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Editorial Comment

The Idle Senate

A strange and almost amusing interlude in the drive to speed the war effort has been provided by the enforced idleness of the Senate. Since early last November when the new Parliament opened the Senate has really worked only on three days, and that idleness has brought protest from some Senators against being asked to sit and twiddle their thumbs. But the protest brought little comfort from Premier King who once a few years ago made the rafters ring with threats of reforming the Senate because it had thrown out an important government measure, providing for the building of Canadian National Railway branch lines.

If we are really sincere about the need for more and more money to further our war effort, what easier place could a few hundred thousand be saved than by reducing the senate or wiping it out to a mere committee of say twelve. No wonder Mr. Average Taxpayer grows weary and suspicious when such institutions as the Senate are tolerated after all that has been said against it.

Merchants Should Co-Operate for Clean Roadway.

The Village Council anticipate that the Main street pavement is going to be kept clean this summer in such a manner as to leave no room for the common dissatisfaction of past years, all of which will be appreciated. At the same time, the general public have some responsibility too. It is not the right thing to throw papers everywhere, nor is it fair that the front street merchant sweep his dirt off onto the roadway pavement every morning just after the road has been cleaned. It would be a simple matter to use a dustpan, wouldn't it. After all the merchant is one man who should be interested in a clean street, but how often have we seen him sweeping dirt off the side walk onto the roadway instead of gathering it up and taking it away.

Railway Pay Excessive

Under the authority of that order-in-council whereby employers were invited or instructed to raise war wages whenever the cost of living rose five per cent or more, the railway workers of Canada are asking for more. This despite the fact that monthly income of railway workers throughout Canada is substantially higher than prior to the outbreak of war.

The rate of pay of railway workers, especially in the so-called running trades (enginemen, firemen, conductors and trainmen), has been high in relation to other wages for at least twenty years. It is true that, in the worst years of depression, the monthly income of junior men was low, or probably non-existent in many instances, for the reason that there were no freight or passengers for these juniors to haul. Seniority is a fetish in the railway brotherhood and when business falls off, junior men are lopped off.

The present effort to get a higher rate of pay is as likely to succeed as was that restoration of wage cuts two or three years ago — a restoration which was justified neither by improved conditions for the railways nor by increase in living costs. In the last analysis the pay increase was granted for political reasons. The present application for an increase in rates of pay must satisfy a board which apparently will be independent of the government, although appointed by it. But such a board can't ignore the fact that Order-in-Council No. 7440 did not make an exception of railway workers whose amount of work has been decreasing because rates of pay accepted by truck drivers have been much less. Farmers also have had to accept less for their work and products. If the railway workers get a further increase by virtue of this order-in-council the relative position of the farmer will be even worse than at present. And the fundamental railway problem still will remain to be solved after the war.

War to Bring People to Church

A layman writing to the editor of the Cannington Gleaner put the question of shrinking church attendance in Canada in a new light. After comparing the people of England flocking to worship in bombed and partially destroyed churches, with people of his village and of Canada privileged to attend churches beautiful in architecture and well equipped, and yet almost empty even on the most sacred days of the year, he expresses the view that before this war is over people in this country will flock to the churches but, unfortunately it will be because the war has been brought much closer, many attending because their sons, brothers or sisters will have paid for our neglectfulness and God will be their solace.

We feel sure that the ministers of Stouffville will be in accord with this layman's view. All through the country there is the feeling that the church can meet the needs of men and women if only given a chance. Very little missionary work can be done, or solace imparted, however, to empty pews.

EARLY TAX COLLECTION ACCEPTABLE IN TWP. OF WHITCHURCH

Once again it has been suggested around the council table in Whitchurch, that some system of early tax collection should be inaugurated and Reeve Toole has on several occasions expressed his approval of the idea, but the problem is to find a system that would be simple and acceptable to the tax payers.

Probably the answer is to be found in the suggestion that tax bills should be issued in August, containing an option that tax payers may pay all or one half of the total amount of taxes by September first, and for so doing would obtain a discount of one per cent straight.

If tax payers were not prepared to make any payment they would have until the usual date of December 15 to make payment without penalty, hence nobody would find any difference from the present set-up, excepting that those who are prepared to meet taxes earlier in the fall could do so, and reap the benefit.

So far as the municipality is concerned, there would be little rearrangement of present methods, other than an earlier assessment being made, to enable the township clerk to get ready for the tax issue.

In the matter of cost of percentages or discounts allowed to those who pay their taxes earlier, this would be saved in bank interest, as the money paid in would go to reduce the current bank loans.

Those who are urging Prime Minister King to be off to London should be slightly interested in reading that Mr. Churchill says he has no intention of calling an Empire war conference.

Forty Thousand Women Needed in Canada



For 40,000 Canadian women between 18 and 50, the Hyde Park agreement is going to mean something more concrete than a historic declaration of international co-operation. It's going to mean jobs in

war plants which are expected to step up production by 40%. These pictures show the kind of jobs women are already doing. Now it is predicted, they will not only enroll

in greater numbers in factory production lines; as men are called to lathes and assembly lines and heavy machines, girls may take over as taxi drivers, salesmen and workers on the land.

"In Days Of Yore"

25 Years Ago

The Stouffville Tribune, Feb. 1916

Mr. Francis Ward left for Toronto on Wednesday to undergo an operation on his eye.

F. W. Silvester is attending the Hardware Convention in Toronto this week.

On Sunday, March 13th the Stouffville Baptist Church intend holding a patriotic session in honor of the boys of the School who are serving overseas.

The body of the late Mrs. Dougall was brought for interment in the Stouffville Cemetery on Tuesday morning. The deceased was buried beside her late husband who was for many years the popular constable of Stouffville.

Mr. C. W. Wismer is very ill with appendicitis.

Our town bell has undergone repairs after being broken on Sunday morning giving the fire alarm.

Ralph White has sold the contents of the foundry to Abram Brown and will move to Lindsay where he has secured a situation.

Mrs. J. Urquhart Jr., and son are here for a week or two.

Recruiting officers were in town on Wednesday but had poor success.

A few of the friends of Mrs. Snowball, nee Miss Meredia Wagg, met at the home of the bride's father on Thursday night where a beautiful quarter-cut oak rocker was pre-

sented the couple and an address was read by Mrs. N. Cloughton.

Last Friday evening Ringwood beat the Claremont boys by a score of 6-5 on the Maple Leaf Rink.

52 Years Ago

The Stouffville Tribune, Dec., 1889

Some of the young folk of the town are indebted to Messrs. Orvil Kester and A. McDonald for the sleighride given them on Tuesday last. Two loads were taken out to Mr. Renfrew's on the 8th concession.

A large number of invitations are being issued for the next social assembly to be given in Daley's Hall when Prof. Marciano's Italian orchestra will be heard.

Mr. George Harrington of Unionville was a guest at the Mansion House over Sunday.

Mr. John Woodgate has accepted a position in a photo gallery in Toronto.

Miss A. E. Anderson, first assistant in the Public School was called home last week to attend the last hours of her dying sister.

Miss Bella Cameron has returned after a six months visit to Detroit.

Several youths of the village were sporting themselves in the woods near Dixon Hill last Thursday. The game not being very plentiful. Willie Urquhart discharged his shot-gun at random and the barrel burst, badly

shattering his left hand about the thumb.

Mr. Isaac Graham, agent of the G.T.R. at Goodwood, passed through here on Friday on his way to Chicago. It is whispered around that he is expected to give evidence in the great Cronin trial.

Send The Tribune to absent friends

Designer of the first walking plow complete with a steel mould board, and an employee of the Fleury-Bissell firm for 71 years, Jacob Anderson, 94 years old, was buried on Thursday at Aurora. The late Mr. Anderson was born in King Township and joined the Fleury firm when 23 years old. His plow was first tried successfully by his father and later adopted by his firm.

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