

# The Stouffville Tribune

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## NOTES and COMMENTS

### Ontario Government Pays More, But . . .

Hon. Leslie Frost's statement before an audience in Welland to the effect that Ontario municipalities were gradually being relieved of the cost of social services, will not be too convincing in the light of present taxation. True, the Ontario government sharply increased their contribution towards education, but at the same time they forced high school areas over the province, which brought about increased taxes for the municipalities in no uncertain manner.

The Department of Education sent out inspectors to sell the high school areas, create a system of transportation that is costing as much, or nearly so, as the education itself. All this is upping taxes for the private citizen and offsetting any good the department may have done by assuming a greater share of educational costs.

The school areas, too, provide the signal for increased salaries all along the line, which coupled with transportation has advanced taxes in some municipalities to a point that is alarming. When we think of these things, we wonder what the general tax payer will think about Mr. Frost's claim.

### Report of the Minister

There came into our hands this morning a 250-page maroon-covered booklet fresh off the press. It is the annual Report of the Minister of Education for Ontario. It is a handsome booklet, considering that it is an official publication. The paper is the glossy white kind. The print is large and clear. The graphs are distinctive. The illustrations are illustrative. There are photographs of new reading rooms of libraries and of a "bookmobile" which carries over its wheels 2,200 volumes. (The Minister of Education is also the Minister in charge of libraries.) There are exterior and interior views of the North Hastings High School at Bancroft, which, with other pictures of other new schools, show the present trend in school architecture. There is an abundance of information—such as that 12.9 per cent of Provincial expenditure is on education and 18.5 per cent on highways.

We would be inclined to commend the booklet wholeheartedly except that (a) it contains more information than we care to read or would attempt to digest, (b) the information is old and cold. For this book, first given distribution in April, 1949, is the Annual Report of the Minister of Education for the year 1947. Some of the reports in it are concerned with the academic year 1946-47, which is rather an old story. It is even difficult to remember who the Minister of Education was in those years. Oh, yes, Mr. Drew. It seems that it might have been better to whip out a brief, simple report without the fuss and frills of this one, and then whip up the staff of the Department to get its next Annual Report out early enough that the statistics would not be in the nature of ancient history.

### Daylight Saving Mixup (The Oshawa Times)

On Saturday next, at midnight, many communities in Canada and the United States will, by reason of municipal bylaws, change to Daylight Saving Time. Even more of them, however, will remain on Standard Time, and in Alberta a law passed next year bars the change to Daylight Saving Time. The people of the rural areas are all against it, in all provinces, and adopt it only when compelled to do so because of their proximity to cities and towns where it prevails.

We are not going to argue for or against Daylight Saving Time in this editorial. What we want to do is to protest against the patchwork system by which it is applied in Canada and the United States. It would be all right if it were on a nation-wide or even a provincial basis, but leaving decision to the municipalities creates a hit and miss system which causes endless confusion.

There is not even agreement amongst those municipalities which have adopted summer time. In some communities it starts on April 23, in others April 24, and others April 25. Most municipalities will return to Standard Time on September 25, but Toronto will carry on Daylight Saving Time until November 25 and Cornwall on November 26, while Montreal and Quebec are scheduled to end Daylight Saving Time on September 15.

On that basis, the whole thing is a mess and a muddle, and it requires some government, either federal or provincial, with sufficient courage to rule one way or the other, to end the confusion by enacting that this country will either stick to Standard Time or have Daylight Saving Time on a national or provincial basis.

### Facing The Facts of Life (Peterborough Examiner)

We have been much impressed with the judgement which Judge Curtis Bok delivered recently in the Quarter Sessions Court in Philadelphia; five book-sellers were charged with selling obscene books, and nine of these books were read by Judge Bok. He acquitted the defendants, for he said that the books did no more than present everyday facts of life as these occur in the lives of thousands of men and women in the U.S.A. who are compelled, for one reason or another, to live squalidly. Here is part of his summing up:

"I should prefer that my own three daughters meet the facts of life and the literature of the world in my library than behind a neighbour's barn, for I can face the adversary there directly.

"If the young ladies are appalled by what they read, they can close the books at the bottom of Page 1. If they read further, they will learn what is in the world and in its people. And no parents who have been discerning with their children need fear the outcome."

This appears to us to be an opinion with which most well-balanced people will agree. The world contains much that is sordid and disagreeable, and it is desirable that boys and girls should know that poverty is ugly, that ignorance begets fear and crime, that sexual passion can sink into lust, and that every human emotion, abused, creates some corresponding enormity. If they do not know these things they are not fit for life, and the chances are that their knowledge will come to them in some cruel and perhaps ruinous form. They can learn about these things by reading, and by going to plays and movies; surely it is wise to let them gather their protective information thus?

Too many amateur reformers who know nothing whatever about literature work themselves up into unseemly fusses about the supposed lewdness or pornography of books which they do not understand. The touchstone which distinguishes pornography is one of taste, rather than one of morals. A lewd book is one which is written to excite

## When Will The Public Get Rid of Top Heavy Civil Service

(By C. Basset in Financial Post)  
 Three times the 1938 payroll. Nearly three times the number of people to run the business of government than in prewar years—and more than the wartime peak, though the Government has long since lost a lot of "customers." Like Topsy, the federal bureaucracy has "just growned."

That's the position with our federal civil service today. And while the situation has been under some scrutiny since 1946, it's now thrown into sharp focus by the Hoover Commission's findings on federal housekeeping in U.S. The Hoover Commission estimates that at least \$3 billion a year could be saved by reorganizing the U.S. Federal Government along business lines.

Alarming, say many citizens, of Canada's swollen civil service payrolls. And it's very much their business since it's costing them close to \$300 million a year as against \$88 millions in 1938.

To put it another way, the average family head now kicks in \$80 a year to the federal civil service payroll kitty as against \$28 in 1938 and \$65 in 1945.

What's the truth behind this growth in the business of government? What are we getting for our money? Is anybody on a gravy train at our expense? Do we need such a swollen civil service? Above all, what can be done about it?

Little was done about it after the First World War. Civil service strength jumped roughly 130% in the years 1912-1920 (from 20,000 to 47,000) and it took another four years to pare a mere 23% off that peak 1920 figure while the payroll remained roughly the same (about \$60 millions).

Little looks like being done now. Although the Government appointed a Royal Commission in 1946 to examine, in effect, the efficiency of the civil service, none of its important recommendations have been put into effect, nor is there any move toward doing so.

In fact, the reverse has happened.

When the commission was sitting, the total on Dominion civil service payrolls was 117,000.

Three fourths of that 117,000 were "temporary" civil servants and the commission recommended a "reduction as speedily as circumstances will permit of this large number of temporary staff as obviously a matter of the utmost importance."

Today there are 122,000 on civil service payrolls and the additions made since 1946 have been 90% to the permanent staff. The temporaries, it appears, remain, with the exception of a net reduction of a mere 326.

How Temporary? A word about this business of permanent and temporary, for here's one key to the situation. Under the present set-up these are the only two classes of civil servants.

"Permanent" means what it says despite any shortcoming on the part of the individual.

"Temporary" means far from what it says. Everyone entering the service (below Deputy Minister grade) spends a year as "temporary." Theoretically, this is to keep the man on his toes during a probationary period. Theoretically, at the end of the year he can be fired on the spot if he doesn't measure up—or if the job he fills becomes redundant—but how often does it happen just like that?

The figures of civil service growth give one answer. Between the wars only one third were temporaries; today they make up 75% of total strength.

Where have the increases taken place? The most striking instances are found in Labor, National Defence, National Revenue, Trade and Commerce, Transport.

Of these only Labor and National Defence are below peak wartime strength. But it's also these two departments which have mushroomed most strikingly.

Labor now employs more than 32 times as many people as it did in 1938—7,760 in March, 1948, as against 241 in March, 1938.

National Defence has more than 11 times as many on its payroll today as it did in 1938: 15,039 as against 1,306.

In terms of expenditure, Labor costs \$1.5 millions a month today in payrolls as against \$49,000 in 1938; National Defence \$2.4 millions as against \$218,000.

National Revenue spends about

## Mothers' Day Will Be May 8th



Mothers' Day is being eagerly awaited by youngsters in all the land, as they prepare to pick out the nicest gift for the

"best mom ever." Actress Elvise Knox and daughter, Sharon, four, are planning to wear identically styled white organ-dy styled dresses come May 8.

"The best way to solve many of our problems is to work hard," asserts an editor. What's the next best way?



Rival of game fish for food supplies in many Canadian lakes, the carp is also suspected of game fish while foraging. In Ontario the department of lands and forests, fish and wildlife division, trap the carp by use of a net. The game fish are tossed back and allowed to live to take anglers' bait. Arthur Fulford, Ontario conservation officer, exhibits one of the scavengers. The thousands of lakes throughout Canada with a carp problem cannot all be given such treatment; it would cost too much money and take too many men.

\$3 millions a month on a staff of 16,600—(6,000 more than at wartime peak, incidentally) as against \$840,000 in 1938 on a staff of 5,800; Transport—\$2.6 millions for 8,000 as against \$535,000 for 4,800 in 1938;

Trade and Commerce—\$690,000 for 3,500 as against \$280,000 for 1,600; and External Affairs, \$270,000 for 1,050 as against \$33,400 for 185.

Now let's take a look at what's happened in what might be termed the purely housekeeping departments of government.

In particular, the Civil Service Commission, which runs the whole civil service set-up; and Treasury which hands out the cash to keep the service going.

The Civil Service Commission. Its strength has more than doubled since 1938. Today it has a staff of 530 (paid \$100,000 a month) as against 230 in 1938 (\$27,000 a month).

Treasury shows a whopping fivefold increase—from 990 in 1938 (paid \$133,500 a month) to 4,900 today (\$754,000).

the senses, and which does so coarsely, vulgarly and cheaply. Many an interested child has pored over the pages of the Song of Solomon in its Bible, or Shakespeare's Venus and Adonis, seeking sexual knowledge and sexual pleasure. And do they come to any harm thereby? No, they do not. They are learning what they must learn from the best masters. And the novels of Erskine Caldwell and other authors who have chosen to write of the seamy side of life will do them no harm, either. Better that they should meet the shocks of life vicariously, through books, than that they should discover the dark secrets of human nature by bitter personal experience. We agree with Judge Bok that a good home atmosphere and the free run of a library are the best protections for youthful virtue.

## MARSH PLANTING AHEAD TWO WEEKS

With spring planting two weeks ahead of last year, Holland Marsh vegetable growers finished most of their onion planting last week. A lot of lettuce and spinach has also been planted and celery has been transplanted from hot houses to cold frames. Putting celery into cold frames is a transition planting before it is placed in the fields, providing slightly warmer conditions than the natural environment.

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## MAYFAIR Restaurant

MONDAY THRU FRIDAY  
 8 a.m. — 11 p.m.  
 SATURDAY  
 8 a.m. — 12 p.m.

## WELL-KNOWN AURORA BUILDER DEAD

Active as a bricklayer and contractor for 60 years, James Albert Knowles, 83, died Friday at his home, 60 Catharine St., Aurora. He suffered a broken hip in a fall two weeks ago. Many of the homes in the community were built by Mr. Knowles. As recently as last summer he completed a house on Catharine St.

Mr. Knowles was a lifelong resident of Aurora and a member of the United Church. Last November he and his wife celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. Surviving are his widow, the former Annie McKinnon, and one son, Edward, Bangor, Maine.

## See Your Favorite Picture First at the STANLEY THEATRE

Friday and Saturday, April 29, 30  
 'THAT HAGEN GIRL' — S. Temple  
 'WILD HORSE MESSA' — Tim Holt

Monday and Tuesday, May 2, 3  
 "THREE MUSKETEERS"  
 (Technicolor)  
 Lana Turner  
 Gene Kelly

Thursday!  
 "FOTO-NITE"  
 "Beyond Glory"

Alan Ladd  
 Donna Reed  
 Wednesday & Thurs.  
 May 4, 5  
 \$100.00 OFFER!

Friday and Saturday, May 6 — 7  
 "GIVE MY REGARDS TO BROADWAY"  
 (Technicolor)  
 Dan Dailey — Nancy Guild

STOUFFVILLE  
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Monday and Tuesday, May 9 — 10  
 "Every Girl Should Be Married"  
 Cary Grant — Franchot Tone

Coming!