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**Notes and Comments**

**The Farmer and Income Tax**

The number of Canadian farmers who now make income tax returns have increased sharply of recent time. It is stated that 25,000 are now paying the tax as against only 3,500 a few years ago.

If a farmer does not voluntarily come forward with the tax demanded by the government, it is very hard to prove against him, since his booking is difficult to follow. Perhaps there should be some improvements to the Act that would encourage co-operation on the part of the farmers in paying the tax. For instance, his wife works just as hard as the farmer, but no consideration is given for her labor. If a married laborer in the city or town is working and pays a tax over his earnings of \$1200, his wife may still go out and earn up to \$660 additional before she is taxed.

The farmer's wife, or the wife of any person employed legally by the husband cannot claim any exemption for the service put into their business by the wife. This seems unfair, and is a ground for widespread complaint.

**Ratepayers have Confidence in Board of Education**

The Stouffville Board of Education certainly have the green light from the ratepayers to get on with the job of bringing our "big knowledge works" up to a fair comparison with that of surrounding towns. There are two reasons why the people support this view. One is that everybody enjoys the best of conveniences and wants their children to have these advantages, while secondly the ratepayers may well be mindful of the fact that if Stouffville does not keep her schooling facilities up-to-date then the school will not be patronized by outsiders who help pay the costs in the ratio to which they patronize the school.

At the annual Commencement on Thursday night the reeve declared Stouffville had one of the best Boards to operate here in his time, and with such an efficient body, we may hope that they will continue to press forward in solving our heating problem at the school as well as the demand for an auditorium so badly needed. The lack of an auditorium was keenly felt when the Commencement exercises were so well carried out, yet marred because of lack of stage facilities and other conveniences which the school lacks.

The Board of Education's problem is certainly not being hampered by an unwilling set of ratepayers, who seem to have given the green light to the members to go forward using their best judgment.

**Teachers' Salaries are Inequitable**

Toronto school teachers are the best paid in Canada, according to an advertisement inserted in the Toronto dailies protesting the higher salaries for Toronto teachers. The advertisement, at the same time asks why the teaching profession in Toronto is ready to shoot holes in the price ceiling, or words to that effect, when all other peoples are exhorted to respect the ceiling as a sense of loyalty, and for other reasons that might be mentioned.

That is Toronto's quarrel, but we do believe that because of the higher salaries the teachers in Toronto are able to command, the Board of Education there is able to sweep over the province skimming off the cream of the profession for Toronto schools. The city can readily do this because of the many taxpayers there who share the costs, thus their school rates in Toronto are not as high as in many a smaller centre. All this emphasizes the unfairness of the situation, and we are glad that Premier Drew is

trying with his 50 per cent payment to schools, to see to it that the smaller places receive a larger share of the government money.

Toronto teachers are not worth any more than teachers in Stouffville, or any other smaller centre, excepting of course, the difference in living costs. So far as public school teachers go, the instructor out on a concession line who works under unfavorable conditions, earns her money in a harder way than the city teacher who is given everything to work with under more congenial working conditions.

We believe the government will have to take a greater hand in the over-all direction of salaries, in order to bring them to a more equitable basis. Toronto teachers will, and should, receive more pay than a teacher in an outlying town, because living conditions are more expensive, yet beyond that, and possibly meritorious considerations to some extent, salaries should be nearer a level over the province.

**Plan for World Peace**

Is the world to have a war every twenty-five years? If so, it appears that the increasing proficiency of arms and explosives, one more war would possibly put a finish to the existence of the human race. At any rate, civilized nations are going to have a big job on their hands, either to prepare for another war, or else to prevent such a catastrophe. In this present war Canada and this continent have been far away from the scene of battle. At the start of the next war, if there is one, armed forces will have the facilities to attack our shores at once from a centre thousand of miles away.

Therefore it is easy to realize the importance of a sound peace plan based on facts as they are, and aimed at the realization of our ideals for a peaceful world.

In the opinion of highly-qualified observers, both of these requirements have been met in the proposals that were drafted by representatives of Great Britain, United States, Russia and China who met at Dumbarton Oaks.

Every effort is now being made to submit them to the thoughts and suggestions of the public. Churches and public bodies have issued pamphlets to encourage the study of the plan.

In the current issue of the Reader's Digest there is an article by Edward R. Stettinius Jr., Secretary of State for U.S. on "What the Dumbarton Oaks Plan Means," which we would advise our readers to study. It is largely on the above article that our present remarks are based.

The plan proposed at Dumbarton Oaks has four corners.

First is a banding together of the peace-loving nations of the world to maintain peace, recognizing the equality of all, and at the same time their inequality of power to prevent war. All members shall be represented on an equal footing in a General Assembly. Also there will be a Security Council of eleven members, in which the five most powerful nations will be permanent members, the other six members to be elected for two years by a two-thirds majority of the General Assembly. The primary responsibility for the prevention and suppression of war rests with the small body, the Security Council. The primary responsibility for creation of the international, political and social conditions favorable to peace, rests with the Assembly.

The supreme duty of the Security Council is to "take any measures necessary for the maintenance of international peace and security." This constitutes the second corner of the plan.

All members states undertake to settle their disputes peacefully, by means of their own choice. If such fail, then the nations are obligated to come to the Security Council. The General Assembly is empowered to consider such questions and to make recommendations, providing that the Security Council is not already dealing with them.

An international Court of Justice is also provided for. It is only after means for the peaceful prevention of war have been exhausted that the Security Council will then turn to forceful means for the prevention or suppression of war. If further means are not enough, the Security Council is empowered to take military action. Thus the Security Council is given powers which the League of Nations did not possess.

**NEWS FROM QUEEN'S PARK**

The legislature is rather slowly getting down to business. Only a handful of Government Bills have been presented, and only two days so far have been given to debate on the Speech from the Throne. Meeting at three in the afternoon, we have not once sat till our regular hour of six o'clock. Since the Government has not much legislation ready, the Opposition will bring some of its own in during the next day or two.

Though short, our sessions have had a lot more fireworks than last year. Ted Jolliffe started one heated debate on the coal shortage. He pointed out that the Conservatives in 1943 had promised, as one of their 22 points, that adequate supplies of fuel would be assured by effective organization and control. This had not been done. He suggested that the government might have freed provincial trucks and men to haul coal, that deliveries to non-essential users might have been restricted till homes and essential plants had been supplied, and that the fuel committee of the legislature might have been asked to investigate the shortage.

Premier Drew replied that fuel was controlled by the Dominion government as long as the war lasted, and the province had no authority to act.

Howard Brown (CCF, Welland) and Grievie Robinson (CCF, Waterloo South) both pointed out that the same condition had existed when Mr. Drew made his promise in 1943. Mitch Hepburn repeated the same point.

There has also been vigorous

discussion on the Government's policy toward family allowances. Mr. Drew has been asked two or three times whether he still stands by his challenge of last August that the provincial government would do everything within its power to keep family allowances from coming into force. He has promised to answer that question when he takes part in the Throne Speech debate, some time next week.

Opposition Leader Ted Jolliffe opened this debate for the Opposition on Thursday. Pointing out the tremendous advances made by all the United Nations' armies in the past year, till victory is now near, he urged that after victory the hopes of the common people must be recognized better than they were after last war. The Ontario government will have a great responsibility toward the people of the province, and they want to know what its policies will be.

The CCF leader criticized the Government for claiming that it has carried out all the promises made in the 22 points. It may claim to have done something on each point, he said, some trivial things and some important things. But that is not enough. The undertakings given must be carried out as they were made.

The people of Ontario in 1943 believed they were electing a legislature that would take definite, far-reaching action on post-war problems. They must not be disappointed, he said.

The government had promised to co-operate with the Dominion in establishing a sound basis for social security and in other meas-

ures. Certainly there had been no co-operation on family allowances, Mr. Jolliffe said. "It had promised to encourage 'private initiative,' but it had produced no plans to keep full employment after the war. It had promised an agricultural commission of enquiry, and had appointed the commission, but had done nothing to carry out its recommendations. It had promised the fairest and most advanced labour laws. Where were they? It had promised to appoint a man with practical mining experience as minister of mines, and had not done so. It had promised a forest resources commission, and had been authorized by the legislature to appoint one a year ago, but had not done so."

Mr. Jolliffe adjourned the debate on Thursday, and will continue his speech next Monday.

The most important Government Bill brought in this week has been the Election Act, 1945. This is separate from the Active Service Act, and provides some changes in the regulations for ordinary voting. Some of the important changes include provision for payment of official scrutineers, the right granted to the Opposition to appoint some of the enumerators, and provision for the province to pay the cost of publishing all official notices, such as the advertisement of each candidate's election expenses.

The Opposition would like to see the voting age lowered to 18, the same as the age for military service, and may also press for legislation to give every provincial elector the right to vote at municipal elections, without any property qualifications.

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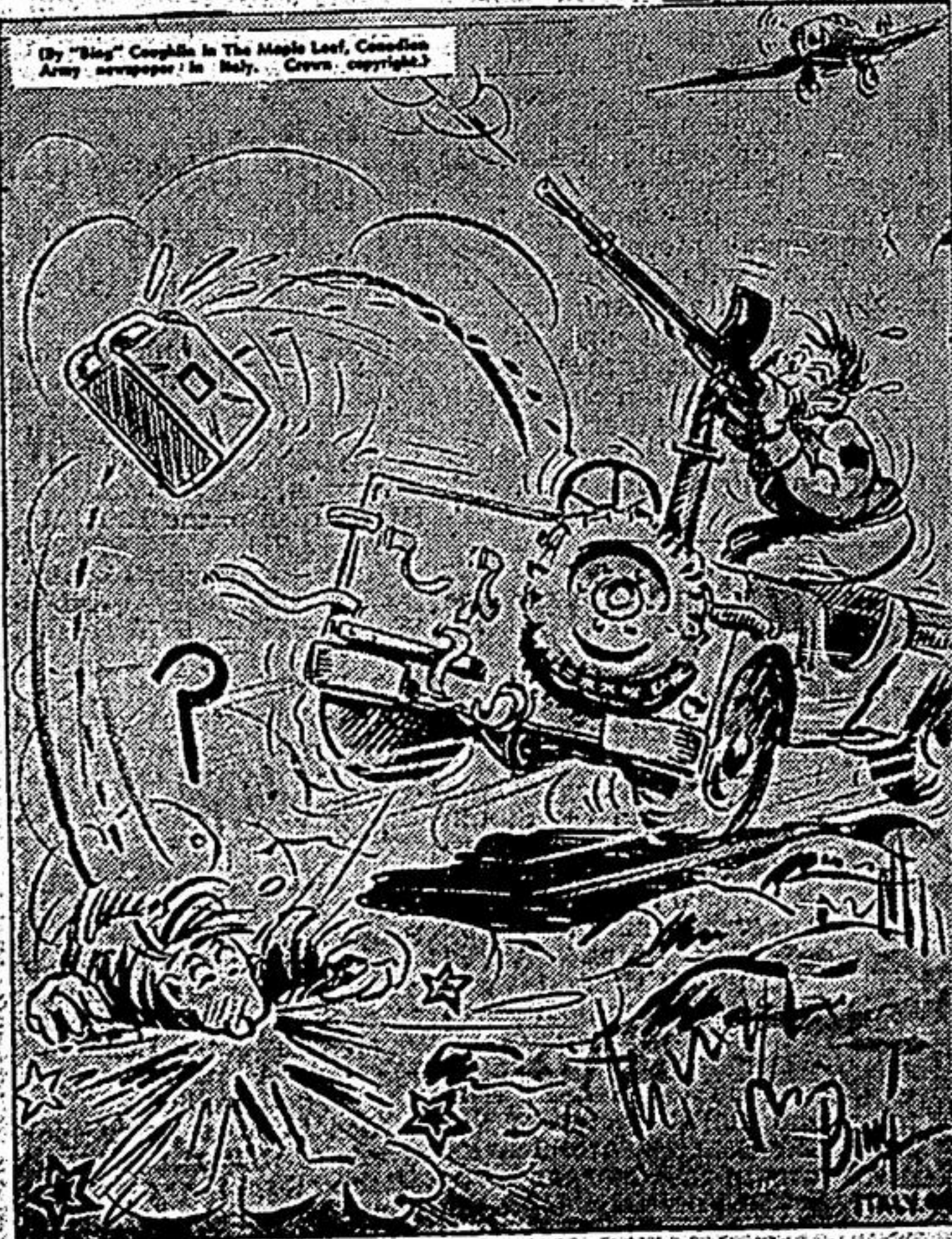
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