

The Liberal



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The fact that two and two still make four, even in this age of high-speed computers, will be of little comfort to those elderly recipients of Federal Government veterans' and widows' allowances who are being made "guinea-pigs" in a 1962-type demonstration of that truth.

The facts are simple—and bitingly heartless. For they make victims of those least able to fight for themselves.

These people — 29,000 of them — are the men and women who have served, and their dependents, and are for some reason unable to compete in the labour market. They have no disability, such as wounds, for which they can draw a pension. But, remember, they served when they were needed—in many cases to their own grave disadvantage.

A bitter and long-drawn-out fight by the Canadian Legion years ago saw the introduction of what became commonly known as the "burnt-out pension". Officially called "War Veterans Allowance", it was far from munificent. But it did at least make an improvement on the workhouse or other forms of public charity.

It had one inflexible regulation. The total income of the recipient must not exceed a certain fixed amount. The limit was low. If the recipient had an income from any source which, plus war veterans' allowance, took the combined total over the permissible maximum, then the war veterans' allowance was reduced accordingly. Many a veteran, anxious to augment the skimpy allowance, has found himself penalized and has had to suffer a deduction each

month over a long period to compensate for trying to live a little better than a starvation rate allowed. But there were Ottawa's rules—and they had to be followed.

And now the "unkindest cut of all" has been made. Recognizing the decreasing value of the dollar, the Federal Government has increased the old age pension ten dollars a month. But, as that increase takes those receiving war veterans' allowance over the maximum, the equivalent ten dollars a month is lopped off the war veterans' allowance. Result — the total received by a veteran or a widow is just the same as it was before the old age pension was increased. Every old age pensioner, without exception, except the man who served and his dependents, is ten dollars a month better off. The wealthy man drawing his old age pension gets ten dollars a month more—the widow of a veteran gets in total just exactly what she got before the increase.

Surely, to any government which permits such a situation, the promises of yesterday must have a hollow ring. Men and women were told that they and their dependents would not be permitted, by a grateful country, to suffer as a result of their service.

That was the promise. The actuality is that they are in effect being fined ten dollars a month. Common justice—to say nothing whatsoever about gratitude and promises—should lead Prime Minister Diefenbaker to a speedy reconsideration. We believe that the people of Canada, justly proud of their nation's treatment of ex-service men and women in general, will endorse such action heartily.

Plain Horse - sense

Members of the York Central District High School Board are to be commended on their decision not to adopt a suggestion that paper, pens and related stationery items should be sold to students through an automatic dispenser, with 20 per cent of the gross going to the students' council.

While we have every sympathy with the desire of the students to raise money — a task that they will find more and more burdensome as they go out into the world — there are other angles to be considered. The profits made through the sale of such items via dispenser would go to another municipality to help with its taxes — not the ones which have to pay for the maintenance of area high schools. Merchants in the district covered by the York Central high school system, with other taxpayers, pay heavily for the educational facilities provided for the younger people of the area. In all common-

sense, they are entitled to the profits which are returned in part in the form of taxation to local school authorities to maintain schools.

Some years ago the school board in a neighbouring town found that the sale of Christmas cards was being encouraged by teachers, who pushed their selling efforts to a ridiculous length, to such an extent that four-fifths of their trade was lost by local, tax-paying merchants. Adding insult to injury, the money raised was used for a purpose which, on examination, proved to have little beneficial effect on education. The practice was restricted and merchants were put in a position to handle trade, to which they were justifiably entitled, without unfair competition.

There is no suggestion of insularity in protecting the business of local merchants. But there is a considerable amount of common-sense in protecting the business of local taxpayers.

Force Or Farce?

During 1960 York County Council engaged Magistrate Johnston Roberts of Niagara Falls to make a survey of policing in York County. Action arose because of a belief that police services might be improved and money saved by the amalgamation of all municipal forces into a county force, responsible for policing of the whole county. An exceedingly comprehensive report was prepared by Magistrate Roberts and laid before county council. As the end of the year was approaching it was considered wise to lay the report over for further consideration in 1961.

That, we repeat, was in 1960. No action was taken by county council during 1961 until November. At that time Magistrate Roberts was brought back to re-explain his report to old and new members of county council — all of whom were within weeks of facing their local electors. Obviously, there wasn't a chance in the world of the report being dealt with at that time. Not a single word of explanation was given by the 1961 warden and county commissioners as to the reason for failure to bring the report before council before the dy-

Judicial Speed-up

Major changes in Ontario courts, which should contribute considerably to the smoother and speedier operation of judicial affairs, are indicated in legislation introduced by Hon. Kelso Roberts, Attorney-General of Ontario, recently. Recommendations of Eric Silk, assistant deputy attorney-general, who conducted an investigation of the county and district court system last fall, are embodied in the new legislation.

Addition of judges to handle the ever-increasing number of cases should be of considerable help in lessening delays in hearings. Changes in the jurisdiction of courts should also be of major consequence in a speed-up.

Veterans Full Pension

In a policy switch made public just prior to press time the Federal Government announced that recipients of the war veterans' allowance 70 and over will be able to receive the full amount of the recent \$10.00 increase in old age and blind pensions.

The sudden change in government policy was revealed in the Commons by Veterans Affairs Minister Gordon Churchill. This news is happy to see that the Federal Government has seen fit to give our veterans the same pension raise accorded other Canadians.

Rambling Around

By Elisabeth Kelso

WHICH IS THE BEST TEACHER?

Someone once said that prosperity was a good teacher but adversity was a better one. If one has never known misfortune he would see no virtue in adversity. I feel sure that many of us have known hardships in one form or another. Today we are surrounded by things . . . so many in fact that we can hardly find ourselves amongst them. How to get to find ourselves? We really have to go back to the time when we didn't own so much and what we had mostly was the desire to get on. We knew our friends and we knew our strengths and our weaknesses. We dreamed dreams and hitched our wagon to a star, and believed that somehow we would get there if only we tried hard enough. Prosperity gives no incentives like that. People react differently to prosperity. The foolish may become more foolish and the cowardly more cowardly but in the majority of people, adversity builds character and develops talents. We have to find ways and means. If we have everything, why bother? If we are always sure of our place in life, and always knew where our next meal came from, we would become pampered and spoiled. However I do not mean that the good things of prosperity shouldn't be wished for, but we ought to admire the good things that adversity calls forth. Anyone who can handle his hardships can usually handle his prosperity.

THE BENCIC FAMILY AND THE PAJEVIC FAMILY — WHAT ARE THEY DOING NOW?

World Refugee Year has come and gone. And among the many communities, Thornhill was one who volunteered to establish two families in a new land. The two Yugoslavian families who came to Thornhill during World Refugee Year are slowly but surely making their adjustments to a Canadian way of life. It will be two years in June when the Bencic family arrived at Thornhill. They were sponsored by a committee representing a group of Thornhill citizens under the chairmanship of Robert Poulter of Thornbank Road, Thornhill. Mrs. Regan of Elmbank was responsible for getting them integrated into the community.

Luigi and Carolina Bencic are living at 113 Henderson Avenue with their family of six children. Josephine, age 15 — Alex 13 — Charlie 11 — Maria 7 — Gabriella 5 and Johnny 2. In the fall of 1960 the children began their school life at St. Luke's Separate School, and the father went to his new job as maintenance man at St. Michael's Hospital. Mr. and Mrs. Bencic have attended night school in order to alleviate their language difficulties. While Luigi Bencic works hard to provide for his growing family, Carolina spends all her time caring for the family, and sewing and knitting. Josephine is a good knitter also . . . and in the summer time she goes baby sitting. Brother Alex has a paper route and is doing well with it. The Bencics say they like it here, and are grateful to the people who have helped them to adjust.

The Pajevic family was sponsored by a group of Thornhill United Church people. Mrs. Lambert of Paul Street took a personal interest in this family and made herself responsible for seeing that they found a place in the community. Stefica Pajevic is the widowed mother of two fine boys, Dusan and Bronislav. Their new home is at 2770 Yonge Street, Mrs. Pajevic, a well educated woman, daughter of a Yugoslavian professor, works as a maid at Shouldice surgery on John Street. Dusan works as a draughtsman at the department of transport. Bronislav is a grade eleven student at Thornhill High School. All attend the United Church. Dusan and his mother go to night school to improve their English. Dusan is head of the family since his father engineer was killed in Yugoslavia. In order to see to it that his mother arrives safely at her job at Shouldice surgery, he bought a little Volkswagen and drives her there every morning himself before going to work. These two young men are full of ambition and drive. Dusan's hobby is reading and collecting postcards from different countries, but his ambition is to get his senior matriculation so he can plan on being a civil engineer. Gymnastics is Bronislav's special claim to achievement and anyone who has seen him perform at the Thornhill High School knows that he is good at it. He also has ambition to go to Ryerson Institute to follow up his interest in chemistry. The Pajevics like their adopted country also, and as far as Dusan and Bronislav are concerned, they agree that Canada is their land of opportunity.

TREES I LOVE AND REMEMBER

Trees are companionable. When I think of them I feel myself surrounded by a multitude of magicians, friends and workers who continually give of their beauty and strength. Every tree has its own particular beauty. I remember only one oak tree. It was truly a Monarch of the Wood. As a child, I passed it on the way to and from school. In the fall, when this glorious tree was aflame with color, and the ground was covered with acorns, many a time I was late coming home because I had to fill my lunch bucket with the brown nuts with the quaint little caps. This tree had an enormous girth and it must have been at least a hundred feet tall. I remember the beech tree too. It is often called Mother of the Forest or Madonna of the Woods; it is a very gracious looking tree. And there is no finer gold than that found in the Autumn beech leaf. The nuts are sweet and meaty. No other tree spreads such a lovely carpet of rustling brown leaves. To my mind, the elm tree is the most beautiful tree on the landscape. It always seems to stand aloof from the other trees. Even when it is part of a small group, it gives you the impression that it is only casually interested in the others, and might walk away from them anytime. The elm tree is a real individual among trees. Whoever heard of an elm woods? I love the birch too, mainly because there are so many around the cottage. The birch tree is the real "Lady of the Woods". The silvery whiteness of the bark, the slender form of the tree, the smallness of the leaves and the feathery nature of the branches give the birch a fairy-like appearance that adds beauty to any place it grows. Trees have brought me much comfort and consolation. I thank God for them.

Dear Mr. Editor

SEEKS INFORMATION ON PIONEER FAMILY

I am trying to find out some information about my great great grandfather, Richard Vanderburgh who was born in 1797 and died in 1869; he was either born in Richmond Hill or was brought there by his parents as an infant. All his life he farmed just south of Richmond Hill, first at Vaughan 1:40, later at Markham 1:43.

I received a letter from a distant cousin recently which said: "Several years ago they had quite an article about grandfather in the newspaper edited in Richmond Hill called 'The Liberal.' This cousin is 84 years old, and I don't know what she means by 'several years ago.'"

I wonder if any of your many readers might have some information regarding Richard Vanderburgh or his descendants. I shall be very grateful for any information or assistance that might be forthcoming.

Wallace E. McLeod,
Wilfrid Perkins and Reeve University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario.

Bayview On List In County Again Effect Is Small

For what it's worth, Bayview Avenue is back in York County hands again. In spite of a valiant fight by Deputy Reeve Tom Broadhurst, assisted by Reeve Floyd Perkins and Reeve Wilfred Dean and Deputy Reeve Lawson Mumberson of Markham Township, efforts to get it handled by Toronto and York Roads Commission this year were unavailing.

At county council meeting last week Richmond Hill's representatives put through a motion which results in the road again getting on the list of the Special Roads Advisory Committee — an apparently empty gesture which at least complies with the county's rules of procedure.

In recent sessions the Toronto and York Roads Commission has made it plain that it will take on roads only at its own discretion, so that the move of getting the road on the special roads committee list does nothing more than comply with meaningless county council procedure.

Local Jaycees Brotherhood Wk.

The Richmond Hill Junior Chamber of Commerce got Brotherhood Week off to a flying start by interviewing the founder — Rev. R. Jones — on their radio program on February 18th.

The Jaycees meeting on the 20th was addressed by Mrs. Lumb from the Chinese community in Toronto and her daughter entertained the group with some traditional Chinese dances. Chairman for the meeting was Jaycee F. Baker who is this year's Brotherhood chairman.

Following the dinner meeting the new business course was conducted — the first lecture being on organizing a business. The instructor was the well known local lawyer, Donald Plaxton who in past years has been an active member of the Jaycees.

The business centre will be conducted after every dinner meeting — the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays in each month — and will cover such subjects as management, financing, tax, insurance, marketing and public relations. Course Chairman J. Featherstone expects a large attendance and would welcome enquiries from interested businessmen outside the Jaycee group.

Local Ministers Are Speakers At York Presbytery

"The pressures and distractions of the city are intense," said Rev. Dr. A. E. MacKenzie, superintendent of home missions, speaking to York Presbytery of the United Church of Canada in Queensville recently. He was speaking on the subject of the difficulties facing churches in the downtown areas of Toronto. He also said that the United Church had been supporting a number of charities in the city such as clothing centres, and it was noted that York Presbytery was sending clothes to these centres.

Rev. Harold Davies of Maple, speaking on behalf of the Christian education committee, spoke of the new adult study book which, along with a number of other new publications, will be part of the United Church's curriculum next year.

It was pointed out that a number of observation-practice schools were being held. The purpose of the schools is to instruct church and Sunday School teachers in teaching classes.

Rev. Dr. James Davies of Sifton West, convener of the information and stewardship committee, gave a report on a recent conference on Church's Mission. York Presbytery members decided to arrange a meeting to discuss their Church mission.

Rev. Gordon Winch of Oak Ridges was also a speaker at the meeting. As convener of evangelism and social service, he spoke on a number of social issues, including the Royal York Hotel.

Our Playful Children

With vitamins they're daily fed
To make them strong from toe to head;
The stress is on the kind of food
That makes a lively, peppy brood;
Of course, sometimes, a parent will
Just wonder if there's not a pill
They might occasionally inject
To have the opposite effect.

— Robert D. Little

Second Thoughts . . .

by George Mayes

● Yesterday's news is not necessarily dead.

The official opening of the La Cantina Italian Restaurant, Yonge St. S., featured free pizza for everyone . . . and "organ music". It was a real gasser!

Anybody can ride in space—according to the doctors who examined astronaut John Glenn Jr. after his return to earth. . . . Anybody, that is, with a loose \$400 million.

Prime Minister Diefenbaker sort of left himself liable to capital punishment when he asked: "Should war come, are we going to arm Canadians with bows and arrows?" . . . What Arrows?

An American chemist predicts we will soon have houses made of plastic poured from a barrel. . . . A lot of home-owners are ready for the pour-house now.

Russian scientists have established that there is ice on the moon—thus simplifying the supply problem for their cosmonauts. They only need to take the Vodka.

A women's club in Upper Broughton, England, made the news when members started a fund-raising campaign by contributing a penny for every inch of their waist-lines. . . . Sort of a foundation fund?

A recent defence report says it will only take thirty minutes for the United States to deliver atomic warheads to our Bomarc bases in an emergency. . . . An emergency like the Russians delivering theirs in fifteen?

Quebec has asked Ottawa to approve a provincial lottery plan. The odds in the lottery will probably be considerably less than their chances of getting it.

The Dominion Brewer's Association describes Ontario's "new look" in beer bottles as the Amber Compact. The DBA obviously has a female-type press agent who thinks a little-brown-jug is a molasses bottle.

A Glasgow pastor wants to break the Bible down into jive-talk for the youth club of his church. . . . Like, uh, giving them the Gen-esis before the Saints march in to make the scene?

HORTICULTURAL HAPPENINGS
Richmond Hill Horticultural Society
By Elisabeth Grant

It was June in February when the horticultural society presented its annual camera night and the winning pictures of the Colour Photography Contest. President Spence Urquhart opened the meeting and introduced the contest chairman, Mr. Tom Lambert.

The entries had been judged by two experts in this field, members of the Toronto Guild of Colour Photography, Mrs. J. Goodwin and Mrs. A. Burnand. They judged on the basis of the standards of the Photography Society of America and these standards Mr. Lambert explained as he proceeded with the showing of the slides.

a) Technique: Exposure, focus, depth of focus — area of sharpness.
b) Composition: Pleasing arrangement, placing in frames.
c) Impact: Lighting as a definite factor, interest.
It was so easy to forget the stormy winter outside as there appeared on the screen, in glorious colour, the gardens and landscapes of last summer and autumn.

These were shown in 7 classes and the winners were:
1. General garden view in Ontario, R. D. Little.
2. A single plant, flower or tree, W. J. Large.
3. An individual bloom, W. J. Large.
4. Autumn scene in Ontario, E. Redelmeier.
5. Winter scenes in Ontario, Mrs. E. Redelmeier.
6. Ontario scene featuring water, E. Redelmeier.

Warm congratulations were offered to Mr. R. D. Little when it was announced that the Silver Medal, the highest award of the Ontario Horticultural Association has been approved for him. Mr. St. Clair Tennant came particularly to make this announcement and the award will be made at the annual convention on March 15 & 16 at Niagara Falls. Mr. Little has long given outstanding leadership and inspiration in all horticultural endeavours and it is a great pleasure to all his fellow-members and friends that he has been so honoured.

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