

The Liberal



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C.N.R. Plans

The announcement this week by C.N.R. President Donald Gordon for plans for a hundred million dollar railway project at least clears the air and puts to rest conflicting rumors which have been heard during recent months. The C.N.R. plan calls for a by-pass line passing through the southern sections of Markham and Vaughan Townships and crossing Yonge Street just north of Steele's Avenue. The project includes an 1185 acre marshalling yard south of Maple in Vaughan Township.

Mr. Gordon has stated with definiteness that this is the only plan to solve the traffic situation in Metropolitan Toronto. He made this statement after long and intensive study and consultation with the best known authorities. We have been given to understand very clearly that if the plan does not proceed the growth, development and prosperity of the whole area would be materially hampered in the years to come.

Metro Chairman Fred G. Gardiner has said in endorsing the project, that it is the most important scheme to hit Toronto and district in a quarter century. He hailed the plan as a milestone in our development, and predicted it will promote industrial growth in Markham and Vaughan Townships.

C.N.R. President Donald Gordon says the plan is a "must" and it has been endorsed by Metro Chairman Gardiner and Metro Planning Board. With such backing it would appear the project will be carried out.

Richmond Hill, Markham and Vaughan Townships are vitally concerned with the project and while appreciating the need for some such plan the prospect of the new rail line and 1185 acre marshalling yard on Maple's doorstep are naturally received with some misgivings.

Although outside Metropolitan Toronto, our prosperity and our future are undoubtedly closely tied with that great association of municipalities. Prosperity for Metro should mean prosperity for us. Naturally we must think well and long before taking any action which would impede the industrial and business growth of the whole area.

There will be some advantages to this district. There will be a great deal of employment and the plan should encourage industrial development. Just how much we will benefit remains to be seen, but it is very clear that the project is going to have far reaching effects on the future development of this area. It is indeed for us a milestone, and it may change entirely the complexion of our future growth.

Of special concern is the plight of those who will be directly affected by the building of a rail line and a marshalling yard in this district. In hailing the plan as a boon to C.N.R. freight traffic, and an incentive to industrial growth let us not forget the many people who will face dislocation and financial loss. Let us give due thought to the plight of the homeowner who will wake up some morning to find he is living next to a rail line. Granted diesel

engines and electronics have revolutionized railways, and rail lines to freight yards are not what they used to be, but just give a thought as to how you would like it to happen to you.

If the project is a "must" for the future growth and development of Metro let it proceed, but let's not shoulder all the price of progress on the few who are so situated they will bear the too heavy burden of inconvenience and loss.

President Gordon has given assurance that every effort will be made to make fair settlements and that where there is proven damage payment will be made. We have confidence he meant what he said, and that C.N.R. management will endeavour to carry out negotiations for needed right-of-way with reasonableness and consideration. We hope they will keep in mind that a home often means more than the dollar value of brick and mortar; damage may be real and yet very hard to assess in dollars and cents on the real estate market.

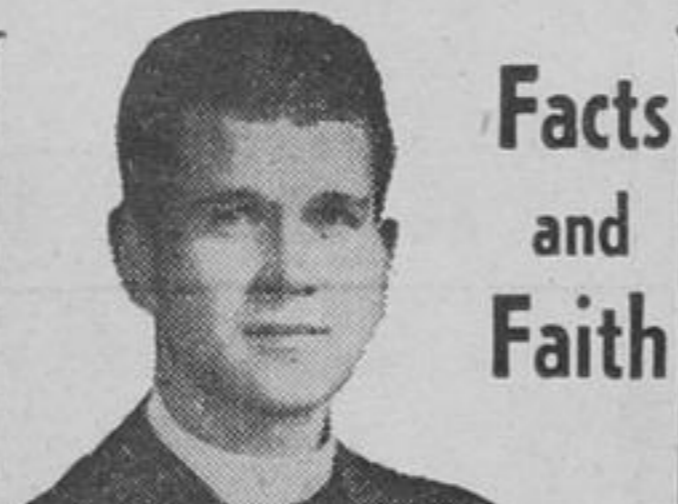
C.N.R. and Metro authorities have told us this project is a MUST. We want to point out with equal emphasis that another MUST is that every citizen and homeowner affected must get fair and just consideration.

A home is one of the worthwhile things acquired on this mortal journey and in many cases represents a lifetime of toil, savings and sacrifice. If it is necessary to take a man's home, or run a rail line past his back door in the interests of promoting the industrial and commercial development of this great Metropolitan area, let us at least pay well for the loss and inconvenience he brings to his life.

The home owner in the path of this new march of progress must not be allowed to bear more than his share of the cost. If as we are told, we all will reap the benefits, let's all share the cost.

The C.N.R. plans for this great rail project bespeak unbounded faith in the future of this district. In this faith we agree wholeheartedly and feel confident the railway will be accorded a generous degree of co-operation. We trust in return the people who must suffer loss and dislocation will be given sympathetic and more than generous consideration. In facing the many problems which will arise we are confident local municipal councils and planning authorities will lend every possible assistance in making sure the interests of local communities and citizens are not jeopardized. We hope the existing plans are sufficiently flexible to allow for changes where necessary to avoid interference with established community plans.

Hind-sight is much better than fore-sight, and there is little to be gained from bemoaning the fact this plan should have been outlined twenty-five years ago. Our main concern now, must be that twenty-five years hence, this project will have proven to be the right one.



Facts and Faith

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

ADVENTURESOME FAITH

It always takes courage to be adventuresome, regardless of our interests or concerns. We all love adventure stories, because there is in all of us a certain amount of love for the unknown. The people who have ventured forth courageously on some exploit, command our attention. The explorers of every age, the Pilgrim Fathers, missionaries of the cross, reformers and social crusaders, move us with admiration. If you know the experience of "leaving home," you are aware of the struggle and self-searching which is involved in an adventure. It may be the lure of the big-city, the desire to see new places, the hunger to do something different, that leads us away from home. But whatever the reason, the struggle of leaving home can never be minimized. It takes courage to adventure forth alone.

Abraham is known as the Father of the Faithful, because adventuresome faith characterized his relationship to God. In and through this man who lived 2300 years before the birth of Christ, we see what God can do with someone who is ready to go forward with Him. God always leads us forward, if we are courageous enough to abandon our lives to Him. The Lord has a plan for our lives, but the plan cannot be worked out, until we are ready to adventure with Him. No builder would erect an edifice of any sort, without having a blueprint of the finished structure before him. Is it not reasonable to believe that the Master Builder of all things, has a plan for those He is calling to Himself?

But the plan can only be fulfilled when we yield and co-operate with Him. God will not invade the area of our responsibility. If He is calling us, we can be certain He will not force us to accept His call. The man who thinks he cannot follow God on the road of life, either will not listen to His voice, or he is not to obey. How God called Abraham into His service is not important. The significant thing is that he responded when he heard the call.

The Christian life begins with a response to the call of God. We cannot fulfill the high purpose which God has for us in life, until we are ready to "let go and let God" take over. There can be no knowledge of God until we adventure with Him. The knowledge of God comes as we act in response to His call. If we tug the fireside hearth of life, we can never know the plan or purpose God has for us. Jesus made it clear to those who would be His disciples, that they "must leave all and follow Him." We must be ready to put our hands into the hands of God, and permit Him to lead us in every aspect of life. He will help us to do many things which we thought impossible. He will lead us away from self-centered living, to God controlled living.

The finest hour in a person's life, is when He willingly commits his whole life to God, and purposes in his heart to walk with God all the days of his life. We need not be afraid of the future, if we adventure with God. He will give us every reason to say with the hymn writer, "all the way my Saviour leads me, what have I to ask besides?"

Over Hill, Over Dale

by Cicely Thomson

One hundred years ago, on the battlefield of Solferino in Italy, was born the idea of the Red Cross. As Henri Dunant passed hundreds of wounded men, dying of hunger and thirst, their bleeding wounds filthy with dirt and flies, he asked a group of villagers to help him and together they fed the men, cleaned their wounds, and treated them as best they could.

Henri Dunant was not silent over the horrors of that field. He wrote a book "Souvenir of Solferino" that kindled a spark among men around the world. By 1864 the first Geneva Convention was drafted which prescribed that sick and wounded in the field of battle be accorded humane treatment whether friend or enemy.

Today, whenever disaster strikes in any form in any part of the world, our mind turns unsurprised to the Red Cross organization. When we see the Red Cross Transfusion Service Unit we accept it as part of the service of that organization. At the Veterans' Hospital the Arts and Crafts Program and the Canteen for mobile patients and their visitors is run by who else but the Red Cross. When one of a family was a prisoner of war or was interned we counted on Red Cross parcels to help him through the ordeal.

How much do we take this great and complex organization for granted? Beyond realizing that its merciful hands stretch almost wherever human suffering or need is felt, are we aware of the Red Cross as having personal meaning to us?

Red Cross certainly has a very real meaning to Ruth Johnston to whom I talked last week. She is on the headquarters staff in Toronto, in charge of personnel . . . there are about 120 here, and in various parts of Canada about 500 on Blood Transfusion Service and 55-60 in the Arts and Crafts Program. More than 800 women are giving thousands of hours of their time as volunteers of the Red Cross Corps . . . it is almost impossible to estimate the number of Canadian women who knit, sew and prepare clinic and hospital supplies for the Women's Work Committee of the Canadian organization . . . several thousand women make regular visits to hospitals in their area, particularly to the veterans' hospitals . . . and also participate in the services of the eight Red Cross Lodges . . . more than 800 registered nurses give their time and talent to instruct Red Cross Home Nursing Courses . . . volunteers are found in Port Nurseries in St. John and Halifax, and are on hand to welcome new Canadians and assist them in their first few hours in their adopted land.

There are more than 1200 branches, with ten provincial divisions and a Central Council of the Canadian Red Cross Society. Mr. J. H. Passmore is president of the Ontario Division and is a regular visitor at the Ontario H.Q. at 460 Jarvis and the cheek-by-jowl Canadian H.Q. at 95 Wellesley East.

During the Second World War there was a very active Red Cross Branch in Richmond Hill, but the war over, they disbanded before the active post-war programming was put into effect. One of the reasons the mobile blood transfusion unit does not call here, as it normally does to a town this size about twice a year, is that there is no branch to sponsor it. For a team to come it must be assured of 200-300 pints of blood and it is up to the branch to have contacted volunteers. As the blood must be used within three weeks, if a team came here and received only 20 or 30 bottles of blood then someone, somewhere would go short, because each unit is responsible for a weekly quota. Fortunately for Richmond Hill residents you are not asked in a Toronto hospital "Are you in an area where the unit travels?" before you are given a needed transfusion.

As we touched upon the high points of Red Cross service to people in need, I asked how the disaster services were so efficiently organized to spring into action. Each division and large branch is organized for disaster. Miss Johnston told me. They may not have a stockpile of blankets, etc., but they have the means of obtaining supplies rapidly and they have what's more important — a stockpile of knowledge. They work closely with the local area, especially in an area which is subject to disasters. Getting to the scene is never a problem, for Red Cross is recognized as one of the vital services, for example in Hurricane Hazel volunteer drivers with their identification were always allowed through the road blocks.

We mentioned the Civilian Relief, the Water Safety Program, the Home Nursing Courses, the Sickroom Supply Loan Service. Then I asked about the Arts and Crafts Program which is new since the war, and carried on largely in Veterans' Hospitals. Here the expert craft workers spend the morning in the wards and afternoons in the department workshop set up by the hospital and the mobile men come to them. They work closely with occupational therapy, for there is a strong therapeutic value to their craft work . . . and having seen some delightful examples of cuddly children's toys as well as gifts or saleable articles for the home I can well believe the pride the men take in the finished articles is as good as a booster shot!

The Junior Red Cross has as its long term purpose more understanding of the overall work of the parent organization. Their main purpose is not fund raising, and their funds go into programs for crippled children and into international work for children . . . they work very closely with the Department of Education, indeed the national chairman of the Junior Red Cross is Dr. John Phair.

I know there are several phases of Red Cross work I have not even mentioned, but this one aspect I would like to stress . . . where they see the need they establish a service (e.g. blood) and when the need is met in some other way (e.g. by a government agency), they step quietly out of the picture.

And I know whenever I see one of the girls in her neat corps uniform of Oxford grey with the smart beret, and the identifying insignia I feel "there goes someone who his helping others" and it's a warm feeling I get just from seeing her.

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New Program Of After School Lessons

A simple new plan for after-school discussion groups, feasible in any community large enough to have a power plant, farm bureau or hospital, may open up now untapped opportunities for thousands of our most gifted teen-agers, an article in a recent issue of Readers' Digest reports.

So far, 42 communities across the North American continent have picked up the idea, pioneered by a onetime science teacher. Scores of other cities are waiting for him to come and show them how. The former teacher, Jacob Shapiro, now travels almost constantly, spreading the word.

Shapiro started it in Niles Township High School, Skokie, Ill., U.S.A., after low pay had forced him to leave teaching for industrial research. Always a teacher at heart, he won Skokie officials' approval for an after-hours course in advanced science which he would teach without pay.

The youngsters proved too smart for the ex-teacher. He had to recruit specialists to answer their questions — a botanist, an organic chemist, a re-

search biologist. Quickly the class split into smaller groups of youngsters pursuing projects in the fields of their specialized interest and reporting back to the whole group periodically. It calls for several sessions a week, totaling 1200 hours if the youngster goes through the whole course from sophomore to senior years.

No school credit is given for the course; but its graduates are welcome in the best colleges, often with full scholarships. And all have had the priceless opportunity of learning as much and as fast as their extra-high I.Q.'s will permit.

Shapiro insists that almost every community has people with the specialized training needed to give such courses. He finds engineers at the local telephone company or power plant, medical specialists at the local hospital, agriculture experts at the Farm Bureau or County Agent's office. Almost always, they are happy to serve for little or no pay — plus the delight of working with youngsters who are truly fascinated by science.

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