was a very significant paragraph.
It told of council's long range plans for further expansion and the possibility of another sewage disposal plant at Pleasantville's doorstep to take care of this new expansion.
I noted that Water Resources Commission officials said a good deal of time and study is needed to determine if a sewage disposal plant can be located in the west part of town.
I wonder who wants the expansion. I would have thought it would be a wise policy to solve our many existing problems before embarking on any more expansion of town borders.
We soon will have a municipal election and I hope aspiring candidates will state in clear black and white just where they stand on this question of further expansion. We have many acres of vacant industrial land now and I can see no possible need or excuse for further expansion other than to satisfy the wishes of land speculators.
I hope all ratepayers read carefully your paper and take note and warning of someone's expensive dreams of further expansion. "Civis"

Finds "The Liberal" Excellent Medium
Dear Mr. Editor:
We found advertising in "The Liberal" most effective for renting our house. The first box reply we opened was from people who were delighted with the house.
A surprising number of other enquiries were received and we could have rented it several times over.
Yours truly,
Mary N. Northway,
42 Glen Elm Ave.,
Toronto, Ont.

New Richmond Hill United Church Addition
Dear Mr. Editor:
Last week-end I, with my family had the privilege and pleasure of touring our wonderful new addition to Richmond Hill United Church. The outstanding workmanship, spacious and modern kitchens and washrooms, magnificent auditorium, beautiful vestry abundant classrooms, the finest of trim, seemed to make a dream come true and realize our efforts and desires were not in vain.
As we gazed at this beauty I wondered would our auditorium ring with laughter from our youngsters, playing, perhaps badminton, basketball and dancing? Would it answer the problem of keeping our sixteen year old and up, interested in the Church, or would the majority leave, coming back later with their own youngsters to start again?
May these rooms go beyond the adage of "Beauty is only skin deep" and make them warm, friendly, and may the auditorium be jammed each evening with youth engaged in sport, youngster's problems and I am sure God would bless our efforts a thousand fold.
Mother of six.

Wants One Family Dwelling Bylaw Enforced
Dear Mr. Editor:
What makes a slum? Most of us associate slums with crowded cities; tenements teeming with people, side by side, with industry with its smoke and squalor, no place for the children to play and, — perhaps, what is more important — no privacy. Many of us in the subdivisions of Richmond Hill moved here to escape the crowds and smoke of Toronto. You can imagine my concern then, when an acquaintance from a neighboring subdivision, remarked that he was moving, because the neighborhood was deteriorating into a slum. How is it possible for a subdivision not more than two or three years old and still growing, with absolutely no industry, to become a slum? There are no crowds — or are there? If more than one family is occupying a six room bungalow, then that house is crowded. Now we live in a neighborhood that is supposed to be restricted to one-family dwellings. There is a by-law to this effect with a penalty of \$90.00 for infringement. Nevertheless there are many bungalows in this area sheltering two families. Most of us close our eyes to this if the families are both adult, or if there is only one family with children; but if both families have children, it becomes a very different problem. The schools are already crowded, with some of the classes staggered. Suppose 10, or 20 for that matter, more families, encouraged by the fact that others are renting space to families with children, were to also rent rooms to families with children. The schools would be unable to build fast enough to cope with the increase. In the meantime the one family taxpayer would be helping to pay the extra taxes for the other fellow's tenants, as well as suffering the inconvenience. We are all too familiar with unemployment, sickness and the problems associated with them. If a family in desperation to meet a crisis rents to the first family that applies for rooms, and that family has children, we would sympathize, if it were a temporary measure. But consider the following:
Three families in one six room bungalow. The owners, parents of three children, both work. The three children of the owners attend school as does one of the tenant's children. While the parents work the children are left "in the care" of one of the tenants. The children have been locked out and forced to use the great outdoors for a bathroom. The sympathetic neighbours find themselves in the impossible position of tolerating these children, at the same time trying to teach their own little tots not to despise them, but punish their own if they copy the revolting habits their playmates have picked up

Over Hill, Over Dale

by Cicely Thomson

Now that we are to have a public meeting to consider the pros and cons of developing a park in the mill pond area, I sincerely hope that apathy will not keep away people who feel that such an area would not only be nice to have but be an asset to the town.

I was interested to note the Professor Hines of Washington, speaking last week at a workshop conference on social group work in Toronto, said that apathy and segmentation were the reason for a great many public projects not reaching fulfillment. Apathy, he said, stemmed from the failure of past projects to be realized and segmentation from the feeling of one group that unless it dominated another group it would not survive. Speaking of park development he said that the mere creation of park land was not enough . . . that the presence of lawn and flowers and trees did not make a park worthwhile to the community, it was the social uses to which that park could be put that gave it meaning . . . the children who would run and play there, the people who take their picnic lunches there in warm spring days . . .

Certainly the time seems very favorable for us to consider the creation of a park in the mill pond area . . . where the acreage for the present development is not too large, but where there is considerable land to the north that can be reserved for the future. The conservation authority have presented a detailed plan for the area whereby the authority would undertake half the cost and Richmond Hill would have to find a similar amount, equivalent to the cost of one six room bungalow.

While this in itself, \$15,000, is not inconsiderable from the taxpayers' point of view, a little more than a dollar each, the gain in intangible values is far higher than usually stem from such expenditure. How well I remember Helen Arthur speaking on Red Cross work in Korea, commenting on how important the Koreans felt it was that the little dirty starving children should be made to smile even before their rags and filth were removed from them. At first this was incomprehensible to the American workers who understandably were concerned primarily with the body's welfare amidst the horrors of privation and disease that were rampant in the aftermath of war. But the Korean, who if he had his choice of two meals a day, or one meal a day and laughter, would take the latter because that feeds his spirit, feels that to put the smile on the child's face comes before the hard scrubbing.

Which sounds a long way from our mill pond park . . . but it isn't in thought, because such a park is comparable to a smile on the town's face for every citizen to respond to. I go along with Councillor Joseph Paterson who said in a council meeting this month, "I think we should be doing the town a great injustice if we did not avail ourselves of this opportunity."

This opportunity, truly, will demand sacrifice on the part of a few, six property owners on the east side of the road would have to give up 75 feet of their land, but perhaps they will think of the many whose locations are not so fortunate, and take pleasure in the sacrifice. Indeed some of the lots in the vicinity, while having good frontage, lack depth and therefore playing space for children. The creation of park land to the south of the pond for one thing would give Pleasantville a summer playground area for their youngsters.

On the other hand some of us regard the tangle of wild shrubs and trees as a haven for birds . . . but I do not feel that the conservation authority will spoil the area for the interesting and beneficial little feathered creatures. The town has now grown to such a size that to try to keep that area for a wilderness would be depriving too many people of the delights that a carefully planned park can give us all. As in "Salad Days" where the young couple reluctantly faced growing up, we must remind each other "we mustn't look back".

At any rate council has shown great foresight in their enthusiastic approach to the project, and in our way we will be able to class ourselves with Vancouver and its magnificent Stanley Park. (However did it survive as a park through Vancouver's early boom days? . . . now Vancouverites are too proud of it to dream of spoiling it.) We will join Victoria with its beautiful Beacon Hill Park, and Stratford whose forethought regarding the area on either side of the Avon turned their town from just another little industrial town in Ontario into a fit setting for the exciting Shakespearian Festival.

Of course the public opinion expressed at the meeting on October 8 will have to be favorable and back up our council's feelings on the subject in order that we may be the benefactors to our children and grandchildren that the men of the turn of the century were to the cities I have mentioned. I for one hope that the groups and individuals who go to that meeting will endorse the councillors' feeling unqualifiedly . . . we do have a beauty spot now, and it can be a beauty spot that will uplift the hearts of thousands in our generation and younger ones, if we can see the potentialities, not from our own point of view who have enjoyed the serenity of the acres of water and wish them unchanged, but, can envision what will happen to this water and the acres around it if we turn down the conservation proposal and leave the land to its own devices.
Let's not be apathetic.

because of shameful neglect? Is it any wonder they want to move? The trouble is, the newcomers will not remain long in such an environment, and this will go on until someone indifferent or the same, moves in to stay. In this way slums are born. It takes time but it happens. Perhaps I am unreasonable, but it seems to me if a man wants to turn his home into a building for the strict purpose of making money, he should at least pay a business tax. There is a remedy for this of course but it means the ratepayers would have to insist that the by-law either be enforced or else that homeowners wishing to rent to families with children, be taxed in proportion, which would make it no longer profitable. The sooner something is done the better for I should hate to move from my brick bungalow in the North with the mortgage, etc., so forth I should not repine, for they tell me it's mine while I pay the interest. Oh there isn't a rug on the floor, and the furniture, ugh! we deplore. But the fresh air, oh gee! Thank the Lord that it's free. In my brick bungalow in the North. With apologies to the author of "My Little Grey Home in the West."
Yours truly,
One Alarmed Ratepayer

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