

The Stouffville Tribune

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Notes and Comments

Let There be Light

Main business section in Stouffville is becoming obsolete in the matter of street lighting. Even the inefficient sized bulbs are prevented from giving their meagre light, because the globes are so dirty that light cannot penetrate through. Council should see that the street is well lighted.

Too Late to Change Kind of Crop

The Financial Post last week urged the Dominion Government to give the farmer a fuller voice in the affairs at Ottawa, and to see to it that the right crops are planted this year to produce the fats, and vitamins the country is lacking since much of our supply has been cut off through Japanese intervention.

Nothing the government could do would alter the situation for the present crop, as it is already planted over Ontario, and too far advanced in the most backward places to allow any reversal of plans

What the farmer stands in need of now is an assurance of help to take off the promised harvest.

Greatness of the Red Cross

In two and a half years of intensive submarine warfare less than three per cent of thousands of tons of goods sent overseas by the Canadian Red Cross has been lost by enemy action. This outstanding achievement was pointed out by Captain David M. Legate, Assistant Commissioner Overseas of the Canadian Red Cross Society, who is home on a brief visit after 30 months' duty in the British Isles.

"If Britain were to be invaded tomorrow," said Captain Legate, "The Red Cross is completely organized to carry on without a hitch. In the event of our London headquarters going up in smoke we have five other departments which can function immediately either independently or together.

Captain Legate explained that new methods have been developed for the distribution of supplies to troops in action. Not more than one week elapses between a request and the arrival of supplies at that post.

Captain Legate doubted that there was a convoy that left Canadian shores which did not carry something for the Red Cross.

The Yes and No Vote

Before the plebiscite scores of people were skeptical about the intension of the vote, and strongly contended that it was a vote for conscription. This was hotly denied by the government leaders and other supporters, who claimed the vote merely untied the hands of the government from their election promises.

However, so soon as the favorable figures were announced, there is a clamour from political heads demanding the government introduce conscription forthwith, and the government supporters have been in caucus on the issue this week. It is not believed that the premier will be rushed head-long into a conscription programme. Indeed, he has contended that recruiting is going apace at such a rate that our contribution of men for overseas is very satisfactory having in mind the mechanized program as well.

We do not know that conscription is necessary, neither do thousands of others who are clamouring for it, but it is the duty of the King government to know, and if we have any confidence in their statements why are they not accepted. During April voluntary enlistments totalled between 11,000 and 12,000 men, and they will point sharply upward for May. Canada's war effort is something to be proud of and if and when the government decided conscription is advisable; the people will accept (Quebec excepted), but the government will not be stampeded by politicians.

Conscription is possibly the fairest method of calling up men and may well have been adopted at the very outset, but if a few hundred thousand more men had been hurriedly called and shipped overseas, our present production of mechanized material would not be what it is today. The problem is not an easy one to solve.

Are we to Have Dual Language

Business firms have been receiving their second allotment of Unemployment Insurance books from Ottawa. Many who contribute to this Insurance know full well that they will never reap any benefit from the money they are forced to contribute, and so there is just a little discontent when these books arrive. To add to the smoldering fire, is the fact that a good half of the instructions and other matter printed on the books is done in French. Millions of dollars are consumed every year in pushing the French language into Canada, which a few years ago, people thought was a purely English speaking nation.

What incentive is there to contribute to Unemployment Insurance when you do so merely to help the fund, knowing there is no direct benefit likely to come to you, when the authorities on the other hand fool away thousands of thousands of dollars printing literature in French for an English speaking nation to read?

Comfort Fund Gifts Still Arriving Safely in England

Stouffville Veterans
Dear Bert,
Now I am on a Canadian Squadron and with me here is Murray Sinclair who is in charge of general signals, radio and telephone. I have only been on our home drome for a few days and haven't had the chance to take him for a flip but we will put in a few hours in the air together.

As you know I was in Ireland for a month and I enjoyed my stay. The weather was like spring and it was the worst part of the winter. I met the first Yanks to arrive there. I was sure glad to see them, also very much surprised. The citizens and British service men were very much surprised to see how neat and clean American soldiers are.

Now I am back in England but Jerry has his hands full in other fronts so there is little activity. Our Flight O.C. did get hell a week ago, but very few came near enough to bother chasing.

Thanks for the nice box of sweets. I try to make the gum last as long as possible. I just used the last yesterday. I use the gum when I fly. It keeps the ears clear when coming down. Please thank all those who have helped to keep the gifts coming to us over here. All the best.

Alfred Thomas,
C/O Sargents Mess,
409 Squadron

March 29, 1942

Comfort Fund,
Dear Sirs,
Thanks to Stouffville Veterans for the smokes. A fellow can keep going much better when he has a fag. I am told the Toronto Star reported me as returned home, but I am very much here, and will "carry on" for a while yet.

Percy Pipher.

March 30, 1942.

Dear Sir,
Well I was certainly glad to get your parcel of 300 cigarettes today. The package took nearly two months to reach me. This is probably because I have been in the hospital for an operation, and I spent five weeks there. Had some of our own nurses from Montreal, and it certainly was nice talking to them, because they hadn't been here very long. They did everything to make us comfortable.

Well I haven't run into any of the boys from Stouffville yet but I certainly would like to. I get The Tribune and see their letters in it, and I read them over, to see who all are over here. My sincere thanks for the gifts and all those who contribute to the fund, to help we boys get our smokes, as it gets no better over here. This is the first I have received since your last parcel arrived.

Well it certainly will be nice to get back home again, but we have a job to do before we can expect to

leave, and we will try once we get in action to start where you boys left off, and finish it up right this time, then when we get home we won't have to be troubled with them again.

Getting near "lights out" so I must close. Best of luck.

H. S. Cook.

March 19, 1942

Dear Sirs,
Received the grand packet of cigarettes this week. Thanks very much. They are still the most welcome thing that can be sent to us.

Sgt. Pilot Thomas has recently been posted to this station. He is the only one of the boys from home that I have met over here. Thanks again.

Cpl. Murray Sinclair

Dear Comrades,
Just a few lines to send my sincere thanks for the 300 fags which I received the other day. Weather is beginning to get spring-like over here. The flowers are blooming. We have had a lot of rain this last week. Lots of talk of invasion here again. I ran across Gordon Lehman the other day. Happened to be out where he is stationed, but he was just going in parade so I wasn't able to talk to him for many minutes. Thanking you again, I remain,

Yours truly,

Spr. A. Maskell

March 20, 1942

Hello Bert,
I received your very welcome smokes, this week. Don't know how to thank you. We are working pretty hard these days, but the more we work the faster the time goes so it's not so bad. It's just one year and one month since I walked through the old town, but I hope it's not too many years before I am back again to see all my friends.

Bruce Lintner.

March 19, 1942

Stouffville Comfort Fund
Dear Bert,
I received cigarettes yesterday. Thank you very much. Thanks does not seem very much to say for such an acceptable gift, but I want you and all the other people to know I really appreciate them very much. It is beginning to look like spring here now. The crocuses are all out, and the grass is green. It is still quiet here, but I think "Hell" is going to pop before long. So long for now,

Pte. Dave Edwards.

March 19, 1942

Dear Sir,
Just a few lines to thank you for the cigarettes you sent to me. Have been busy or would have written before this. We have been made a new Company now as you see by my address, and it meant a lot of work for us, quite a few parades too. We have a new Major and he likes to have a

parade every week, to see how we look.

Well I have had a baby girl born since I wrote you last and both are doing fine. She will be one month old tomorrow. We are having very rainy weather over here just now. Comes down nearly every day. Received The Tribune the other day and it was nice to read the news from home. See you have had a robbery or two there. Must close for now.

Pte Oliver Larkin.

March 1942

Dear Comfort Fund,
Cigarettes gratefully received. We have enjoyed a few spring days, but it is quite cold and misty today. Have been promoted to a Corporal since the new year. Here's hoping that all is well back in Canada. Thanks again,

Fred G. Madill.

Dear Sirs,
Thanks a million for the supply of smokes which I received recently. I can not express in words my appreciation for your kindness in helping we fellows the way you are. Thanks again.

Pte. Bert Clarkson.

March 18, 1942

Dear Friends,
It is with great pleasure I drop you these few lines of appreciation for the smokes. They are a godsend to we lads over here. Things are very quiet here, but for how long, we do not know.

Sgt. Morley Pugh.

March 16, 1942.

Dear Bert,
Just a few lines to thank you for the smokes which I am receiving regularly. It is sure nice to be remembered by the boys that were over here last time, and your kindness is more than appreciated.

Our unit is very busy on transport work just now, and we are on the road every day.

It is very quiet over here now, and an air-raid is something unusual. We are having real spring weather, and so it has warmed up considerably. I must sign off now. Cheerio.

Pte. G. B. Draper.

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