

The Stouffville Tribune

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Notes and Comments

The Village Smithy

Newmarket and Orillia are both "down on the heel," so to speak as each place is using up its last remaining blacksmith, so the local editors are doing some speculating. Orillia's only blacksmith has just died, and town horses will have to be taken to the few remaining blacksmiths located in the suburbs if they are to be shod every six weeks as town horses should be.

At Newmarket, The editor of the Era tells of a business man driving 28 miles (there and back), to Vandorf to get his horse shod. The smithy knows the size of shoe, otherwise he might have to make more than one trip to get a new pair of shoes for his steed.

Stouffville appears to be more fortunate than either of these larger towns, since we are favored with a good blacksmith on the job all the time. During his spare hours the local smithy is tooted here and there in a car fitting shoes for horse owners as far away as Yonge St.

Twenty years ago the village had four blacksmiths, and other shops operated in the rural district nearby, so that the day of the village smithy seems to be fast passing. What a pity, and what will happen when the present generation of horse shoers is gone? There are no apprentices to the trade whatever?

Planning Department Created

A new department of the Provincial government has been authorized by the Legislature, to be known as the Department of Planning and Development. The minister, who has not yet been appointed, will have the duty of collaborating with other ministers of Ontario and with those of the Dominion, and other provincial governments, with municipal councils, with agricultural, industrial, labour, mining, trade and other associations. The purpose will be to formulate plans for creating, assisting, developing and maintaining productive employment and to develop the human and material resources of the province.

This move, it is hoped, will go a long way in assisting municipalities and other organizations in formulating and carrying out systematized and correlated plans for post-war improvements.

"Cockeyed," Not "Birdseyed" View

That was an entertaining address heard by the members of the Milk Producers Association at Buttonville on Thursday evening, delivered by Mr. F. G. Gardiner, K.C. of Forest Hill village, one of the most influential members of York County Council. His review of the municipalities in the county with those casual observations told in a jocular manner conveyed some useful information, as well as some statements the speaker no doubt intended his audience to forget.

Mr. Gardiner's remark about Stouffville being "the home of one of those newspapers that has a great deal to say about other peoples' business," didn't even draw a laugh, although its editor was one of the invited guests in the gathering. Immediately after making this wisecrack, Mr. Gardiner said, "I have given you a birdseyed view of the county." Quite so, but so far as his remark about this newspaper is concerned, it was, "cockeyed."

The genial lawyer from Forest Hill, of course, went out of his way to crack The Tribune, because we vigorously opposed what looked like an attempt to throttle the slot machine racket investigation when it bid fair to involve some of the county police personnel. Mr. Gardiner is chairman of the police commission, and his protest about the legality or scope of the enquiry was viewed as an effort to shield the men serving under his commission. However, the legislature has since outlawed slot machines, no doubt as a result of the enquiry.

We make this brief explanation because so many people came to us at the conclusion of the meeting asking why Mr. Gardiner didn't like The Tribune.

Low Assessment Means Loss of Subsidy

Stouffville, and all other municipalities that are assessing at only 50 percent of actual value, are losing out on the government subsidy paid to municipalities, according to a recent suggestion by the Municipal World, in the following editorial:

"Municipalities which make a practice of assessing at less than actual value as required by the Assessment Act are receiving a smaller share of the provincial subsidy each year than they are otherwise entitled to receive.

For example, suppose the present total assessment for a municipality is \$100,000. If this municipality is only assessing 50% of actual value, and some assess at a lower percentage than this, then it is only receiving one half of the amount which it is entitled to receive from the province, and since this year the subsidy is two mills instead of one mill, it is just that much more important. On an assessment of \$200,000 the two mills are worth \$400 in subsidy, and if the assessment is only half what it should be, or \$100,000, then that municipality will receive as subsidy only \$200, which is \$200 less than it is entitled to.

If this practice is general throughout a county whose total assessment is say \$50,000,000—instead of \$100,000,000 as it should be if the assessment was made at 100%—the loss of subsidy within that county would total \$100,000 per annum at the present two mill rate."

The subsidy due Stouffville last year was over \$600, and this year it will be two mills or \$1200. If the village was assessed at 100 percent instead of 50 percent then we would be entitled to \$2500.

Old Age Pensions for All

Don't get excited over the title. We haven't arrived at that Utopia yet but, there are all kinds of suggestions and resolutions going the rounds of the country. Among them are increasing the amount of the pension, lowering the age from 70 years to 60 for eligibility and some even advocating pensions for all.

These are reasonable suggestions we suppose. We are not a financier, haven't had anything to do with fantastic sums of money in pocket or in mind, but we can't figure where the money would come from if every one 60 or over 70 were on a pension. Remember about the \$25 per month the Albertans were to get from the Aberhart government and it's still a dream.

However, a pension for all would be the fairest system. Any law is taken advantage of by some. Then the people who endeavour to save to provide for their old age would be rewarded for their thrift by having the pension added to these savings. The ones who spent as they went along would not have as much for their later years and justly so.

We know that in many, many cases failure to make provisions for the future has not been possible through ill-health and other hardships and for these people the pension is a blessing and it is well that there is such a thing. Few people realize that in order to get a pension of even \$500 a year, the government must have an investment of \$16,000. After all, this is perhaps in the future and not near enough for some of us. If the government can raise such large sums for war, then old age pensions for all may in time be a reality. The very wealthy people, who are strictly in the minority, would have all their taken away in the form of income taxes and the rest of us would feel we were getting something for nothing and keep it in circulation.

Once upon a time, a beaver's pelt was the unit of currency in Canada. An exhibit in the Royal Ontario Museum shows the beaver to be in effect, the builder of a nation.

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Issued..... If the boarder is going to remain permanently in your home she should report her change of address to the Local Ration Board.

W.P.T.B. QUESTIONS

Typical questions consumers have asked the Wartime Prices and Trade Board this week are answered by the Central Ontario Consumer Branch Committee.

Q.—Has the owner any right to bring prospective buyers to see through the house while we still occupy it?

A.—Yes, a tenant is obliged to show the premises at all reasonable times.....if you have a telephone we would suggest that you make appointments to bring prospective buyers to see the house at times convenient to you.....if a tenant refuses to make suitable arrangements the owner can apply to the Rentals Administration for an order to view the premises.

Q.—For the last two years I have sent my coat to the same cleaner in Hamilton to have it cleaned and stored. Last spring when it was delivered the charge was \$1.09. This year they charged me \$1.84. The driver said they were allowed to increase their prices on account of the shortage of help. Is this correct?

A.—This certainly isn't correct.....you shouldn't pay any more to have your coat cleaned and stored than was charged by the same firm during the basic period.....Sept. 15 to Oct. 11, 1941.....the driver's reason for the increase was also wrong.....no increases in price have been allowed in the cleaning industry.....as you gave the name of the firm we have passed your letter along for investigation.

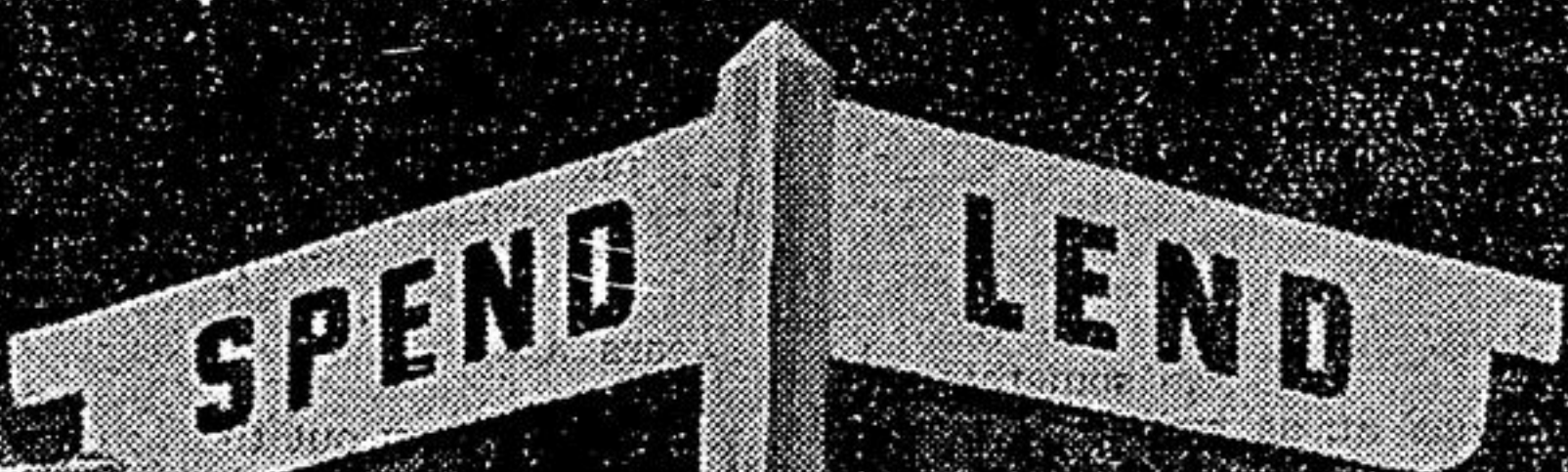
Q.—Is there a ceiling price on Dutch set onions this year? Last year I paid 20c. a pound for these onions for my victory garden and this year have been charged 35c. a pound. I went to two seed stores and they were both charging this price.

A.—Yes, there is a ceiling price on Dutch set onions..... A Board order set the ceiling price at 35c. a pound so your dealer was not overcharging.

Q.—If I have a boarder staying with me indefinitely can I use her ration book in the city? It was issued to this lady in another part of the country.

A.—You certainly may use this ration book in the city..... a ration book can be used any place in Canada for the requirements of the person to whom it was

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