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Corruption In Municipalities

Reeve True Davidson of East York Township made some very forthright statements at the recent annual convention of the Ontario Association of Mayors and Reeves which should be of real concern to not only the Department of Municipal Affairs but to every citizen of this province. Miss Davidson told the delegates that corruption exists to a considerable degree in the province's municipalities, and that few persons seem to be scandalized by the fact. A statement of this nature cannot go unchallenged. The province is duty bound to investigate Miss Davidson's statements. For one thing she should be asked to be more specific in her charges and detail just where the corruption exists. Unfortunately the province to date has shown an unwillingness to assume any real responsibility in ferreting out corruption in local government. Provincial authorities have continually placed the onus on the ratepayers to take the culprits to court or turn them out of office at election time.

Although public pressure finally forced the province to introduce legislation to control conflict of interest in the municipalities there are

still certain activities not covered by law. "Where do we draw a line as to the presents and entertainment we will accept", asked Miss Davidson.

Although she did not favour public inquiries Miss Davidson warned "refusing to conduct a public inquiry doesn't mean we should let problems accumulate until they smell up the whole place." If there is to be no resort to public inquiries what can the citizens do in a community when a council refuses Miss Davidson's suggestion to clean up its own mess. It would be very difficult for a council to investigate itself. and therefore some outside authority is needed.

Miss Davidson felt municipal corruption might be effectively controlled through better defined legislation and a code of ethics for councils. The municipalities are the creation of the provincial government and local government is carried on under authority of the legislature. Public pressure will finally force a reluctant provincial government to enact better legislation and provide a code of ethics for councillors as suggested by Miss Davidson.

Save On Interest Charges

Another elected official came out last week in support of the pay-asyou-go plan for financing large municipal projects as recently suggested by Reeve Norman Goodhead of North York Township.

Trustee William Dymond of the Toronto Board of Education said city taxpayers could save themselves \$2,500,000 a year or 1.5 mills if they financed schools on a pay-as-you-go basis. He told the board's finance committee he would campaign next fall for the financing of all school buildings from current funds.

School officials reported that in 1961 the repayment of debentures borrowed for city school buildings cost \$2,239,150 in principal and a further \$2,487,986 in interest. Like most public bodies in this province the board borrows money for 20 year periods. By the time the debentures are finally repaid, interest costs are more than the value of the money

borrowed. "A \$2,000,000 school, costs us \$4,000,000 this way", Trustee Dymond said. Many large school boards in the United States finance their building programs entirely from current funds or borrow for periods shorter than seven years to save interest costs.

Because a complete change over to a pay-as-you-go capital program would saddle taxpayers with both interest costs on previous debenture issues and all of one year's capital building costs, Trustee Dymond suggested his board ease into it gradually. This would raise taxes by two or three mills immediately, but save four or five mills in 10 years' time he estimated.

In the present era of high taxation and a national financial crisis district officials might be well advised to give careful consideration to a pay-as-you-go plan for large municipal projects.

Richmond Hill has been called, at various times, "a dormitory community," "one of Toronto's bedrooms," and "a community of commuters." True, a large majority of people living in this area commute from their residences to their places of work in Metropolitan Toronto. Because of the lack of major industrial development in the district, which could absorb much of our labor force, commuting has become an essential part of our community life.

In good weather, commuting, except for the hazards of driving in heavy traffic, is not too unpleasant, and existing and planned expressways will eventually lessen the strain on the tired motorist. But driving through deluges of rain, sleet, ice and snow storms cannot be a pleasure at any time — so we who live and work in our home community do not envy our neighbors who must commute five or six days a

Commuting brings other problems. It is expensive. Carrying passengers who contribute to the expense is very common, albeit illegal. In case of an accident, a non-licensed carrier might find that the insurance coverage he thought quite adequate is null and void. Transportation companies which hold franchises for the carrying of passengers on the highways frequently wage campaigns against such "car pools". The passenger who oversleeps and is not at the appointed rendezvous at the appointed time, may cause the driver and other passengers to be late for work, and parking space in the city is costly and hard to find.

A group of six men in New Jersey have solved many of these prob-

lems by forming a registered "car pool limited company", with a full slate of officers. Each man contributes a fixed sum per year which pays for all running and maintenance expenses and provides for replacement of the station wagon which is used by them in commuting to New York City. The plan has been working successfully for the past six years.

Stringent rules were drawn up and are strictly observed. Among them is that the car leaves promptly every morning, there is no waiting for a latecomer (he must find his own transportation into New York.) The same is true of the return journey.

If the driver of the day is late in waking, he jumps into the car in his pyjamas and drives to the house of the first man to be picked up, who returns him to his house where he may take his time in shaving, dressing and breakfasting and make his own way into the city. The second man becomes the driver and completes the journey.

No female passengers may be carried regularly! Newspapers may be read, but must be kept below seatback level where they will not interfere with the view of the driver. All riders are urged to keep slim!

At the entrance to the tunnel under the Hudson River, the same guard passes the car each morning. In a spirit of good humor, one man in the front seat holds up a card which says "Good morning, Joe", and a man in the back holds up one which says "Good-bye; Joe."

If you and your neighbors are having commuting problems, an arrangement along these lines might prove the solution.

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By Elizabeth Kelson THE SEED OF THE EARTH ----MORE POWERFUL THAN MAN

Would it dismay you to know that man who can build ships and span rivers with bridges does not rule the world. Yes, there is something much more powerful than man and that is the seed . . . the grain of corn . . . of wheat . . . of barley or even of rye. The seed that is dropped into the earth is master of the millionaire and banker, working man or politician. It controls worker and king. For the seed is life and has power to grow.

Whenever countries are almost constantly under the threat of war, you can't help but feel bewildered. You think it stupid of them all not to realize that the one thing that matters most in the whole world is the earth. And you have to eat to be able to work, drive a tank or make an airplane. You don't care if you live or die if you're starving. And if you don't care what happens to you, you don't even want to build ships, tanks, guns and bombs, much less make a new world when a war is over. Somehow, it seems as if life goes on a rampage when it puts armaments even above the fruit of the earth itself. In thinking about the last war which stands out most in my memory, you saw men and women together working at lathes and making shells and airplanes. We saw them standing at production lines dazed with fatigue as they turn out weapons of annihilation. In the war plants, the workers stand before their machines. But behind these machines lie the earth. Unspectacular and quietly eternal the earth is the font of all that muscular power. It is behind the force of the converters of the great steel mills, and it drives the propellers of the bombing planes. It welds the plate of the battleship and supplies energy for the man who fires the gun. Undisputed in time of peace, still it is supreme in time of war. For behind each army that fights and behind each brain that plans designs for lasting peace, lies a field of wheat or corn. Somewhere a farmer planted golden kernels of corn into the body of his earth that hogs and cattle might be fed and somewhere far removed from the field, human minds nourished upon the harvest of grain, decide the destiny of our world.

Is it any wonder that one is bewildered. If man could only be humble before the source of his power . . . the seed . . . whose mysteries of growth are in God's keeping. He would come to realize the mad waste of his life before the seed is taken from him forever.

> RICHILDACA - - - FAMILY VENTURE FOR BILL AND JEAN BABCOCK

Camp Richildaca, which has been in existence since 1956 is a dream brought to reality by Bill Babcock and his wife Jean. Bill Babcock was born in Aurora, and attended Aurora Public and High Schools. He obtained his B.A. in Toronto in 1950. He taught three years at Thorold High School. He came to Richmond Hill in 1953 and has been the Physical Education Instructor at Richmond Hill High ever since. Always with an eye to the future, Bill intends to complete the requirements for a degree in Physical Education (B.P.E.) at McMaster University next winter.

Bill Babcock and his wife Jean are members of the Richmond Hill United Church, and have four children, whose names and respective ages are . . . Fred 9, Marion 5, Scott 4, and Hugh, 3 months. When the Babcocks moved to Richmond Hill, they were impressed by the lack of recreational outlets especially for the younger child. At that time there were no playgrounds in Richmond Hill and they, being progressive and forward-looking decided to do something about it. So Camp Richildaca was their combined answer to the problem. The name Richmond Hill Day Camp became Richildaca as you can plainly see, and was coined by Bill and Jean. At first the camp was assisted by the Richmond Hill Rotary Club with a grant of \$400 to purchase supplies and equipment. "In that first year," said Bill, "I was assisted by Alan Bathurst, then teacher at Richmond Hill High School. The camp operated under the Recreation method to care for any flower all over the flower bed. Then or vegetable garden is with the with soil sprinkled on top it looks guite pice and will really. At this time they withdrew their support and my wife and I operated it ourselves. Last year, we formed a limited company "Richildaca Camps Limited," and commenced to establish a permanent site at mulch would prove to be the same works well with large Kettleby."

Camp with the Babcocks is a family venture, fastest results for an immediate ed leaves, grasses or clippings Jean Babcock keeps the books and does most of the paper work. The children are of increasing help. This spring, Fred, Marion, and Scott helped to plant it is food, housing, protection Lettuce and Peas - 5 to 8 250 trees on the property, and Fred has contracted and a moisture container for inches of any mulch. to keep the grass cut at camp this summer. hopes to invest his earnings in stock in Richildaca.

The building of this camp, of course, entailed a great deal of hard work for the Babcock family, but as Bill says, the results were loaded with satisfactions. They built a log lodge 25' x 35' and a full basement. Bill admits to cutting the logs himself, no control over the amount of done once a season and this and as the building progressed and took shape, en- rain your garden is going to get mulching cuts down on weeding thusiasm and high hopes kept pace also. The upstairs this summer, you can increase watering and care - to a mere has a meeting-place, kitchen and office, while the your soil's ability to hold any routine inspection to see how downstairs has a store, workshop and dark room for photography. Also on the property is an excellent stress instruction at camp. Every child has a lesson each day," declared Bill.

"creative art centre". The loft will be for "puppetry" mentioned list. and there will be a cabin to be used for the Retarded Children of the area under special care and superand there will be a pond on the property too. how to handle a canoe and row a boat. "We even plan to take them on canoe trips, complete with packsacks and portages," continued Bill.

(Next week, we'll follow the path to Richildaca with Bill Babcack again.)

THE CLOWN OF THE WOODPECKER FAMILY -THE SAPSUCKER

You would never believe that a pretty bird like the sapsucker could do so much damage. He comes by his name honestly enough for he spends his life drinking deeply from the sap of various trees. My favorite birch trees look as if they had been drilled by Evangelists Rev. Mansel McGuire some sharp instrument. In every one of them there are rows of neat holes in a regular pattern and the bark is sticky with running sap. Watching the sapsucker conduct his sapsucking business can be amus-ing but you can't help feeling sorry for the birches. He looks quite perky in a strange coat of mottled black and white, a vest of pale yellow, and scarlet cap and neck piece. One bar of white runs all the length of his wing. You'd almost think he had been decorated for something.

by George Mayes Yesterday's news is not necessarily dead.

Ontario's new driver demerit system is now in effect. Pedestrians will still have trouble pointing their way to safety, but motorists will find it easier to point their way to suspension.

village trustees on the subject of school vandalism, says he doesn't think the present generation of

President Kennedy says that parents who pro- sion were reinforced by the sac- in Jenkins (Putnam 1962). The test the ban on compulsory prayer-forms in the rifice and superior knowledge paw in the title represents the schools have an easy remedy - they can teach their of his wife, Pollock creates an mighty, and the dust the poor. children to pray at home . . . They can do it while appealing picture of nineteenth- Kanbul in Afghanistan has a the commercials are on.

dorsed former Mayor Lamport's plan to build dis- appeal to all. count stores for union members, employing union help, and selling union-made goods. So if you need

Springs Styling Upset . . . A good word to describe the feelings of the owners of their 1957 fin-jobs.

A group of Chicago doctors, addressing the excess, by Andrew Sinclair. American Medical Association, urged that laws be (Little, 1962). A comprehensive, Lear III. Cditor passed to forbid any advertising of tobacco products ... What? And put 4 out of 5 of their members out

Woodstock's dog catcher was cited in the press troduced by law in 1920 and re-fused two Thomas Steele's. The for chiseling for four hours through a brick chimney pealed in 1933. Written by a Thomas Steele mentioned by me to rescue a mongrel pup. Humanitarian maybe, but on second thought he was also laying-on a bit of job in the U.S. gathering material, After his retirement, or death,

A farmer in Normal Ill., claims he can increase his corn crop by serenading it with semiclassical music and marches . . . Avoiding the "pop" recordings lest it develop into pop-corn?

An estimated 16 European countries are expected to see their first live American television programs sometime this month when the U.S. launches its first Tel-star satelletite. The programs will be an attempt to "reflect what is going on in the U.S. that by Iain Macleod. (Atheneum, Mr. Buse may be interested to day", and if the Americans play it straight and leave in the cleanser commercials the Europeans will author has been British Minis- ents in the area who remember REALLY see a common market.

The Queenston suspension bridge is being ad- have given him an intimate vertised for sale. It's only a suggestion — but maybe the downtown merchants could get the Hill's Town Council to buy it for an overhead parking lot.



"CARE OF SMALL HOME GARDENS"

Beats, Carrots and Beans -

Cabbage, broccoli, peppers

While it may sound like quite

things are growing. At the end

and tomatoes-mulch heavily up

to 8 inches.

The simplest and easiest mixture can be used around and use of mulch. looks quite nice and will really

If all organic procedures were do a job. Well rotted hay mixed 'boiled down" as to the one with crushed leaves is an exthe most indispensable - the cellent cover for roses. The greatest. It gives the best and annuals such as zinnia's. Crush problem of drought and strictly mixed with soil and wood ashes conforms to "Natures" Laws. makes a finer mulch for small Why is it important? Because annuals.

He all soil life. The soil and soil life needs mulch to perform at thin, water and mulch.

Sometimes during a hot dry summer the gardener feels things just can't be expected to grow and although you have a lot of work to do it is only water it receives.

of the season and when the Large amounts of mulch six garden is over, loosely dig the swimming pool that meets all health requirements. or eight inches deep will in- mulch into the top soil and re-Its measurements are 32' x 48'. In describing the crease water holding capacity peat the whole process of mulch whether the soil is sandy or ing the following spring. After pool, Mr. Babcock explained that the pool is divided heavy clay. First make a mental a few years of this method exactly in half, so that they have a shallow end in or written list of materials the soil will have large Mon., Tues. and Wed. - July 9, 10 and 11 which to teach "beginners" and a deep end in which available that you can use such amounts of organic matter that to teach the advanced swimmers. Two Red Cross as weeds, grasses, leaves, leaf will increase the yield and Swimming Instructors are on staff at all times. "We mold compost, stones, (around beauty of anything planted. trees and shrubs) clippings, Also once organized you can straw, coffee grounds, parings, become a lazy gardener with sawdust and then peat moss for holidays presenting no problem This year the Babcocks are expanding their easy handling but a purchased of weeding or watering. building programme with a barn which will be their product, not free as the afore- Under all these layers o

mulch the wonderful little co-For flower beds - All flower workers, the earthworms will beds should be under a con-happily aerate and fertilize the stant mulch - drought or no top two inches of soil allowing vision. There is more to come. Bill plans to have a drought and it can be done easy feedings for all plants, new playing field which will eventually have a track without making beds look ugly, but without mulch the earth The If any of the above materials worm retreats deeper and pond will be used to teach the older children, 12 to 14, are shredded or chopped fairly deeper into the soil where it small and mixed with soil this is not dry and hard.

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BOOK REVIEWS

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HUDSON TAYLOR AND knowledge of the former states-MARIA; pioneers in China, by man's work and the realization C. Pollock (McGraw-Hill, of an image of him very differ-1962). In telling the story of ent from the public one. In Taylor's dreams of converting this biography he shares with A King City school principal, speaking to the the Chinese and how it was the reader his summation of brought to partial fruition in Chamberlain's character. Citspite of ill health, poor educa- ing private papers, correspondyoungsters is any worse than previous ones — "They Chinese, the author emphasizes Macleod records Chamberlain's are only bolder. They have no respect for property." the zeal and mutual sympathy valuable contributions to social . . . See? - They are actually BETTER at these of Taylor's marriage to Maria reform and refutes the mythe Dyer. Showing how the hero- that surround the name.

ism and mysticism of the foun-der of the China Inland Miscentury evangelism. Due to host of both as the impoverishits background of imperial ed nation copes with the added China and the genuineness of difficulty of being the center of The Toronto and District Labor Council has en- the characters, this book will a struggle between the great powers. Through the hero, Ab-

dul Wahab, one of the helpless THE NATURAL WORLD OF ones and his efforts both ideal-LOUISE DICKINSON RICH, istic and hypocritical to become

seals, plant life, and pets she classic, A Passage To India. has known over the years. PROHIBITION, the era of well-documented and fascin- OLD STEELE'S HOTEL ating exploration of the social Dear Mr. Editor and psychological milieu that In his letter to "The Liberal" gave rise to the American regarding old Steele's Hotel Mr. phenomenon of prohibition in- W. A. Buse of Toronto has conperceptive British novelist and acquired the hotel about 1857, historian who spent two years and operated it for many years. this book spells out the excess- it was taken over by his son

es of passion, reinforced by ri- John C. Steele, thereby estabgidity of thought, that infected lishing something of a record of church, politics, government, family ownership in a district and every public and private where hotels frequently changsegment of American society, ed hands. The Thomas Steele Pertinent pictures and contem- of whom Mr. Buse speaks was porary cartoons help round out apparently a grandson of the this study, which will appeal original owner, but has no conto the browser as well as the nection with this story. I am sorry if I did not make it clear that John C. Steele FOLLOWED

NEVILLE CHAMBERLAIN, his father in the hotel business. 1962). Like Chamberlain, the learn that there are still residter of Health and Minister of his father's blacksmith shop. Labour and a student of social Yours truly, legislation. These occupations Doris M. FitzGerald. Thornhill.

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