

The Stouffville Tribune

Leading Weekly for Whitchurch, Markham, Pickering and Uxbridge Twps.

Vol. 56, No. 32

THE TRIBUNE, STOUFFVILLE, ONT., DEC. 21, 1944

2,300 copies

EIGHT PAGES

OUR CAPITAL CORRESPONDENT

Written especially for The Stouffville Tribune by Dean Wilson

It is apparent along Parliament Hill that there is no room for any complacency in Canada today and that predictions about the length of the war are not to be taken seriously when these pretend to indicate the probable date of its close, this being general impression gained by this veteran observer's inquiries being the scenes in this nation's capital. This should be kept in mind by those numerous persons who demand relaxation of restrictions at this time. This should be borne in mind by those numerous persons who interpreted certain actions as indicative of an early end, particularly when Canada closed up the Empire Air Training Plan and made certain post-war preparations. In other words, the best informed individuals along Parliament Hill hold that the probable date for the end of this war is known to no human being in this country or as Prime Minister Mackenzie King said in his latest comment on such predictions: "At the present time the fate of nations is being decided on the battlefields of Europe. How soon the decision will come God only knows." This means that, though this war is now in its sixth year and much more costly in lives and loss of properties than the last world war that ended with the armistice was signed in Marshall Foch's railroad car in Compiègne Forest on November 11, 1918 after four years, 14 weeks, two days and six hours of fighting, yet there is nothing which permits anyone to predict the probable date of the end of this present conflict.

With the return of the colourful and outspoken former Premier of Ontario, Hon. Mitchell Hepburn, to the leadership of the Liberal Party of this province and the election of Hon. Camillien Houde as Mayor of the largest city in Canada only three months after he had been released from internment of four years duration, there is a flood of stories circulating in the nation's capital about a political storm being in the making—directly from these sources. The return of Hepburn is considered to be of more than passing interest. Various reasons are heard already on Parliament Hill why he came back into the leadership at this time when there is so much commotion and sniping within the ranks of the Liberal Party on the federal front, particularly since it has aroused speculation in the nation's capital that the return of the colourful Hepburn may not be somehow related to the hint heard lately that some supporters of the King Government in Ottawa would welcome changes in the Federal Cabinet which would add new colourful leaders with no denying that Hepburn has always been a colourful character of great interest. Likewise, whispers are heard along Parliament Hill that Houde's election as Mayor of Canada's metropolis is merely a stepping stone towards Ottawa. He had been elected Mayor of Montreal on four previous occasions and he had been the leader of the Conservative Party in Quebec with his political star being now at a high point since his release from internment so that he can be elected to almost any office in a French-Canadian constituency. One story claims that he will seek "revenge" by running in Quebec against the present Minister of Justice, Hon. Louis St. Laurent, in the next Federal election. Another story states that Houde will again contest St. Henri constituency in Montreal where he had been defeated in a previous election in 1938, though it must be admitted that a Cabinet Minister during that election campaign had done much in bringing about his defeat through a promise on the new Canadian National Railway station being completed in Montreal, observers charging that "it took a new station to beat Houde." All in all, the return to the political arena of Hepburn and Houde in Ontario and Quebec is considered along Parliament Hill as the beginning of a new era in politics since both are colourful and outspoken characters of first rank.

There has been a rumour circulating that cases of whisky imported from overseas into this country are subject not only to strict supervision by the Federal authorities but that this whisky is reduced in alcoholic strength by authorities through the addition of water. This story has been flatly denied in Ottawa where it has been indicated that this whisky from abroad is sent to liquor control boards or commissions of the various Provincial Governments and the only interest in same on the part of the Federal authorities is to see that the proper duties or taxes are paid on the shipments from overseas. There is, in simple words, no truth to the story of water being put into this whisky to reduce its strength and of this being done by the Federal authorities.

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Religious Education, No Duty of the State, Says Stouffville Minister

Protesting against the teaching of the Christian religion in the public schools of Ontario, and against the action of the Board of Education of Stouffville agreeing to place the subject on the curriculum of the local school, Rev. D. Macgregor, pastor of the Stouffville Baptist Church, filed a letter with the Board which was read at their meeting Friday night, in which he sets out his reasons in the following words:

"I wish hereby to register my protest against the placing on the curriculum of the Public School the subject of religion. I do so for a number of reasons, the chief of which are that, first these are Public Schools; and secondly, it is not the duty of the State to teach religion. While I am most sincerely convinced that the Christian religion is the only true religion I am opposed to the teaching of even this religion in our Public Schools. It need hardly be brought to the attention of a group of men such as you that the Public School is just that. It is not a Protestant school, nor yet necessarily a Christian school. It is a Public School for the education of children of all races and creeds. It ought to be kept as such, and therefore no religion should be taught. To do otherwise is to break down the whole system of Public Schools.

As to the other matter—the State and religion. It is the deep conviction of many that the Church and State should be absolutely separate. While we ought to "render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's" and support as far as it is possible the "powers that be," we must protest the encroachments upon the liberties we enjoy. This we do, believing that it is not the right of the State to meddle in the matters of faith and conscience. Our schools are State controlled and the suggested course of religious studies constitutes an endeavour to enter into a realm into which the State has no democratic right to go.

Many are the instances in history, which show the folly of a State controlled religion. This is something to be shunned by all thinking men. As a Jewish Rabbi, speaking recently on this subject said, "The principle of separation of the Church and State which is one of the bulwarks of our democracy, should at all times be strictly adhered to."

I have not dealt with other matters which naturally arise out of this subject. There is the question of the fitness of some teachers to teach this subject properly. There is also the question of the acceptability of the published books as text books for a proper presentation of this great subject. Perhaps you are all aware that there has been much criticism of these books from many sources.

These, however, are matters outside of my present argument, for no matter how well fitted a teacher may be, nor yet how acceptable the text books, there remains my original contention, the Public School is a Public School, and further the State ought not to teach religion. Knowing that the final decision on this matter rests with you gentlemen as the members of our elected School Board I appeal to you in the interest of all concerned that the subject of religion be removed from among the subjects taught in the Stouffville Schools."

87 NEXT SATURDAY
Mrs. Joe McMullen will be 87 years of age on Sunday, Dec. 24th, and still enjoys life in her own quiet way. Mrs. McMullen lives in her own home and does much of her housework. Few people, if any, can look back on the history of Stouffville with more personal contact than Mrs. McMullen, who has been a resident of the east end since the days before the railway passed through our town.

A LONG WEEKEND
The coming weekend will be a long holiday for those who have been putting in long extra hours during the Christmas season. At the close of business in town, for instance, stores will not reopen until Wednesday morning, thus observing Boxing Day, the day after Christmas as a public holiday. Unfortunately, the newspaper cannot take such a long holiday, and will reopen Tuesday morning. The paper will be issued on Thursday instead of Wednesday next week.

Local Broadcast Well Received by Radio Audience

Ontario Panorama radio program broadcast from the Stanley Theatre, Stouffville, last Friday night, must have been listened to by thousands of people in Canada and the United States, and thereby our town received some appreciated advertising. Alan Savage, master of ceremonies, and his globe trotting partner Gordon Sinclair were both present in person, and of course made a lot of new friends. Those who were heard on the air during the broadcast were Mrs. Harold Spofford, Miss Mary Borisk, and Messrs. Don Chadwick, George Asten, Fred Timbers, James Brodie, and A. V. Nolan, each telling something of his or her particular line of business or profession.

The sponsors of the program the Willard Chocolate Co., have the thanks of the people of Stouffville for bringing their broadcast to our town, which was sponsored locally by the Lions Club. Mr. and Mrs. Schmidt of the Stanley Theatre generously donated half the evening receipts from admissions to the Club, while the Willard Co. presented the editor of The Tribune with a \$50 cheque asking him to designate it to some charity. It

Big Snow Storm Will Cost Local Taxpayers a Half Mill

The retiring reeve A. E. Weidon and the outgoing councillor Walter Brillinger may be said to be riding out of office on the wings of the big snow storm, since these two men took on the job of directing the removal of hundreds of tons of snow from off the main thoroughfare in the business area and they really did a striking job.

Fifteen men, eight teams and two trucks, presented an imposing sight as they attacked the huge piles of snow and melted them away with greater effect than a spring rain. Business men, especially were delighted to be rid of the big obstacle to business, and farmers coming to town were pleased. Nothing was left to be desired, and when a start was made to clear away ten foot deep piles of snow in front of garages outside the congested business areas, there was some slight protest that too much was being done at the expense of the general taxpayer.

However, the pair have the thanks of many for getting on with the job and leaving the street ready for the Christmas market on Tuesday. We hear that good wages were paid, \$2 an hour for trucks, \$1.00 an hour for teams, and 50c. an hour for shovelers.

The total cost will have a sobering effect on what the new council can pay if they are called upon again this winter to face a similar situation, for it is said the work will run between \$300 and \$400, or better than half a mill on the tax rate. Fortunately there is a good surplus to meet the present payment.

Three O.H.A. Teams
The O.H.A. has just announced the local hockey group to be made up of Markham, Richmond Hill and Port Credit. Due to the small group, it is likely that a triple schedule will be set up.

BIG VEGETABLE SHIPMENT
Every day of the week just now R. E. Brown & Son are shipping a car load of vegetables from Stouffville which are mostly for Ontario consumption, and for a dehydration plant. The Browns are buying far south of Markham village, north to Uxbridge, and when the big storm raged last week, the shippers were able to make up their car each day from farm supplies on highways not blocked.

Ringwood Auction Sells Tractor \$1120

Auction sales have not been so closely spaced the past few weeks as they were during the month of October when an auction was held every day excepting Sundays during the month. The first auction in the immediate district this month was the George Myland sale at Ringwood on Saturday which realized between \$4,500 and \$5,000, or a thousand dollars more than the owner estimated it would total. The best cow of the sale sold for \$161, and the tractor on rubber went for \$1120. The crowd was large considering the state of the roads and the farm lanes, many of the latter being still impassable after the big storm.

Mr. and Mrs. Myland are giving up the Bruels farm and will move to Toronto. Mr. Myland is a veteran of the last war, and has a disability that makes hard work doubly hard for him. During their sojourn in this district they have made many valuable friends who will be sorry to see them leave the local district.

was divided between the Red Cross and the War Branch.

This, of course, is the first time in the history of the town, that a broadcast of this nature was ever attempted here. It entailed endless detail and arrangement. The speakers voice is gathered up in the transmitter on the stage, relayed to the central office of the Telephone Co., and from here to the broadcasting station of CFRB in Toronto, which meant the tie-up of a long distance line during the half hour program.

Friends tell us that the reception was perfect in town and country and that every voice was so distinct it was even better than being in personal contact.

71-Year-Old Farmer Passes in Sleep

About his farm home east of Stouffville all day Friday apparently in his normal condition of health, William F. St. John, that same evening was seized with a weak spell and had to be aided to bed. During the night or early Saturday morning he passed away in a deep sleep without giving the slightest sign that death was upon him. He was 71 years old.

During Friday evening when he became quite ill probably from a heart condition, his wife aided him upstairs. However after being in bed some time and quite ill, he recovered and then fell into a deep sleep, and appeared to be resting well, but he never came out of that sleep. His sudden ending recalls the fact that his father, the late Christopher St. John, died very suddenly, too, while aiding with the killing of some pigs.

William F. St. John was born in the Township of Brock near Victoria Corners. There were two sons, the other brother Wesley living at Aurora. When a lad of about 15 years William came with his parents to the present locality where he spent the remainder of his days. The parents retired from the farm east of town and purchased the stately home of John Bray immediately east of the Christian Church, where they spent the remainder of their lives. The property is now the Harry Paisley place.

William united in marriage with Annie Ferrier of Green River who survives him, together with an only son Howard on the home farm, and an only daughter (Velma), Mrs. Robert Rawson, Markham village. Mr. St. John was a man of very quiet temperament, and was highly regarded in the community. The funeral took place on Monday afternoon from the late home, for burial at Stouffville cemetery. The service was in charge of Rev. D. Davis.

Miss Effie Pugh of Edmonton, Alta., has been spending a week in town visiting Miss B. Clark, also her brother Mr. Fred Pugh at Claremont and other friends.

Poultry Ceiling Prices Work Against Retailers at Market, Horse Show the Feature

The Stouffville Christmas market fair attracted a steady crowd in town all day Tuesday instead of just a morning crowd as used to be the case when only a poultry show was on. The horse exhibition after dinner brought in a new lot of people to those who were seen here in the morning. At no time, however, was the attendance as great as we have seen it some years.

Ceiling prices worked against the retail merchant. Farmers were anxious to sell privately to obtain the retail ceiling, which if paid by the store keeper, left him no profit on the transaction.

Prices for poultry were firm all day, geese running 34c, turkeys 47c, ducks 34c, and chickens for good quality birds 30c a pound. The amount of poultry has often been exceeded on Christmas market, yet it was difficult to estimate the tonnage brought in since so much of it was sold on the street and carried off by private parties.

The smaller crowd might be explained by the fact that markets were on the same day at Port Perry, Uxbridge, Pefferlaw and Newmarket.

A farmer from the north brought in a turkey on Tuesday tipping the scales at 30 pounds. That one would take an oven larger than most housewives could boast of having in their kitchen.

The Horse Show of course was the main attraction since there was no competition in the poultry class this year. Some really excellent horses were in the ring, and fairly puzzled the judges who were Messrs. Walter Scott of Sutton, and W. Hewson of Malton. The show was held in the centre block on Main street which was cleared of cars for the occasion, and which was a very satisfactory place for holding such a winter event. The prize winners were:

- Heavy draught team—Heber Down, Brooklin Leachcroft Farms, Gormley
- Light draught teams—Neil Shantz, Platsville Vincent Baker, Stouffville T.H. Paisley, Stouffville Bruce Beach, Siloam
- Percherons or Belgium—Lloyd Turner, Stouffville Jack Woods, Aurora Leachcroft Farms, Gormley Bruce Beach, Siloam
- Amateur Class—Vincent Baker, Harry Paisley, Bruce Beach, William Morris
- 4-Horse Team—Heber Down, Brooklin Leachcroft Farms, Gormley
- Best Mare or Gelding in show—Heber Down, Neil Shantz, H. Down, Neil Shantz.

SKATING AND CURLING

Both the skating and curling rinks opened for the winter season on Wednesday evening of this week. The open time is well up to other years and a little earlier than some occasions for both skating and curling.

Farmer Found in Unconscious Condition

Working among the swine on his farm a few days ago, William Patten, fell unconscious in the pen where he was found by members of the family. He suffered a heart attack, but is now reported to be recovering.

The Patten farm is on the Vandorf sideroad near the 6th concession of Whitchurch, Mr. Patten was fortunate to be rescued before any harm came to him from the animals.

Twp. Nominations on Friday

In the surrounding townships nomination day will be observed this Friday afternoon to choose candidates for the offices of reeve and councillors. In Stouffville the early nomination is in force and the matter was settled some weeks ago.

However, in Markham, Whitchurch, Uxbridge and Pickering townships this coming Friday is nomination day, when the retiring councils will have a chance to give an account of their deeds and the ratepayers will likewise have a chance to nominate the old councillors or new ones for office in 1945.

In cases where elections are de-

Lived 83 Years on 6th of Whitchurch

One of Whitchurch township's oldest residents, Mary Ann Murphy passed peacefully away at the historic old farm home on the 6th concession on Sunday morning. She would have reached her 88th birthday this January, but despite her great age Miss Murphy was very active. She took seriously ill three weeks ago, and the end came as a relief. Born on the very farm where she died, her long sojourn constitutes quite a record on one place.

Miss Murphy was a devoted Roman Catholic and survived by her sister, Mrs. Canning. Her death is the second in the family within a few months, since on Oct. 12th, a brother, Pat Murphy died.

The funeral from the old home, once the site of the Indian village and fort, proceeded to St. John's R.C. church, Newmarket, for morning mass on Tuesday, and burial was made in St. John's cemetery there.

A nephew of the deceased Rev. Jas. D. Murphy was the officiating priest, while Rev. D. J. Canning was the deacon and Rev. W. F. Muckle sub-deacon. On the sanctuary was Father Boland, Father McGinn, and Father Duffy. Pall bearers were all nephews, being H. Coleman, Hugh, Joe, Arnold, Ambrose and Trainor Canning.

OVERSEAS



Pte. J. A. Johnston
A recent cable has been received by his wife (formerly Doris Foote) announcing safe arrival in Great Britain. Bert is a son of Mr. and Mrs. R. M. Johnston of the C.N.R. Stouffville. Mrs. Johnston and daughter Carol Anne are making their home for the duration, with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Foote, 9th concession. Pte. Johnston enlisted in May of this year with a Canadian Infantry Unit, and trained at Simcoe and Camp Ipperwash.

Visitors from Saskatchewan
Mr. and Mrs. George Hughes of Watson, Sask., arrived in town this week and are staying at the home of Mr. Nathan Forsyth. This is their first visit to the old home town in eight years.