

Liberal Readers Express Their Thoughts On A Variety Of Topics

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A Bad Omen

Markham Township Council has given approval to \$255,000 in 20 year debentures to cover the cost of additions to the 16th Avenue, Woodland and Bayview Glen public schools. The three schools in question are all located in the southwest part of the township—the very area that the council has designated as the future site of rapid residential development. These three additions are just a portent of what the taxpayers in the southern part of Markham are going to have to face in the months ahead. During the year a majority of council has supported a wide-open residential subdivision policy which is eventually going to result in an additional 1,500 to 2,000 new homes in the Thornhill area. Opposition to this expansionist policy has come from Deputy-reeve Stewart Rumble and Ward 3 Councillor Charles Hoover. It is not difficult to foresee what this unbridled residential development is going to do not only to elementary school taxes in the township but also to secondary school taxes throughout the whole high school district. Markham is the third largest shareholder in the York Central high school district which, in addition to Markham, serves the municipalities of Richmond Hill, Vaughan and Woodbridge. When the mass housing finally gets underway whole new schools will

be needed, not just additions to existing facilities. And the unfortunate part is that the present property owners in the southern part of the township will have to bear the lion's share of the total cost of providing these extra educational facilities. Hardly a happy situation for to-day's homeowners. During the past year the Ontario Government has seen fit to pay only an average of 35.6% of the total cost of education across the province with the balance being borne by the municipalities. A prime example of how the property owner is being forced to bear more and more of the total cost of education is seen in the grant structure of the York Central high school district. In the short period of just five years the provincial grants for this, the largest high school district in the county, have dropped from 42% in 1958 to 28.6% in 1963. More homes mean more children and the resulting need for more schools. This can only result in higher taxes for all of us. Instead of encouraging residential development a council should strictly control it. The members should spend their time seeking industrial assessment as a means of offsetting the tax burden on the homeowner and the farmer.

Big Changes Coming

There are indications big changes are coming soon in municipal administration in Ontario. Reports from Queen's Park predict sweeping changes and reforms in the municipal field. Early this year the Legislature passed legislation cutting the number of school boards almost in half. It appears not unlikely that equally sweeping change is in store for municipal councils. There has been no definite announcement but it is not beyond the realm of possibility that county councils as we know them today may disappear. Hinted changes include the replacement of the existing thirty-eight administrative county governments with a series of regional governments with broader responsibilities and based on economic, geographic and population factors as well as current boundary lines. It may be that there will be sweeping changes in existing boundaries to substantially reduce the province's nearly one thousand municipalities. Proposals for major changes are likely to come from the Legislature's Select Committee on the Municipal Act and it is suggested the new regional governments would take responsibility for planning, assess-

Children Can Help — So Can You

School children can be a great help in making Richmond Hill a much more attractive place in which to live and work, Chairman Doug Hitchins of the Civic Improvement Committee recently told Richmond Hill Public School Board members. Suggested methods of interesting the children were poster contests with an anti-littering theme, and planting and caring for flower gardens in school grounds, parks and public places to learn the heartbreak entailed when these are wantonly destroyed. That these methods might well have beneficial results is evidenced in the bleacher seats in the town park. The first two banks of these were installed by townspeople honoring the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. School children, in the town at that time, contributed their pennies towards the fund and took a proprietary interest in these bleachers. The result was that, to our knowledge, this installation has been singularly

free of the vandalism which is a recurring problem in our town parks. If a child, or an adult, learns how trees and plants grow and has had an active share in the planting and care he is going to see that they have a chance to grow to maturity. This could have a very definite deterring effect on vandalism on public and private property. If a child, or an adult, has his eyes opened to the untidy and unsightly condition of our streets and public properties through the littering habits of our citizens and visitors, a concerted effort might be made to keep them a lot neater looking. Richmond Hill can reach its potential of attractiveness only with the complete co-operation of every resident, man, woman and child. The first step to take is to stop littering, to teach the youngsters, by example, to place litter in the nearest container provided for that purpose. That will cost no one anything.

Bus Shelters Cut Student Accidents

Brightly colored steel bus shelters in many parts of the nation are helping to reduce the number of roadside accidents involving school children, safety authorities report. The shelters, made from galvanized steel, are assembled by pushing together overlapping wall and roof edges. In some school districts, constructing the shelters and setting them in place

along the highways has become a part of manual training classes. In other communities, local firms donate the shelters, which cost about \$200 and in turn have a message posted on one of the shelter's walls. J. C. Cothren, superintendent of the Green County, Ark., Technical School District, said the shelters save the taxpayers money by enabling buses to make pickups at fewer central-

ized locations along major roads and provide a secure shelter that which can be quickly recognized by motorists. Mr. Cothren's district, which has 1,856 grade and high school pupils in a 260-square mile area, underlined the value of the shelters, "especially in non-urban districts where National Safety Council figures show 72 per cent of all highway fatalities occur."

SUPPORTS THOMPSON IN WARD 1

Dear Mr. Editor:— Further to the issue of "The Liberal" dated November 5, in which it was stated that I would be a possible candidate for the position of councillor in Ward 1. Firstly I wish to express my many thanks to the residents of Ward 1 who have requested me to run for this office. However, I have decided to decline for the following reason. You will recall at last year's elections Mr. Con Thompson opposed Mr. Walter Scudds for Ward 1 and, even though it was his first try, he was very narrowly defeated. The support he generated in our ward was the result of his progressive thinking in regards to the very program that I and our association are endeavoring to get corrected. I refer of course to the storm sewers, drainage, pavements and open ditches in Beverley Acres. He is again challenging Mr. Scudds this coming election and furthermore has given his assurance that if elected his every effort will be given to getting this shocking situation that exists in our ward corrected, thereby making it a safe and pleasant area for our children and grownups alike. We have lived with this situation too long. Under these circumstances

and seeing that Mr. Thompson aims and desires correspond so very closely with my own for our ward, and seeing again the closeness of his defeat at the last election, I feel that he should be given every encouragement to pursue his ambitions, which will be to our great benefit in the end. I would finally add that you may rest assured that our association will again be giving our ward its foremost consideration in the coming year in an effort to bring to its residents the better conditions that it deserves. I. H. MANSBRIDGE, President, Elgin Park Ratepayers' Association.

REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE

Dear Mr. Editor:— May I express through "The Liberal" a word of appreciation to Mr. Frank Barrett, president of the Canadian Legion, and the civic committee who work with him in planning the annual Remembrance day service. They are to be commended for the dignity and despatch with which the service was conducted. The increasing numbers of people attending each year is in itself a commentary upon the splendid handling of this important community occasion. I am sure



Rambling Around

by Elizabeth Kelson Dorothy Henderson

Readers have been introduced to Mrs. Dorothy Henderson before in this column mainly as an exponent of Esperanto as our future international language.

In addition she is a well known writer and traveller who has three published books to her credit and has recently completed a fourth on Newfoundland. People Have Power is her third published book. For this she has drawn on her 40 years of experience with voluntary organizations. Mrs. Henderson lives in King Township with her educator husband Douglas Campbell Henderson.

PEOPLE HAVE POWER, published by Harvest House Limited. \$2.50 for paper, \$5.00 for cloth. Today, the concept of democracy is being challenged as never before. There are those who dare to say that it is not workable. What so many human beings in the modern world have failed to understand is that freedom is the greatest of all trusts, that it is a great responsibility, not the least important part of which is our responsibility to our fellowmen, that freedom does not consist in the liberty to do what we like but the right to be able to do what we ought.

Philip Wylie in his revealing book, Generation of Vipers has said "the philosophy of the state is only a magnification of the philosophy of the person and the philosophy of all states only a magnification of the philosophy of one. To the man and the woman who understand the philosophy of democracy and live by it, there is never any confusion about what to feel or how to do. Such people know that confusions are superficial, that a thousand democracies could perish, but that democracy would prevail everywhere in the end. Such people are occupied in the spread of understanding democracy."

And because I believe that Dorothy Henderson is such a woman, I believe in her book People Have Power. This book should have a significance for the one who is searching for definition and meaning of the various facets of democracy.

One of the things that readers will learn from this book apart from its specific contents is what Mrs. Henderson defines as being democracy. Her purpose in writing this book was to explore various facets of the democratic process. She feels that a great uncertainty about the true meaning of democracy marks the times in which we live. The machinery of government is so complex that many feel they can participate only by an occasional and often unsatisfactory use of the ballot. This may be quite a surprise to be told that one can do much more. People do hold the real and final power. If what she says is true the people would do well to bestir themselves to a better study of democratic machinery. Society must become a training ground for the democratic process in an effective fashion. In the book there is a plea of good will to get into the picture, for democracy is concerned with a network of human relations that extends from the smallest group to the most complex structure of international organization.

People Have Power is a three dimensional book. It is essentially a book on human relations although it touches on politics, art, religion, history and scientific research. As such it is designed to interest the general reader who enjoys the solitude of his own thinking but also family, school and community groups who wish to use the chapters of their choice as stimulants to further study and discussion. In bringing the book to pass, Mrs. Henderson has interviewed many people in all walks of life on the subject of democracy. She has created the book not just to be read but as a tool to be used. These 23 chapters on the meanings and practices of democracy have challenging questions, related readings and suggested practices. The comments and questions at the end of each chapter were written in collaboration with David Smith a "social engineer" of Barrie.

Anyone who has thought much about the democratic way of life might be interested in comparing his or her findings with those of Dorothy Henderson. Those who would like to know more about the subject of democracy especially from the standpoint of human relations might read this book with profit. People Have Power may be purchased direct from Harvest House Limited, 220 Elm Avenue, Montreal 6, P.Q.

TEENAGER OPPOSES FLUORIDATION

Dear Mr. Editor:— Last Tuesday evening, November 10, I had the privilege of viewing the Canadian Players in excerpts from Shakespeare's plays, entitled "Passion and Destiny". The evening's program took the form of a picturesque play; the several scenes being linked together by a typical boorish Canadian (played by Max Hellmann) who happened to attend the performance on the incorrect assumption that the Canadian Players were connected with hockey. In the course of the evening, the remaining four actors (Mary Benning, Amelia Hall, Mervyn Blake and Paul Harding), who had commenced by beautifully reading some of Shakespeare's sonnets, convincingly persuade this conventional Canadian, that although our language and dress may differ considerably from those used in the 17th century, the basic passions of man; love, hate, jealousy, pride, never change. They illustrated their points by scenes from Shakespeare's plays. The actors in changing from one role to another portrayed remarkable agility in concentration, and the vitality they brought to each part they played, had the audience their captive.

One slight phenomenon disturbed my evening and personally embarrassed me on behalf of my contemporaries. The large auditorium at King Composite School was only about a quarter filled. Although I was informed that this event had been announced at surrounding schools no one did I see there from Richmond Hill High School, four only from Bayview and the remaining numbers consisted of the home school students and a few interested adults. As the admission was only 75c for students, the night chosen one previous to a holiday and King City Composite School easily reached, I was deeply concerned that so few students attended a program especially arranged for their benefit. And where were the English teachers who recommended their students to attend? It must have been a dis-

appointment to the actors to testify against fluoridation before a number of government hearings. The impression created by the proponents of fluoridation that the medical and dental professions are united in favour of fluoridation has no foundation. Apart from the fact that the basis of action should be experiment, not opinion, there is a medical-dental committee in the U.S.A. (made up of doctors and dentists) which has compiled a great mass of evidence against fluoridation. The last figure I have for their membership is 1500. Nor can such opponents of fluoridation as Dr. Exner and Dr. Jonathan Forman, editor of the Ohio State Medical Journal for 25 years, and professor of the history of medicine at Ohio State University be lightly dismissed as "cranks."

Yours sincerely, N. ROY CLIFTON, 105 Woodlane.

FLUORIDATION AND ITS EFFECT ON THE HUMAN BODY

Dear Mr. Editor:— Anyone who is going to vote on the question of fluoridation, at the time of the coming elections, will find it to his advantage to withhold making a decision, till he has studied both sides of the argument concerning the advisability of adding fluoride to the public drinking water.

All the benefits, ever claimed for fluoride, extend only to children up to about twelve years of age. But, if put in the water, the children will

have to drink it for an additional fifty or sixty years. This seems unreasonable when, from twelve years, they can obtain all the possible benefits, if there are any. By using the tablets they would avoid the health hazard of consuming this poison for a lifetime. This agitation to put fluoride in our water is just one more incident in the continual drive to increase the use, in every activity of our lives, of chemicals which vary in their poisonous qualities. The number of drugs now being pressure-advertised for every minor ailment is stupefying. We are exhorted to stray ourselves, our homes and furnishings, and gardens for every conceivable purpose. Our food is loaded with chemical additives claimed to make it easier to prepare, keep indefinitely and colour it more brilliantly. But nothing is said about the effect on our digestion or general health. The saturation point of these poisonous chemicals in the human body must at some time be reached. Possibly the tolerance of some people has already been exceeded. The further we proceed along this chemical road, the more difficult the retreat will be, when everyone clearly sees the danger ahead. In the last century, commercial interests destroyed and exploited a large part of the North American continent. Forcibly and indiscriminately, forests were cut down, eroding soil, and the children will

(Continued on Page 16)

The Richmond Theatre RICHMOND HILL, ONT. Phone TU. 4-1212 MATINEE EVERY SATURDAY AND HOLIDAYS AT 2 P.M. ENJOY SUNDAY MOVIES THIS SUNDAY AND EVERY SUNDAY CONTINUOUS FROM 5 P.M.

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PLEASE NOTE

Thurs., Fri., Mon., Tues., Wed., Nov. 19 - 20 - 23 - 24 - 25 Show Starts at 7 p.m. — "Cleopatra" at 8 p.m. only Sat. "Cleopatra" shown at 6 and 9 p.m. Sunday "Cleopatra" shown at 5 and 8 p.m.

SATURDAY MATINEE NOV. 21 1.30 P.M.

"CLEOPATRA"

Recommended Adult Entertainment

Second Thoughts

BY GEORGE MAYES

● Yesterday's news is not necessarily dead

If the flag question is ever settled, our next "national" problem will be the selection of a national anthem. "Oh Canada" would seem a likely choice, unless Prime Minister Pearson decided to write a song too, but, on Second Thought, we suggest:

The Maple Leaf, Our Emblem Dear

In days of yore from Saskatchewan's shore, Dief the dauntless hero came, Defending firm the Red Ensign, For Canada's fair domain. When Pearson's Pride was set aside, They joined in loathe together, To argue and shout and debate about The Maple Leaf forever.

Chorus: The Maple Leaf our emblem dear, Dear . . . is it ever! Our MP's draw eighteen thou a year For their Maple Leaf endeavour. From old Quebec and Ontario, Our brave MP's side by side, Fight o'er the flag, man what a drag! It's Canada's great divide. They bat the breeze about loyalties, And swear to yield them never, As they argue and shout and debate about The Maple Leaf forever.

Chorus: (everybody) (Well, everybody's paying.) The Maple Leaf our emblem dear, Dear . . . is it ever! At the eighteen grand our MP's command For their Maple Leaf endeavour.

The Fat's In The Fair—

The Royal Winter Fair is testing an electronic device which utilizes sound waves to determine the depth of the fat layer in cattle. . . And we suppose, if it works, they'll call it Moo-zak.

And also from the fair comes the news that an Alberta lad of nineteen has been declared the World's Wheat King. . . He should have a great future. But, after the world, where?

Residents of the Elliot Lake area say they are not unduly concerned that their local waters are radioactive. Maybe as part of Algoma-East, the home riding of the federal Liberal leader, they consider even radio-activity is better than none.

Too Pooped To Pucker

In his "Tips" column in the Telegram, Leaf star Frank Mahovich says he prepares for the hockey season by running a mile every day. He then bicycles seven miles and does 50 push-ups. Last week, the Big M entered hospital for a mysterious and undisclosed reason. . . and the sports writers were all wondering why.

Another bit of sports news was the postponement of the Liston-Clay championship bout after Cassius Clay was rushed to a hospital for an emergency hernia operation. . . And here we always thought his trouble was eruption of the mouth.

Question Of The Year—

How could such a little plank in a political platform (the flag) become such a stumbling block in Parliament?