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Notes and Comments

It is a surprise how some owners of mail boxes on routes out of town, keep them so untidy and inconvenient for the couriers to deposit their letters and papers in. Some are quite close to the road, handy for receipt of enclosures, others are as far from being convenient as possible to have them placed. Some are dilapidated and unfit for mail, ready open for wind and storm to carry away or destroy contents, others are six feet in the air and then again it requires knee drill to place letters in them, many so low.

Jonathan Swift, clergyman and humorist, said in the year 1735: "It is pleasant to observe how free the present age is in laying taxes on the next." Succeeding generations have said much the same thing, but we doubt if any generation has been so prone as the present one in doing this. Families, organizations, municipalities, governments, are forever craving for something they have not got and to obtain the thing they want a mortgage is placed on the future. Few of us live for the present, we are occupied in striving to pay for the past. Wouldn't it be wonderful if in some manner all debts could be eliminated and the people of the world could start off with a clean sheet?

Twenty-Six Villages Pay no Hydrant Rental

No one knows better than our reeve and councillors how hard it is to make ends meet on the tax rate struck each year. Needed improvements and repairs in the village frequently have to go undone because the funds are too low. Thus we are ever casting an eye about to find a place to get added revenue or to be relieved of some obligation that has been costing real money. A means of saving one mill to the tax payers in Stouffville—drop the annual payment of \$600 made by the general account of the village to the water account. The funds are not really needed in the water account where added revenue, if required could readily be obtained by slightly increased rates for water.

There are fifty-four villages in Ontario enjoying a domestic water system, and twenty-six of them make no charge whatever to the town for hydrant rental. On the other hand it is interesting to note from figures in the Annual Report of Municipal Statistics that the village of Markham with only 48 hydrants charge the ratepayers \$1200 per annum for the service. Stouffville with 60 hydrants have been charging the town \$600. Only sixteen villages charge over \$1,000 the highest being the village of Waterford charging \$2,300. The system has a heavy debt of \$42,000 and the high hydrant rental is probably imposed as a means of meeting the expenses of the system. With the system in Stouffville entirely paid for would not the village council be justified in discontinuing the payment of \$600 per annum for water?

Apple growers of Ontario are seeking an approved marketing scheme. The plan is to expand the voluntary effort adopted last winter of an assessment of one per cent per hamper used to advertise Ontario apples. This fund was supplemented by a grant from the Department of Agriculture, and resulted in accelerating the sale of an overstock of the fruit. It is now proposed to take in every apple grower in the province within the provisions of the Ontario Farm Products Control Act. Even the smaller growers will come into the scheme, for Edward Walls of Stouffville has been notified and requested to contribute his quota to this scheme. Incidentally Mr. Walls is a little suspicious that it will not do him much good, and unless compulsion is used, he will not adopt the plan of sending his money in.

Few Failures Indicate Generous Marking

The scheme of education is changing rapidly throughout Ontario. Written examinations at the close of the school term are becoming less and less important. This is indicated by a report just out from the Department of Education that one in every four pupils have been granted certificates at the close of their second year at high schools without trying an examination. Teachers recommended them on their year's work. The percentage of failures this year was very small and indicated that the standard of marking was anything but severe the province over. The entrance exams themselves were fair to a little easier than might have been expected.

W. D. Herridge, founder of the "New Democracy" party, has become active. Speaking before the Toronto District Trades and Labor Council, he said the two old parties must go, and urged "New Democracy" candidates be nominated in every constituency. Hon. R. B. Bennett's brother-in-law seems undeterred by the fate which overtook Harry Steven's new party a few years ago, estimating that more people than ever are dissatisfied with the way legislation is being made and will be more easily changed.

Business Licenses

A provision of the Municipal Act which may be overlooked by many municipalities is explained in the following:

By an amendment to section 439, Municipal Act, enacted by 1938 statutes, chapter 22, section 12, municipalities have power to pass bylaws requiring persons who are no licensed as transient traders, who after the return of the assessment roll, commence to carry on any business in premises in respect to which they are liable for business assessment, to pay a license before commencing such business. The amount of the license fee is to be a sum computed by reference to the tax on such business assessment which such person would have been required to pay for the current year in respect to the premises on which he has commenced business if he had been previously assessed and made liable for such tax.

The license fee shall be either one half the amount of such tax for the whole year or a proportionate part of same for the balance of the year after he commences business, whichever shall be the greater. It should be noted that this license fee is in the nature of a straight tax, and is not a credit on future taxes as in the case of the regular license fee for transient traders.

Will Beer Barrels Roll in Uxbridge? Wrong Butter Grade \$50 Fine and Costs

Councillor Charges "False Pretences" in Getting Voters Listed on Petition

"Are you in favor of the sale of beer and wine under the provisions of the Liquor Control Act?" is the question to be answered by Uxbridge voters on a date to be set by the Liquor Control Board.

The petition signed by more than 25 per cent of the voters' list asking a vote was submitted to town council last week. The town clerk rejected 28 names and reported the rest in order.

"In order to secure a vote under the statute the petition must have 282 valid names. It now has 291," the clerk reported. "Under the statute a vote follows."

Council took no action when Councillor R. H. Halbert charged some names were secured by "false pretences" and "misrepresentation." He demanded to see the names to check them.

"A member of council has no right to check validity of names and council has no right to accept or reject any names. That is the responsibility of the clerk," the clerk declared.

"I know of cases where people were fooled into signing who did not know what it was at all," said Councillor Halbert. "And they just have a margin of nine names. If these high-pressure salesmen made false statements securing the names I maintain a court of law will rule the petition of no effect. And if I can check over the list I may find the names of some who will want it taken off."

"They couldn't withdraw their names now," said the clerk.

"I demand to see the names," said Mr. Halbert.

"You'd be better off not to see them but I have no objection to you looking at the petition," said Mayor R. Turner.

"The clerk doesn't mean to suggest surely that if my name were on and I didn't sign it that I could not have it removed?" asked Councillor Robert Harris.

Councillor F. Williams wanted to know why one name heading the list should be ruled valid "when he is no longer a resident of the town." The clerk replied the man in question lived in Uxbridge when the last voters' list was made up three years ago.

FIND CARRIER PIGEON

A dead carrier pigeon apparently blown off its course and injured during a recent storm was found by Jack Swinson, Uxbridge farmer, in his potato patch Sunday morning. There were two leg bands numbered 388a and 876. One of the bands bore the words "from Toronto to Montreal."

GOODWOOD MAN HEADS CLAN

At the recent picnic of the Middleton clan held at Claremont Fred Middleton of Goodwood was elected president.

The prize awarded to the oldest person on the grounds went to Mrs. C. Middleton, age 89, of Toronto. The youngest twins were Harold and Gordon Middleton, Huntsville.

The most newly wedded couple were Mr. and Mrs. John Middleton, who had been married some six weeks. The prize for the youngest child on the grounds went to 14-day old June Tweedie, of Pickering.

Officers elected for the coming year were: Honorary Presidents: Mrs. C. S. Carruthers, Toronto, and G. L. Middleton, Brougham; President—F. J. Middleton, Goodwood; Sec'y-Treas.—Mrs. Gordon Middleton, Huntsville; Sports Committee—Mrs. Mamie Farr, Woodbridge; Mrs. C. O. Johnston, Coldwater; Charles Hewitt, Peterboro; Adam Spears, Whitevale and Armour Middleton, Toronto.

Following a deliberated contest, the annual picnic for 1940 will be held on July 1, at Woodbridge.

On June 12, 1939, two creameries in Eastern Ontario were each fined \$50.00 and costs for having in possession for sale and selling creamery print butter that was not correctly marked as to grade. In each instance the wrappers were marked "First Grade," but the actual quality of the butter was "Second Grade," due to an old or stale flavour, and uneven or streaky colour. "First Grade" butter must be clean and sound in flavour and the colour even or true throughout the package.

It is the responsibility of all creameries in Canada (except in the Provinces of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island) manufacturing and selling creamery butter to mark the package so as to indicate the correct grade of the product in accordance with the grade standards provided by Regulations under the Dairy Industry Act. The terms used are "First Grade," "Second Grade," "Third Grade," and "Below Third Grade," and the designation of grade must be placed conspicuously on the main panel of the package in order that consumers may readily see the particular grade offered for sale. Officers of the Dominion Department of Agriculture are constantly checking the quality of creamery print butter in the wholesale and retail trade, and were responsible for laying the charges in the above cases.

MANY DRIVERS LACK COMMON SENSE

Elimination of highway accidents can best be brought about by the education of motorists, in the opinion of members of Toronto and York Roads commission. Members of the commission approved installation of several improved traffic aids last week but insisted that the reduction of accidents depend primarily on "common sense" driving.

Installation of traffic-actuated lights at Lansing Road and Yonge highway was approved by the commission. The new modern light will cost \$2,500 and will replace the present lights which were described as "erratic." The commission also approved erection of reflector-type signs at Lansing side road and Bayview Ave. and on individual posts at the Agincourt cutoff.

"It seems to be a matter of public education that is required," declared Dave Spence, M.P., chairman of the commission. "The public should know that we are trying new safety measures all the time and that these are erected for a purpose," he added.

Make Employees Members Sixteen employees of the Good Roads system were made members of the Ontario Safety league to improve their knowledge of traffic conditions and preventive measures by order of the commission. Harvey Rose, county engineer, explained that most of them spent much time on the highways and membership in the league would help them in their work.

Supporting members of the commission in their contention that motorists should be more attentive to signs, Mr. Rose revealed that 50 per cent of the black and white checkerboard signs on dead-end roads had to be repaired yearly. The signs are 10 feet square, large enough to be seen, he thought. "But yet

they do not heed them until it is too late," Mr. Rose said.

A more graphic portrayal of the perils of careless driving through the use of billboards was urged by R. R. Leslie, city member of the commission. He referred to the signs in the U.S. where a sketch of a bad accident was shown together with a large-size figure of a traffic officer pointing the finger accusingly at everyone who drove by. J. Ray Price mentioned a state where crosses were erected at points every time there was a fatality. He saw 12 crosses at one spot, he said.

Trucks to Have 16 Lights

All large freight trucks must carry 16 lights after Sept. 1, by order of the department of highways, Mr. Leslie, owner of a cartage business, informed the commission. The trucks must have six lights at the back and three red and three green lights on tractors, he said.

Mr. Leslie pointed out that improved machinery used by the commission now enabled them to paint the centre white strip on 20 miles of highway per day compared to five miles a day formerly. "We will soon have all our roads painted which should be of considerable help," he said.

Cattle crossing signs are almost completely ignored by drivers, Mr. Rose declared. "One of these days someone is going to hit a cow and their car may be overturned."

"We cannot put lights at every intersection because of the cost," declared Mr. Spence. "We recommended lights at Don Mills Road, where the multiple fatality occurred some time ago but they were not approved by the department until last week. York county is not worse than other sections of the province for accidents and it must be re-

membered that it comprises 30 per cent of the population and includes Toronto," Mr. Spence said.

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