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## Flashback

(Continued From Page 2)  
importer answered the questions promptly, and learning of the proposal, flatly stated, "Well, if you put a duty on butter and eggs I'll pack up my goods and return to where I came from and then you gentlemen will soon starve." It is needless to say, William Harrison, commented in "The Liberal" of August 16, 1888, that the national policy did not go into force that year.

Mr. Miles' house seems to have been not only the hotel, market and general business centre but also the town hall, for in "The Gazette" was the following announcement: "The gentlemen of the town and the garrison are requested to meet at 1 o'clock on Monday next, the 10th instant, at Miles' Hotel, in order to arrange the place of the York Assemblies for the season." This was dated at York on December 8, 1798. In another edition of the same paper an auction is advertised to take place at Miles' tavern. York also had its "club" which met at the same place.

On his arrival in Richmond Hill in 1800, Mr. Miles, who had by this time acquired title to 1,000 acres of land, built a log house and opened the first hotel on Yonge Street. This too was a combination hotel and store. He also ran an ashery for the manufacture of lye on the other side of the road and for many years there stood on Mr. Boyle's farm a large heap of ashes, evidence of this industry. The "pearls" were taken to Montreal during the winter where they were exchanged for goods and liquors.

Miles' family consisted of three daughters and a son. The son, James Miles, will be dealt with in a subsequent story. In 1798 his daughter Hannah married James Playter. In 1806 his daughter Lucy was married to John Langstaff and the other daughter Mary, married Dr. Stoyles.

Abner Miles died in 1806 at the early age of 54, and was the first man buried in Richmond Hill Cemetery. His widow reached the age of 98, dying in 1843.

Hazel Hill is well qualified for her work. Altogether, she has spent 25 years teaching, 11 1/2 of them in rural schools. She taught grade 1 at Charles Howitt for five years until Inspector Hallman asked her to consider the opportunity class, and consequently she took special courses for three summers in order to be fully qualified. This is her ninth year with the junior opportunity class. Those who know her say that she is a teacher who has great feeling for children and possesses the necessary understanding and vision that pictures what the child may be like in the future.

"You must be kind, but firm," said Mrs. Hill, "and very fair in your judgments. Children don't mind being admonished provided they are guilty of it."

Mrs. Hill teaches an auxiliary class summer course for teachers each summer. She has done so for five years.

Mrs. Hill's greatest reward, she says, is to see one of these children, more or less crippled in a regular classroom, suddenly come to life and start moving ahead at his own speed.

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## Rambling Around

(Continued from Page 2)

must have some time to be on his own, so he will develop. She also believes that children shouldn't be asked to do something just for the sake of supplying busy work. Tasks are given to them for the purpose of teaching them to go on their own more and more by following directions in easy stages. The children are gradually given opportunity, and one mark of real advancement is to be chosen as a group leader.

The children do many wonderful things in this "living room." They make it beautiful with their works of art. On each desk is a piece of paper sculpture. Some are moulded in the shape of a hand... a ball... or some other attempt at artistic expression. Craft work is very important in this class. Samples of string painting, stick painting, corrugated art work and regular paintings hang on the walls. The children also do work with paper sculpture and plastics.

"In mathematics, concrete material is a must," said Mrs. Hill, as she illustrated by picking up a handful of chestnuts. "The children develop number concepts by using concrete material repeatedly. The classroom must be a laboratory in arithmetic."

Another section of the table at the back of the room is the museum for developing concepts in social study. "Concrete material and pictures plus personal experience must be constantly used to illustrate a point," she said.

Mrs. Hill explained that her class was really more akin to the rural school system where there are several grades of children grouped into one classroom.

"The children are separated into groups at their own particular level, and travel at their own speed. Everything that is covered in the regular curriculum is covered here."

The opportunity class has its own set of books. If a child has previously failed in a reader he must be given a different one. A typical morning would see English being taught to perhaps three groups. Reading, arithmetic and spelling would be taught in a similar manner. Social studies and science are taught in two separate groups. The less mature children model in plasticine, bring a picture, make a picture or do a piece of sculpture. Religious instruction is held Friday when Rev. Minton Johnston D.D. comes to visit them.

"Besides being a living room," continued Mrs. Hill, "my classroom is a workshop in which I strive to lay firm foundations now so my pupils may become useful citizens tomorrow. Four basic principles guide the building process. Obedience to those in authority whether it be to parents or teachers is of prime importance. With obedience comes respect. Without obedience there can be no respect and without respect there can be no freedom."

Mrs. Hill said that in order for her pupils to benefit most from the time before them, they must be trained in the use of orderly work habits. By establishing such habits firmly, time wastage is reduced to a minimum and these young people have silent guides to accompany them as they go out into a world of their own. Perseverance must be instilled into their minds. Each boy and each girl must learn to complete those tasks, pleasant or boring, which present themselves from day to day. It is imperative that they be guided into discovering for themselves that one of the greatest satisfactions in life is the completion of a piece of work well done.

Hazel Hill is well qualified for her work. Altogether, she has spent 25 years teaching, 11 1/2 of them in rural schools. She taught grade 1 at Charles Howitt for five years until Inspector Hallman asked her to consider the opportunity class, and consequently she took special courses for three summers in order to be fully qualified. This is her ninth year with the junior opportunity class. Those who know her say that she is a teacher who has great feeling for children and possesses the necessary understanding and vision that pictures what the child may be like in the future.

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