

The Liberal
 An Independent Weekly: Established 1878
 Subscription Rate \$4.50 per year; to United States \$5.50; 10c single copy
 Member Audit Bureau of Circulations
 Member Canadian Weekly Newspapers Association
 Published by Richmond Hill Liberal Publishing Co. Ltd.
 W. S. COOK, Publisher
 "Authorized as second class mail, Post Office Department, Ottawa"

Another Two-Year Term

By a 3-2 vote Markham Township Council has decided to follow the lead of many other York County municipalities and seek public endorsement of a two-year term for council. Supporting the move to a longer term were Reeve Charles Hooper and Councillors Cleary Palmer and Allan Sumner. Deputy-reeve Stewart Rumble and Councillor Charles Hooper both favored retaining the present one-year term which really includes a provision for a two-year term through an acclamation.

When the voters go to the polls on December 6 they will be asked to approve a two-year term free from any elections. But if council had listened to Mr. Cleary Palmer they would have ignored the electors and imposed a two-year term on the people without first ascertaining their wishes on the subject. The Ward 2 representative said council should have "enough courage" to introduce the two-year term without the formality of a plebiscite.

We wouldn't call such action courageous, we would call it shocking. It is shocking to the extent that an elected representative of the people would even suggest that his term of office should be arbitrarily extended without any reference to the voters. And that is exactly what Mr. Palmer was advocating. Fortunately the other members of council were wise enough to refer the matter to the people for a decision.

Before election day the ratepayers will be hearing the usual shopworn

arguments why our politicians should be allowed a longer term of office. Councillor Sumner has already mentioned one of the usual arguments in support of the two-year term. During the first few months of the year council is relatively inactive because it is busy getting organized.

In their eagerness to rush into further security from elections our politicians seem to forget that the term of office has nothing to do with the kind of government they give the people. A two-year term is no guarantee of efficient, productive administration any more than majority government is a guarantee of good administration. A great number of Vaughan Township residents are very disturbed over the garbage situation that exists in their municipality. There is no election in Vaughan this December so the people will have to wait another whole year before they will have a democratic opportunity to register their feelings on this important local issue.

If a council has the support of the people it will be accorded an acclamation and there is no real need for an election every year. With a poor and unpopular administration one year is too long but two are intolerable.

Newmarket introduced the two-year term in 1964. Several weeks ago a group of taxpayers in that town petitioned council for a return to annual elections, and their request received the support of some members of council. Democracy works best when it is closest to the people.

A Glaucoma Survey Here?

A mass glaucoma survey was held in Hamilton on September 25 and 26, the first in that area. About 5,000 people availed themselves of the opportunity to have their eyes tested for this disease, which is responsible for 10% of the blindness in Canada, and about 2% of these reacted positively to the simple test.

Glaucoma primarily affects persons over 40 years of age and can be controlled if caught early. However, onset of the disease produces symptoms so slight—a halo effect around lights and possibly some slight itching—that most victims are unaware they have it until they are stricken with a sudden, smashing pain. Usually by the time this happens damage to the eye is so great that vision cannot be saved.

Glaucoma is caused by a restriction of the runoff of fluid within the eyeball with resulting pressure and damage to the optic nerve. This pressure is revealed by a small instrument placed on the eyelids.

An earlier mass survey was held in Scarborough Township this spring. Out of a total of 17,883 persons tested, it was found 572 had symptoms of the disease. This was the first survey of its kind ever made in Canada.

The survey in Scarborough was conducted jointly by the CNIB, the Scarborough Health Department and a group of doctors at the Scarborough General Hospital who incorporated themselves into the Scarborough Medical-Surgical Foundation for the purpose of receiving research grants. An off-shoot benefit of the survey is that the 30 general practitioners trained to do the tests for the month-long survey will incorporate these tests

into their standard physical examination of patients over 40.

In Hamilton, the survey was conducted by 12 eye specialists assisted by more than 100 volunteers. It was sponsored by the physicians, the Hamilton Kinsmen Club, the Red Cross and the CNIB.

In May, when we reported on the first of these surveys, we suggested that a glaucoma survey should be carried out in York County. If even 12, instead of the estimated 1,200 people, based on a population of 40,000 people over 40, were rescued from a life of blindness, it would be worth while. The findings of the Hamilton survey only serve to increase our conviction that such a survey would be of utmost benefit to a large segment of the county's population.

This spring York County MOH Dr. R. B. Murray agreed wholeheartedly that such a survey would be beneficial. No professional groups in the county have interested themselves in the matter, he reported, and the York County Health Unit is kept busy with their comprehensive immunization program for infants and children, eye and ear testing in public schools and TB testing in high schools. They don't have enough staff to embark on a glaucoma survey, the MOH stated, "but would be delighted to cooperate with any group who would take up the project."

Dr. Murray suggested the York County Medical Society and some of the service clubs and churches could interest themselves in promoting a mass glaucoma survey in York County. Such a survey would be a real benefit to our people.

Protests Tax Crackdown

Dear Mr. Editor:

Your paper, published October 7, had as a headline - BUSINESS TAX CRACKDOWN BY TOWN.

May I, without fear or shame, say that I am one of those merchants or businessmen, who have not yet paid the 1965 business tax — but not for the reason given by Reeve Donald Plaxton.

Can any man be blamed if he is able to make his working capital go farther than his master? Pay taxes or else, says council. Does it not have at its disposal a few copies of The Municipal Act. Forgetting for a moment that the reeve is a lawyer, I suggest the act will say that before any new regulations can be enforced, the public must be notified and a by-law approved in council. Such by-law must not be acted upon till it has been presented, discussed, voted and approved.

Mr. Plaxton should know from his daily practice of law that the town tax bill is like any other contract — the taxpayer agreeing to pay for something he is going to receive, that is, town services. Is this contract for a full year? My tax bill says, "The taxes for the current year will be

collected in three instalments, June 1, August 1, November 1." On the back of the same bill, it says, "NOTE: Instalments shall be paid in order of due dates. A penalty of 3 percent (3%) will be added if payment is not made within 20 days after each instalment becomes due. The collector of taxes has no authority to waive or alter penalty for any reason."

This leads me to think that, my, or the powers-that-be's, understanding of the English language, needs some updating. I take two meanings from this. First, I can pay the amount due, or I can pay 3% interest on the money till December 1 of this year. So until the by-law has been passed and written into the tax bill, I don't believe the courts could uphold the reeve's threat of sending in the bailiff with powers to detain, while there is still three months out of the year to go. If this old-fashioned tax bill is brought up to date, literally, then we will abide by its regulations.

I would like to ask council why it has taken them eight months to wake up to the fact that \$21,000 of taxes has been in arrears for more than two years. Didn't you realize you are actually asking the taxpayer to pay an extra \$1,680 this

year, based on your ability to borrow money at 4%? Did you just become aware that taxes are overdue after December 31 in any year? Instead of so many conventions, I would suggest you vote yourself a seat at the council table. If you find it takes too much of your time, please resign and make room for somebody who can and will be a "self-starter."

It baffles me why the mayor, an industrialist, talks so loud. Is he not acquainted with costing, finance and economics? Has he a big enough profit sheet that he does not have to worry what it costs to borrow money to improve business? Mr. Mayor, may I say mine is a small operation with big problems, but knowing how to make the best use of my money is not one of them. To get back to why I have not paid my business tax, I refer to the fact that the tax bill gives me the choice of two plans — pay my taxes on the due date or pay 3% interest on the money. An old Scottish saying is, take care of the pennies, the pounds look after themselves.

In this case, the \$100, which is my bill for 1965, used in my business at a profit of 10% per month, has earned for me (Continued On Page 12)



Markham Township Council Will Seek Two-Year Term

My Prayer

I'm all alone, and yet I find
 A million scenes within my mind
 Of days I knew when Peace was King
 Oh God on high, Let Freedom Ring!!

Bring back the birds to reign the skies
 Bring back the light to Mothers' eyes—
 Bring back "our boys" and let us know
 That you are near where e'er we go.

If we could only understand
 That Faith and Love walk hand in hand
 For Peace to come and light the day
 For this, Oh God! is what I pray!!

—MARY WAY
 15 Grandview Ave.
 Highland Park

Second Thoughts

BY GEORGE MAYES

● Yesterday's news is not necessarily dead

Charges are now being made that the six Quebec Social Credit MPs were bribed to support the Liberals in forming a government. The \$25,000 figure mentioned doesn't come under the heading of "Funny Money".

Election officials across Canada are alarmed at the number of citizens who are refusing to allow enumerators to even put their names on the voting lists. . . . Probably feeling that the vote they should "exercise" has been over-exercised of late.

Meanwhile, at a Toronto meeting of the Six Nations Indians, tribesmen were being urged not to vote in the election. . . . Just act like the white men, brother.

And Rhodesia is threatening to leave the Commonwealth over Britain's insistence that the Blacks be ALLOWED to vote. . . . We hear that, in Rhodesian elections a "class" person is frowned upon if he even marks his ballot with a black pencil.

Without going into the truth of all the various charges against the government, we'd say the stock denial, "Not to our knowledge . . ." makes them at least guilty of the offence of stupidity.

The manager of the not so strike-bound BA re-

(Continued on Page 12)

50% Of Blindness Is Said Preventable

A lack of space in which to carry on the work is thwarting research in eye disorders in Canada.

Dr. Michel Mathieu of Montreal's Hospital Maisonneuve says there are skilled would-be researchers in his city "who would very much desire to carry on eye research but whose intentions are paralyzed by the lack of available space". He made the comment in an article in the current issue of "HEALTH" magazine, the bi-monthly publication of the Health League of Canada.

Dr. Mathieu says intensive research is being conducted in the United States and many European countries. But it is "about non-existent" in Canada "except for what is being done at the Banting Institute in Toronto under the direction of Dr. P. K. Basu. "There are 24,605 cases of blindness actually registered in Canada," Dr. Mathieu says, of which 1,456 are due to alterations of the cornea. And a full-scale research program is the only way of restoring "useful vision" to any of these nearly 15-hundred corneal victims.

Dr. Mathieu says a group of New York researchers recently made an amazing discovery in the field of corneal transplants that has caused a reversal of a former medical belief.

The researchers implanted corneas treated with a radioactive substance into the eyes of a group of rabbits, then studies the animal's reactions to the operation for as long as 30 months. In some cases, all of the specially-treated cells of the transplanted cornea had disappeared and been replaced with the rabbit's own cells. It had been believed that this was the most favorable occurrence in transplants.

But the amazing discovery, Dr. Mathieu says, "is that the best results in regard to transparency were in those where the donor - or treated-cells had survived. This fact changes very much our acquired concept of the matter."

Dr. Mathieu points out that a great deal of research is necessary to follow up this discovery. Little is known on why the eyes of some patients accept the transplanted corneas while in other cases they are rejected or function improperly.

Only an intensive research program, he says, can overcome the many gaps in medical knowledge in this important area.

Miss Hennighausen, national supervisor prevention of blindness and eye service department, said 10 percent of Canada's registered blind cannot see because of glaucoma - a disease that can be controlled through early diagnosis and treatment.

She addressed the annual meeting of the Toronto Women's Auxiliary to the CNIB at the Ontario division's Bayview Avenue headquarters.

The policy of blindness prevention has been considered just as important as blindness rehabilitation since the institute was set up, she said. Prevention projects included clinics in areas where there are no resident oculists, the eye bank, and fellowships for men studying ophthalmology.

The eye bank has helped those who would have been blind because of corneal diseases and accidents to the outermost layer of the eye.

"In Ontario alone, 147 corneal transplants were performed last year," she said. The national eye service department went ahead in 1962 when the E. A. Baker Foundation for Prevention of Blindness was set up.

"Some very exciting things have taken place through funds made available from the foundation."

to the danger of the disease.

She stressed, however, that no prevention program can hope to succeed unless there are enough trained personnel to examine, treat, and operate. The foundation gives a fellowship each year to an Ontario university and one in the Maritimes to help doctors wishing to specialize in ophthalmology.

Because prevention and research are linked, the foundation has given funds for such research projects as optic nerve degeneration, glaucoma and metabolism of the cornea.

One project helped a Labrador doctor. He identified a new lesion of the cornea which is widespread in the Arctic and causes blindness. It affects 80 percent of all men in the north over 40 years old and is thought to be caused by severe weather conditions. The foundation provided the doctor with a necessary expensive instrument for thorough eye examinations.

A grant has been made to the Hospital for Sick Children for research into amblyopia, an eye condition found in children. Miss Hennighausen said: "If a child with this condition is not picked up early in life — before he reaches school age, the sight of the perfectly normal eye can be lost."

One of them was a book on glaucoma to alert the public

Flashback

In Years Gone By

The first settler of Lot 48 Vaughan Township, was a former member of Butler's Rangers, a British military corps organized during the American Revolution, to harass the enemy in every possible raid. William Harrison wrote in "The Liberal" on November 8, 1888.

On the principle that every-thing is fair in war, their characters were judged according to the standpoint of the viewer. The Royalists considered them loyal, courageous and heroic; the Americans saw them as cruel, vindictive and blood-thirsty, and told many tales of their atrocities.

Mr. Harrison reported hearing a story that at the Battle of Cherrystone, the Rangers were assisted by Indians. The Indian chief, seeing the merciless cruelty of some of the soldiers, rushed up to Colonel Butler, in the midst of the fighting, and shouted, "Call off your bloodhounds. We Indians are bad enough, but we are ashamed of you."

However, some of the most prominent, exemplary and devoted men among the first members of the Methodist Church at the Head of the Lake (Niagara) had belonged to Butler's Rangers.

Lot 48's first owner was John C. Stooks, and Mr. Harrison recorded that people who had known him reported that children were afraid to meet him and older people tried to avoid him as he walked about the settlement. "Always restless, ill at ease and wandering aimlessly about, sometimes he would seem to be fighting with an invisible foe and would send out his cane with a sword-like sweep, or use it as a bayonet".

The Stooks arrived in York June 28, 1797, and put up at Abner Miles hotel, bought for their supper a half pound of butter for one shilling and three pence and a loaf of bread for two shillings and six pence. Yonge Street at that time was an unbroken forest between Lake Ontario and Lake Simcoe, and the Indian trail through what was to become Richmond Hill was trodden only by agents of the Northwest Company and the natives. Shortly thereafter survey crews completed their work and John Stooks drew Lot 48, for which he received title in 1808.

The 1888 report suggested that the Stooks did not appear (Continued On Page 12)

STOUFFVILLE: Norman Baker of Rose Avenue, has been engaged as manager of the Stouffville Public Utilities filling the vacancy resulting from the death of Elmer Daniels.

Children In Suburbs Suffer From Sameness

The cultural development of children who live in a typical suburb suffers because of the homogeneity of the neighborhood, a Southern Methodist University sociologist believes.

Dr. Bruce Pringle noted at the first session of a new Dallas College course on "The City Dweller", that the residents were all in about the same income bracket, the same age, same family size and of similar occupations.

The main problem about such similarity, the sociologist pointed out, was that people did not learn from each other.

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