

The Liberal

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Nomination Meetings

Municipal business is of importance to everyone. It is of interest and concern because elected representatives will levy and spend public money. They will set the tax rate which everyone shares in paying. Increased taxes are reflected in rental rates so tenants have a vital interest and are entitled to the municipal franchise along with property owners.

Municipal elections are important because the representatives elected to fill the various offices will in large measure determine the future of the community. Decisions made next year will have far-reaching effect, and it is quite possible this year's municipal elections in this area may be the most important of a lifetime.

Richmond Hill, Markham Township, Vaughan, King and Whitchurch are municipalities in the midst or at the threshold of extra-ordinary growth and development. There are persistent reports that the giant Metro has expansion demands which may gobble up Thornhill, Richmond Hill and much of neighbouring municipalities. Are we to become part of the giant Metro? Should there be some kind of Metropolitan administration to replace the existing County Council? These are only two of the momentous questions which will face councils elected in the coming elections.

Don't for a single minute pay any attention to the silly argument that it doesn't make any difference who is elect-

ed. It does make a difference, and the right kind of leadership and the right kind of administration can mean a great deal not only to present day taxpayers, but to the future of the whole district.

Since the founding of our earliest communities the annual "town meeting" has been an important event. The modern version of the "town meeting" is the annual nomination meeting which will be held this coming week. Every year, but especially this year every citizen should attend this annual meeting of community shareholders.

The municipal councils elected for next year can have a very important bearing on the life and living of everyone for the next twelve months. Municipal Councils have a lot of authority. They will have responsibility for streets, sidewalks, public utilities, parks, playgrounds, police and many other services. They will have the power to determine the amount of municipal taxes you will pay next year.

Not in any way second in importance is the school board. School trustees elected for the coming term will determine the kind of education our children will receive and how much we will be required to pay for it.

Surely these and many more reasons we might mention should be sufficient to warrant the active interest of every citizen. MAKE A RESOLUTION NOW to attend the nomination meeting in your municipality, AND VOTE ON ELECTION DAY.

PAUL DELMER

Journey Into Danger



RECENTLY I RECOUNTED SOME OF MY ADVENTURES IN TUNISIA. This week I will recount another adventure we experienced in North Africa.

It happened very suddenly. We had just rounded the corner and there in the beam of the headlights was the low arch of an overhead bridge. So quickly were we upon it that there wasn't time to do anything but point the nose of the car at the centre of the arch and hope hard that the house trailer would still be behind us when the car's long bonnet emerged into the open again.

Perhaps I was too intent on listening for the tearing crash which would tell us house trailer and bridge had quarrelled, to give my attention to what might be on the other side of the bridge. It was only when my wife screamed "Look out", that I looked out, and then my foot stabbed at the brake pedal and the tires screeched on the road and we found ourselves looking into the black unfriendly muzzles of an arsenal of rifles and machine guns.

The wheels locked and the car skidded to a stop, and the engine loudly overheated after a long climb through the Algerian mountains, died with a whimper. We got out of the car and with hands raised walked towards the barbed-wire, speaking in English and trying to explain who we were to French and Arab soldiers who understood not a word.

But our appearance must have reassured them, for two or three moved cautiously forward, guns still levelled, and listened to what we had to say. Now trying a halting French — "Anglais, touriste, journaliste, voiture barbonne, Maroc, Tunisie, Libia, we explained that we were touring writers, that we had been delayed by engine trouble and were en route from Morocco to Libya. We managed somehow to convince them that we were harmless and the barbed wire was drawn aside enough to let our outfit through. This was just one of several exciting events on a long trip from Casablanca, Morocco to Benghazi in Libya — a trip of some three thousand miles.

We had left Casablanca on July 1st and crossed the frontier into Algeria on July 13th, after an interesting journey, part of the way in convoy with the King of Morocco who was visiting one of his country estates. We had earlier spent ten days resting at Rabat, capital of Morocco and one of the most beautiful cities in the world.

From the moment we crossed into Algeria, we were constantly on guard. We were in rebel country and everyone who reads a newspaper knows what danger that involved. Between Oujda and Tlemcen we were continually being halted by army patrols demanding to see our papers and always indicating their surprise at coming across a British family roaming freely in this theatre of civil war where a thousand people were dying violent deaths every week (as they still are). Terrorist activity was worst along the Moroccan frontier, the Tunisian frontier and in the Aures mountains around Constantine.

People told us in Tlemcen (the first city we reached after leaving the Moroccan frontier at Oujda behind us) that hardly a night passes there without a bomb or two being thrown into

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- Speaking Personally -

"CONCERNING RELIGION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS"
(By Jane Fort Manning)

According to a Toronto newspaper a Boston University philosophy professor levelled criticism at Toronto public school principals for having pupils repeat the Lord's Prayer. He claimed, "Christian bias is allowed to creep into the public schools." Ontario has had such a "bias," or inclination, since the Common School Act in 1816. Christianity is the basis of our school system. But those in authority have always refused to allow the propagation of Christianity in the schools from the viewpoint of any denomination or sect.

The founder of the elementary school system of the province, Rev. Egerton Ryerson felt strongly that the obligation for distinctive religious instruction was a matter for the parents and the clergy and not the schoolmaster. In 1887 Hon. G. W. Ross, Minister of Education, stated that the Department of Education was willing to aid in the promotion of religious instruction provided the state paid no part of the cost. He wrote, "Whatever sanction may be required to stamp our schools as Christian in the broadest sense of the term, that the Department of Education has always been willing to give, but nothing more."

Legal Sanction
The first legal recognition of the principle of religious instruction in the schools of the province is found in the School Act of 1841. And it remains the same in 1959. It reads, "No pupil in a public school shall be required to read or study in any religious book, or to join in any exercise of devotion or religion, objected to by his parents or guardian. Subject to the regulations, pupils shall be allowed to receive such religious instruction as the parents or guardian desire."

Opening the school day with prayer and reading of a few verses of the New Testament was first recommended in 1816.

Public Demand
Due, it is said, to public demand in 1887 daily repeating the Lord's Prayer and the systematic reading of the Bible was made obligatory, the latter to be without comment or explanation. (Today one-half hour per week can be devoted to religious instruction by a clergyman or the teacher.)

Dr. J. M. McCutcheon says the Department of Education, "has always recognized that the principals of Christian morality which have their basis in the Ten Commandments and in the Sermon on the Mount form an essential element in the educational equipment of the pupil."

School inspectors are required to remind boards of trustees of the regulations regarding religion and moral instruction in the schools. It has not always been smooth sailing in regard to religious instruction. But public sentiment in the past has been in favor of imparting some religious know-

ledge along with the secular.

Ethical Educationalists
Recently ethical educationalists have been quite vocal. Apparently they feel religious instruction in the schools is having a sinister effect on our public school children. That by repeating the Lord's Prayer, and reading the Bible for a few minutes each day, and having one-half hour per week devoted to religious knowledge, their minds will not have the religious vacuum they should have. They feel young people should make their own decisions regarding their own religious faith following a factual study of the faiths of the world in high school. Dr. T. Bradie is quoted as saying "Indoctrination in the (public) schools emphasizes the differences rather than the similarities between faiths."

While I do not think any Christian person would want their child to do otherwise than respect and try to understand the viewpoint of the youngster brought up in the Mohammedan, Hindu, Shinto, etc. faiths and certainly every Christian should recognize the great debt owed to Judaism, and also acknowledge that the atheist and the agnostic are free to reach their own conclusions — still the majority of public school supporters are Christian. We like to consider Canada a Christian country.

As Christians we try, poor though the attempt may be, to follow the Ten Commandments, and the Sermon on the Mount. We believe in God and feel we should show charity to our fellow men.

We want our children to have these concepts before them. Day by day we send them away from nine to four o'clock to be taught, to be indoctrinated. We want the Christian bias, but if you do not want it, we also want you free to reject it.

What have the ethical educationalists prepared for us? What Bible have they written? What are their ideals? Will they crystallize their concepts for us so we can try to understand them? Perhaps they can enlarge our vision.

Until they can they should not seek to deprive our children of the crystallization of our concepts as represented by Christmas and Easter. While elves and bunnies may obscure their meaning, even an elementary child should not be deprived the privilege of hearing the original story in the Bible.

As Charles Malik of Lebanon, President of the General Assembly of the United Nations, put it, "Are the forces rampant in the world today, including that most sinister of all forces, ordinary secularism, or simply faithlessness — so frightening that the man with public responsibilities must on that account cancel his faith and stand, in shame and in fear, mesmerized, mute, and speechless?"

"Dear Mr. Editor"

Votes "No" On Two Year Term

Dear Mr. Editor:

You have performed a public service, in your recent editorials on the subject, in drawing attention to the weakness of the two year term for municipal councils.

As a former weekly newspaper publisher I have written numerous editorials on the same subject. I must admit that they leaned strongly towards the two year term. Since then, however, experience has led me to change my opinions radically.

In recent years there has been a considerable amount of criticism over the fact that interest in local municipal elections has been declining. It is interesting to note that this has been particularly evident where the two year term has been in effect.

It is claimed that no business would change its management every year has little validity. If that management was had it certainly would in any event shareholders expect an annual report from management - a right which municipal voters have every reason to expect.

In saying this there is no implied criticism of the present or any other council or member thereof. Contrary to what some people may think, Richmond Hill has been exceptionally fortunate throughout the years in the character of its local government. One only has to see, as a newspaperman does, the other side of the picture to realize how well the municipality has been served, by and large, by its elected leaders. Annual elections play no small part in keeping them on their toes.

There is little merit in the claim that dealing away with annual elections saves money for the taxpayers. The few copiers cost can easily - oh so easily - be outweighed by rashness on the part of a council which, complacently aware that it does not have to answer to the electors and taxpayers for a couple of years, can inject into the conduct of municipal affairs.

As one who has only recently returned to Richmond Hill perhaps it would be becoming for me to keep quiet on the subject. However, I feel that my long association with the town - my very deep affection for it - and certainly my experience as a newspaper man which has caused a complete reversal of my opinions on the subject of the two year term, justify me in suggesting that, with all its defects, the one year term has a very great deal to recommend it.

F. J. Picking

Markham Land Values

Dear Mr. Editor:

I would like to correct some statements that have appeared in the Toronto papers regarding land values in Markham Township. I was quoted as saying that the land values have increased in certain areas by reason of the proposed CNR by-pass. I did not say that. I said that land values have increased because of the CNR by-pass.

What I did say and still say is that land prices have NOT decreased because of the CNR by-pass. I was also quoted as saying that property assessment was only 10 per cent of sale value. What I did say was that LAND assessment was only 10 per cent of sale value.

J. A. Fleming
Assessment Commissioner,
Markham Township

CONCORD WATER SITUATION

Dear Mr. Editor:

In a recent issue there appeared an article headed, "Concord owners ask for water." Five ratepayers and their Chairman appeared before the Vaughan Township Council to urge some thing be done.

I too am a ratepayer I'm not in desperate need of water nor has my well run dry. Though I would not stand in the way of a scheme to bring water to this subdivision at a reasonable price, I do not intend to pay an exorbitant price for water. May I suggest to some of the ratepayers that they take a good look at their wells and have them deepened by a regular well digger. Many of these so called wells are simply shallow holes in the ground, dug by amateurs. Then again those that have water in their well can not get at same, because of shallow well pumps they are using. Let's not put the whole subdivision in debt over their heads, just to satisfy a few people, who never did really have a well. Some ratepayers in this subdivision have quite a lot of money in their wells and septic tanks and are unhappy about paying any price at all for water. In fact a great many people in the Cooper Subdivision can ill afford to be taken in by some wild cat water scheme they could be steered into.

Regular Subscriber

Thanks to Richmond Hill

Dear Mr. Editor:

The news this week that I had been awarded the Myrtle Cook Trophy, climaxed for me my most successful year in Track and Field. It has made me realize that I would like to express publicly a long overdue thanks to those many persons in Richmond Hill who have materially assisted or through words of encouragement, have helped me to achieve this honour.

At the top of my list, I must of course put Mr. Babcock, who inspired my interest in sports and through his coaching and encouragement, brought me far along the road. Then I would like to

thank the Recreation Commission and service clubs which have assisted Richmond Hill Track and Field Club. Especially I feel I owe thanks to the Richmond Hill Rotary Club who sponsored my trip last year to the British Empire Trials in Saskatoon. Although I was not successful in making the team, the experience and recognition I received was invaluable and I feel in a large measure responsible for my being selected for the Pan American Team this year.

I would also like to thank Mr. Ron Crane of "The Liberal" and radio station CJRH for their many kind tributes. Such encouragement does much to inspire an athlete. Then of course I must remember the friends who have shown an interest in my endeavours.

This year I competed under the banner of East York Track Club due to the lack of facilities in Richmond Hill. But as a member of the Pan American team I competed for Richmond Hill and for Canada.

I hope the people of this town will continue to help and inspire their track and field athletes and that in the not too distant future Richmond Hill will have a track of its own.

Yours in appreciation,
Marion Monroe

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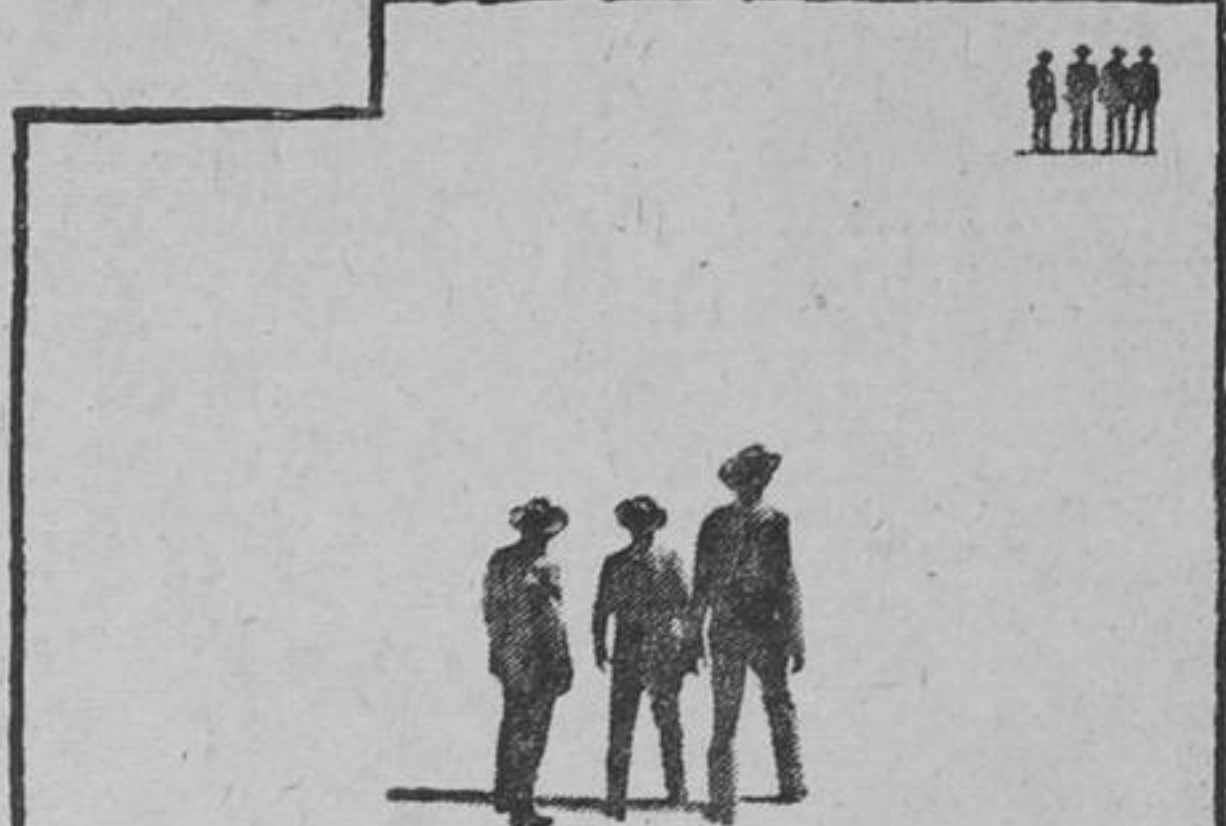
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Guest Editorial-

The Ministry Of Flowers

(By Paul E. Angle, Bedford Park Floral Co., Richmond Hill)

In a television broadcast from Moscow during his visit to Russia last Spring, Prime Minister MacMillan told the Russian people that his people believe that man does not live by bread alone. This is a truth that men forget at their peril.

It was enunciated by Jesus of Nazareth almost two thousand years ago when he was tempted to use his power for selfish ends and personal gain. It is proven by the yearnings of men today.

We are not satisfied with a full stomach or even with perfect physical health. We long for the finer, more subtle and mysterious things of the universe. We want to bask in the sunshine, to feast on the gorgeous beauties of the rainbow and the sunset and the many coloured patchwork of flowers on the hillside or in the garden.

We even crave communion with the creator of all this grandeur. We want to feed our souls as well as our bodies. One of the important helps to this higher plane of living is the beautiful ministry of flowers.

There is however a widespread belief that flowers are among the luxuries which prudent people with modest incomes should deny themselves, and we often forego the use of flowers, even for such suitable occasions as sickness and death, on the plea of diverting the money required to purchase them, to what is termed, more useful purposes; but I wonder if the people for whom the money is to be spent are not often just as hungry for, and just as much in

need of, beauty as of bread.

There is a beautiful eastern proverb which says: 'If you have but two loaves of bread, sell one and buy roses to feed your soul.' It is certain that one whose mind is at ease and aglow with the satisfaction of appreciated beauty and soul refreshment, will obtain much added nourishment from what bread he has, because of the mental reaction on digestion.

Yes, we are more than animals, and no matter what our financial status we need the ministry of flowers. Their judicious and consistent use will enrich and enlarge our lives by satisfying that inborn desire for beauty. Let us grow them for ourselves if we can, but if we cannot grow them we can always obtain them from our florist friends. We need never be deprived of their ministry.

There is a mighty army of highly trained men and women toiling constantly to provide this essential help to better living.

In winter the wind may howl out of the north driving huge banks of snow about our doors and chilling our bodies and spirits; in spring and autumn rain may fall in cloudbursts, making earth sodden and sky grey; in summer the sun may beat mercilessly upon the earth, scorching everything in its path; but through it all, during all seasons, and at all times, the daily flow of flowers continues to emerge from the modern greenhouses throughout our land. Some of these greenhouses are located in Richmond Hill, and have for the past forty years produced the roses that have become the proved symbol of this community.

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