

The Liberal

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Time To Look At The County

A discussion of considerable importance to every taxpayer in York County will take place at Renfrew on May 12th and 13th, when the Town and Village Section of the Ontario Municipal Association will hold its eighth annual conference. "The Position Of The County in Ontario" will be the theme of the meeting. Under consideration will be a most important resolution which, if adopted, will petition the provincial government to appoint a Royal Commission to study the present county set-up and to decide what changes, if any, should be made.

It is a tribute to the basic solidity of the county system that it has survived and functioned, with no major revisions, since Confederation. But in that strength may lie its very weakness — the failure to change with changing conditions and to adjust to the needs of the present. There are many who feel — and with considerable justification — that the county has become a "fifth wheel".

It is certain, at least in the opinion of this newspaper, that the uniformity of the present system is not in keeping with the progress of today. Urbanization has proceeded at such a rapid pace in recent years, in certain parts of Ontario, that their problems are entirely

different from those sections which have retained rural character. The present county system, with its inflexibility, makes no allowance for that.

Canada is, without question, one of the most overgoverned countries in the world. Federal, provincial, county and municipal governments and their boards and commissions have proliferated to such a point that government forms the nation's biggest industry. And let it not be forgotten that the boasted autonomy of many governing bodies has been completely hamstrung. The amount of central exercised over county and municipal governments by autocratic bodies like the Ontario Municipal Board would astonish many people who think that the men who sit on local councils are the "big shots" when it comes to local affairs.

On the other hand, the county system has many good points. It is a bulwark against a rising tendency to centralize government. It provides an opportunity for study of municipal problems on an area level. With all its many weaknesses it has certain strengths.

The Renfrew discussion, it is to be hoped, will bring both the strengths and the weaknesses into the open and will result in a keen look, at the highest possible levels, at the system and its application to today's needs.

Text Book Solution

The load which is thrown on parents and pupils at the beginning of the fall term, when high school books have to be purchased, is a considerable one. No longer is it possible to provide students with them on a "hand-me-down" basis, with the same "do-it-yourself" year after year as younger brothers and sisters start their secondary school education. The changes which are made with increasing frequency make many otherwise good books useless. Those changes are often comparatively minor ones.

The financial outlay, as has been remarked, is often a big one. In the case of large families it constitutes a near-crippling item, added to the many other expenditures which have to be made for younger members as their education progresses.

Added to the financial problem is the fact that very often difficulty is experienced in securing the books listed as necessary by High School authorities. Many stores are unwilling to carry them because of the extremely narrow profit margin — a margin which can disappear like snow in summer if this

"The Labourer Is Worthy ..."

"We as church people have a bad name in the building trade. We want to get our buildings for less than anyone else. Surely as church people we can pay the going rate."

With those words Mr. H. Coote Smith of Toronto challenged the recent annual general meeting of the Board of Evangelism and Social Services of the United Church of Canada. The response was a resolution which urged presbyteries to see that pastoral charges require a fair-wage clause in construction contracts. They ought not to deal with contractors who pay sub-standard wages and ignore fair labour practices it was declared.

The United Church is to be congratulated on having men with the vision to see an evil, the courage to bring it into the open and the will to try and correct it. That evil spreads far wider than the confines of the building trade. Retailers in particular are constantly harassed by demands for discounts. In the majority of cases there is absolutely no justification back of those demands. The people who make them would rise up in holy horror if their employers ac-

companied the weekly pay cheque with a suggestion that a discount on the part of the worker would be acceptable. In effect, there is very little difference between that and the often unjustified demands for discounts on goods purchased. The labourer is worthy of his hire in both cases.

There is no reflection on genuine, business-like, money-saving sales or price-reductions made by legitimate merchandisers or producers. They are a natural and logical concomitant of free enterprise. Neither is there any suggestion that buyers should not do their utmost to get full value for their money.

But so often the proffered "discount" is nothing but a come-on. If price and value were right in the first place there should be no room for so-called "discounts." The labourer, we repeat, is worthy of his hire. The honest retailer is worthy of his fair profit. And the buyer is worthy of value for his money. If those principles were kept in mind there should be little need for questionable discounts.

TRANSPORTATION FOR VAUGHAN SCHOOL CHILDREN

Dear Mr. Editor:

There is a problem of transportation for school children in Vaughan Township School Area. We have several children who are walking more than 2½ miles to school, over paved arterial roads which connect with Yonge Street north and numbers 7 and 400 highways. These children have been refused transportation for a number of years, both by this board, which was inaugurated in 1960, and by its predecessor boards.

In one part of the school area, some parents are paying 75c per child per week to a bus company for transportation, in a private arrangement; in another, other parents pay 50c per week per child. They feel very strongly the danger to their children who have to walk these roads.

Contrary, in another part of the area, children are given free transportation to school, despite

the fact that a number of them are going less than two miles.

All high school students in this same district travel by bus, free of charge. Most of these are 14 years of age and older, and should be better able to walk than the younger, smaller children.

Why should some parents, already paying taxes to subsidize school buses in one area, have to make private arrangements for their own children, who in many cases, have further to walk than the children who ride "free"?

In several meetings with the Vaughan School board, since it was formed, my fellow-taxpayers and I have been put off with the excuse, "We can't afford it." We certainly agree that costs should be kept down, but not at the expense of the safety of the children.

We have had little opportunity to assess the feelings of members of the board, with one exception. During the month, the board holds committee meetings,

Liberalities ...

Dottie Walter

As LIBRARY WEEK takes its final curtain, and we salute this noble institution, we are convinced that whether Johnny could do it or not, reading is here to stay!

Best sellers are pouring forth at such an alarming rate that by the next century, we will be reckoning our library-discards to the moon. But there is still that fine, rarified air about a library. Whether you pass through its portals for the express purpose of borrowing a book — or just to get away from the telephone or the children quarrelling, the muted voices and the business-like reverence that clings to this quiet sanctuary, helps to keep reading in the intellectual top drawer.

No matter what the dissenters say about our declining culture, we took out a quarter of a million more books from the Toronto libraries this year than we did the year before.

But whether we read them all is a different story! With their slogan "Reading Is The Key", I listened to a group of panelists from the Council for Publishers discuss the reading habits of today. Although they overlooked "How to Run the Power Mower" or "Assembling the Jungle-Gym" as a Guild Selection for May, they took their battle station and let go with some strong language concerning the reading public. To put it bluntly, they said: "We cheat a little."

In discussing Dr. Zhivago, they said: "Great as this book was ... and notwithstanding its tremendous sale and its top spot on the library selection lists, only a fraction of the readers who started it, actually got past the first fifty pages!" But to be in the intellectual swim, it was one of the MUST books. YOU HAD TO HAVE IT ON YOUR COFFEE TABLE!

Each month there are new selections to grace this prominent piece of furniture. Whether Mr. Shirer's "Rise and Fall of the Third Reich" is your cup of tea or not, you are weighed down with a heavy sense of duty. If readers all over the country are putting it at the top of their reading list ... you must too!

If after the first few chapters, you may be tempted (so you can finish it in public) to use the jacket of Mr. Shirer's monumental work, as a slipcover for the old copy of "On The Terrace" which you picked up at the Girl Guide Sale, you still must go through the motions of taking "Mr. S" from the library. Whether you devour the fate of the Reich with devotion, or just table it for a week, you have earned the right to talk knowingly of it.

But here, Rev. Sydney Smith, the great English reviewer, is on our side. "Never read a book before reviewing it", is his sage advice.

But the sport of "Coffee-Tabling" may reach its all time high this year.

Once upon a time, the scribbled message on the margin of our high school books told just what we thought of Latin — How it was a "dead language" and how it "killed the Romans" and "is now killing me".

For Believe it or Not Est ... WINNIE ILLE PU is a top hit on the book parade. This is no relative of Susie Wong. It is just plain little "WINNIE-THE-POOH" of our childhood days ... souped up for the modern intelligentsia.

Most of us were brought up on A. A. Milne (now Milne). My children were heir to these proper gems of childhood literature and for several years, all teddy bears in our house, answered to the name of "Winnie" or "Pooh". And now the old classic slips into another generation. But what are they doing with it. Condensing it ... turning it over to Mr. Disney? No ... THEY HAVE TRANSLATED IT INTO LATIN! Nice pure Latin. The finest of its day, with correct endings — and All that Ablative Absolute!

What's more, my young niece at the University, tells me that they are standing in line for WINNIE ILLE PU. No self-respecting college girl would be found without a copy, (replacing the stuffed animals) on the end of her bed.

The booksellers are sending S.O.S.'s to the publisher as it rolls into further editions at \$3.50 a head.

The translator, Mr. Alexander Lenard, has taken off for the Riviera with his loot and is working on his notes for "Now We Are Sex" ... I mean Six, which is expected to be out in the fall.

WINNIE ILLE PU may find its place on many a coffee table this summer. The old chant — amo, amas, amat and rex, regis, regi, regem, will not have been in vain. The words of Virgil and Homer will have found a better place than on pill prescriptions. "Virtute" will be its own reward.

If your name is on the waiting list for Winnie Ille Pu, see Winnie-The-Pooh, which this week will be available at the Richmond Hill Library, you may find yourself going around in circles getting into the proper groove for this bedtime story.

Hitch up your toga and fall back on your couch. Here is a phonetic key, that will give you a little exercise in that fine old Roman tongue before you attack the cantos of Winnie Ille Pu:

"O si belli si ergo
Fortibus es in ero
Ono belli themus trux
Civits inem causan dux"

Unabridged translation: * (Oh see Billy, see her go! Fortly busses in a row. Oh no Billy, them is trucks. See what's in 'em ... cows and ducks.)

"Dear Mr. Editor"

from which both the public and the press are excluded. At the monthly public meeting, one trustee does most of the talking, and few of the other four members speak very much, if at all. Obviously, if the board can keep the education mill-rate down, it's a feather in their cap — more especially since the taxpayer can then more easily pay the higher wages teachers will be getting this coming year.

We — and I include a number of the township's taxpayers — do not want costs kept down, IF IT CAN ONLY BE DONE BY JEOPARDIZING THE CHILDREN'S SAFETY.

The Statutes of Ontario provide for subsidization of school bus costs, for pupils going over two miles to school. We do not think the Vaughan Township School Area Board should ignore these provisions, as it is doing. If it is good for high school children to be provided with tax-paid school bus service, how much more good is it for the smaller children going to public school?

P. Walton
R. R. 2, Maple

APPRECIATES LOCAL SUPPORT

Dear Mr. Editor:
The Spring Fair of the Richmond Hill Horticultural Society, which was held at Wrixon Hall,

For Parents Only ..



(BY NANCY CLEAVER)

"Looking back over the last 500 years or so, we can hardly imagine how totally different from our own time of jet planes, television and skyscrapers were the days of Columbus with their tiny wooden ships, unknown continents and homespun clothes," commented James Avery Joyce in his "World in the Making." He also points out that when Columbus sailed westward in 1492 in the Santa Maria, the flat-earth believers assured him that, far out on the Atlantic ocean his ship would suddenly disappear, and drop out of sight over the edge of the earth! Rather a fearful thought!

But Columbus was a real adventurer and he intended to reach Cathay or the Indies by water. When his ship anchored at a little island in the West Indies, he thought he had arrived at his destination. He did not dream that he was on the fringe of a vast new continent. This man's name is one of the great names in the roll call of pioneers, and it is little wonder that many Italian societies remember Columbus on his day, Oct. 12.

Have you ever asked your school age children if they have wondered who drew the first map? Perhaps a cave man took a pointed stick and sketched on the ground a rough drawing for his mate to see where he had gone on his last hunting expedition. Maybe a fighter scratched on a soft stone a picture to show where he thought the enemies of the clan were hiding. In days of peace and in times of war, from the dawn of history, maps have played a vital part.

The earliest maps which are in existence were scratched on clay tablets by Babylonian merchants around 2500 BC to show their estates. In the 5th century BC the Greeks drew the world which they knew around the Mediterranean on bronze plates. It was the Greeks who first conceived the idea that the world was not flat but a sphere. Later this was doubted by the conquering Romans.

The Romans were practical soldiers and they drew maps to show their conquests. Their network of roads made an impressive map. These roads were constructed into the lands overcome by Alexander the Great. On their maps the Romans depicted the earth as a flat disc surrounded by water.

In the middle of the thirteenth century, one Englishman, Matthew Paris, worked on a map of his homeland for the use of travellers. Three centuries later Elizabethan England was the first country to conduct a survey and publish a National Atlas.

There are a vast number of maps of our earth's surface with its over fifty million square miles of land and twice as much water. With aerial photography a new era in map drawing has been born.

The survey on foot is still used but a plan can reach territory which is inaccessible and the maps based on pictures taken from the air are very accurate. Canada has a special building in Ottawa housing the aerial maps of her territory.

One of the fascinating features about maps is their constant alterations. Think of the changes since the Second World War. To mention some of the most outstanding there is the partition of Germany, of Korea, of Indo China. The Gold Coast is now Ghana and India is a republic within the Commonwealth.

How great is the variety of maps in today's world! In Israel where the rainfall is so scanty their map of dew fall is most important. Daily maps of weather conditions in other parts of the world are studied by experts to guide them in their weather forecast.

In the kind of world we live in today, an interest in maps encourages the important feeling that we are all citizens of one world. Perhaps you would like to celebrate Columbus Day, Oct. 12, by turning the family's attention to maps — and if possible invest in a good new one! (Copyright)

April 15th was an outstanding success. President and Board of Directors of the Society wish to thank "The Liberal," the Business Men's Association, Col. F. J. Picking, President of the Business Men's Association and all those who cooperated so willingly and so effectively to make the Spring Fair a success. It was gratifying to the Society to have the support of so many publicly spirited citizens. Yours very truly,
H. H. MacKay
President,
Richmond Hill
Horticultural Society

PROCLAMATION

MENTAL HEALTH WEEK
APRIL 30th to MAY 6th, 1961

By virtue of the powers vested in me, and approval of the Mental Health Association by the Council of the County of York, I declare the week of April 30 to May 6, 1961, Mental Health Week in the County of York and request all citizens to give their support to this project.

Jos. V. Fry,
Warden,
County of York

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