

# The Stouffville Tribune

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## NOTES and COMMENTS

### Building Costs

There is unemployment in the Canadian woods this winter partly because the people who need and want houses cannot afford to pay the wages demanded by organized workers who produce materials and construct homes.

Wages are 80 per cent of the cost of the materials and the construction of a house.

There will be continuing subnormal employment in the house-building industry, from the woods to the last coat of paint, until the costs of house-building come down. Government housing subsidies have been soaked up by shorter hours, increased wages, costs and prices.—Shingwauk Farm Scene.

### Are We Getting Soft?

One begins to wonder whether Canadians are the hardy folk they think they are.

The other day a storm swept Southern Ontario and Quebec. It lasted less than 24 hours and at most only a foot of snow fell. But the headlines and radio broadcasts that followed suggested that we had experienced a catastrophe.

True the storm was serious enough while it lasted and it was the first bit of bad weather that had hit this section of the country all winter. But it was not so unusual.

We have had far more snow and just as much wind in previous winters and we will probably have them again, unless of course we accept as gospel the prediction of a couple of optimistic scientists that this country is turning tropical.

According to the Financial Post, the sad truth is that we have become so accustomed to nice clear highways, and air conditioned cars, homes and offices, that it comes as a shock when nature shows she is still untamed. Maybe some day we will find a way for subduing or detouring blizzards and cold waves but until we do we might as well be prepared to expect and accept them.

### A Divided York County

The announcement made last week by Premier Leslie Frost, if carried out, will mean that 1950 will see the end of York County and its big council as presently constituted. According to the Premier the dozen municipalities surrounding the city must amalgamate their public services in a manner satisfactory to all, otherwise a private Bill will take those municipalities into Toronto as part of the great city.

What Stouffville, Markham, Whitchurch, and all municipalities north will think of the proposed change we are not sure, but many reeves are prepared to accept it as something that will not do the northern municipalities any harm. After all, they are but small fish in the big pool down there, and a smaller county would be more preferable to the rural areas.

From a financial side, there are no figures to indicate what sort of county could be made from those municipalities from Markham north comprising twelve incorporated places.

We are not sure they could operate on any lower tax rate than the present county rate, perhaps it would be higher, and their influence as a county council would not be so impressive as it is today. However that may be, many reeves and deputy-reeves are ready to support a division of the county. Many others are unable to determine what is best, but Premier Frost has come along with a warning that unless something is done this year, the legislature will divide the county beginning January 1951.

### Cannington Seeks Wash Rooms for Public

The Village of Cannington has renewed its request for a grant from Ontario County Council toward installation of public wash rooms in that village. For a second time the council will likely reject the idea, although it has some merit. Wash rooms are for the general public and not just the villagers. Indeed it is the outsiders who appreciate them and make use of such places. However, here in Stouffville, wash rooms opened by the village now remain locked because of the shameful way the public used them. Appeal after appeal for common decency brought no results, so the places have been closed the past years. This is unfair to the general public because it is for the most part a very small percentage of people who would not use these facilities in a decent manner, and because of their action, everybody is made to suffer. The council of Stouffville at one time established these conveniences, and it is a backward step to abandon them.

One of the arguments against public wash rooms is that none of the neighboring towns have them. This is a weak argument perhaps, and is merely an excuse. If neighboring towns fail to provide first-class accommodation for their travelling public and the people who come to buy their wares, it is our opportunity to go one better and provide that lack which is so greatly appreciated by the better type of people.

The 1950 council of Stouffville should try to find some way to make use of the wash rooms, or the merchants should perhaps undertake to have them opened under supervision provided by the Business Men's Association. It would be a real accommodation to their patrons.

## Mayors and Reeves Prefer Joint Council

Instead of Toronto amalgamating its 12 suburban municipalities touching its borders, the dozen places that would be consumed propose to amalgamate the city.

This was indicated at a meeting of the Toronto area committee held last week, when the Warden of York County, who is reeve of Etobicoke township, one to be consumed, put forward his counter proposal.

The committee approved the Sinclair proposal that Toronto join the suburbs in a metropolitan county council—in effect an expansion of the present York County Council in which Toronto and the 26 York County municipalities would have representation proportionate to size and the area would unify services according to need.

The proposal was adopted by a 10-3 vote. Two reeves supported Mayor Hiram E. McCallum's opposition to the metropolitan county council plan.

Just how York County Council would accept the Warden's proposal is not known. If the twelve stuck solidly for amalgamation with Toronto of the whole county, the remaining 14 might be overwhelmed, because of the plural voting where the larger municipalities carry an extra vote. Then, it is said plural voting could not be resorted to, and only applies on a vote concerning money matters. This might be construed to be just that.

In any event this newspaper is not sure the rural areas would look with favor on a larger county council. It is already too large and if city representation should be added there would be over 70 members. The new council chambers would be overcrowded, and the rural municipalities would be pushed quite into the background, according to the reeve of Stouffville.

The twelve municipalities are doing everything to escape the clutches of Toronto, everything but sitting down and calmly working out some system that would amalgamate their services so that future expansion could go on in a normal way around the outskirts of the city. Failing to co-operate their services, amalgamation seems about the inevitable thing.

### FARM FORUM NEWS

(By Mabel Sanderson)  
A joint meeting of the Markham Township Federation of Agriculture and the York County Radio Farm Forum Rally was held at the Veterans' Hall in Unionville, Feb. 27. The hall was fairly well filled with a few vacant chairs — for those members of other forums who did not get there. (We hope to see you next time folks).

The meeting opened with Mr. Don Raymer, president of the Markham F.A., in the chair. After a few words of welcome to the visiting forums, he tuned in to CBL where we listened to our usual broadcast. President Paul Snider introduced the guest speaker, Mr. Kingsley Brown, editor of the Rural Co-operative, who gave us a very interesting and educational address. Mr. Brown was an exceptionally easy speaker to listen to. As one listened it seemed as if he could have given as a topic, "The Control of the Atom Bomb" or "We are our Brothers' Keepers." In speaking of the surplus food stuffs and farmers' strikes we hear so much about in Canada these days. Mr. Brown said:

"During World War I everybody was working, most workable land was in use in Canada. The amount of food stuffs shipped to Europe was tremendous — she has not paid for it and it is not likely she ever will. Several tons went to the bottom of the ocean.

Then along came World War II, when Canada again repeated this performance and yet it was right on top of times like these that the people of Canada had 8, 9, 10 years of prosperity never-before dreamed of — homes better furnished — families better clothed, educated and fed — machinery of labor-saving value in abundance. A few years ago a farmer who could produce enough to feed and clothe his family was considered a first class farmer. Today with the vast improvements the farmer's arm has been made so much longer and stronger that now he can take care of his own family and still others.

Europe is still hungry — 55,000 for breakfast every morning — what are the Canadians going to do about it? Can we not persuade our government to look into this — and as long as we have the land and the manpower, Europe should be fed."

Mr. Snider then took the chair when the delegates for Federation of Agriculture were appointed as follows — Mr. Charlie Grubb of Emery Farm Forum; Mr. John Snider of Victoria Square Farm Forum, and Mr. Norman Rae of Virginia Farm Forum.

Mr. Clare Burt told us there was a new forum at Box Grove and he thought he might have a couple more lined up before the evening was over.

Don't forget your folk school; being held from March 10-12 in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Snider, 1 mile south of No. 7 Highway on the 4th of Vaughan. Your secretary has full particulars. If you would like to go Sunday only, you are asked to take the lunch basket with you — a good time of educational value and fellowship is in store for all who attend.

Transatlantic telephone service was available to some Canadian cities as early as 1927.

## What To Do with Bus Profits on Yonge Street

Over three and a half times the profits were earned by the North Yonge bus line in December, 1949, as in the same month of 1948.

1949 figures were \$4,005.45 whereas the 1948 profit was \$1,149.37. Richmond Hill's share of the month's earnings would be approximately \$900, with Vaughan and Markham townships getting approximately \$440 apiece which goes back to property owners in the transportation area of those townships.

As is pointed out by the Richmond Hill Liberal, the profits accruing to Richmond Hill go into the general account of the town so that all property owners receive a fair distribution. By the same token why shouldn't the profits accruing to Markham township be spent by the council on improvements in the area entitled to the money? Paved roads for instance, would provide improved service to the area backing the railway. The area that would be assessed for any deficit that might occur.

Of course, a good reserve should be set up that would ensure reasonable protection against any lean years the service might encounter.

The problem of distribution of profits has been a live issue with the councils, hence it would seem that a sensible distribution would be to hand the money back through the channel of special service. In places like Markham Township, to distribute cash would be an impossibility on an equitable basis, since there are so many changes in ownership. The money spent in the district would enhance the value of properties entitled to the money.

### TO QUIT ARENA BOARD URGES SUNDAY RENTAL

Brampton town council representative on the new \$250,000 War Memorial Arena Commission, Councillor Geo. Thompson, last week tried to resign over a disagreement with other commission members over the use of rink ice on Sunday. One of three members who favored renting the rink for Sunday hockey practices, Councillor Thompson asked to be replaced.

"I can't see my way clear to carry on as a member of the Arena Board," Thompson said, "unless the board has every opportunity to make the arena pay its way." Councillor Thompson said the majority of the seven-man board would allow free skating periods on Sundays outside hours that would conflict with church services and Sunday Schools. He had no objection to free skating but felt revenue also could be brought in by renting the rink to hockey teams. "I'm firmly convinced the arena must be operated to show a profit at every opportunity."

"Another board member has said

Canada's islands have a coastline mileage of 34,650 miles.



## EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS

by Don Graham

Is fear of failure preventing you from realizing some ambition or launching some new project?

That was Howard T.'s trouble. As a mechanic in a garage, he had hopes that someday he would own his own auto repair business. He had the necessary experience and promises of financial backing. But certain obstacles that he would have to overcome always discouraged him. So to this day he has never put his plan into action.

The world is full of Howards — people who never give themselves a fair chance at success because of obstacles, which could be overcome by determined effort, held them back.

This is not to say that obstacles should be ignored; it's only com-

mon sense to take them into account. But too often we overrate them.

Frequently, too, we exaggerate the probable consequences of failure. Yet Cyrus Field failed three times before he succeeded in spanning the Atlantic with the first cable!

So next time you shrink from tackling some project, step up your "will to win"!

Fear can also serve useful purposes — as, for example, when it prompts us to prepare for old age and emergencies by taking out life insurance. This common-sense step has been taken by more than 4 1/2 million Canadians.

## British Paralysis At Critical Time

The man whom Churchill dubbed a sheep in sheep's clothing still holds a teetering, tenuous hold on power over the Britons. His chief helpers Bevin, Cripps and Morrison are weary and unwell. His fire-water twins Bevan and Shinwell are rumored to be plotting a coup

he didn't think citizens would mind paying a little more, if it could mean the sanity of Sunday would be upheld. I don't agree with this," he added.

Pointing out that ratepayers voted for \$100,000 debentures and contributed a further \$35,000 towards the arena's erection, Councillor Thompson said he did not think taxpayers would "gladly pay any more just so free skating could be held on Sundays."

Mayor Harold Lawrence was requested to confer with councillor to retain him on the board. Councillor Carmen Core is the other board member representing council. The arena was opened officially two months ago. Rent for Sunday skating has since been the centre of hot debate at board meetings. Councillor Thompson said he was not seeking re-election in 1951, and if the arena was going to run into debt, he wanted no part of it because he would "have to seek re-election to save his face."

to tear the party apart. Such is the wretched state of the tribe that undertook to lead the people to a nonexistent Utopia.

In the attempt tragic things have happened.

"The vote... reveals the fact that politically Britain is becoming two nations. There is complete cleavage between organized labor on the one side and the middle classes, agriculture and commerce on the other. Geographically, it takes the shape of the north against the south. It will take tolerance, wisdom and statesmanship if this division is not to become an unbridgeable gap."

Indeed it will. And what a terrible epitaph for any man to have on his tombstone—political or corporeal — that he rent his country in twain; set man against man.

Equally tragic is the effect on opinion in the United States. The fact is that the Americans are terribly tired of financing British and European recovery.

ECA appropriations for another year are coming in for an extremely rough ride in Congress. Yet to millions upon millions of U.S. citizens it appears that their dollars are subsidizing Socialism, a political gospel dedicated to destroying the system which makes it possible for America to pay those dollars.

Canadian railways spend \$2,889.06 per year in maintenance for every mile of track in the country.

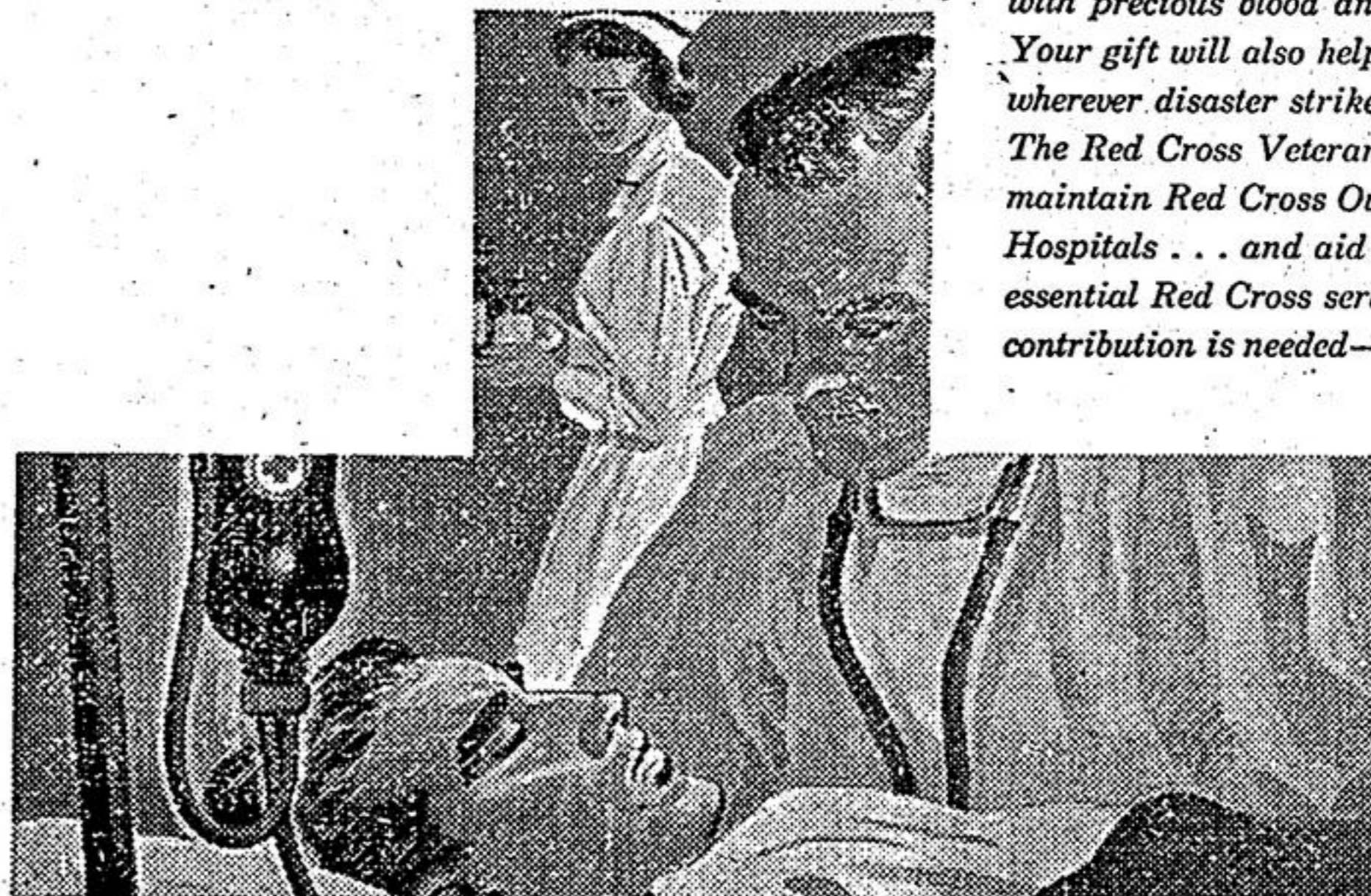
# Will he live?

## Look in your heart for the answer

It happens almost every hour, somewhere in Canada.

A thoughtless step, a scream of brakes . . . and another life hangs in the balance—with an emergency blood transfusion the only hope! Will you reach out a helping hand to snatch one of these lives from the jaws of death? You can do so by giving generously to support and extend the Red Cross Free Blood Transfusion Service, through which more and more Canadian hospitals are being supplied with precious blood and plasma.

Your gift will also help send relief wherever disaster strikes . . . assist The Red Cross Veterans' Services . . . maintain Red Cross Outpost Hospitals . . . and aid many other essential Red Cross services. Your contribution is needed—and needed now!



This year the need is urgent for \$5,000,000 to carry out the work you expect your Red Cross to do

The Work of Mercy Never Ends...

# Give from the heart

Canadian Bank of Commerce — Stouffville, Ont., Telephone 157

### THE OLD HOME TOWN. By STANLEY

