

The Stouffville Tribune

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 A. V. Nolan, J.P., Editor and Publisher

Notes and Comments

Bank Borrowings Drastically Cut

According to the auditor's report for the Township of Scarboro just issued for 1938, bank interest on the general account amounted to only \$8,946, as compared with \$60,000 only a few years ago. This indicates a greatly improved condition, in a municipality in default on its debt payments. The municipality has over \$2,000,000 debentures overdue and unpaid. Total receipts from all sources in Scarboro are shown at \$2,668,701.

The Dailies Will be the Judge

With the visit of their majesties occupying the front pages of Canadian daily newspapers for the past two weeks, there has been an observation made on numerous occasions as to what will take its place—with the fear attached that the European situation may again loom large in the daily news. Indeed the daily newspapers were being criticized for giving so much publicity to the European upheavals, but the Daily Star once commented on such criticism by explaining that it was really important news and no doubt it was. However, the people in Canada have been kept in a state of turmoil & fear because they had too much of this sort of thing. We know a man near Stouffville who would have built a new home here, but he fears that war may strike any day and he would have to remain on the farm as several of his sons might be called on for active service.

It has frequently been said that part of Hitler's program is to keep the democracies in a state of turmoil, impeding business, and if so, it would seem a good time to give him less publicity. However, the daily press will be the judge of what is front page news, and we do not propose to offer suggestions.

"I Say, Whose King Is He?"

A cartoon appeared in the tabloid Daily Mirror of William Randolph Hearst last week showed Prime Minister Chamberlain, complete with umbrella, standing alongside the traditional figure of John Bull on a tiny island that bears a sign "Great Britain."

The two are staring anxiously across a body of water at the New York skyline over which is emblazoned "Hail to Their Majesties."

And John Bull is remarking to Mr. Chamberlain, "I say, just whose King is he?"

The Mirror carried this blackface headline on its front cover "Congress Goes Wild Over King."

Underneath was a photograph of the King placing a wreath on the tomb of George Washington at Mount Vernon, which The Mirror described as a "magnificent gesture."

The other morning tabloid, The News, in its early edition headlined, "King Studies New Deal," and featured the quiet tea party this afternoon at which their Majesties talked with members of the Roosevelt cabinet and heads of the various lending and relief agencies.

A photograph of the King and Queen arriving at the Washington Navy Yard to join President Roosevelt on the cruise down the Potomac to Mount Vernon was captioned: "British take our navy yard without firing a shot."

An editorial in The Mirror was headed "Veni, Vidi, Vici," and began:

"He came, he saw, he conquered is the short story of the visit of King George and his charming Queen to the United States of America, one time British colony. Historians may ponder and perhaps comprehend this astounding fact: there is not a man in America who can unleash an explosion of popular acclaim that could match the burst of throat-stretching cheers that greeted their Britannic Majesties."

Conant Suggests Professional Auditors

Advice that all municipalities should engage none but qualified professional auditors in matters concerning municipal funds was given by Attorney-General Conant to the Ontario County Municipal Association at Sunderland.

Stressing that since and including the year 1931 twenty-six municipal officials were found guilty of defalcations amounting to \$210,000 the Attorney-General suggested that instead of having laymen, whose competence and reliability is not regulated by the Municipal Act, to audit municipal books, properly qualified professional auditors should be employed.

The Attorney-General demonstrated that "False economy" was also a factor in improper handling of municipal funds. He revealed that several officials who were involved in defalcations drew salaries ranging only from \$100 to \$330 a year. He suggested that higher remuneration might make for greater efficiency in handling funds.

Hon. Mr. Conant said in part:

"It is, of course, of the utmost importance that these officials should be both competent and reliable. It is impossible to speak as to their capabilities because no records are available. Figures relating to their integrity, however, are available and are rather disturbing.

Since and including the year 1931, twenty-six of these officials have been found guilty of defalcations and have been sentenced to our jails or penitentiaries. What concerns me most, however, is that the tendency seems to be increasing there having been convicted already in 1939.

I do not suggest from these figures that there is any greater moral turpitude or crime proclivity among this class of persons or officials than otherwise prevails. There are about 1,850 municipal officials in the Province of Ontario having the custody of funds, so that defalcations by twenty-six of this number in the space of a little less than nine years is not startling as compared with other groups and on the law of averages. But the results of these defalcations are serious and even the number I mention is too high. These defaults represent a total of about \$210,000, and must of necessity be very disturbing in the financial structure of the respective municipalities. The number is too high because I feel that under proper control it is unnecessary and avoidable."

Relief in Sight for Builders

In answer to a plea for more and cheaper cost homes and more speed in construction, not only in Stouffville but in countless places, a factory has been opened in Edmonton, Alta., to make prefabricated houses. Certainly with the enormous charges being exacted for building material, particularly lumber, new saving methods will be welcome.

Operators boast their plant brings a saving of 25 per cent in material, 40 per cent in labor, and can turn out a home, precise to specifications, in two weeks.

Arthur Carlson and Victor Carlson regard the company—which they call the Magic Home Manufacturing Company—as the answer to a challenge recently hurled at the building trade by F. W. Nicholls, housing director of the Federal Department of Finance.

Mr. Nicholls said production costs could be lowered and an impetus given the building trade if Canadian contractors would adopt new methods of building as much of the home as possible in the shop instead of on the homestead.

The saving, the owners explained, is made possible by the volume of production. Outside walls and inside partitions are made up in sections in the factory. Every piece of material is cut to size, marked and bundled and sent to the homestead. There is no waste, skimming or expensive spoilage.

Instead of plaster, interiors of the home are finished in three-ply panelling which offers a base for limitless decorative treatments. Empty spaces between the studs and outside wall are insulated.

COUNTY STAYS WITHIN BUDGET FOR FIVE MONTHS

York County Council has adopted the recommendation of its board of valuers setting the total assessment for county purposes in the twenty-six urban and rural municipalities at \$185,128,110.

This equalized assessment is based on 49.70 per cent of the value placed on lands and buildings in the various municipalities by the County Equalization Committee.

Council instructed Solicitor Douglas Lucas to prepare a by-law confirming the recommendation of the valuers.

TOWN PAYS NO TAXES HAS BAND AND \$5,900

You won't find the name of Lyndonville, Vt., on a list of great cities of the United States today. Probably you won't find it there tomorrow either but Lyndonville is in the way of becoming a famous community under the slogan of "taxless town."

And there's no catch in it. With \$5,900 in the bank and proceeds of the municipal electric and water plants financing improvements and paying salaries Lyndonville has written finish to local taxation and whether you own a cottage or a mansion there's no 1939 tax bill for you.

Lyndonville is really indebted to Theodore N. Vail, the telephone man, and Frank Ruggles, a banker, for its present position. Together they sold the village of 1500 inhabitants the idea of municipal power and water plant back before the turn of the century.

Today the village owns the electric and water plants free and clear of all indebtedness and the village tax rate has declined from \$11 per \$1,000 in 1932 to nothing for 1939.

In addition the two plants make a substantial profit \$25,000 last year—although bills to customers are low. Out of these profits come funds for highway and sidewalk maintenance, upkeep of buildings and salaries of police and firemen.

There is even enough left over to pay for the weekly outdoor band concerts in the summer, maintain a public library and support of the district Red Cross.



CANADIAN EXPLORER

Aloha Baker has spent most of her time exploring remote corners of the earth. Once in South America she faced the prospect of becoming the bride of a native. A military firing squad gave her tense moments in Vladivostok, yet she admits her greatest thrill was seeing the King and Queen in Hamilton.

CLAREMONT SCHOOL DRAWS \$1,367.02 COUNTY GRANT

The total amount to be levied this year for the education of county pupils, including vocational schools, is \$54,212,177, based on a total number of days' attendance for county pupils of 100,489, according to a report presented to the Ontario County Council by Chairman A. M. Irwin, of the Committee on Education.

The total amount to be levied will be divided among various schools in Ontario and adjoining counties. Amounts to be paid Ont., County schools are as follows in the report: Whitby High School, \$4,868.78; Oshawa Collegiate, \$8,719.39; Oshawa Vocational School, \$7,046.84; Uxbridge High School, \$7,901.55; Cannington Continuation School, \$1,626.33; Sunderland Continuation School, \$1,275.11; Claremont Continuation School, \$1,367.02; Pickering Continuation School, \$2,178.78; Beaverton Continuation School, \$2,090.41; Brooklin Continuation School, \$3,073.51; Port Perry High School, \$5,339.15.

UXBRIDGE TOWNSHIP COUNTY ASSESSMENT \$656,206.

There are only two changes this year in the equalized assessment of Ontario County, according to the report submitted the County Council in session at Whitby. Slight increases were noted in Pickering and Whitby Townships, and a reduction in East Whitby.

The figures are: Pickering \$4,048,132; East Whitby, \$2,269,355; Whitby Township, \$1,799,260; Reach \$2,059,037; Scugog, \$363,975; Uxbridge Township, \$1,913,259; Scott, \$1,390,902; Thorah \$1,344,272; Brock \$2,631,136; Mara, \$1,768,265; Rama, \$307,031; Whitby Town \$2,559,591;

Unlikely to Widen North Yonge Street

Little hope for the widening of the North Yonge street "bottleneck" between Steele's Corners and Richmond Hill was held out by Hon. T. B. McQuesten, Minister of Highways, when he received a North York delegation last week.

Although Mr. McQuesten promised to consider the possibility of adding a third lane to the five-mile stretch, he expressed doubt that such an addition would cope with the situation.

He held that extension of the fourlane highway north to Richmond Hill would involve "unwarranted expenditure" in view of the construction program now under way east and west of Yonge street. With completion of these new routes to the north he said he was confident that traffic on Yonge street would be considerably relieved.

The deputation headed by Morgan Baker, M.P.P. for North York, and representatives of 11 North York municipalities, maintained that the "bottleneck" not only impeded travel but constituted a serious traffic

hazard and injured business in communities along the route.

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