



The Liberal



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Some Promises Find Favor

Several promises by the candidates and the parties during the current federal election campaign, if implemented, would find real favor with the Canadian people. They are worthy of serious consideration by the electorate.

Tory leader John Diefenbaker has pledged, if elected, to allow homeowners to deduct up to \$500 in property taxes from their federal income tax. In making this promise Mr. Diefenbaker is following the example of the provincial governments in British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan which make outright cash grants to property owners in those provinces to help alleviate the burden of municipal taxation. Mr. Diefenbaker's suggestion is particularly appealing to the hard-pressed home owner in the burgeoning suburban areas where the high cost of education is gobbling up 60% of every municipal tax dollar collected. Any added federal relief from the crushing burden of property taxes is most welcome.

Both the Conservative and New Democratic Parties have recommended an immediate increase in the universal old-age pension from \$75 to \$100 a month without a means test. There are nearly 2 1/2 million Canadians now retired, or shortly to be retired, who will benefit little or not at all from the Canada Pension Plan. In a campaign speech Prime Minister Lester Pearson promised that old-age pensioners who need more than the present \$75 a month pension will, under his National Assistance Plan, be provided with additional allowances at the joint cost of the federal

and provincial governments. Canada's senior citizens have made a real contribution to the development of this country and the average person has not been in a position to build a nest egg against the winds of old age.

Our senior citizens haven't forgotten that our Members of Parliament wasted no time in raising their own salaries from \$10,000 to \$18,000 a year. An MP is also in a favored position in regards to the payment of income tax. He only has to pay tax on two-thirds of his salary—\$12,000. The remaining \$6,000 is tax free.

Liberal MP Pat Cameron in High Park Riding has forecast that if returned to power the government will remove the controversial 11% federal sales tax on prescription drugs. During a campaign speech Mr. Cameron said he was "positive" the government would comply with a tax removal recommendation of the caucus committee which studied drug prices. Mr. Cameron was a member of that committee.

This is something the Ontario Pharmacists' Association has been trying to get Finance Minister Walter Gordon to do for some time. Earlier this year 2,000 druggists across Ontario sought 500,000 signatures on a petition seeking removal of the tax. The Royal Commission on Health Services recommended its removal.

People often complain that they hear a great deal of futile talk during an election campaign. Here are several very worthwhile recommendations which will find wide support among many Canadians.



(Photo by Stuart's Studio)

Saturday Is THE Night

Debbie and Ricky Stoness are ready for Saturday night when jack-o-lanterns and witches on broomsticks will be spotlighted. They are the children of Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Stoness of 268 McConvey Dr., Beverley Acres, and on Hallowe'en will be among the thousands of young hobgoblins, ghosts, pirates, princesses, tramps and Indians, who will be out in full force seeking the traditional shellouts.

Motorists are asked to exert extra care during the evening hours when these young people are abroad to see that none is injured as the rounds are made to the hospitable homes of the area.



Rambling Around

by Elizabeth Kelson

To Vote Or Not To Vote

I have a confession to make! I'll admit freely that there has been a year now and then out of my life when I neglected to cast a vote in a free election. I find this inexcusable but understandable. The 70,000 enumerators who polled the country last September revealed that many Canadians flatly refused to be listed. Whatever their reasons, their attitude is neither excusable or understandable.

Let them ask themselves a question. Would they be as angry or hurt if their names were deliberately left off the voters list? I would. To me it would be an infringement on my right as a citizen of voting age. Does it make any sense to disenfranchise oneself voluntarily. Not to me! On the other hand I don't recommend voting for the sake of voting, just to say you voted. It matters how you vote, and if you can't be intelligent about it, why go and cancel the vote of someone who has studied the issues and assessed the candidates.

Well this is the lesson I have been learning. I have to do more than just be on the voters list. I must study the issues and assess the candidate else how can I vote intelligently?

According to definition, voting is a process whereby people register their choice with regards to candidates for public office or with regard to political questions. Voting, I understand, is an important aspect of democracy. The day I became old enough to vote was an achievement, a sign of being grown up. What happened to me those times I neglected the vote? What happened to all those people in Canada who could not put the fate of their own country above their personal feelings.

The word apathy is used to describe this condition. It is a word with broad meanings. Apathy can be physical, moral or spiritual. It can be all three.

I really see, there is no excuse for not making an intelligent vote. I can read the newspapers, listen to radio and TV on the issues. I may not like what I hear, but at least I'll be listening. I heard someone say the other day, "It doesn't matter who gets in, it can't get any worse." To my mind, it is better to have a wrong opinion than no opinion at all.

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Forecasts Pending Doom Of The Family Farm

"If present trends continue the family farm is doomed", former Orillia Township Deputy-revee Elmer Howell of Unthoff, stated recently, referring to a report of Roy Atkinson, president of the National Farmers Union. "This certainly applies to our area as well as others", the former deputy-revee claimed, about Mr. Atkinson's statement that "Canada's farms are being squeezed to the point of poverty by rising costs and falling incomes."

The Unthoff farm said a survey revealed that "There are exceptions where family farms have been located in areas of rising real estate values, but you can see considerable evidence in this area to support what Mr. Atkinson says."

"About 75 percent of the farmers have to get other employment to meet their costs.

"I would say there are hardly more than 30 farmers in Orillia Township who make their living fully from farm operations", he said, noting that these facts speak for themselves.

He emphasized Mr. Atkinson's words: "The government promised the people of Canada that it was prepared to take the necessary steps to prevent the recurrence of rural poverty. It promised necessary marketing legislation. It promised to preserve the family farm. It promised to provide family families with an equitable and decent standard of living. But these promises have simply not been kept."

Between 1949 and 1963 the Canadian Farmer's average net income dropped 6.8% to \$1,410, while his cost of production went up by 42.9%.

Mr. Howell said he thought the farmers' march on Ottawa had done some

good, but there was need for much more.

An increase in the price of hogs has helped some, he noted, with hog raisers getting seven cents more per pound, while bacon jumped from 59c to 95c per pound to the consumer. But generally farmers' income is getting less while costs are going up.

A basic reason for the rise of the cost of living (2.7% in 12 months) has been the increase in the cost of steel. From 1957 to 1963, automation and technical change reduced labor cost of a ton of steel from \$27.52 to \$22.16 even though wages increased 26 1/2%.

The price of farm machinery has gone up and profits of the steel companies have gone up to 116%.

If the goal of production is to produce a well-balanced economy with fair distribution to all, a great deal of change has to be made, Mr.

Howell maintains.

On the other hand mixed farming will hold its own against the increasing number of larger specialized units, Waterloo County Junior Farmers were told recently. The speaker was Frederick Kemp, horticulturist at the Community Farm of the Brethren located in that county. "Anyone who can farm intensively with a mixed farm is going to be successful", Mr. Kemp stated.

His speech stressed the value of taking the best from the new and combining it with experience gained in the old.

"You have to use modern techniques, but you have to use your wits, too", he warned. At times, he added, the hoe can be of more value on the farm than mechanized equipment.

Mr. Kemp, who has farmed in Europe and South America, pointed to intensive farming systems in Holland and Japan as areas where Canadian farmers could reap the benefit of experience.

The community farm is noted for its geese operation. Mr. Kemp admitted he was more interested in the manure from the geese than the birds themselves. He finds the high nitrogen natural fertilizer of benefit when the geese are allowed to graze in the farm orchard.

Alexander Bagdo, who recently returned from Israel where he contacted people interested in community living, reported on the value of geese in strawberry-patch weed control. Mr. Bagdo said the young geese will eat all the grass between the plants while moving down the rows from food, placed at one end, to water, placed at the other, without touching the plants.

Second Thoughts

BY GEORGE MAYES

• Yesterday's news is not necessarily dead

This year, it isn't too hard to get into the spirit of Hallowe'en. The politicians have already joined the children in donning their false faces.

Glaucoma is responsible for 10% of the blindness in Canada according to a "Liberal" editorial. . . . Wonder what accounts for the rest of the blindness in people who vote for the "other" parties?

Once again complaints are being heard that "things are not above board" in the Toronto City Hall furniture. The furniture, it turns out, was tested for everything except practicality and the hall's secretaries and stenographers say the combination of door-thick desks and high skirts leaves a lot to be desired.

Ontario is going to launch a "3-pronged attack on alcoholism". At present our only 3-pronged attacks in this field are being made by drunks using three swizzle sticks to spear the cherry in their Collins.

We see where Prime Minister Pearson and Resources Minister Laing have reconciled their difference of opinion over whether Canada should or should not export water to the U.S. The Prime Minister explains that Mr. Laing was talking about the immediate future! . . . while he was talking about the future future! Meanwhile, let's hold our water!

Cuba is allowing the exodus of citizens desiring to leave the country and the U.S. is allowing them free entry. Pity the poor Americans! Just imagine 10,000 Cubans stepping ashore with: "My name Hosay Imanez!"

Real Caouette is advocating a change in family allowances to a flat \$100 per month. This might help him in the rest of Canada but, if he means the baby bonus, it won't do much for his popularity in Quebec.

The Ku Klux Klan is being investigated in the U.S. by the House Committee on Un-American Activities. . . . Offhand, we'd say, the KKK is one of the Americans' MOST-American activities. But anyway, it will give the committee an opportunity to see if the Kluxers' heads fit their pointed hats.

There was quite a fuss in Toronto last week over the discovery that a pet poodle was on the voters list in Spadina Riding. So what? Around here, plenty of dogs go to the poll.

Toronto is also having trouble with the sug- (Continued on Page 12)

Flashback

In Years Gone By

Of all the early settlers of Richmond Hill, who helped to clear away the forests, organize society and build homes for those who were to come after them, no name is so honored as that of James Miles, the first owner of Lot 46, Vaughan Township, wrote William Harrison in December 1883.

Lot 46 stretched from the corner of Yonge Street and Vaughan Road to the present site of the S. J. Carlisle Real Estate Office at 22 Yonge Street South, and through to Bathurst Street.

When Abner Miles, whose story was told earlier in this series, died, he left all his property (2,000 acres of choice land) to his only son, James. These lands were located in the Townships of Markham and Vaughan, in the Town of York (City of Toronto) and 600 acres on the River Thames, later purchased by Rev. Peter Jones and now an Indian reserve. James Miles never sold an acre of this land but divided it among his relatives.

He donated the land on which the present McConaghy Public School stands and the site of the first high school. He also intended to donate to the Presbyterians the land on which the church, manse, and cemetery are located and the Yonge Street frontage north to the school fence, to the Presbyterian Church. But some years after his death it was discovered that he had never signed the deed of gift. The result was that the Presbyterians paid his estate \$5,000 for this land.

James Miles was a man of quiet and dignified appearance who held the official position of justice of the peace. His religion, though leaning to the Scottish Kirk, embraced the welfare of every denomination and his hand was extended to aid all who were distressed and unfortunate.

The founder of the first Sunday school secured his Bibles from Scotland and was most generous in distributing them to the young people of the community, Mr. Harrison reported.

V. O. N.

VICTORIAN ORDER OF NURSES

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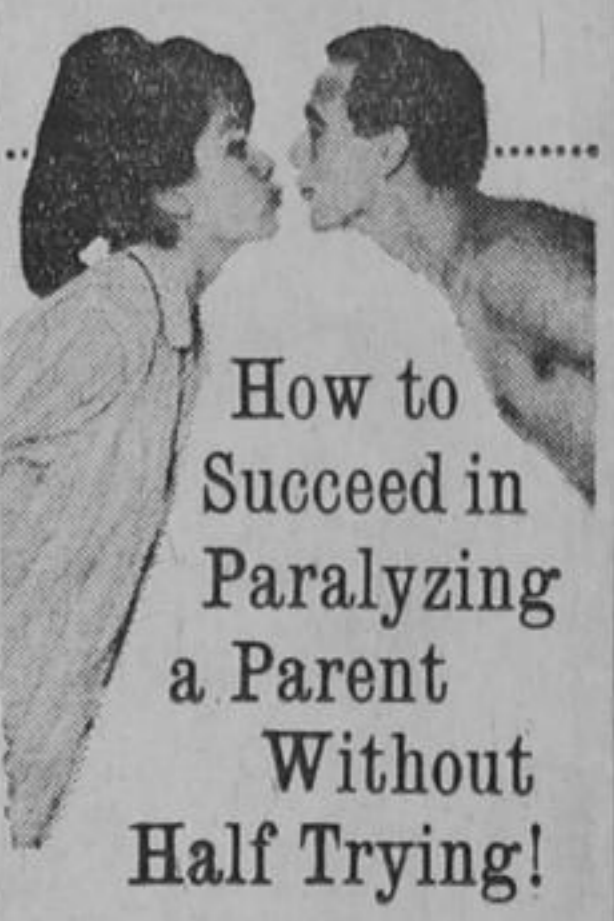
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Language Teachers Continue In-Service Program

Furthering its continuing and a short seminar was held. L.Manson, head of the modern languages department at Bayview Secondary has arranged the December program when R. Schatz, modern languages inspector will speak to York Central teachers on the subject of oral testing.

D. Shapiro, York Central's master French teacher conducted the class. Participating were students of grade 10D at Thornhill Secondary. Refreshments were served following the class.

address all grade 13 students in the York Central system on January 27 at Langstaff Secondary. Dr. Robert will discuss the works of Guy de Maupassant with special emphasis on the selection of his stories being studied by grade 13 this year.

In March, Professor W. S. Rogers, head of the French Department at Trinity College will address York Central teachers for the third time. Subject of his lecture will be "La Chute" by Albert Camus.