

The Stouffville Tribune

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Notes and Comments

Public Utility Commission

This paper has over the years consistently advocated the need for a Public Utility Commission to handle the hydro and water business in Stouffville. The advantage of such a commission (two or three men) is that over a period of years they become more and more conversant with the work they are delegated to supervise and plan, whereas councils are constantly changing and men are lost just when they become of most value and understand the work of these great utilities. Further, such men are chosen because of their ability for the work, and this cannot be said of councillors.

There are two kinds of Commissions, one elected by the people, and one that can be set up by the council. The latter is subject to dismissal by the council, but a Commission elected by the people can only be turned out of office by election. They are elected for a two year term, one retiring each year so that there can never be a totally new Commission.

Stouffville water works is in need of a great deal of attention. We are using every ounce of water from the natural flowing wells, and if there comes any kind of dry season, pumping would have to be resorted to. The pumping system is not entirely completed although it is available for use and has been used.

This matter, and others connected with these public undertakings of the Village of Stouffville, would best be handled by a Commission, the members of which would be paid a small compensation for their services. Few towns operate these public commissions through their councils, almost all of them having set up a Commission to do the overseeing.

We are not sure about the feeling of the Stouffville Council on this matter, but we hope it will be discussed and an expression of opinion stated by the members.

One of the greatest tasks confronting the nation at this time is the maintenance of national health. One of the most serious of diseases, and at the same time one of the most readily curable when found in its early stage, is tuberculosis.

It is to the credit of the Lions Club and Assistants and those who buy Christmas seals from National Sanitarium Association that every resident of this district, whether man, woman or child, may take precautionary steps against this insidious disease by having a free chest examination on July 23-4.

Until apparatus using miniature film was developed, mass surveys were impractical and costly. Chest clinics had to be confined to known and suspected cases. As a result not more than one in five persons suffering from the disease was discovered until it had progressed to serious stages. Now this dangerous situation can be remedied. Found in its early stage, and properly treated at once, tuberculosis can be cured and the possibility of passing it to others overcome.

More persons in Ontario over five years of age die from tuberculosis than from all other infectious diseases combined. This is largely because an affected person may go on for some time not at all aware that he has the disease.

Any one of us can be attacked by this disease and at any time. The old belief that those over 30 are no longer susceptible is entirely without foundation. Helping in the task of destroying this enemy of man is a duty that belongs to us all. The surest way of doing so is by having an x-ray.

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At the annual convention of the Ontario-Quebec division of the Canadian Weekly Newspapers Association held in Ottawa recently. The Stouffville Tribune was for the fourth time, awarded the Jos. E. Clark Memorial Trophy for the best allround weekly in towns of 1500 and under. Here is pictured Chas.

H. Nolan, associate editor of The Tribune holding the Clark Trophy, along with Mrs. Geo. James, wife of the editor of the Canadian Statesman, Bowmanville, who accepted the Stephenson Trophy for papers in towns of 4500 and under, on behalf of that paper. Mr. Sam Wilson, in charge of competitions is the man on the right.

OUR CAPITAL CORRESPONDENT

Written exclusively for The Stouffville Tribune by M.L. Schwartz

The legislators are still faced with a heavy program but they are taking steps to see that it will not force them to engage in a mad rush at the end of the session, expediting procedures through longer sittings of the House. "Every honorable member I know is anxious that the business should be expedited and equally that nothing be left undone that should be done," said Premier Mackenzie King in discussing suggestions for avoiding a longer session than it may be necessary by expediting the work.

A proposal had been made for a conference of representatives of the Commonwealth at Canberra in July but it has not been possible either for the government of the United Kingdom or Canada to be represented at that time. Consequently, it has been disclosed in Ottawa that consideration is now being given to the holding of such a conference toward the end of August. "If that is arranged I have no doubt that Canada will be represented at the conference," said a

EDITOR'S MAIL

Dear Sir,
 I have walked over Markham Township many times and for many years, mostly selling little household wares to the farmers and others. But lately I have not been spry. I am 68. A year ago I lost my home and for some time I have sheltered in a congested Toronto lodging house. I have had sick spells on and off for some time, and two months ago I became alarmed at an accelerated deterioration of some inner parts, and finding it difficult to get medical aid, I determined to get in the clear air and serenity of the country side.

Hence two days ago I packed a box of food and utensils and set forth. My first night's shelter was a good one. A devout Mennonite woman insisted that I occupy her guest bedroom. The second night I slept in a church, the third night in an old railway shack containing stove and fuel. But the fourth was an unfortunate one. I spent it in an old empty house from which all doors and windows had been smashed. A cold night wind arose and I was unable to get out of the draft. In the morning I could barely rise. Every bone and muscle ached, and I was weak and dizzy. I realized that my old enemy la grippe was upon me. By evening I managed to get back to the railroad shack and had a better night. But next morning I was deathly sick, and as it was an ideal isolated spot to either die or recover in, I got over the fence and laid in the sun and shade in the field. For five days and nights I lay there, eating nothing and then sparingly, and on the fifth day I felt better. On the fourth night someone shouted outside the shack and opening the door I saw a young farmer with a rifle. "It's a lucky thing for you," said he "that I didn't take a pot shot at the shack and shoot." I felt nettled and told him plainly what I thought of indiscriminate rifle shooting in a settled community. In defiance he went a few yards away and discharged the rifle six times in quick succession.

Guns and explosives have been a curse to the earth. Already a great part of the old world lies blasted into ruins and torment. And today scientists are prostituting their brains and efforts on atomic bombs, which by now they must have brought to terrifying power. Any time the atomic war may be upon us. Then but in more devastating form will the cities and towns of the new world meet the same fate as those of the old. And if the farmer of the country side thinks he is safe from this, he may be mistaken. I can envision great hordes of fear-maddened starving city and suburban survivors raging over the country side seizing food and other necessities. This young farmer may then find more use for his rifle than blasting it off six times just to grate the nerves of a sickly elderly man.

Frank Jennings

spokesman for the Government here.

"On the question of advertising, the British will not permit us to advertise at all," said Agriculture Minister James Gardiner in discussing in Parliament publicity in the Old Country for Canadian dairy products. "We had a large advertising program on in the last few years before the war. We started it in 1936 and built it up to 1939 but we are not permitted to advertise there at present. The only means of getting advertising there is through news items."

External Affairs Minister St. Laurent has made it clear that the application for a passport by a Canadian contains statements of a personal nature which are made by the applicant to the Department in order to get a passport and these statements are made in confidence as well as being privileged, though this information might be revealed if there was an overriding public interest or by consent of the party. "The issuance of passports is an exercise of the royal prerogative," Mr. St. Laurent said. "The royal prerogative is exercised through the Secretary of State for External Affairs who decides whether information contained in applications for passports shall be made public." He emphasized that passports have always been considered to be confidential documents.

"To-day, we are the fourth maritime nation in the world, and when the boats now on British register are returned, we shall probably be the third maritime nation in the world," said Reconstruction Minister Howe in the House of Commons, emphasizing that Canada should remain a shipping and ship-building nation.

It has been made clear in Ottawa that, if a United States member of the armed forces is involved in an automobile accident doing damage to a Canadian citizen's car and person, he will be civilly and criminally liable under our laws before the Canadian courts, with the same penalty if he commits any violation of our highway laws. This clears up an important point which has been asked since the question was raised due to the possibility of United States armed forces being present here in future.

"Since our scientists have liberated atomic energy and multiplied the destructive force of human armament, it is not the pre dominance of one country or another which is at stake in atomic warfare—it is the very existence of human civilization," said External Affairs Minister St. Laurent in a speech at the University of Ottawa.

There is much gossip on Parliament Hill concentrating on how Britain will be able to pay for Canadian exports after the present loan will expire since there is deep anxiety that this loan may dry up by next spring and trade with Bri-

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tain is vital. The relatively few court cases for violations of the Food Adulteration Act in this country is a tribute to the high standards which Canadian food manufacturers have attained. Dr. L. B. Pett reported to a meeting here. And this same meeting was told by another expert, Dr. H. E. Robinson, that the new canned meats for babies in Canada where such products will soon appear will result in healthier, sturdier babies since the new food represents "an opportunity to add the highest quality of proteins, more vitamins and more minerals to the baby's diet."

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