

The Liberal



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Offers Sound Advice

J. W. P. Carter, Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs, in the provincial government, has warned civic politicians to keep experts out of the field of municipal policy making. Speaking at the 61st convention of the Ontario Municipal Association, Mr. Carter said that allowing experts — some of the self-styled variety — to dictate policy was a major factor in the greatest problem facing municipalities today, the apathy of ratepayers and electors.

Mr. Carter said that the public had been educated to accept these experts, "or people described as keen on that sort of thing," to run civic affairs. This has resulted, he said, in many of the best brains available not taking their rightful position and neglecting their civic duties to family and neighbors.

The experts, he said, should be relegated to a back seat, and under no circumstances should be allowed to tell elected representatives what they should do. Elected representatives should have absolute control of policies at all stages.

Infiltration of experts in the field of policy has increased apathy, as electors often feel they should leave decisions to others. As a result, the electorate fails to familiarize itself with the candidates or their qualifications, he said.

As an illustration of apathy Mr. Carter cited average voting figures. In the last Federal election, there was a 78 per cent turn out. In the last Provincial contest, 62 per cent voted.

But in Ontario's five largest cities in their last municipal elections, use of the franchise ranged from 45 to 19 per cent.

Rarely do more than 60 per cent of the electorate vote, he said, and there are a large number of acclamations — up to 50 per cent of available positions.

Solution of the problem, he said, is a long term, intensive program of political education. Without it, he said, the voters will find their democratic rights diminishing.

What form this program should take is another question. A great many methods have been used to encourage people to take an increased interest in local government with little apparent success. Except where they are members of a specific delegation do they seldom if ever bother to attend regular council deliberations. Community organizations such as the Jaycees have sponsored "Get Out The Vote Campaigns" in an endeavour to encourage a heavier turnout at election time. However it seems the only time people get aroused is when their pocket books are affected. A rise in taxes sparks interest while the mundane day to day happenings of council are very boring. If the people want to increase the effectiveness and range of municipal government then they will have to be prepared to take a real interest in the day to day activities of their elected representatives. An aroused public still remains the best guarantee of good stable government. It is so easy for the people in a democratic society to shirk their responsibilities and leave the business of government to somebody else.

It is to be hoped some means can be found which will result in our people taking a broader interest in every level of government.

What Community Shopping Means To You

As the reader scans through this issue, he will come across the request of local merchants that this community 'shop locally'. The merchants go on to say, "and watch your town grow". This is a reasonable request, not only because it is good for the merchant but because by shopping locally you help to build a better community. It takes money to build a community . . . money that circulates within the community and money that goes into taxes that support our schools, and civic improve-

ments. YOU HELP YOURSELVES . . . when you spend money at home.

The advantages of shopping in your local community are many and you will enjoy real satisfaction in dealing with your local merchant. Shop at home and see, and remember too, you can trust your local merchants . . . they are your friends and neighbors and they depend on their good reputation as well as their quality merchandise and low prices to sell you. Their integrity is high.

V.O.N. Needs Your Support

The people of Richmond Hill during the year have many requests for donations, but none receive a more whole-hearted and generous response than the annual appeal in support of the Victorian Order of Nurses.

The Richmond Hill Branch has been in active operation since early in 1958, and has carried on a home nursing service which has proven of genuine assistance to a great many people. The growth of the community is making continually increased demands on the service and the local committee is asking the people of Richmond Hill to give \$6,000. to carry on the work next year.

The Victorian Order Nurse in her attractive blue uniform is now a familiar figure as she goes about town in all kinds of weather on her errands of

mercy. This year she will make more than 1600 such visits in Richmond Hill. The V.O.N. will call at the home of any sick person, and her skilled attention is denied to no one. Those so unfortunate as to be unable to pay, often are the most urgently in need of her services.

It is to assure a continuance of this great humanitarian service that the people of Richmond Hill are asked to give \$6,000. in the campaign now under way. Volunteer canvassers, dedicated to the cause of continuing the V.O.N. work in this community, will call at every home and place of business.

The V.O.N. is carrying on a most worthwhile work in Richmond Hill. You can be a partner in the humanitarian public service by giving generously when the canvasser calls at your home.

"Dear Mr. Editor"

Paul Delmer

Finds Advertising Helpful
Dear Mr. Editor:
I just wanted to let you know how much I appreciate the fine advertising your paper contains. I suppose it is because Richmond Hill is growing so fast, with so many new stores opening up and so forth. But it is really a pleasure to compare prices — before shopping, and to get in on so many shopping savings, by reading both your classified and display advertisements.
Thrifty Housewife

Kinette Club Fall Activities

The Richmond Hill Kinette Club started their fall season with a very enjoyable corn roast at the Neal Farm, Gormley on August 29th.

Their first dinner meeting of the year was held on Wednesday, September 9th at the Yangtze Pagoda Restaurant with 19 Kinettes present and two guests, Mrs. Eileen Mabley and Mrs. Alice Murray.

Officers for the coming year were installed by Past President Muriel Flagler as follows: President Helen Mabley, Vice-President Mary Neal, Secretary, Joan Pallister, Treasurer, Hannah Porter, Registrar, Jackie Bellamy, Bulletin Editor, Anita Snow.

Registrar Jackie Bellamy was presented with a Kinette Baby Spoon for her new daughter.

The Kinettes will again canvass for the V.O.N. campaign from September 15th to September 30th.

Plans were discussed for their annual tea, bake sale and bazaar which will be held at the Masonic Hall, Crosby Avenue on Saturday, November 21st from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

The meeting came to a close with those present viewing movies of the picnic held last June.

Joanne Iselin Weds W. White

Richmond Hill United Church was the scene of a lovely afternoon wedding on Saturday September 5, 1959, when Joanne Irene Iselin, wearing a full length gown of white lace and tulle and carrying a bouquet of pink roses, became the bride of William Edward White. The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Iselin of Parma, (Cleveland), Ohio and the groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. George White of Langstaff.

Given in marriage by her father, the bride was attended by Miss Peggy Heaton as maid of honour and Sandra Holm, Lynda Holm and Carole Suter as bridesmaids and Lorna and Arlene Lennox as bridesmaids, all attired in pastel coloured gowns and carrying matching bouquets of flowers. The Rev. C. G. Higginson officiated at the wedding and during the ceremony Miss Margaret Jones sang.

Mr. Tom White was best man for his brother and Messrs Ross White, Mary Iselin and Charlie White were attendants. A dinner and reception for 150 guests was held at Massey's restaurant before the happy couple left on a two weeks honeymoon trip by motor through Canada and the United States. On their return they will reside on Proctor Avenue.

THORNLEA

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Socials
Mr. and Mrs. Chris Hansen spent the week-end at Milverton, visiting friends.

Mr. and Mrs. Cousins, No. 7 Highway, moved to their new home at Aurora on Saturday.

Mrs. J. Robinson, Bayview Ave. entertained at a miscellaneous shower on Thursday September 10th in honour of Miss Gwen Greaves whose marriage to Rev. Charles Ledger of Winnipeg takes place this Friday, September 18th at Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Thornhill. Gwen received many beautiful and useful gifts. Refreshments were served by the hostess and enjoyed by the guests. About 40 ladies were present. Mrs. Robinson had decorated her house with pink and white streamers and made a wishing well to hold the gifts.

Anyone interested in an afternoon and evening of fun and entertainment are invited to a bake sale and sale of articles from 2:55 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 19th at Gordon Morisons, Victoria Square just 3 miles North of No. 7 Highway in the evening at 7 p.m. there will be an auction sale of a variety of articles both large and small.

Across the road at the Victoria Hall the Young People of the community are holding a party of square and round dancing at 8:30 p.m. Top 30 recordings will be played and there will be fun for everyone, admission is just 35c per person. We would like to see as many people as possible from this area support these two events.

Many local residents visited and gave their assistance at the Cancer Booth in the Art Gallery at the C. N. E. We would like them to know that their help and support were greatly appreciated.

School News
Approximately twenty new pupils registered for school when it re-opened on September 8th. There were also some new faces on the teaching staff, and a warm welcome is extended to Mr. Kinsinger, who is the new principal and also to the new teachers.

The Athletics Association has decided to hold the Annual Field Day at Thornlea School this year on October 7th. Lets hope the weather is kind to us that day, as I believe it had to be postponed due to rain last year.

Forecasts British Labour Victory

AT A TIME WHEN EVERY OTHER COLUMNIST in North America is setting forth the many reasons why a sweeping Conservative victory in the forthcoming General Election in Britain is assured, I forecast a victory for the British Labour Party. It will be Mr. Gaitskell, no doubt accompanied by Mr. Bevan as Foreign Minister, who will attend any Summit Conference which may follow on from the current Eisenhower-Khrushchev meetings.

Ever since they came again into office, the Conservatives have operated on a minority vote. That is, although they won the last two elections, on each occasion more than half a million votes were given to the Labour Party than were obtained by the Conservative Party on the overall National totals, although the latter gained most seats. Fact that the Tories won, results from inequality in seats which makes it necessary for a larger number of votes to be obtained to win some seats than others. Then also the Liberal Party gained nearly three million votes and have for many years been woefully unrepresented in Parliament. There is no doubt therefore that the Conservatives are a minority in the country. It should also be taken into account that at every by-election since the last general election, the Tories have been dropping votes and occasionally a seat. They have had their by-election candidates returned time after time with reduced majorities — in some cases, very startling reductions.

If I am wrong in my forecast and the Conservatives are again returned, it will certainly once more be on a minority vote. But the chances are that Mr. Gaitskell's party will win with an increasing number of Liberals voting for Labour. This situation is brought about because for years the Liberal Party has not been able to afford to put up enough candidates to give the promise of sufficient strength to provide an alternative government. More and more Liberals have come to realize that under the two-party system they are virtually disenfranchised and to vote for their own candidates is to waste their votes. Thus they are pressing for Proportional Representation which would give each party a representation equal to their percentage of votes in the country. While this would give them immediately a much larger representation in Parliament, the system would not aid stable government. Proportional Representation was the trouble in France for years, giving so many splinter groups representation that no single party ever could form a strong government alone.

Any Washington policeman who hasn't had his vacation won't get it for a while; all but emergency leaves have been cancelled during Khrushchev's visit to the United States. Readers will agree that if an end to the cold war is brought nearer by these exchanges then a step forward will have been achieved. A year ago one could easily have been branded a Communist for stating in public the slightest little thing favourable towards the Soviet people. But a year ago I was exploring the USSR over a period of four and a half months and was reporting on the radio and in print the things so many correspondents are now putting across as 1959 discoveries. A year ago few journals would publish these views. Today it is the fashion for every journal to do so. How the world does change!

This is not to say that the Soviet people from Mr. Khrushchev down, do not want to win the world for communism. They most certainly do. BUT, they sincerely believe that time is on their side and that this desirable state of affairs will be brought about in the normal course of events, quietly and peacefully. Why then should they want a war, they ask. Having lost more than forty million with every family affected during the last war, with whole cities razed to the ground, universities, colleges, schools, and many other buildings utterly destroyed, they know better than most just what modern war can mean to man. As Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt has said of the Soviet people, "The Russian people have a horror of war". Mr. Khrushchev no more than the Soviet people, desires war. But he will continue to threaten and bluster, because, threatened from every point of the compass by U.S. and Allied military bases which stretch from Japan across the world to the North Pole, he feels that to keep the West jittery is a good policy. In his view this is just another form of "The best defence is attack".

Real results will develop from the Eisenhower-Khrushchev meetings and any subsequent Summit Conference if these basic facts are recognized: (1) The U.S.S.R. does not want war; (2) China cannot continue to be excluded from world councils at United Nations level; (3) Absolute firmness and early statements of intention on the part of the West must be coupled with a willingness to co-operate where co-operation is possible with a balanced give and take. With the Soviets, best results will always be achieved by discarding the kid gloves of traditional diplomacy and substituting straight but absolutely fair and reasonable talk.

From a village of 2,000 souls, a phenomenal growth has lifted Richmond Hill to the eminence of a town, the largest in York County. Population is up to 16,000 and is still expanding. It is estimated that within five years and certainly within ten, the population will be 30,000. In view of the fact that the population is already five times the figure it was only six years ago, this may prove a conservative estimate.

The town's shopping facilities are rapidly increasing to cope with the town's expansion. On Yonge Street new stores are appearing while old stores are being remodelled and modernized. Richmond Heights Plaza by next April will offer all the variety of sixty stores, the Allencourt Shopping Centre with its fifteen stores may be enlarged in the near future while another Plaza centred around still another large grocery is scheduled for development on the town's south side. Indeed a new city is developing.

The people of Richmond Hill would be wise to realize that it is estimated approximately thirty per cent of all money spent in stores is channelled back into community services. This means that every penny spent outside the town is increasing the community services of some place else at the expense of their own town. If you want the community facilities to be increased, take heed of the merchants when they suggest you "shop locally and watch your town grow".

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