



The Liberal

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High Taxes And Industry

The difficulty Newmarket is experiencing in holding certain of its industries in the face of an unfavourable tax rate should be ample warning to other municipalities in the county of the dangers inherent in a soaring tax structure.

Two Newmarket firms Aurora Tool and Manufacturing Ltd. and Fenatronics Ltd. have both stated they will leave the town because of the high industrial taxation.

Donald Murphy, managing director of Aurora Tool, said industrial taxation on his firm has risen about 700 per cent in the last 12 months. When the firm moved to Newmarket more than a year ago, the yearly taxes were \$302, he said. The company has moved to another building where it occupies similar space, and in the final quarter of 1964 taxes were \$674, Mr. Murphy said.

Faced with the heavy demands of education, the competition for badly needed industrial and commercial assessment is extremely keen. With an average of 60% of every local tax dollar collected going to finance education, both elementary and second-

ary, councils are continually seeking ways and means to induce more and more industry to locate in their particular community. Not only does industry make a major contribution to the public treasury but it doesn't produce more children to be educated.

Before selecting a site for a new plant an industry, among other things, is going to give careful consideration to the prevailing tax structure of the municipality in which it wishes to locate. A soaring tax rate is bound to work a hardship on any municipality seeking industry.

A municipality must carefully control its residential development and the attendant need for additional schools if it is to keep itself competitive. An overbalance of residential development can only result in a high tax rate. A community must endeavour to keep a proper balance between residential and commercial and industrial assessment.

Municipalities on the border of Metro must provide industrial land at a reasonable price and a satisfactory tax rate if they intend to make any real dent in the battle for industrial assessment.

Seek Stronger County Government

There are many indications that major changes are coming in municipal administration in Ontario. There has been talk of the establishment of regional government and the abolition of many existing municipal boundaries. Modern facilities of communication make it abundantly clear that a municipal organization planned for the horse and buggy days is quite out of date today. There is a wide difference of opinion on what changes should take place but general agreement in view of continually increasing municipal taxation some improvements are an urgent necessity.

One of the suggestions made quite often is that the county councils should be abolished. It is therefore interesting to note that last week the Ontario Association of Counties asked the provincial cabinet to broaden the powers of county government. In the interests of continuing the county form of government the move was well taken as too much in recent years county councils have sought to unload responsibilities on other levels of government. As long as this trend continued county councils were simply asking for their own disappearance.

York County Council was a notable exception and a few years ago faced up to the hospital bed shortage and took positive action with very satisfactory results. If more county

councils faced up to existing problems like York County met the hospital situation there would be less talk about abolishing the county system of government.

The interesting brief presented by the Ontario Association of Counties to the cabinet states that the county government should be providing for the collection and treatment of sewage, the distribution of water, garbage collection, hospital construction, police protection, education and many other public services.

The brief states that the first step in modernizing the county system is to establish a county assessment system and make county planning mandatory. Both these questions have occupied the attention of York County Council.

The committee recommended the abolition of police villages and separated towns, which do not form part of county government. The committee recommended that no towns be granted city status unless they are willing to remain in the county system and urged that as long term objective cities be brought back into county government.

The brief requests additional financial aid for municipalities, asking that the provincial grant on suburban roads be increased from 50 to 75 per cent and that the province pay 50 per cent of the cost of education.

Flashback

In Years Gone By

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

That the Richmond Hill Women's Institute contributed a large sum of money to help the local public library remodel space on the ground floor of the municipal hall to provide attractive quarters which were adequate for the day, about 12 years ago, is common knowledge. That the institute had assisted the library on at least one other occasion is recorded in the files of "The Liberal" of November 19, 1925.

Under the heading "Improve The Library", R. F. Choate, editor and manager reported that:

Richmond Hill owes much to its women's institute. And another debt is added to the already long list by reason of the rigorous manner in which the institute has come to grips with the problem of improving the public library's facilities and equipment.

As a matter of fact, there should be no such "problem". An additional \$300 or \$400, it is estimated, would suffice to take care of the more urgent and immediate needs. That the village cannot readily provide this amount for such a purpose is unthinkable. In quickening the cultural development of a community no force is so strong and so persistent as that of an adequate library.

Admirable service has been given by the library within the narrow and trying limitations imposed upon A. L. Phillips, the librarian, by lack of funds.

In the library are some 5,000 volumes. There is a complete catalogue for only about 500. Full cataloguing should be carried out by an expert on the duo-decimal system. The cost would approximate \$200, of which the provincial government would grant \$100.

Additional space is needed for several purposes, such as the establishment of a nucleus of a reference section, which could be built up as time goes on; a larger reading room, with a special corner for children; shelving which would be within easy reach, many books now being placed at about the same general altitude as "Haman's gallows," because of cramped quarters.

Provision should also be made for the repairing of damaged books.

Total grants to the library now are: province \$90, county \$25, Markham Township \$15, Vaughan Township \$10, village \$4-10ths of a mill or \$325; or all \$465. For one room (in the

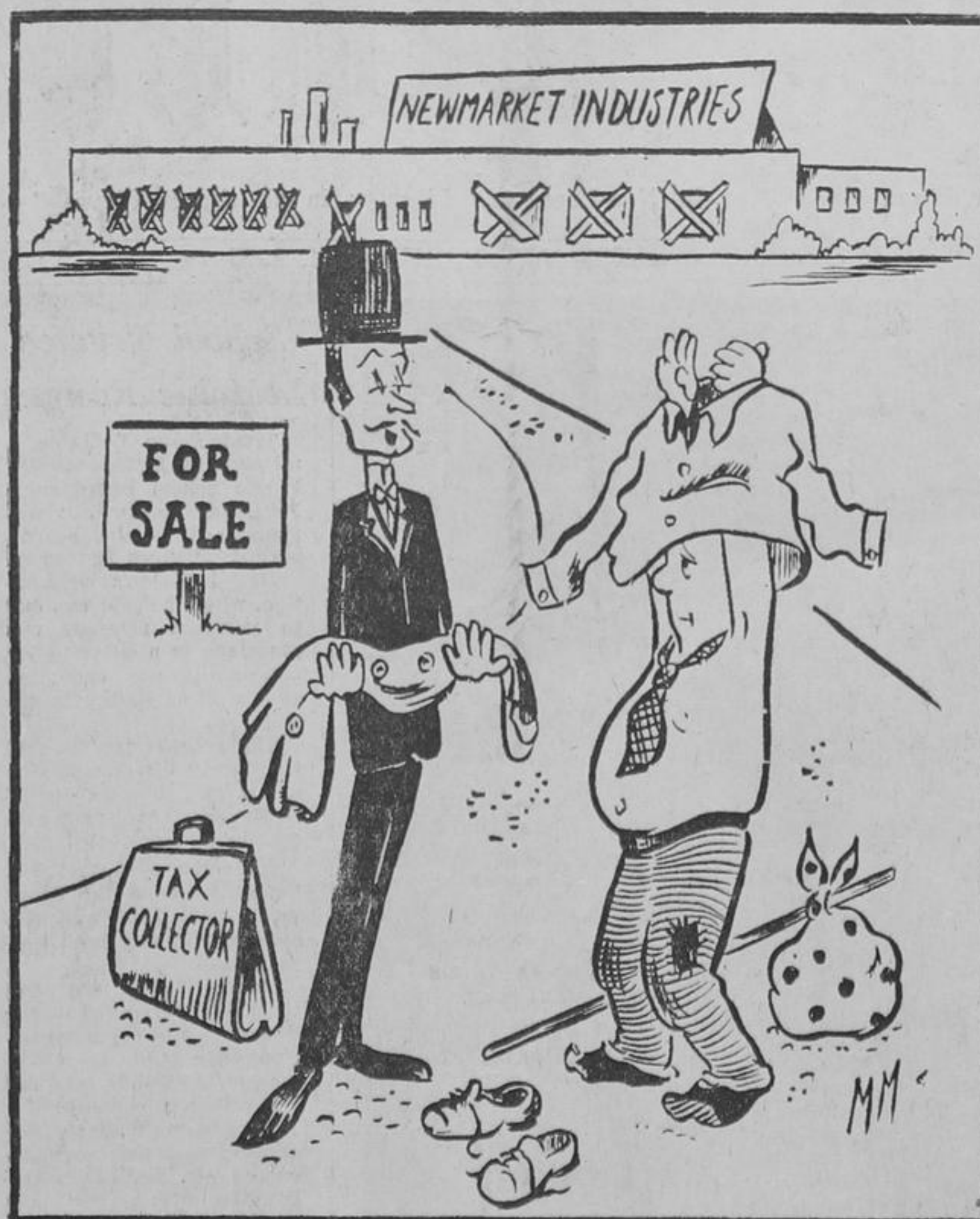
masonic building) rent of \$50 is paid, insurance of \$1,500 must be carried and fuel is provided by the library board.

A survey of the whole situation is now being made by the institute and if means can be found to raise \$300, a report to the library board will probably be made by a special committee.

Every consideration demands that the library's equipment shall be kept abreast of the needs of a progressive community—and the burden of carrying forward the improvements should not fall entirely upon the shoulders of the women's institute.

MARKHAM VILLAGE. A 10-room building, to adjoin Franklin Public School, was approved last week by Markham Village Council. Total cost of the building, including land, architect's fees and furnishings, will be \$295,000.

PICKERING: Final agreement for the drawing up of plans for a new municipal building in Pickering Township only awaits approval of township solicitors, township council said last week. Council passed a motion authorizing the reeve and clerk to sign after approval of the solicitors. Estimated space to be occupied by the building is 9,000 square feet.



"Sorry To See You Leave Town, Sir"



Rambling Around

by Elizabeth Kelson

WALTER PITMAN DISCUSSES HIS APPROACH TO THE TEACHING OF CIVICS

In order to make part of the grade 10 history course come alive to the students at Langstaff Secondary School, Walter Pitman, head of the history department has had a series of elected representatives speak to the students as part of the study of civics. He introduced this new approach in his history class because he felt that the civics course taught by text-book methods lacked any reality to the student. It was merely a memorization of institutions . . . House of Commons, Senate, etc., with the number of members and so on.

"It was very hard to make students realize that this was important to them, the fact that men and women gave life and blood to these institutions. It lacked any of the excitement of politics and did not help them to understand why government was such a difficult art to develop. I have had a feeling that students are not very much impressed by politicians . . . in some cases they are quite contemptuous of politics and politicians," said Mr. Pitman. "It concerns me how our democratic system can survive if a generation arrives at the voting age with this attitude. I hope they will see that people in public life are on the whole, people of integrity and ability . . . but with the weakness of all of us."

Last October, Vernon Singer, former reeve of North York Township and now MLA for York-Downsview spoke to the students concerning municipal affairs. In December, John Addison MP, York North, addressed the grade 10 students on federal-provincial relations. The role of a member of the Ontario Legislature was explained by Donald Macdonald, Ontario NDP leader, on December 14.

"The aim of these talks is to help the students to realize that their elected representatives are human beings," said Mr. Pitman.

Has this approach ever been tried before? Mr. Pitman said that there have always been variations of the usual method. Speakers, films, film strips, etc., have always been used, but to his knowledge he has never known the course to be stretched over the

(Continued on Page 12)

Common Market Ahead?

An important step toward an American-Canadian Common Market has been taken in the treaty eliminating automobile tariffs signed by President Johnson and Prime Minister Pearson.

At the very least, their agreement does away with the distorted and wasteful practices dictated by the force of economic nationalism. High tariffs and other barriers obliged Canadian auto plants — most of which are subsidiaries of American companies — to undertake small and costly production runs and to manufacture parts that could have been bought more cheaply in the United States. Now, they will be able to follow more rational procedures, with benefits in greater stability for the industry and lower prices for Canadian consumers.

In reaching an agreement renouncing nationalism, the President and Mr. Pearson are demonstrating a willingness to work for a much broader liberalization of trade between their own countries and with the rest

of the world. The auto treaty is, in fact, a trial run for the Kennedy round trade negotiations and for a closer economic partnership with Canada. It will involve adjustment problems as production is realigned so that each country handles what it can do best. The task is made easier by the common management of many companies, but retraining programs supported by public funds will have to be established for displaced workers on both sides of the border.

Clearly, continued co-operation will be needed to forge closer economic links between this country and Canada. Both have much to gain from further measures to liberalize trade and rationalize production, but the United States, with its vast preponderance of economic power, must take care to avoid exerting that power in ways that rekindle the flames of Canadian nationalism. The path to the Common Market must be wide enough for both countries to travel at the same pace.

—New York Times

Dear Mr. Editor

CANADIAN COIN COLLECTORS AND 1965 PROOF SETS

Dear Mr. Editor:

The Dorion enquiry into the allegations of attempted bribery and coercion has soft-pedalled the news about other bizarre happenings in Ottawa, and too little publicity has been given to the mystery of how the US coin dealers are getting the vast majority of the 1965 mini proof sets while genuine Canadian collectors have had their orders returned without the envelopes being opened and stamped "quota over-subscribed."

Last September an announcement was made by the government that the price of 1965 proof sets would be raised from \$3.00 to \$4.00, and that orders would be limited to five sets per person, and that when orders for 2,000,000 sets were reached no more would be accepted. Also no orders would be accepted prior to January 1.

On December 31 many U.S. coin dealers arrived in Ottawa and they had one thing in common, carrying suitcases packed with hundreds of orders, each with different names to comply with the regulations of one order per person. At midnight they lined up at mail boxes and packed them full. These orders were given preference and genuine Canadian collectors mailing orders from distant points have had their orders returned. Canadian collectors will of course be able to obtain a 1965 set to complete their collections by ordering them from the U.S.A. at a price which will be as high as \$10, \$12, or \$15, plus exchange thus adding to the deficit trade balance now existing.

The preference to US coin

dealers needs explaining as rumours are flying about that a certain amount of skulduggery was perpetrated to favor the coin dealers, some of them who were well heeled. A full scale investigation is needed to clear the federal government of more bungling.

Yours truly,
HENRY C. HALL,
467 Windhurst Gate.

LATE MAE SANDERSON

Dear Mr. Editor:

I wish to pay a tribute to the hospitality and generosity of the late Miss Mae Sanderson. She was always ready to help and would do so whenever possible, always looking on the bright side of things and never on the gloomy side. Her presence always picked me up.

I have never been able to figure out why anyone of that calibre is taken out of our midst long before they should be. If there is anyone or anything ruling the affairs of this universe, my candid opinion is it is time for a change.

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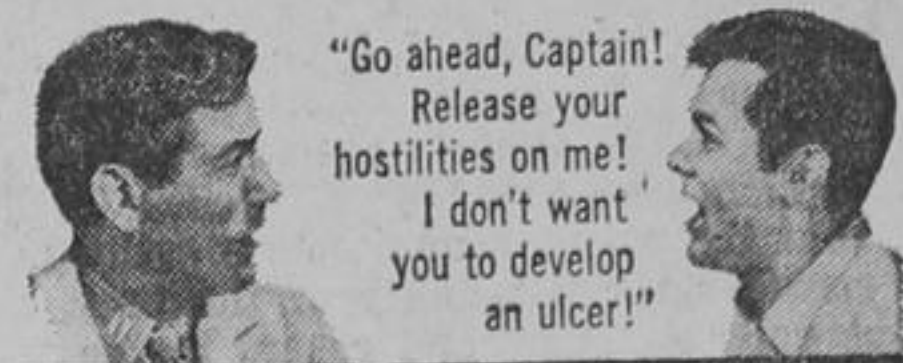
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