

The Liberal



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All Can Help

The construction of the new hospital in Vaughan Township at the border of Richmond Hill is a major event in the history of this district. For a long time many have dreamed of having a modern well equipped hospital here to serve the needs of our people, but until a relatively short time ago it seemed a dream with little chance of fulfilment. Now construction work is progressing rapidly and there is every assurance that the new hospital will be open and operating before the end of this year.

The hospital when completed and operating will be tangible evidence of what can be accomplished by genuine public spirit, energy, determination, and co-operation. The first action came from the medical association. Naturally no-one knew better than the doctors of the need for hospital beds and in co-operation with the municipal council a public meeting was held in the school auditorium in February 1960. There was not a large attendance but there was unanimity in the realization that the shortage of hospital beds in York County presented a serious problem and that something must be done about it.

The story of the past three years is one of persistent hard work, careful study and co-operation by the hospital trustees, hospital association members, the medical association, the Ontario Hospital Association, the various levels of Government, the York County Council and the newly established York County Hospital Commission. The organization and the recruiting of an active and dedicated hospital auxiliary has been one of the most inspiring features of the whole campaign.

The cost of the new hospital here and the substantial addition to the hospital at Newmarket will be financed by federal, provincial and county grants, and by the money raised in a county-wide campaign now in progress with an objective of over one million dollars.

The new hospital to serve the

southern part of York County represents the best in public spirit and community conscience. When completed it will stand as an imposing symbol of the humanity of the people of this day and generation. Everyone can share in this great and worthy community project. Membership in the hospital association is open to everyone, and men and women of the entire district are sought and welcomed as members of the hospital auxiliary. Everyone can make a donation to the community campaign. Every donation, large or small is welcomed and suitably acknowledged. Workers are needed in the financial campaign. A volunteer is asked to call on a half dozen or so fellow citizens and solicit funds.

Recently we reported a donation by the Robson family in memory of the late James H. Robson, a former reeve of Vaughan Township. Their donation will equip a bedroom in the new hospital and a suitable plaque will be inscribed and placed in the room. Surely this is a fitting and useful memorial to a loved one and many donations similar to that of the Robson family are under consideration. Many people send a subscription to the hospital in memory of a friend or family member in times of bereavement. Such a donation not only expresses sympathy at the time, but contributes for all time something to alleviate the pain and suffering of others.

The hospital project is proceeding well on schedule and the first unit of 126 beds will be open this year. With the passing years there will be additions until the institution reaches its planned capacity of 600 beds. This will be sometime in the future, but the opportunity to share in this project of love and mercy on behalf of humanity is with us to day. It should be a matter of satisfaction for every citizen of Richmond Hill and of York County to point with pride to the new hospital and say with truth, "I did my share."

A Forward Step

The recent suggestion by the Canadian Tax Foundation that the pressure of education costs on municipal taxpayers could be eased if provincial governments paid the operating costs of schools is indeed one that merits serious consideration.

It would mean a reduction of 30 per cent in the cost of education paid by local municipalities, from 50 per cent to 20 per cent.

The federal government could also help to ease the burden on the provincial authorities by withdrawing more rapidly from the income tax field or by expanding the present federal equalization grant to recognize provincial education needs. A study by the foundation showed that the per capita amount levied by local authorities for school purposes has jumped from \$9.37 in 1946 to \$34.03 in 1960 — a rise of 263 per cent.

Ontario's percentage paid by local governments for all elementary and secondary school purposes was above the national average by almost three per cent and this will go higher

as increased school population is predicted, the study forecast.

In the opinion of the foundation, this appears to be a reasonable assumption even if the birth rate were to fall and immigration were to be curtailed because there are so many other factors which help generate a higher school cost structure such as lower teacher-pupil ratios; higher teacher qualifications; broader curricula; special classes for handicapped children; improved school buildings and equipment and increased numbers of administrators or non-teaching staff.

The suggested cost-sharing formula was based on the premise that education is of wider than local benefit and this we believe is true in this age of far-reaching technological advance.

Any relief from senior governments would be welcome by the already overburdened taxpayer who is finding the increasing burden of education costs almost too much to cope with.

Textbooks To Rent

In the speech from the throne marking the opening of the current session of the New Brunswick Legislature announcement was made that the government of Premier Louis Robichaud intends to introduce a rental plan for high school textbooks. This will prove a welcome development to many students and their parents in that province, who up to now have had to find the money each year to purchase books. The New Brunswick announcement is a good example of the practical type of legislation that governments can introduce and which have an everyday application. A textbook rental plan is a useful development on the economies of acquiring an education, and would have a wide acceptance in every family that has children attending a secondary school.

With the great number of second-

ary students in this province, and with the great number to come in the future, the Department of Education could well consider the introduction of a similar plan in Ontario. Prior study by educational authorities could find answers to such questions as the financing and mechanics of operating such a scheme. Any rental plan would likely prove more effective and manageable if operated on a province wide basis rather than by different areas or municipalities. Ontario officials could study the newly introduced New Brunswick scheme and from the experience of that province see how a similar plan could be applied here. Rental textbooks would prove a popular plank in the legislative program of any government for it would assist every family that had children in high school.

"Dear Mr. Editor"

LOCAL BUS SERVICE AIDS PROSPERITY

Dear Mr. Editor:
The letter in your February 14th issue from Mr. Ernie Rutlan advocating the abolition of our local bus service is another example of an individual thinking emotionally instead of analyzing the facts.

His argument that the subsidy could be used to better ad-

vantage by allocating it to attract a fair sized industry and thus reduce taxes is absurd for the following reason: A large part of our tax money comes from the businesses on Yonge Street which rely on consumer spending to survive, and without a local bus service their sales would drop and more stores would have to close.

Mr. Rutlan no doubt has a

Belated Valentine

(From the average husband)

For five and twenty pleasant years
You've labored in this vale of tears,
And made a home from just a house
For me your most unworthy spouse.
Today, when Valentines are due,
At last I sent along to you
This message, pulling out the stops,
To tell the world you're really tops.

To you, our gracious helpmate true,
Red roses are long overdue;
We husbands are a careless lot,
But now, at last, we've had a thought,
And so to you who've swept the floors,
And done a million other chores,
We here declare each day and minute
Has had a touch of glory in it.

The years ahead will be ashine
If you're with me, my Valentine!

Robert D. Little

Rambling Around

(By Elizabeth Kelson)

MEET THE NEW ATTENDANCE COUNSELLOR FOR YORK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOLS AND RICHMOND HILL PUBLIC SCHOOLS DAVID G. PORTER

David Porter, newly appointed attendance counsellor is a personable young man of 30 years. He has some very remarkable assets, among which are a very pleasing personality, a genuine love for his chosen work, and a charming wife who understands and encourages him in his profession. Mr. Porter is a native Torontonian, having attended public and high schools in Toronto and finally the Ryerson Institute of Technology. His first ambition was to be a script writer for the CBC but he changed his mind when he found himself getting involved with YMCA projects. The work fascinated him so much that he left Ryerson to enter the field of social work. It is a decision that David Porter has never regretted. His first social work position was that of sports director of an east Toronto boys' club. He found the programming for large groups didn't give him much time to handle the problems of the individual in the group, so he left the Kiwanis circuit and joined the staff at Thistletown Hospital, a treatment centre for emotionally disturbed children which at that time was the first treatment centre of its kind in Ontario. He remained here for three years. "I learned many things at Thistletown," said David Porter. "I learned how to be patient and how not to take abuse personally when dealing with unhappy children and most important I learned to minimize my use of the word 'hopeless'. In the three years I spent on the staff of the hospital I saw many 'hopeless' children leave the institution as happy young people with an optimistic approach to life and a feeling that living wasn't such a bad proposition." Mr. Porter said too that the work at Thistletown proved that love and understanding were more than flowery words. . . . they were powerful and meaningful weapons, and had results despite the cynicism of the critics.

From the Thistletown Hospital, David Porter took a position with the provincial probation services where he remained until 1962 and then along came his appointment as attendance counsellor for the high schools in York Central District and public schools in Richmond Hill. Mr. Porter said that the former picture of the old-fashioned truant officer was a stereotyped one, that of a formidable, sharp-featured individual whose job it was to drag reluctant students back to the classroom and see to it that they remained there. Fortunately over the past years the picture has changed greatly. The public now realizes that "leading a horse to water" educationally speaking is an incomplete task. It is necessary to go far beyond that by uncovering the reasons for a poor educational response and instilling within the youth of the community a knowledge of what education is, and the part it plays for the future.

"I'll admit these aims are ambitious," said Mr. Porter, "but we have weapons that can in time give us the results we're seeking. The first is the investigation of educational problems within the early grades of public school. Symptoms of academic and social problems can be spotted as early as the first year of the child's school life. These symptoms usually take the form of poor and spotty attendance. It is the plan of the public school board to have me check attendance patterns and investigate them in order that I might deal with the underlying causes and aid parents in dealing with these problems before they have a chance to reach a head. Even during the past three weeks I've had it proven to me dramatically how much simpler it is to solve problems at the elementary school level than wait for them at the high school level."

Mr. Porter continued: "The second weapon I'm planning to use is that of psychological testing. During interviews with students within the schools of York Central District I have heard the saying, 'I don't know where I am going,' repeated with alarming regularity. The fellows and girls that have used this statement are not troubled by a lack of intelligence or personality. It is that they are lacking in motivation and purpose. Psychological testing can help them to acquire a knowledge of their skills and personalities and give them a vision of the steps that can be taken to assure them of a happy and professional future."

Mr. Porter feels assured that his most powerful aid is the parental love and understanding which he finds in goodly quantities in this district.

"I have never met a truly disinterested parent," declared Mr. Porter, "and after 10 years of social work, I can honestly say I have met very few parents who didn't have the best interests of their children at heart. I have come across confused parents though, and tense and misdirected parents but they have all been willing to sit down and iron out any difficulties that may have arisen. I feel sure that I can depend on the same support from the parents of this school area which I am going to serve as well as I know how. I feel very strongly that if they accept me not as a busy body social worker but rather as someone who 'just plain loves kids', then there's no reason why we can't work together to iron out any social or school problem that might arise in the community."

Mr. Porter admitted that these goals are going to demand a great deal of effort, but he was prepared to give this effort. He is comforted by the fact that he has two excellent school boards, ten highly qualified school principals and an abundance of skilled and interested school teachers standing behind him ready at all times to offer all the moral support in the world. "Who knows," declared the hopeful and fully dedicated attendance counsellor, "among us all we might have a utopian school system yet."

The Music Box... By W. Ray Stephens

Stratford and Sullivan
Since the local music scene is almost at a standstill at the moment we turn this week to one of the advance notices received concerning coming musical activities. One of the most interesting at this time is the issue mentioning the summer fare for Stratford here in Ontario, however rather than repeat word for word and praise for praise, I do feel that this calls for a bit of discussion.

Sir Arthur Seymour Sullivan, son of an Irish bandmaster of the Royal Military College in Sandhurst, England, received one of the better musical educations possible at his time in the middle 19th century. It was most unfortunate that he achieved immortality through his comic operetta (commonly mis-named operas) collaborations with a semi-serious theatrical rubbish writer by the name of William Schwenck Gilbert. Little Arthur was 13 years of age when he composed his first anthem (O Israel), 14 years old when he won the Mendelssohn Scholarship at the Royal Academy of Music in London, and he was merely 20 when he seriously set Shakespeare's Tempest to music. Then came a series of other major works such as a ballet, cello concerto, symphony, cantata and an opera all of which have long been banished to musical oblivion by the test of time (or so it seems) and today we know

Sullivan only for his Lost Chord as parodied by Jimmy Durante and his silly, willy-nilly, six-eight glibble gobbles from Mikado, Pirates, Pinafore, Gondoliers and other such high school minor musical efforts.

And this is Stratford again! Public appeal and sentimental slosh, all of which is appropriate in its place but is its place at Stratford with Shakespeare, Gould, Shumsky, Festival Singers, Louis Marshall, Elizabeth Guy-Benson (see how we get around to stating what on the bill this year?) and other devoted musicians appearing there this summer? So it does make a profit but I was under the general impression that all of these cultural promotional efforts set their standards by how much money it costs and just how much was lost. We'll never catch up to Vancouver the way the successes out there have lost money.

Why not Chubby Checkers, the all Twisted King to replace Glen Gould? Mind you I might get a bigger kick from the Mikado than from Mahler's Youth's Golden Horn, one of the special performances on the slate, but I am very sure that the Mahler work would be the most impressive musically.

Why not a wrestling bill. There is one burly grinder who offers operatic arias and such before each match. He can't sing worth a hoot neither can he rattle. One newspaper posted the Strat-

ford news as 'Rich Musical Fare'. This can be taken either as a caviar notice or again as fatty rich pork with regurgitating results. When composing these operettas, Sullivan was most slovenly and Gilbert was known as a rude, rude writer. Both

were gifted beyond all reasons and fairness and the task of turning out these gibbly-gobs was effortless and to Sullivan they presented no challenge what so ever. They seldom spoke to each other and could not stand (Continued On Page 15)

The Richmond Theatre

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"All At Sea" shown at 7.15 only
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In Bears Gone By

Items gleaned from files of "The Liberal", the home paper of this district since 1878.

The following lines under the heading "The New Cuisine" was printed in the April 28th, 1898 issue of "The Liberal".
We used to have old fashioned things, like hominy and greens.
We used to have just common soup made out of pork and beans.
But now it's bouillon, consommé and things made from a book.
And pot au feu and julienne, since my daughter learned to cook.
cat;
But while I suffer deeply, I invariably look
As if I were delighted cause my daughter's learned to cook.
We have a lot of salad things with dressing mayonnaise. In place of oysters, bluepoints fricassied a dozen ways, And orange roly poly flat, and peach meringue, alas, Enough to wreck a stomach that is made of plated brass; The good old things have passed away in silent sad retreat.
We've lots of high-fallutin things, but nothing much to eat.
And while I never say a word and always pleasant look, I've had sore dyspepsia since my daughter learned to cook.

And macaroni au gratin, and sheep's head Hollandaised, Escalops a la Versailles a la this and a la that - And sweetbread a la Dieppoise - it's enough to kill a
If the writer of these verses could return today he might be inspired to even greater heights by the modern daughters in the kitchen with the can opener.

Second Thoughts...

by George Mayes
● Yesterday's news is not necessarily dead.
This is Brotherhood Week in the Hill — and our police department should stop feeling miffed at the local man who set fire to his local house and drove six miles to confess to the O.P.P. at Bond Lake.

"Politics makes strange bedfellows." — And the switching support of all the Toronto papers could be called: "The changing of the sheets."

The Hot Stove Lounge in Maple Leaf Gardens will have 14 pot-bellied stoves; and the promoters say that old-timers, who used to huddle around glowing stoves in the country stores, would feel right at home . . . until they spattered the new lounge's stoves with an old-fashioned spit.

"Honest Ed" has saved the Royal Alexandra Theatre from becoming a parking lot — although it could still stand a few "smashes". So hold that opening curtain, while EVERYBODY sings: "For H.E.'s a jolly good fellow!"

The U.S. has successfully launched a "stand-still" satellite at Cape Canaveral . . . Following its practice launching at Ottawa of Canada's stand-still government.

Queensway General Hospital has Ontario's first do-it-yourself unit. Patients nearing discharge will look after themselves with minimal nursing service. They can get their own meals and snacks, and medicines . . . and set an alarm for their 6 a.m. pills.

A Richvale resident wants Vaughan Township to secede from York County. For a while there, when those propane tanks were taking-off in Maple, we thought it already had!

Toronto is to have suggestion boxes installed in city hall corridors, fire halls and other public places. Each box will be equipped with a pad of paper and a pencil . . . and a pad of paper and a pencil . . . and a pad of paper and a pencil . . .

"God knows where that tanker is now," said a U.S. Coastguard spokesman of the February 2 disappearance of the Marine Sulphur Queen. . . . Although, considering its cargo of molten sulphur, the Devil could be a more likely source of information.

Twenty Toronto millinery plants are expected to go on strike this week. This should bring a new theme to this year's parade: In your Easter bonnet with the picket signs upon it.

And, speaking of twenty: There are normally twenty ministers in the prime minister's cabinet; but, if his defection-rate continues, it will soon be down to a "Diefenbaker's Dozen".

And how DID he spell that? Dissolution, or Dissillusion?