

The Liberal

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Efficient Election Machinery

The official recount of ballots of the April 28th liquor referendum revealed that several serious errors had been committed by election officials in the counting of the ballots election night. The recount was held in the town hall under the jurisdiction of County Judge F. J. MacRae.

In one poll alone the deputy-returning officer mistakenly recorded the returns for dining lounges under cocktail lounges. In two other polls the deputy-returning officers counted ticks which is contrary to the election act. Both the Vote No and Vote Yes Committees had scrutineers in the polls to protect their respective interests. But apparently they neither caught nor challenged the deputy-returning officers.

The correct returns showed that cocktail lounges were actually defeated by 29 votes and not just two votes

as was erroneously reported election night. This whole matter points up to the great need for an efficient election machinery if the democratic process is to work properly. Deputy-returning officers, poll clerks and scrutineers should be familiar with their duties and carry them out in an efficient and businesslike manner. There is nothing more important in any election than the proper recording of the ballots. This is basic to the democratic process.

We are now in the midst of a federal election campaign and on June 18th the Canadian people will go to the polls to decide who will administer their national affairs for the next five years. Both government and party officials should ensure that everyone is familiar with their duties and responsibilities so that the casting and tabulation of votes will be handled efficiently and according to law.

Let Province Enforce The Law

The Robarts government has once again displayed a lamentable degree of indecision in handling the case of elected officials who have acted in direct contravention to the laws of this province.

In an action termed illegal by a senior official of the Department of Education, four of the public school trustees in suburban Sandwich West Township near Windsor voted themselves honorariums of \$700 for the board chairman and \$500 each for the four members. Only one trustee was prepared to abide by the law and refused the payment. Under the Ontario Public Schools Administration Act the members of a district school board are only entitled to \$5.00 a meeting for a maximum of 12 meetings a year plus seven cents a mile for travelling expenses.

Mrs. Joan Pope the lone trustee who refused the honorarium said she had been led to believe that voting the honorarium was customary among school boards. She said trustees have been receiving them in Sandwich West for years but that the amounts have never been as high as these latest figures.

Although he termed the action of the trustees as illegal, Gordon L. Duffin, assistant superintendent of elementary education for Ontario said the Minister of Education who is also the Premier of the province was not prepared to take any action in the matter. He said if the trustees are to be unseated, it will have to be done by the ratepayers. Mr. Duffin said any two ratepayers can lay a complaint with the district school inspector on any questions regarding elected officials. The inspector would then call on a county court judge to decide if the members should be unseated.

If the province is not prepared to enforce the terms of its own statutes then it should either amend or repeal them. By refusing to enforce its own legislation the province is simply abdicating its authority as the supreme law making body at the provincial level. The people of this province expect the duly elected legislature of this province to discharge its responsibilities with vigor and courage. The onus is on the province and not the ratepayers to enforce the law.

Senate Reform

The Diefenbaker government's answer to the demand for some kind of Senate reform in Canada was to propose compulsory retirement at the age of seventy-five, and the Liberals in the House of Commons did not offer any substantial objections. We may take it therefore that whatever party wins on June 18th, the age limit will be applied to membership in the Upper House.

As a general rule the age limit of seventy-five is most acceptable and we think will find general approval throughout the country. This despite the fact that of course there are exceptions, and we know some of the brightest and most active members are beyond that age limit.

We think Senate reform should go beyond settling an age limit for retirement and before election day we hope some candidates or party will

come forward with some constructive suggestions.

In a recent issue Maclean's Magazine made a commendable suggestion that membership in the Senate should include representatives of the so-called minority parties. With this suggestion we agree, especially when there are available men of the prestige and ability of M. J. Coldwell, former leader of the C.C.F. who retired after many years outstanding service as a Member of Parliament. A most effective way to reform the Senate would be to appoint to membership men and women of outstanding qualifications, irrespective of political affiliation.

In the past far too many Senate appointments by both political parties have been based on the necessity of political expediency.

An Early Start For Science

Science has long been a regular part of the high school curriculum, but for many elementary school children the demonstrable truths about the physical world have been revealed largely through extra-curricular investigation.

In educational and scientific circles the conviction has been growing that because of the tremendous curiosity of the child from 6 to 12 certain basic scientific concepts should more regularly be introduced in the early grades. In postponing formal science education to the teens, much scientific interest may be lost, it is felt.

Studies are currently under way to determine how much and what kind of scientific material can be absorbed by children at various grade levels.

A report of first-year results of one such study was published in a recent issue of the American Journal of Physics, in a paper by Robert Karplus, a Fulbright Research Scholar and Guggenheim Fellow. This elementary school science project was undertaken at the University of California at Berkeley through a grant from the National Science Foundation.

It was put into effect in each of the first six grades in three different

socio-economic areas; the pupils ranged in intelligence from quite low to exceptionally high, their average intelligence being somewhat above the national average.

Three units of the project were tested, one dealing with the graphical representation of functional relationships the second an introduction to Newton's laws of motion, and the third, "What Am I?", to acquaint children with human physiology and biochemistry.

Results of the study point up certain problems inherent in science education for the younger age groups: There was some difficulty in evaluating how much of the information had been retained by the children. It was found important to plan scientific learning so that it would relate satisfactorily with the pupils' own "common sense" attitudes. And it was apparent that the scientific program should be planned so that it could be taught by the "average" teacher who is not a scientist.

On the positive side, both teachers' and observers' reports indicated that at all grade levels the children reacted with interest and enthusiasm to this venture beyond the realm of the three Rs.

Rambling Around

by Elizabeth Kelson

THE EMPHASIS IS ON WATER SAFETY

John Passmore

John Passmore, former school trustee, former member of the Richmond Hill Lions, and former president of the Ontario Division of the Red Cross is out in the limelight again. This time, he brings to his new post as chairman of the water safety committee his valuable experience and knowledge of Red Cross work. Water Safety week will be held across Canada from June 3 to June 9. The water safety services, as explained by Mr. Passmore, is one of the newer departments of the Red Cross. It was set up after World War 2 to reduce the appalling number of drownings across Canada. The most significant mark in the progress of the water safety department of 1961 was that only 306 lost their lives as compared to 359 in 1960. It is felt that some of this improvement can be attributed to the water safety services of the Canadian Red Cross Society. Mr. Passmore says that the Richmond Hill Branch intends to step up water safety knowledge campaigns and swimming programmes. The Red Cross Water Safety Department working through its branches tries to make the public safety conscious and to teach safe swimming and boating skills. According to your water safety chairman, this can be done in several ways: It is done through instructor training. In order to be a qualified instructor, the candidate must take a 33 hour course from the water safety department. The candidate must be 18 years of age or over, hold the Bronze Medallion or equivalent and be able to pass the senior swimmer test. Successful candidates are then equipped to set up and instruct a Red Cross swimming programme. A second way is through swimming programmes. Children, enrolled in Red Cross swimming work toward water safety beginner, and then, junior, intermediate and senior awards. Candidates learn water safety knowledge, artificial respiration and swimming skills. The water safety services also emphasizes recreational swimming for the handicapped and they have set up several programmes with facilities, tests and awards, especially designed for swimmers with physical or mental limitations. Educational material is important in promoting awareness of the need for water safety. The Red Cross will provide posters, pamphlets, booklets, wallet-size cards and T.V. film clips are provided at cost or on loan to anyone interested in water safety.

The Red Cross gives technical assistance by doing research on safety equipment, pool and dock structures, and this information plus a personal visitation is available to anyone who needs help with indoor and outdoor swimming programmes.

During July and August, eight supervisors, representing the water safety services travel throughout Ontario, visiting swimming programmes in camps and communities, assisting in their organization, examining their candidates, giving talks and demonstrations, and show films to communities, service groups, home and school associations and any other such organizations seeking water safety knowledge.

The Red Cross Water Safety Committee is always at the service of those interested in water safety programmes concludes Mr. Passmore. The permanent staff of the water safety department is available throughout the year on invitation to visit programmes, discuss problems, give talks and demonstrations, and show films to communities, service groups, home and school associations and others.

The Richmond Hill Branch of the Red Cross means to do everything in their power to promote a better consciousness of water safety in this area.

WEAVING IS A SATISFYING HOBBY FOR ... DOROTHY GARSIDES.

Mrs. Edward Garsides hasn't lived too long in our district, but even at that her skill in the art of weaving is becoming known among us. Mrs. Garsides, a former ballet teacher, moved from Hamilton with her family to 36 Longbridge Drive in Thornhill last summer. Dorothy, who has been weaving since 1950 was intrigued into this hobby by seeing a picture of Lady Alexander at a loom. Lady Alexander learned the art of weaving in Canada when her husband was the governor-general. This led Mrs. Garsides to take a weaving course at the Hamilton West Dale collegiate, sponsored by the Department of Education. Later she took special summer courses in weaving at McMaster and at MacDonald Hall. Mrs. Garsides also studied at Woodstock, New York, under Berta Frye, who is considered to be one of America's outstanding weavers.

While in Hamilton, Mrs. Garsides was a member of the Hamilton Weaver's Guild, and at present, she is a member of the Toronto Spinners and Weavers Association. Dorothy Garsides specializes in weaving yard goods and wool is her chief medium. She also weaves place mats, guest towels, and stoles which she sells. If anyone would like to see the work of this fine weaver, you will find her down at the big Rug Exhibition in the Thornhill United Church Auditorium on June 8 and 9. Mrs. Garsides will have a special display of her work and will also demonstrate the art of weaving to others.

PROGRESS IS BEING MADE WITH ... ESPERANTO

Mrs. Dorothy Henderson, King City, announces that the successful candidates in the Esperanto association, of the class held last season in the Doris Patton School at King City include: Mrs. Frel Swayze, Mrs. George Berry, Mrs. Norman MacMurchy, Mrs. H. E. Hayward, and Mr. Douglas C. Henderson all of King City. And from Newmarket: Mrs. E. J. McCaffrey, Mrs. W. J. Quinsey, Mr. Alex Belugin, and from Aurora, Mr. John Knowles.

This course, explains Mrs. Henderson, was a basic introduction to the international language ... Esperanto. It provided a general working knowledge of the language that is three times easier to learn than any of the world's national languages. The course was sponsored by the York Branch, United Nations Association.

POOR GROUND HOG!

The Agg family of Hillview Drive are having a lot of fun these days watching one of Nature's little sideshows in their backyard. The cast includes a family of crows and a ground hog. Even at six o'clock, when the family throw out dry bread for the birds, the noisy clatter starts. The crow family continually scold and threaten the poor ground-hog. The poor little fellow really gets no peace at all.

POTPOURRI OF SPRING FLOWERS

The north woods is a delightful place these days. Painted trillium is found everywhere. The Adder's Tongue or Dog-Tooth's Violet springs up in the most unexpected places. Beds of fragrant white violets line the ditches, and here and there a clump of blue violets peep out amongst them. Truly, the spring woods is a magic place, full of pleasant surprises like hepaticas and star-flowers.

YOUR GARDEN And MINE

By Jane Williams

TOMATOES

For the home gardeners one of the nicest things is to be able to pick lovely, red, ripened on the vine, tomatoes from their own garden patch.

The patch needn't take a lot of space. One tiny corner of the back garden is enough to keep a family supplied during the summer. Although tomato plants will bear fruit from 48 to 86 days after planting, they are essentially a warm weather plant. They require an open, sunny well drained spot. Any part in the garden where rain water tends to form a pool is a very poor place for tomatoes, and many diseases are associated with poor drainage including fruit rot, stunting and bacterial wilt. Tomatoes thrive in open locations with plenty of sunshine free movement of air and good drainage. More plants can occupy a given space by the pruned stake method and difficulties of cultivation are greatly reduced. Set the plants deeply about 2 feet apart and drive a 5 foot stake into the ground beside each small plant. Fasten the plant with a tie of cloth strips or soft material and make the tie tight to the stake first and loop it loosely around the stem. Using this method it is necessary to pinch out the side shoots as they grow, they then produce two main shoots giving larger tomatoes and no trouble keeping them off of the ground.

Since prosperous gardening is dependent upon a fertile soil, the care of your soil cannot be postponed until the indefinite future. It must be done now. The yield and quality of tomatoes are a result; and the lovely, lovely sight of natures beautiful flowers stem directly from the soil that nurtures them.

There is no better soil analyst than the lowly earthworm and our most experienced gardeners invariably judge the condition of their plots by the earthworm up. Most women shudder at the sight of this wiggly fellow and wish he would go elsewhere or not be seen, but to take a minute and understand his functions, in time, he will be well greeted and protected.

If one large well fed worm is turned up with each spadeful the land is considered to be in good condition. If on the other hand earthworms are few in number, pale in colour and rolled up in a ball then a good organic fertilizer is needed. Worms and chemicals are not compatible. Earthworms casts or droppings are perfect food for plants and since the worm chews the earth with all plant life that is dead such as roots leaves, etc., the soil becomes regenerated into easily assimilated food for growing things.

If kitchen parings were to be buried in a hole in the earth and covered with soil, later and not too much later, an examination would show no trace of the parings — just lovely crumbly soil with the friendly worm lurking around.

Then there is the honey-bee on the blossom of a flower with his service of pollination. It is hard to realize the relatedness between these two untiring living forms — the earthworm and the bee and how they work together preparing the soil and pollinating the blossoms.

With the advent of the power mower — leaves, grass, weeds, the most common and handy material to the home gardener can be mulched or chopped up with the mulching attachment on this power mower and then given as a food to the earthworm. Place handfuls around the plants until over a season a two or three inch layer is reached.

If this fertilizing is carried out every season the soil will become rich and loamy and produce beautiful plants and flowers. For such little effort the rewards are great. One thing more as an afterthought — these handfuls of shredded weeds and grass, etc., will also act as a mulch to keep the soil moist and not dried up. Whenever the mulch is, if a tiny corner is lifted up it is surprising to find moist warm earth instead of cracked dried furrows. As a word to the wise — waste not — save all clippings and after shredding apply to the garden anywhere.

Second Thoughts...

by George Mayes

• Yesterday's news is not necessarily dead.

Mr. Diefenbaker was reported to be addressing Quebec audiences "in his Prairie French" ... Ah, at last — some plain talk.

Keeping your troubles to yourself can give you rheumatism, according to a director of the Canadian Arthritis and Rheumatism Society. So tell everyone your troubles and give THEM a pain in the neck.

It's sort of news when we get a brain-washed word from the sponsor. The late movie on a Buffalo TV station managed to get itself announced as: Ruggles of Red Cap.

A Toronto Board of Education trustee, who attended a recent school music festival in the city, criticized it as a "bowl of choral mush" ... The kids must have been singing pap-ular music.

And regardless of what kind of music the owners of our local radio stations think their station is playing (if you keep track of them) seem to be playing musical chairs.

Guards at Toronto's Don Jail are prevented from forming a union because of their vague status — being neither fully civic or provincial employees ... This is only a suggestion, but maybe they could join the Bartenders' Union.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Study Tour Conference is quoted as "moving in for a close look at what makes Canada tick." Having timed their arrival to the middle of an election campaign they might easily conclude: What makes Canada tick? Talk.

(Honorary) Colonel Roy Thomson of the Toronto Scottish says his Scottish ties go back to 1540 when two of his ancestors were hanged for sheep stealing - And that's how the Thomsons got into the "noose" business.

Premier Robarts says Ontario's driver-education program hopes to encourage mature driving habits in teenagers ... But how — when they can't legally purchase the stuff until they're 21?

Marathon walker Barbara Moore — imprisoned in London for contempt of court — is on a hunger strike ... Although she would have got much more publicity if she'd gone on a sit-down strike.

TOWNSHIP OF MARKHAM NOTICE RE-WEEDS

Notice is hereby given to all property owners and occupants that in accordance with the Weed Control Act, 1960, Ontario, Sections 3, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13, unless weeds growing on their lands within the Township of Markham are cut down by Friday, June 1st, and throughout the season, the Weed Inspector of the Township of Markham may enter upon said lands and have the weeds cut, charging the cost against the lands, as set out in the Act.

The co-operation of all concerned is earnestly solicited.

H. C. T. CRISP, Clerk
 E. L. CLUBINE, Weed Inspector,
 Telephone Gormley 5429

Unearth the news you need to keep up appearances

In your garden, that is.

Now that spring planting's done, don't think you can sit back and relax. It takes constant doing to keep up appearances in your garden.

And here is where you'll find out how to keep your grounds in trim... and color.

Here, too, is where you'll get ideas for improving your lot... for enjoying life in the open — right in your own garden. Ideas from experienced writers who keep you informed through *Your Garden and Mine* column in "The Liberal" every week.

It's all in your home paper. Read it in today's "Liberal".

YOUR GARDEN AND MINE

by the RICHMOND HILL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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