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A Regional Mish-Mash

We all know that a rose is a rose, but what is a district? And what is a region?

"Regional government" is the "in" term at Queen's Park these days and we have no particular quarrel with this concept.

We just wish that some of the departments down there would get together and decide what a region is.

The Smith Report on Taxation, for instance, suggests that we should be part of what is called the "Aurora Highlands Region." For school purposes, all of York County is presumably to be lumped together. The Ontario Water Resources Commission appears to be casting only the Southern Six municipalities into one pot for servicing with water and sewers.

Most recent pronouncement comes from the Department of Health which has, in the most arbitrary manner possible, thrown York and Ontario Counties and the City of Oshawa together into one district for health purposes.

Representatives of health departments in these municipalities were called to a meeting with Minister of Health Matthew Dymond and told that grants would be increased 25% if they joined the new district, left at 50% if they declined to do so — with a strong hint that such amalgamation would shortly become mandatory anyway.

No criteria were divulged for choosing the boundaries of the new health districts; representatives were just told that the Roberts Government had passed it and it was law.

In the meantime, various of the Southern Six municipalities are hatching amalgamation plans among themselves, and many school board members feel there should be a

Southern Six board of education, separate from the rest of York County.

It all seems the most impossible sort of hodge-podge imaginable this side of a nightmare.

We can see some logic in having one school board in the county — but just as logical arguments for a separate board for the southern portion which appears certain to have a massive influx of population over the next 10 or 20 years.

But just what do residents of York County have in common with those of the City of Oshawa which would make them fit comfortably into a health unit together? Certainly if any of the new health unit's facilities are to be located in Oshawa it would make it very difficult for residents of them, say, Sutton, to take advantage of them.

And this is almost inevitably what happens when an organization covers a very wide area; facilities are installed in the area of thickest population. While York County has a population about equal to both Ontario County and the City of Oshawa together, the heaviest concentration of population would probably be around Oshawa.

The chairmen of the present three health units in the new district, plus the wardens of the two counties and the mayor of Oshawa were to have met at Dr. Dymond's office January 10 and we can only hope that some of the reasoning behind the decision was made clear to them.

Certainly none was made clear to York County Council when it agreed, unwillingly, to enter the new health district at the end of last month. It was merely the carrot on the stick, the extra 25% grant, that persuaded it in the step.

Pupils And Apartments

Planning boards, councils and school boards have recognized for some time that developers proposing apartment houses use unrealistic figures when quoting the potential number of children which may be expected per suite.

Through experience Richmond Hill Public School Board has been assessing the elementary school population at .34 pupils per apartment. This figure was established three years ago and is almost twice as high as the figures quoted by apartment builders.

However, the local school board is beginning to wonder if their figure should not be revised upwards. Conditions have changed in the past three years they feel, with the scarcity of housing, shortage of mortgage money and high rents all combining to keep families in apartments.

More and more people are finding the purchase of a home impossible, high rentals obviate their attempts to save up a down payment, so the trend towards staying in apartments will continue to increase, the trustees feel.

With this in mind, they have agreed to review pupil enrolment from apartments to bring their figures up to date and allow them to make plans to accommodate children from proposed apartment develop-

ments if they are approved by town council. Trustees also agreed to withhold comment on a new apartment building on the southeast corner of Centre and Elizabeth Streets, containing 70 suites, until the revised figure is available. Children from this development would be in the McConaghy School attendance area.

The oldest public school in town, the original eight rooms dating back to 1915, McConaghy School now has 13 classrooms and is filled to capacity. The size of the grounds will not permit any further extensions or use of portables, and another 25 or 30 pupils could cause serious overcrowding.

We agree with the trustees that this re-assessment is a necessary step, particularly in view of council's proposed zoning bylaw which will implement the town's new official plan. It is forecast that this bylaw will permit high rise apartment development along Yonge Street to rehabilitate the core of the municipality. A realistic figure, which can be backed up with local statistics, to determine the number of children any proposed apartment building can be expected to add to the school population is essential. This figure can aid school authorities in determining if each individual proposal will pay its own way in taxes.

Forecasts New City On Holland River

A new city along the Holland River, including the Towns of Newmarket and Aurora, is forecast by York County Planner Conroy Dowson. But he warned that the county must start now to lay the basis of planning to ensure that proper development will occur in the future.

Mr. Dowson declared that some form of regional government is essential for proper development in the county, and stated he believes county must be permitted to take over control of planning and land use as well as education on January 1, 1969.

Urban renewal is the most pressing problem and he believes a regional government could handle this most effectively, as well as planning capital spending, formulating an effective county-wide farm policy and working toward a rapid transit system.

The greatest need is for strong "local" government, the planner claims, but believes the term "local" should be redefined. It is no longer possible to plan on the basis of existing municipalities — local government has to be something bigger, with thinking in terms of time and distance. "But big-

ness alone isn't the answer," he cautions. He suggests moving completely away from the two-tier form of government, commenting "It hasn't worked that well in Metro." He describes Metro as "too institutionalized", and suggests that with proper planning York County could avoid many Metro shortcomings.

"Given adequate references and facilities to do the job, we can provide more vitality than Metro ever could — our chance for innovation is greater," he stated.

Newer methods of sewage disposal will obviate the need to build along lakes and rivers, Mr. Dowson stated, but pointed out the county must start preparing for great expansion now.

Another advantage county development will have that Metro did not have, Mr. Dowson believes, is the fact that developers in the county are holding large parcels of land. "We have developers who hold as much as 1,000 acres. They're not in for a quick buck. This provides the physical basis for better town building."

Noting that Richmond Hill has 200 apartment units un-



(Photo by Stuart's Studio)

Students Receive Driver Training

Seen smiling at the wheel of the car is Ann Marie Peters, one of the 25 Richmond Hill High School Students presently taking a student driver training course. With her is Instructor Lorne McNeill.

This is the second group of RHHS students to take such a course and 19 Bayview Secondary School students are taking a similar one. They receive 25 hours of classroom instruction, eight hours "behind the wheel" training and 12 hours "in car" observation time. Cost to the students is \$52 with the small remainder of the cost of the course subsidized by the high school board.

Well over 2,000 Metro students have taken a similar course in the high schools in the last 18 months, organized by the Ontario Motor League, each paying a \$54 fee with the school board subsidizing the balance. In some centres however, Oshawa and Barrie, for instance, students pay only \$25 with the school board paying the balance.

On completing the course, students receive a certificate which entitles boys to a reduction in insurance premiums.

Letters to the Editors

MR. CORBETT vs. MR. BRITT

Dear Mr. Editor: Three cheers for J. E. Corbett, 237 Alsace Road, Beverley Acres, who offered a rebuttal to my recent criticism of candidates for Richmond Hill Town Council in the December 9 election. That one man took the time to document his opinions has renewed my "public spiritedness."

However, Mr. Corbett should not be swayed by the fact that six members were returned by acclamation. I feel that this fact, in itself, does not mean that those acclaimed enjoy our support. It could mean, could it not, that there were no individuals in this community who were sufficiently interested to challenge those already in office.

Specifically, how many people attended the nomination meeting which acclaimed these six individuals. Similarly, I maintain that the reason for Councillor Ivan Mansbridge's reelection (with but a handful of votes) was not so much because of citizens' confidence in him but because of a lack of knowledge of the candidates opposing him. This brings me to my point.

A knock on my door (or however many times they may wish to knock) is the absolute minimum in terms of political campaigning. It is not sufficient to warrant my vote. I want these candidates to show themselves at the bus stops and in the shopping centres. Let them debate the real issues with each other in some public meeting place or hall. Lack of proper communication is responsible for many of the major problems of the day. Let them remember this fact and "communicate."

Now, once they have been elected, let them, with the kind co-operation of "The Liberal",

periodically set down in a column exactly what they have been up to for the past month or whatever. Let them take note of Donald Deacon MLA York Centre in this regard. Indeed, our own mayor, only last week, told us of his plans for Richmond Hill, through "The Liberal". I want to know what transpires at the council meetings on a regular basis. Let's have it!

My attack (Mr. Corbett's word — not mine) on Mr. Mansbridge was warranted insofar as I am concerned. Remember, he needs my support, not vice-versa, and therefore let him show me how "dynamic, diligent and enthusiastic", he is. He has not thus far and is, consequently, subject to my verbal barrages.

I am sure that Mr. Mansbridge has attended myriad meetings on behalf of the community and for this he gets full marks. However, I will measure this man not on the basis of the number of hours he devotes to the community but rather on the degree of success which he enjoys at such meetings. Frequent running of a horse does not make him a fast runner.

To Mr. Corbett I doff my well-worn hat and wish him every bit of "Irish" luck.
WAYNE J. BRITT,
421 North Taylor Mills Drive,
Beverley Acres.

Local Teachers Attend Assembly Of OSSTF

Among those who attended the recent annual assembly of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation in Toronto were D. C. Attridge, head of the mathematics department and Frank Cooper, commercial director at Thornhill Secondary School and Lars Thompson of Langstaff Secondary School.

Stressed at the meeting, which was attended by 450 delegates, was the need for better pay for good teachers and no toleration of poor teachers. At the same time, it was felt necessary to seek general increases in salary of from 8 to 10 percent to provide economic equality for teachers and to maintain a flow of qualified recruits.

A motion calling for the right to strike for teachers was withdrawn and other motions seeking a process of conciliation, mediation and arbitration were referred to a special committee. At present teachers are limited to resignation on certain dates when negotiations fail.

The assembly also debated an "internship" method of teacher training. This would replace the traditional system of projecting College of Education graduates right into the educational system. Instead, teacher trainees would participate in a total school program for at least 20 weeks and a department licence to teach would be issued after a satisfactory year. A brief on the matter will be presented to the Minister of Education this year.

Robert M. Smith, Burlington was elected president, succeeding C. J. McCaffray of Ottawa. First vice-president is R. Ward McAdam, North York.

NEED GOOD WORKERS? GET 'EM FAST BY USING LIBERAL CLASSIFIEDS

George Mayes On —

The Flip Side

North York's Works Department complains that the borough's new bilingual stop signs are being defaced as fast as they can be replaced. . . . And then, there are a lot of North Yorkers who would say any stop sign that reads STOP - ARRET is already defaced!

Stories on the firstborn babes of 1968 should have included the announcement that OMSIP and OHI have given birth to HIRB. Looks like our spawning government health services need most a pill to control themselves. . . . And we need HELP.

The other big news of the week was the expression from Hanoi of a willingness to engage in peace talks with the Americans. This possibility of peace talks, while heartening to the Americans, brought reports of annoyance from Red China. . . . Just another case of "What kind of Hanoi annoys you!"

And Red China's latest A-bomb test brought the big brag that they have 86-million more A-bombs in the 86-million copies they have printed of Mao Tse-tung's "Thoughts". . . . Their problem now is finding 86-million Chinese who can read.

Another problem is the one now disturbing British moralists who expected so much from the compulsory breathalyzer tests for drivers. The British Christian Medical Fellowship is alarmed at the rising incidence of young men using their fear of facing the breathalyzer as an excuse for staying all night at their girl friend's apartment. . . . All night, eh? Well, try consoling yourself Fellows with the thought about the Sun never setting on the British Empire.

And we see where a British psychological researcher is calling for six 15-minute coffee breaks during the work-day.

The problem here is how British workers would find time for them between their "Tea-ups".

Meanwhile, sociologists on this side of the ocean have found that one of the biggest problems of our new society is finding something to do with our "leisure" hours. . . . Such as finding a second job to afford the cost of living in our new society.

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Eleven Local Musicians Starred In New Toronto Youth Symphony

Eleven junior members of the Richmond Hill Symphony were among the 85 members of the newly-organized Toronto Youth Symphony Orchestra which was highly acclaimed in its debut December 29 at Massey Hall.

They had been selected earlier in the season by Musical Director Jacob Groob from a large number of contestants. Local young musicians in the new symphony are: Jim Sprague and Bob Smith, trumpets; Sharon Fraser, who was praised by the critics for her excellent French horn solo; Fergus McWilliam, French horn; Doug Sparks, trombone; Avril Spence, flute; Joan Abbott, oboe; Brian Taylor, Geoffrey Barnes, Hinda Richards, bassoons; and Graham Coles, viola.

The new youth symphony was first considered last summer during the interprovincial music camp in Parry Sound. Richmond Hill Symphony had sponsored three of its junior members at this camp in a joint project with the Ontario Federation of Symphony Orchestras. These youngsters were Sharon Fraser, Doug Sparks and John Abbott, who were

chosen on the spot. Later in the fall the eight other juniors were accepted by the newly-formed group. Instruction is provided by Mr. Groob and other members of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra.

The obvious ability of every member and the fact that they are completely untouched by modern professionalism and therefore enthusiastically involved in playing music for the sake of music, speaks well for the future of Toronto's new orchestra. Richmond Hill can be justly proud that its young people are helping to shape it.

At a time when youth seems to be interested only in pop music and the beat, it is surprising to find a group of highly successful young musicians of the classical school right in our midst. While some of their age group are trying to find happiness through rebellion, protest, LSD or marijuana, these young people know that good music, pursued earnestly and with self-discipline, is still one of the most rewarding activities of human life, especially if the artist has an opportunity to work in a group and communicates the fruits of his labor to others.

Economy

Britain's Dilemma

This article which appeared in a recent issue of the Sunday New York Times offers a real insight into the economic problems that Britain is facing today.

In the wake of devaluation of the British pound, much has been written about the reasons for Britain's fiscal dilemma. The experience of an American entrepreneur who had hoped to set up a branch in England illustrates a major cause for that nation's difficulties.

Robert E. Pomeranz, president of the Roberts Company, a North Carolina manufacturer of textile machinery, outlined his difficulties in trying to buck old traditional methods at a branch in Stockport, England.

In July, 1965, Roberts acquired control of Arundel Coulthard with plants in Stockport, Preston, and Ashton-under-Lyne, all fairly close to Manchester. Immediately, the American company sought to bring improvements in the buildings and working conditions with the objective of building up the spinning machinery business to a volume of £3-million a year and employing 600 men.

Immediately, the company ran into trouble with the unions, which objected to changes in working procedures. Roberts, producing 250 spinning machines a month at its plant in Sanford, N.C., sought to initiate a program of getting spinning frame components for shipment from Stockport to the United States.

It called for 12 sets in April, 1966; 20 in May and 32 each month thereafter. No units were received until November, 1966.

A foundry manager sent from the United States to expedite production late in 1965 reported that 62 people produced about 12 tons of castings a week. In Sanford, a nonmechanized foundry produced 60 tons of castings a week.

Methods outmoded for more than 50 years were still used, he said, and he cited the practice of employees taking off their shoes and stockings and stamping the sand in the molds with their bare feet. When they were supplied with air rammers to do the job with less work and in less time, they were reluctant to use them.

When Roberts decided to consolidate the plants in one location in November, 1966, a walk-out was called, the 13th in a little more than a year. Unable to come to an agreement with the unions, Roberts has cancelled its plans and on January 12 will close the British subsidiary, which had been named Roberts-Arundel, Ltd. The company's loss in the period of tenure amounted to \$150,000 in 1965, \$560,000 in 1966 and an undetermined loss this year.



Rambling Around

by Elizabeth Kelson

The Cave Man

Once man lived in a cave. There's a story called "The Bee-eater" in "The Source", James Michener's wonderful novel. In it we learn of a man called Ur who lived in a dirty smelly cave. It was near a well where generations of men had been drinking sweet water since more than a million years ago when wandering ape-like men wandered up from Africa.

Ur didn't mind the cave. He was a man who was at ease with the forces that ruled his world. He had only to make peace with the elements. He was as happy as a man could be, more productive than most in his generation, a hunter who loved animals, and who consciously tried to love his neighbor.

Ur had a wife who didn't like to live in a dirty smelly cave with all his relatives. She came from a tribe, a more advanced one who lived in huts instead of caves. She was strong and single-minded just like her family. Her family was so strong that Ur's father had trouble to kill the lot of them.

He saved only a beautiful girl to be Ur's wife. Ur's wife was gentle and kind but resolute in her desire to have a dwelling above ground. She had trouble in getting Ur to agree and she had to wait until her oldest son was old enough to help her.

Ur didn't want to leave the comparative safety of the cave. He felt secure in the animal closeness with his fellows. He also enjoyed the hunt more than anything else in the world and was overjoyed when he discovered the wild honey.

As the house began to take shape, Ur realized something. In the cave he was not the master and the day would come when he might starve to death or be killed off by the younger families to make more room. He saw that in a self-contained house he would at least be the master and his wife had made a garden.

The price of the new convenience was that Ur was forced to engage in new ways of thinking whether he would or not.

THE HOUSE SLAVE

Once upon a time a man lived in a house. His name was Joe. If he owned the house he was the master as long as he acknowledged a duty to pay taxes to the government.

Taxes weren't too hard to pay 25 years ago. So Joe didn't really mind. He could afford anything up to \$25 a year and still have some control over his own life. He could go fishing or hang around the pool room for a few hours or harangue over the cracker barrel. It was a good breeding ground for back wood's politicians and barefoot philosophers. It was even better than hunting or making war on the neighbors.

Joe had a wife, grimly raised to tend kitchen, children and church. There was nothing wrong with any of these institutions. She knew they were vital and necessary to civilization but there was a fly in the ointment somewhere and she just had to find it.

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