

The Liberal



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Province Plays Politics

On May 29th the Ontario Department of Public Welfare inserted a quarter-page advertisement, in a number of Ontario newspapers, outlining changes in the legislation covering widows' allowances. The advertisement appeared over the joint signatures of Premier John Robarts and Welfare Minister Louis Cecil.

Among the newspapers receiving this advertisement were the Aurora "Banner", Newmarket "Era & Express" and the Newmarket "Post". This newspaper did not receive the advertisement.

When questioned why we were omitted, welfare officials at Queen's Park said they had selected certain widely separated papers in order to cover as much of the province as possible. If this was the case, then why did they choose a cluster of three weeklies in the Aurora-Newmarket area and ignore the heavily populated southern part of the county? The towns of Aurora and Newmarket are within three miles of each other. Not satisfied with one newspaper in Newmarket, the province inserted it in both Newmarket papers.

It seems a rather odd coincidence that the publishers of both the Aurora and Newmarket papers are supporters of the present provincial government. Both Dr. James Johnston,

publisher of the Aurora "Banner", and Mr. Ian Baxter, publisher of the Newmarket "Era and Express", are on the county executive of the York North Progressive Conservative Association.

The publisher of this newspaper is the former federal Liberal MP for this riding and our managing editor is president of the county Liberal association. The province, it would appear, has inserted the advertisement on purely political basis. They were given to newspapers which are known to be sympathetic to the present provincial administration. In adopting this narrow political bias, Queen's Park ignored a large number of its citizens residing in the three most populous municipalities in this county. Richmond Hill alone is the largest town in the county, to say nothing of the Townships of Markham and Vaughan, yet the advertisement was not published in this area.

Since his election as leader, Premier John Robarts has gone to great lengths to present a pleasing image based on fair play to the people of this province. The era of Mr. Frost's heavy-handed patronage is supposed to be ended in Ontario. It would seem, however, that the present Conservative government is still quietly dedicated to that very policy.

Teenagers And Their Problems

Any who may have the idea that our courts of justice are hard-hearted and without feeling would be encouraged by the story in the Metro press recently of a magistrate who offered his friendship to a 17-year-old immigrant in court for car theft. In passing suspended sentence on the 17-year-old youth, the magistrate said: "If at any time in the future you feel you have a problem and haven't a friend, you come to my office and we'll work out the problem. Don't ever say again that you have no friends or that there are no friends or people interested in you," advised the magistrate.

The magistrate, who has earned province-wide recognition for his work on the bench, especially in the field of teenage and juvenile cases, is James Butler, a long-time highly esteemed citizen of Richmond Hill. To those who have known him during his nearly 40 years as a resident of Richmond Hill, it is no surprise that he has earned this reputation. Throughout his lifetime he has been interested in people, and particularly young people, and as a citizen of this community has excelled in many branches of public service and always has been untiring in his interest in the welfare and problems of youth. It is gratifying to his friends that in the larger field as a police magistrate he is making such an outstanding contribution in the law courts of our province.

Commenting on the problem of teenagers and the handling of their cases by Magistrate Butler, the Star Weekly in a recent editorial said:

It's time we stopped treating teenagers as either fragile china needing the most delicate handling, or incipient toughs needing reformatory.

Magistrate James Butler gave a useful lesson against the kid-glove treatment last month in a Scarborough (Ont.) court. Some 50 teenagers had been milling about a thoroughfare there, blocking motor traffic and cursing pedestrians. He convicted 11 of them of causing a disturbance.

One mother complained her boy had "nowhere to go." Magistrate Butler asked her: "Why didn't he go to the youth centre?" The mother replied: "Oh, that's half a mile away." Magistrate Butler scathingly said: "Perhaps we should provide them with taxis," remarking at the same time that Scarborough had "the best recreational facilities of any place I know."

In contrast, there is the attitude, prevalent in too many bosoms, that young people are worse than they ever were, and that the only proper treatment is to slap them down.

And there are many communities, particularly suburbs of large cities, where there is, in fact, "nothing to do," except get into trouble—because parents are unconcerned or too busy and civil officials add policemen to the force rather than recreational facilities to the parks.

The "teenage problem" has been magnified out of all proportion, by overly anxious parents beating their breasts and news headlines about "teenage crime", "teenage loitering", "teenage drinking".

Many teenagers detest the term "teenager" because it sounds like a bad word. They resent the implication that all of their age group are black sheep or on the way to becoming delinquent.

They can rightly point to the fact that most young people act in a responsible, self-controlled way; to the many thousands in Scouts, church groups, debating societies, healthy athletics; to the majority who drive better and more sanely than their parents, and neither drink nor smoke.

There may be some young people, however, who relish the teenage label. They seem to think it gives them special status, warranting unique treatment for them as a unique category of the human animal.

This is nonsense. It's too bad the word "teenager" was invented. It used to be that young people growing up were merely young people growing up; juveniles with some personal problems common to any sapient being midway between puppyhood and adulthood.

There have been teenagers since the sons of Adam, and some of them have been good guys (and girls), some bad. Cain "raised Cain" (as the old-fashioned term about wild youth goes); Abel, Adam's second son who was slain by Cain, was righteous, the Bible tells us.

Let's recognize the extremes and be prepared to deal with them with firm understanding. But let's not forget that the vast majority of young people, as were their parents and their parents' parents before them, are pretty good offspring.

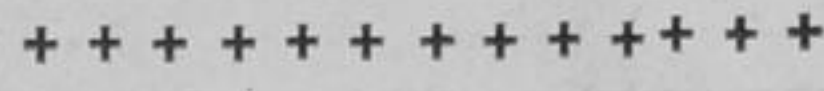
In and around large cities there are special problems requiring organized youth centres, and other voluntary and public services for juveniles. In this era, too, young people tend to grow old too quickly, their social environment outpacing their emotional development. In all cases, parents have and should accept responsibility for guidance and discipline.

But let's not go overboard about teenagers. Remember, they are teenagers for only seven of their 70 years. The rest of society matters, too.



Rambling Around

BY ELIZABETH KELSON



COMMUNITIES ARE THE HANDIWORK OF PEOPLE

A collection of houses, shops and factories, may be as small as a hamlet or as big as a metropolis. It may not be the most beautiful in Canada, or the most efficient, or the most dignified by public buildings and statues, but it can aspire to be a lovable community. Its men and women can make it so.

We have a large number of cultures represented in the area and this merging of cultures contributes to the richness and diversity of life. The varied folkways, languages and customs and ideals can be shared, so that the community is the handiwork of all. If someone were to ask the question: "What sort of community are you trying to build?" the answer might be something like this: The people in our ideal community are alert to community interests and are ready to seize opportunities for civic betterment, groups and workers communicate readily so that the people are not working at cross-purposes; everyone takes pride in co-operative achievement and joyfully accepts civic responsibility; the organizations have aims that are clearly stated, ardently pursued and efficiently carried out. It has been said that the municipalities become good communities more by the positive actions of good men and women than by the repression or extermination of evil.

We have to make constant adjustments. All our institutions are undergoing change, rendered necessary by the progressive civilization of mankind. Fixations in social patterns have to be replaced by a willingness to explore. New conditions have brought new needs, and only the community whose people are guided by intelligent awareness of its needs and a determination to meet them can preserve the goodness it has. It is a job for people with faith.

RAYMOND THOMPSON TEACHES CHILDREN TO LOVE THE STARS

Raymond Thompson and his family have lived in Maple for 10 years. His wife Ise is a cellist in the Richmond Hill Symphony Orchestra. His son David, 7, and daughter Judy 5, are just as interested in astronomy as their father. They have literally grown up studying the stars.

Mr. Thompson is president of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, Toronto centre, a member of the American Association of Variable Star Observers, and associated with lunar and planetary observers. His other deep interest is a love for music. He plays the violin and is an accomplished organist and choirmaster. He shares his wife's interest in the Richmond Hill Symphony Orchestra.

Mr. Thompson revealed that he had been interested in the night stars ever since he was a teenager. At that time he lived in Bermuda. He used binoculars to view the stars which seemed much closer there than if he had been near the noise and distraction of the big city. Also the moderate temperature enabled him to observe the stars all year long.

Raymond Thompson's big interest in life is to help children to develop a love for the study of astronomy. His own children aren't the only ones that he interests in the stars. Last year, Mr. Thompson brought home a half dozen grade 6 students each month from the Weston school where he teaches. The children all go out and make observations in the telescope in the cold observatory. It can't be heated because heat interferes with clear vision. His big telescope is of Japanese make and it is housed in the clapboard observatory with the dome roof. Mr. Thompson built the observatory out of materials that cost him \$250. Last year he spent 436 hours out in the observatory, over 133 days. So he can keep in touch with his family, he had an intercom set up in the kitchen.

It wasn't until he moved to Maple that he began to make his own telescopes. So far he has made three. Many of his students have made telescopes under his supervision at a fraction of the cost of a good purchased one. It costs \$25 to make your own telescope and \$75 to make a really good one.

Mr. Thompson finds that the practical side of astronomy attracts the interest of the slower learners while the theory and mathematics seem to challenge the brighter students. He is glad to share his skill with the children because he believes that in helping them to develop an interest in astronomy he is opening their minds to truth and sowing the seeds for a future emotional attachment to the stars. His own feeling about astronomy is that both amateur and professional have an emotional and religious feeling toward the stars.

"We realize how fantastically insignificant we are when we look at the stars. It does something to your whole perspective of life," he said. Mr. Thompson said that the general feeling among professional astronomers now is that there are possibly many thousands of intelligent races existing on other planets in the universe.

"The more we know about astronomy and other sciences," he said, "the more we will be able to dispel the superstition that is so prevalent today." According to Mr. Thompson, the great progress made in the last 100 years is due to photography and the invention of the spectroscopy. He said: "They have accomplished an enormous amount in the last ten years with radio astronomy. With the new radio telescope, it has literally opened up a new window in the universe."

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST AT THE SUMMER COTTAGE

One of the nicest things about that first spring trip to the summer cottage is the complete change of environment. The woods have a nice, clean evergreen smell and the floor of the woods is carpeted with "bunchberry" and white violets. Painted trilliums and pink moccasin are raising their pretty heads everywhere.

Along with this beauty, there is usually a beast about. A week or so ago, I set out a box of tin cans to be taken away or I garbage dump. On one of my frequent trips out of the cottage door, I noticed the box overturned and all the tins scattered about. I picked them up again and put them back in the box. (I was mentally blaming certain careless boys.) I no sooner got back into the cottage when "bang" something went again. Then I heard a terrific rattling of cans and a scuffling about. This time, I looked out of the window, and saw a huge skunk having the time of his life butting the box and cans about with the end of his nose. This in broad daylight too!

In Years Gone By

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

BIG STORM 69 YEARS AGO
There was a big flood back in 1894. "The Liberal" in our issue of May 24th of that year had this to say about the storm which caused considerable damage. "The rain storm continued without cessation for fully one hundred hours, more than four full days. The greatest damage was in the valley of the Don River. The Brunsell Mill dam east of Thornhill gave way, then that of H. B. Schmidt and further down the paper mills of Taylor Brothers was submerged in water up to the second story. At the Don Mills 100 men will be thrown out of employment for a week or more. It is said to be the most severe rain storm since 1878. On Monday afternoon the Don river rose ten feet and the flats in some places were inundated for more than a mile on either side. In Richmond Hill the rain found its way into many houses and some cellars were flooded but further than that no particular damage has been reported."

BAND SERENADE
Back in 1894 Teston had a brass band. "The Liberal" of June 7th, 1894 reported that the Teston Band under the leadership of Mr. S. Walker serenaded the genial proprietor of the Richardson House, Maple. Their fine music was much appreciated and the host of Richardson House treated the musicians generously after which several speeches were made.

LAI D CORNER STONE
Our issue of June 21st, 1894 reported "the corner stone of the new Roman Catholic Church in Richmond Hill was laid by His Grace Archbishop Walsh on Sunday June 17th. He was assisted by the Parish Priest Father McMahon. Father Priest of St. Michael's College preached an eloquent sermon taking as his text St. Luke, Chapter II, verse 14 - Glory to God In The Highest, And On Earth Peace To Men Of Good Will."

COMPLAIN ABOUT SLAUGHTER HOUSE
The issue of May 31st, 1894, contained an account of a meeting of the Richmond Hill

In Old Pueblo

This is the land where long ago The cowboy sang to his "ole" banjo; From painted mesas the tribes looked down On the dusty streets of a frontier town; On the sloping walls of the canyon's room The Saguaro Cacti and Yuccas bloom, But the lone cowboy and the thundering herd Are as obsolete here as the Dodo Bird.

The posh dude ranches, with swimming pools, Now echo to shouts of some "ridin' fools"; The broad-brimmed hat of a sleek equestrian Suggests a plot for a TV Western, But we sometimes glimpse in a leathered face A tale of the days when this sunlit space Was tumbleweeds, with the sage far-fung, In the roaring days when the west was young.

— Robert D. Little

Tucson, Arizona, March 12, 1959

The Richmond

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No Comment Department
Educators must find some way to reduce the confusion in English words which may have several sounds or spellings — According to Toronto's Education Director, Dr. Z. S. Phimister.