



The Liberal



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Two Possible Solutions

Those advocating the introduction of party politics into the municipal field first study the influence of such civic ratepayers' or citizens' groups as the Non-Partisan Association of Vancouver before recommending drastic changes in the present form of municipal government. Mayor Philip Givens of Toronto is one of the better known politicians advocating the introduction of party politics into the municipal arena. In the recent Vancouver elections this city-wide ratepayers' organization demonstrated its power by electing, with just one exception, its slate of candidates for council, school board and parks board. The only exception was an alderman, a newcomer to civic politics, who managed to make it on his own. Everybody agrees that the present turnout of municipal voters is at a disgracefully low level. The story is the same everywhere. This year Richmond Hill, the largest municipality in the county, had a turnout of only 37.75%, while Markham Township had 36.6%. People just don't seem to care who is running their local government. Yet of the three levels of government, (municipal, provincial and federal) local government

is the closest to the people and the voters have a greater opportunity to get to know the candidates, their platforms and the record of the present administration. Apathetic voters by failing to exercise their municipal franchise are ignoring the very important fact that the level of taxation on their homes, basic services and to a large extent the type of educational system they have for their children is determined by the people they elect to local office. The province, which is the master of the municipalities, should in conjunction with the local governments, investigate ways and means of improving the present election climate. Perhaps the answer lies in the establishment of ratepayers' groups similar to the one in Vancouver, dedicated to a common policy or, the alternative course of introducing party politics at the municipal level such as has been done in the United States. Under the present system the only time the people bother to turn out in force is when they are faced with a crisis or a scandal of major proportions.

Everybody's Santa

Those of us who haven't finished our yuletide shopping will be glad to know our local stores are still featuring a wide selection of Christmas gifts for the whole family. Variety, originality and dependability are all an important part of the many gift ideas being displayed by our local merchants. Not only have we an exciting range of choice when we shop at home but what is doubly important we can do it in ease and comfort. We don't have to chase off to the congested city fighting traffic and weather in order to do our Christmas shopping. And after we have managed to reach the city we are still faced with the prob-

lem of finding a place to park and tramping through crowded stores. Very often we can't find the gifts we want and all we have for our efforts is a lot of wasted time and frayed nerves. Courteous, helpful clerks are ready to wait on you and help you make your selections when you shop at home. Ample, free parking is readily available close by. Our modern stores are gaily decorated and brimming full of yuletide gifts that are guaranteed to delight every member of the family on Christmas morning. So when you think of Christmas shopping try our local merchants first.

Do Schools Stifle Creativity?

All children are creative but our schools tend to stifle this creativity, Rene M. Querido, Netherlands-born British teacher told a recent meeting in Toronto. He said the remarkable creative forces in children "are only waiting to unfold. We let the very young child in kindergarten and some of the lower grades use his creativity but when he reaches a certain age we cut off and say 'now we must get down to work.' How much do children do creatively in their school work and homework? Most of it does not come out of themselves but is a learning-by rote to stuff their heads with facts." "Education should prepare them to be active participants in life and not merely consumers. The teacher in dealing with his class has to be as creative as the artist," he continued. Mr. Querido teaches in the largest Waldorf school in England. There are about 70 of these schools, the world over, whose approach is to help the child develop into what he or she

is destined to become. Each child is allowed to progress at his own pace and painting, music, architecture and literature are as much a part of the curriculum as arithmetic, spelling and many other academic subjects. "We aim at development of the total individuality," he reported. Unless the whole child is rightly cultivated, his unique personality cannot be developed. The task of the educator is to see that the unfolding of the personality is as harmonious as possible. Pupils are encouraged to write their own stories, paint and draw, play musical instruments and sing. They even write poetry, he said. Old-fashioned we may be, but we still think that primary education's main objective is to teach the basic skills necessary as a foundation for the developing of creative arts. We also believe that the person with talents worth developing will develop them whether inside or outside the walls of the classroom.

More Kites Up On Municipal Change

(Guest Editorial — London Free Press)

Several trial balloons on revamping municipal and county government have recently floated out from Queen's Park. Although there is variance in the programs enunciated each suggests that the century-old lower governmental operation of the county system is outmoded, that the wind of change must strike soon. Premier John Robarts, aroused by rumblings that Ontario counties might disappear into much larger governmental units, spoke out. He suggests that a revitalized county council might be the answer to reorganization. He does not state what size the new counties might be. Undoubtedly there would be alteration in boundaries so that the governmental coat will fit a repopulated cloth, for the rural-urban population shift is steadily increasing. Chairman Hollis Beckett of the Ontario Legislature's select municipal law committee has restated his thesis, possibly after learning the

premier's view. He too indicates that a county council might be of value, might be elected directly by the people instead of selecting top municipal officers; that counties do their own assessing and tax collection. Whether Mr. Beckett's view or that of his committee will be accepted by the legislature is debatable. The county system is deep-rooted and it is a sensitive issue, particularly in the non-urban areas. Neglected in the proposals is the inter-linking of cities with surrounding townships and small municipalities in a county or area system. Mr. Robarts recently said that area planning was essential to Ontario's growth. No better plan now appears acceptable than the inclusion of city and environs in a larger complex through which area planning, policing, supply of water and sewage and even assessing and tax collecting could be more equitably achieved.



Rambling Around

Elizabeth Kelson

The Art Institute Of Ontario Sponsors Travelling Art Exhibits And Lectures

Ever since 1952, the Art Institute of Ontario has been spreading the gospel of great art throughout Ontario even to its most northern reach at Atikokan. The members of the institute are from among the most distinguished galleries and museums in Ontario. These founding institutions are: The London Public Library and Art Museum, the Art Gallery of Toronto, the Art Gallery of Hamilton, the Ontario Association of Architects, Hart House, University of Toronto, the Ontario Society of Artists, the Willistead Art Gallery of Windsor, the National Gallery of Canada and the Royal Ontario Museum.

According to Information Officer Mrs. H. T. Girard, the purpose of the institute is to take art into the outlying regions of the province away from the larger cities. "They send out art exhibits and sponsor lectures by competent art authorities," she said.

It is hoped by the institute that their efforts in bringing this service to communities will result in raising the standard of art in schools, increase art appreciation and encourage people to express themselves artistically.

Many of the exhibitions listed by the institute are built around originals, prints and framed reproductions. Others include photographs, photographs on panel, posters, sculpture and reproductions.

Study an exhibition of originals entitled "Materials and Techniques of the Artist". This exhibition was prepared for the art institute by James Williamson, the director of painting classes at the Art Gallery of Toronto, and deals with pencil, drawing sticks, ink, etchings, pastels, water color, body color and materials of oil painting and some ways of handling oils. It poses questions like these: "What do the tools and materials used by artists look like in the flesh? How does one recognize a medium of drawing or painting by the finished product? What kind of surface is underneath a drawing or painting?" This particular showing will help teachers to show students the answers to these questions.

Study another one called "Methods and Meanings" an exhibition of originals and prints, which includes water colors, drawings, lino-cuts, wood-cuts, serigraphs, lithographs and etchings. Each group is identified by a special color and each is accompanied by a panel mounted in the same color, giving a brief description of method and meaning. This exhibition has good educational appeal. "The painter's art in layman's language" which has recently been withdrawn from the list was a particularly good exhibition for the layman who "knows nothing about art, but knows what he likes", and he need not be hesitant in exercising his curiosity in that direction. Fortunately a similar exhibition is being designed and will be shown this spring at the Toronto Art Gallery. To all those who seek to know pictures as well as like them, there will be tabloid courses in picture appreciation.

The art institute has already supplied several exhibitions to the North York Public Library. Richmond Hill Public Library recently housed a showing called "Greece in a New Light." This group of 38 original paintings by members of the Association of Greek Women Artists was arranged in Athens under the sponsorship of the Greek Department of Education, Department of Fine Art. The exhibition is one of the first of its kind to come to Canada and after leaving the Richmond Hill Library will continue to circulate in other libraries and galleries until the late spring and will then be returned to Greece. Mrs. Girard has lived on Roosevelt Drive for 16 years. She has one son who is a student at the University of Toronto. This is the beginning of her sixth year as information officer and preceding this position she was secretary to the curator of the Toronto Art Gallery.

The efforts of the institute are producing definite results, Mrs. Girard said. "There has been a greater increase in the building of galleries as an extension to libraries, as for example, in Barrie, Welland and Kitchener. It is becoming a favorite centennial project for communities. Half the exhibits go into schools. The schools that avail themselves of this service say that it helps their program considerably. One quarter of the exhibits go into li-

(Continued on Page 16)

Second Thoughts

BY GEORGE MAYES

● Yesterday's news is not necessarily dead

Will Appear Again Next Week

Hydro Ladies Support Chinese Boy

A Hong Kong Chinese family will have a bright Christmas this year because of the generosity of a group of sixty Ontario central region office staff ladies at Willowdale.

Usually the sixty distaff members have drawn names and exchanged gifts among themselves at Christmas. However, last yuletide it occurred to them that their gift exchanging was rather superfluous and self-centred. They felt that they could do something more worthy at this season. Someone suggested pooling this money to adopt a child in Hong Kong for a year through the "Canadian Save the Children Fund."

The plan to adopt a child was put into action. And so, for the past year the sixty young ladies have been supporting a Chinese lad, Yiu Wah Wong, now ten years old. They have had grateful letters from the boy, whom they have nicknamed "John", thanking them for their support and the special remembrance and gifts on his birthday. His one special request was for a group picture of all the girls and this has been sent along with a Christmas package to "John" and the members of his family.

Yiu Wah Wong 10½ years old, was born in Hong Kong. He has been helped by the Hong Kong Family Welfare Society, because his father died six years ago and his

mother, who has been seriously ill, was unable to support the family of four children. A donation by the Ontario central region distaff members of sixty Canadian dollars provides the necessary food and clothing, education, medicine, etc., for the boy for an entire year. In addition to this year's donation of \$60 to support Yiu Wah Wong for 1965, the central region staff girls had a happy time preparing a huge Christmas parcel that contained food, clothing, and some toys for "John" and his two sisters, brother and mother. They sent it off with their warmest wishes contained in Christmas cards. Nothing could have given the sixty hydro girls more happiness than their remem-

Dear Mr. Editor

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AND BEATLE HAIRCUTS

Dear Mr. Editor: As a resident taxpayer of Richmond Hill, a mother of four children, my opinion is that Beatle haircuts and what took place in Richmond Hill High School is certainly not something of which our community can be proud. I think it degrading to the community and to the morality of our children to let them walk around with such haircuts.

As parents we should first take our children's interests into consideration and set a proper example, how to dress and cut his hair, how to become a proper citizen and gentleman in the future. As parents, also we should co-operate with school authorities. If they refuse to accept our children on these principles, then let us co-operate and stop teaching the child to rebel. If we, as parents, rebel against school authority, we set an example before our child to rebel. Next, that child starts to rebel against public law and finally becomes a menace to the public.

As a parent and taxpayer, I feel it isn't fair to the parents who are in favor of school authority and are not in favor of these haircuts. Also it isn't being fair to have somebody else's child to set such an example before my child whom I have labored so hard to teach and make a law-abiding citizen.

Let's consider other taxpayers who support the schools and are willing to make ladies and gentlemen out of our children, so they can be proud of them in the future. Let's co-operate with the school authority as parents and better this community rather than degrade it.

MRS. D. MOORE, Richmond Hill.

THANKS WARD 1 VOTERS

Dear Mr. Editor: I would like to extend my very sincere thanks to the 334 residents of Ward 1 who cast their votes in my favor during the past election for the position of Ward 1 trustee on the public school board. Also I wish to thank the very many separate school supporters who approached me and wanted to cast their vote for me, but who naturally were unable to do so. While I was defeated, I trust, like myself, you will take my defeat as being just a temporary setback. After all such a show in numbers as was registered in my first try ever for a public office could never be classified as a defeat but rather a tremendous show of confidence by people who appreciate what I, and in particular our ratepayers' association have been

striving to accomplish for the benefit of the residents of our ward. I would add we will again be working toward the same objectives in the new year.

To the successful candidates I wish every future success in their offices. For the residents of Ward 1 from myself and the Elgin Park Ratepayers Association, we wish you all a very happy Christmas and a very prosperous New Year.

IVAN H. MANSBRIDGE, 390 Algood Street.

GET OUT AND VOTE

Dear Mr. Editor: The thoughts I want to express here are the result of discussions on current topics held by a small group of men in Richmond Hill who meet once a week.

We represent the older generation, all retired and over 65 and some have been drawing the old-age pension for some years. We are sales managers, bankers, engineers, civil servants, university professors and while not active in business life today, are vitally interested in the world around us.

We are of the opinion citizens of today are not taking their privilege to vote seriously and hope in some small way to help in the crusade to emphasize that privilege so highly cherished by our forefathers.

Why lock the stable after the horse is stolen? By this I mean so far as civic elections are concerned we won't get another chance to elect a council for a year and then it will be for two-year terms and these comments will be long forgotten by then.

The complacency of voters in this and other Canadian communities is disgraceful... most of us have some excuse for not taking time out to vote.

Personally I was brought up to regard my vote as a great privilege and can say with a clear conscience I have never failed to do so. There are of course extenuating circumstances like illness or unavoidable absence and others but the voters I refer to just can't be bothered.

What about a penalty for non-voters who lack a valid excuse?

Perhaps a fine of one or two dollars. Perhaps a demerit system could be devised with 25 points for the first failure to cast a ballot, 50 for the second and the loss of 100 on the third; when the voter lost 100 points he would lose his vote at the next election.

I believe this suggestion would stir up more controversy than the flag issue.

Do we know who are the worst offenders, men or women? Perhaps the keeper of the family budget would see that

Law And Students

High school students in Hamilton will soon be given a book that tells them how easy — and how wrong — it is for them to break the law.

In one example, the book details a case of shoplifting by a group of girls. The book is "Youth and the Law" and it's to be distributed free by the Kiwanis Club of Hamilton to all high school students.

It won't be required reading, but teachers may refer to it in classes if they wish.

It's designed to teach the history and purpose of law and foster respect for it at an age when youngsters can be molded.

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