

The Liberal

An Independent Weekly: Established 1878

Subscription Rate \$3.50 per year; to United States \$4.50; 10c single copy

Member Audit Bureau of Circulations
Member Canadian Weekly Newspapers Association

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"Authorized as second class mail, Post Office Department, Ottawa"



Licensing By-Law

Richmond Hill is a rapidly growing municipality, but it is doubtful if even our continually increasing stature as the largest town in York County necessitates municipal council action to license "menageries, wax works, wild animals, natural or artificial curiosities, freaks of nature, etc."

A municipal council is on sound ground in licensing taxi-cabs, pool rooms and public eating places, but we suggest they should be very careful in extending licensing and municipal control to all business.

The council should remember too that licensing to be useful and effective entails more than a by-law and the collection of a licence fee. Licensing places a very definite responsibility on the person or business receiving a licence, and places another equally important responsibility on the body issuing the licence.

If the municipality passes a licensing by-law it should make sure it has the organization for adequate enforcement. Moreover it should have a licensing body with semi-judicial standing and authority.

We want no part of a police state where a man's licence to do business and earn a living for himself and his family

can be cancelled by the whim of any official. People have substantial investments in business and if they are required to have a licence from the municipality which can be revoked at will, there must be adequate protection for our citizens with the right of appeal to an independent tribunal. While we have every confidence in the ability and fairness of the present members, we do not think as a matter of principle that licensing power should be vested for all time with the municipal council.

We suggest that council take a careful second look at the licensing by-law and reduce it to the necessities. We agree that where there is need there should be licensing regulations but we see no merit in cluttering up the local statutes with legislation just for the sake of saying we have a licensing by-law like Metropolitan Toronto.

If Richmond Hill is to have a full scale licensing by-law to control all business operations, then we should have a Licence Commission to guarantee the rights of our citizens, and we should have machinery to enforce the provisions of the by-law. Otherwise we are only extracting extra money from business people under false pretenses.

Safety Council

The announcement that a Safety Council will be organized in Richmond Hill should be good news for everyone. Sometimes it is charged that in this modern age we are overburdened with organizations, but one to promote safety, most certainly is one that will be welcomed.

The yearly toll in life and property due to accidents is so enormous, that any organization aiming to reduce this needless loss is worthy of public support.

Safety Councils are doing a commendable work in other communities and can do the same in Richmond Hill. The organization of school patrols and safety education in our schools, homes, and community at large is an activity which is sure to pay dividends.

Our governments are showing a commendable increasing interest in the subject of safety, but to be most suc-

cessful any campaign must have the interest and co-operation of the great body of citizens. Anything to awaken this individual responsibility for public safety is to be commended, and we believe a Safety Council can make a worthwhile contribution to this end.

There was ready assurance of support and co-operation at the preliminary meeting held recently under the sponsorship of the Junior Chamber of Commerce, and Mayor K. W. Tomlin who presided gave promise of the support and assistance of the municipal administration and officials.

We trust all organizations and citizens generally, young and old will enlist in the safety army and give the new organization enthusiastic and active support. A Safety Council in Richmond Hill can do a useful job and we wish it every success. Remember, the life you save may be your own.

Demerit System Proves Its Worth

In opening the Road Safety Workshop Conference last Wednesday at Toronto, Transport Minister Yaremko stated that fatalities in Ontario for the first seven months of this year have been cut by 2.6 per cent — and injuries are down by 2.3 per cent.

"It is evident", he concluded, "that the task of reducing the frequency and severity of motor vehicle accidents is not a hopeless one." And he predicted that with continued vigilance and an increase of safety efforts, "we can look forward to even greater reductions in the years that lie ahead."

Referring to the demerit system in Ontario, Allan G. MacNab, assistant deputy minister of transport, said it is hoped to institute a permanent driver's license number, thus enabling the De-

partment of Transport to keep a better check on offending motorists. England already has such a check system for a three-year period at least, since that is the time element in the issuing of drivers' licenses over there.

Biggest factor so far in the success of the demerit system is: statistics show a 25 per cent reduction in the number of prosecutions in the second quarter of this year as compared to 11 per cent in 1958.

How many driving licenses have been suspended in the first four months' operation of the demerit system in Ontario? Six.

And here's a bouquet for the fairer sex — NONE BELONGED TO WOMEN.



Facts and Faith

(By Rev. Calvin Chambers)

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The practice of teaching religious education in the schools of Ontario, has come under severe attack from both religious and non-religious leaders. It has been clearly stated that any attempt to teach religion in the schools, denies the essential freedom of man to choose what he will believe. The school room, it is argued, has been often used as a place where many clergymen seek to inculcate their "brand" of Christianity into the minds of young people unable to answer back. All of this is supposed to lead to frustration of the real purpose of education.

While it will be freely admitted that religious education in the schools presents some thorny problems, I believe that the good it does, far outweighs any of the adverse criticism it may deserve. The purpose of religious education as clearly defined by the Department of Education, is to present the facts of the Hebrew-Christian faith as understood by the Protestant denominations within the Canadian Council of Churches. It is obvious to anyone who has taken the time to read the materials prepared by the Department of Religious Education, that they are neither sectarian nor one sided. The stories of the Bible are presented for the various ages in form easily understood and grasped by the pupil. The Bible is permitted to speak for itself. The child is given an insight into the basis of the Christian Faith without being told he must believe.

As for the matter of religious freedom, the pupil who does not want to remain in the class room during the religious education period is free to leave. Ministers everywhere witness to the fact that rarely do children leave, simply because they find the subject of such engrossing interest. The Protestant minister has enough common sense and appreciation of ethics to keep him from making converts to his particular denomination. There is enough harmony and agreement among the denominations on the essentials of the Christian Faith to make it possible to present the message of the Bible without danger of proselytizing.

What are the alternatives? It has been suggested the Church school and home are the only places to teach religion. But what kind of effect does this have upon the minds of the young. If children are educated in our schools as though God did not exist and the Christian Faith has nothing to do with the business of learning and living, what kind of an impression does it make upon them. If religion is not taught in the schools as a regular weekly subject, some other provision at least should be made in the school hours, to give children and young people the opportunity to attend courses on religious education.

The contention of most Protestant ministers is that children should be given the opportunity to hear for themselves what the Church teaches concerning the important issues of life. Religious education in the school on a voluntary basis provides children with the opportunity to hear what the Christian Faith is all about. The School can help to present the facts; the Church school can interpret those facts.

Another Hero Of Richmond Heights

BORN WESLEY GARFIELD BOTTRELL on a cold December day at Toronto in the year ??? the owner of Bottrell's Hardware on Richmond Heights Plaza operates a very modern store. He attended Borden Street Public School and Elliott Business College.

During World War I he volunteered for overseas duty with the R.C.A. in Kingston, Ontario and spent a total of four years abroad. Three and a half of these years saw him in the front line as a signaller. He suffered shell shock and mustard gas injuries.

Mr. Wesley Garfield Bottrell has worked at the hardware business all his life since leaving school, covering all phases of the business, but mostly as a travelling salesman.

After 32 years calling on builders and contractors he decided to settle down in a business of his own and wisely chose a rapidly growing town with a brilliant future—Richmond Hill.

Mr. Bottrell comes of Welsh and Irish stock and has been married 36 years. His wife Louise comes from Newfoundland and assists her husband in the management of the store. Mr. Bottrell, a Canadian born is a fifth generation native of this country. His hobbies include 5-pin bowling and the odd game of golf.

The store on Richmond Heights Plaza is divided into sections containing Tools, Builders Hardware, Sports Goods, Plumbing & Drapery, Garden Tools, Brushes, Cleaning Supplies, Housewares and gifts etc. Decorated in pastel shades of yellow, blues, green etc, it is most attractive while the display is modern and convenient. Displays are set out on the walls, on central shelves and fittings, with a floor lined in linoleum squares and the whole lighted by daylight lighting running the length of the fifty foot deep store. Mr. Bottrell and Louise have built up a rare reputation for old style but still popular friendliness and courtesy to customers, and their genuine interest in their visitors' requirements and the trouble to which they are prepared to go to satisfy the customer has won them many good friends.

Paul Delmer

Talked With Krushchev's Son-In-Law!

OUR GENERATION SEEMS DOOMED to live with wars and rumors of wars. In fact, we have become so insensitive to threats and crises that scare headlines seem almost trite and meaningless. We scarcely trouble ourselves to read what follows. Like the oyster, we have a way of accommodating ourselves to irritating elements in our environment. Fourteen years of atom bombs and ballistic missiles seem practically to have immunized us to the imminent dangers that threaten the human race with extinction.

Thus, even a warning from the Supreme Allied Commander in Europe goes almost unnoticed. Addressing 650 delegates from fourteen NATO nations at the Atlantic Congress recently, General Lauris Norstad warned that the greatest danger to the peace of the world today is a war by error. The price of aggression has become so great, he said, that a deliberate decision by any nation to provoke a major war is most improbable. The real danger is that a minor probing action here or there might get out of hand like a small fire in dry tinder during a high wind as a result of miscalculation.

There is also the possibility that the time may come when a meteor or some other innocent object reflected on a radar screen in the far north might be mistaken for an approaching ballistic missile with a hydrogen warhead. It is not impossible that this error might spark a chain reaction of fear with the desire for survival, and that someone somewhere might push the fatal button that would plunge the world into the abyss of nuclear war.

Recently I read a book called "Faith and Freedom" by the British economist, Barbara Ward. "Surely no previous age has known the sense of foreboding that hangs over the modern world," she writes. "Men have walked through their own cities and seen in one night damage which the Goths and the Vandals could hardly have inflicted in fifty years. Ahead of them lies the risk of other and worse destructions, of atomic destruction which might blast the fertility of the soil and twist the biological forms of human life. And, short of complete physical catastrophe, another horror has been conjured up in the shape of social orders so inhuman that they seem better fitted to terminate than to men and women."

I wonder what Barbara Ward thinks about Russia's achievement in reaching the moon with a rocket. The Hammer and Sickle now flies up there — the emblem of an atheist country has been the first to travel through outer space to land on another planet. Is this a portent?

Once before in human history men strove to reach the heavens. The Bible tells us about it. "Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name . . ." And the Lord said, ". . . and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do." Gen. 11, Verses 4 to 6.

How true this is today too! The Soviets have made a name and now nothing will be restrained to them, "which they have imagined to do."

But did God permit the ancients to complete their project? No, He did not! The Bible completes the picture with the words . . . "the Lord scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth; and they left off to build the city." (Verse 8.)

Today the leaders of the worlds two great protagonists meet and discuss how to prevent the war and bloodshed and crisis which cast their shadows over the future. We must all hope they will have some measure of success but in any case, God is still in control of earth and space. Man will go as far as He permits.

There is still much of nature which we cannot control. Mr. Krushchev himself spoke at length on the subject of "climate" both natural and political. He admitted that the weather was one thing he could not control, although they have tried and do break up storm clouds to preserve crops from destruction.

I was interested to note that besides his wife and some of his children, Mr. Krushchev is accompanied by his son-in-law, Alexei Adjubey. I talked with Mr. Adjubey for about two hours one evening while I was in Moscow last October. He is editor of "Izvestia," after "Pravda," the most important and influential journal in the Soviet Union. Adjubey is of average height, rather stocky in build with sandy hair — rather like Mr. Sandys, the son-in-law of Sir Winston Churchill. Adjubey understands English almost perfectly. But he can speak very little of the language. His foreign editor spoke perfect English and acted as interpreter. However, each time the interpreter began to translate my words to Adjubey, the latter would indicate that he had understood perfectly. But then the interpreter would have to translate Adjubey's words to me with Alexei sometimes entering just a word or two in English. He was very frank in answering questions, very friendly and a charming host. He denied however that he had any personal influence with Krushchev — which I doubted then and doubt now. He is very often with his father-in-law, they vacation together on the Black Sea, and when the party returns to the USSR in the next few days, it will be Adjubey who will direct the entire national reportage of the Soviet party's American tour.

ON THE LOCAL FRONT this week, I have to report that FRED WISE, owner of Town & Country Food Market on Markham Road is still as busy as ever. The company continues to expand. During the Canadian National Exhibition where they were represented, orders for 200 freezers were collected.

The wonderful three day "Dollar Days" organized by Richmond Heights Plaza was a huge success. The merchants wish to thank all concerned and the public in particular. Bigger and better "Dollar Days" for the future are now being planned.

Patti-Lu and the new TV Centre, both on Yonge Street, enjoyed successful openings. Shelton-Mansell Motors at the opening of their new station in Richmond Hill came over big. And Allencourt Plaza is very definitely on the local map. Brought in on a wave of well-planned publicity and advertising, the Plaza merchants are fortunate to have the imaginative IGA Foodliner in their midst. This company told me, "We will be right there with the other merchants whenever there is any promotion or other interesting event". Make a point to see the Beauty Contest on the Plaza tomorrow night when the most beautiful entrant will be elected "Miss Allencourt, 1959". Her prize? Two hundred dollars cash!

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