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SECOND SECTION

The Stouffville Tribune

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NOTES and COMMENTS

Thought for Today

Freedom is placed in jeopardy more by those who will not exercise it than by those who will not permit it. Indifference opens more gates to the enemy than does tyranny.
—Rev. Edwin M. Potat.

The Sound of a Train

The noise of a train has a curious thrilling quality about it. That is, the noise of an old-fashioned steam train does. A few years more and it will be quite lost and gone, a sound effect carefully filed away for use with period movies from 1830 to 1955.

Strange to think that before long it will no longer be possible to listen to the symphony of steam and rails. It has been the sound just offstage for nearly all of us all our lives. So tremendous is the voice of the locomotive that it reaches the ears of nearly everyone in the settled parts of the country.

For many the sound of the trains is too common and much too obtrusive to be pleasant. The crashing and screaming of a railroad right at one's door is not a pleasant thing, to be sure.

To be fully appreciated the trains should be heard in the still of the evening, in a country place. There the approaching whistle, the long rumble, the sad farewell from the next crossing, all are familiar, all speak of life in far places.

Before all trains become bloated buses, anyone with an ear for such things would do well to go to the village station, on a pleasant evening, and listen to a train come out of absolute stillness, and fade into it again. Trains have meant enough to most of us to make this as worthwhile as most sentimental visits. —Cornwall Standard-Freeholder.

Farm Loan Report

The Canadian Farm Loan Board has issued its 21st annual report, covering operations for the year ended Mar. 31, 1950. The board is a Dominion government agency which makes long-term mortgage loans to farmers.

During the year the board approved \$5,189,400 in loans. Over 60 per cent of this amount was for the purchase of land and the refinancing of land secured debt. The amount approved represents a small increase over the previous year, and is the largest annual volume of business in the last 13 years.

The board's current investment in farm mortgages increased by more than \$2,000,000 in the last year, and now exceeds \$26,000,000. Interest arrears at March 31, 1950, equalled only .246 per cent of principal outstanding.

The board makes first mortgage loans up to \$5,000 at 4½ per cent, repayable over a period not exceeding 25 years. The board may make additional advances to bring the total loans up to \$6,000 in certain circumstances. Loans are made to pay debts, buy livestock, equipment and farm lands, and to erect and repair buildings and make other farm improvements.

Has The Limit Been Reached?

When it comes to amusements, and just how much the public purse can stand, has the limit been reached? In many quarters this is the belief. Attendance figures at almost every type of sport, carnival, concert or what have you, in the entertainment line, is down. In some instances, the reason is quite obvious, as promoters of entertainment have endeavored to push their prices up the grade, along with everything else. While the public has to pay handsomely for many essentials they are not inclined to throw money away on amusement that they can well afford to do without.

In Stouffville, while prices have not advanced, the tempo at which sports and amusements have been shoved at John Public has left him in the drag. It's our belief that people just can't keep up with the pace. Right in this small town of Stouffville one could easily take in some different attraction every night in the week, but married folks, and particularly those with families, can't stand such a drain on the pocketbook.

This same reason that holds good in Stouffville, is likewise the cause of five and six hundred crowds at Maple Leaf Gardens for the Major League and Junior 'A' hockey there. Folks are swamped with opportunities to spend their money.

There may be a further reason to the slump. This is a dissatisfied age in which we live. Entertainment which would have drawn packed houses a few years back, gets only mediocre support today. Never possibly in history,

EDITOR'S MAIL

Toronto, Ont.
Dec. 7th, 1950.

Editor,
"The Tribune",
Stouffville, Ontario.

Your editorial on "Farm Vs. Industry," with its varied thoughts concerning what P. M. Dewar (a former Ontario minister of agricultural) terms "the tug of higher industrial wages that is pulling the young people away from the farms," sparked a warm discussion at this reader's rural-urban dinner table.

One of the expert observers of the rural scene, asked as to the basic changes he has seen during the past quarter-century, replied: "Practically none! There have been many very important superficial changes—obvious to all. The displacement of the horse by the machine. The elimination of distances by the automobile and the truck. The vast increase in the electrification of the farms. The growing rarity of the hired man. The creation of bigger and sounder co-operatives. All these are important—vastly important in the lives of the farmers and their families. But they have not altered the basic character of Canadian agriculture. That pattern is still one of operator-owned, single-family farms of a size not very much larger than they were 25 years ago." (Family Herald and Weekly Star.)

I am convinced that, as long as the young folks along the farm front know that it takes more than twice as many work-hours to win a rural dollar as is called for by the urban dollar, the cities will draw youth from the farms? Of course, a certain amount of this rural-urban migration is inescapable, even essential, in terms of the city's sociological health; because, as pointed out recently, the modern urban community is "a sentence of death to the fourth generation; unless reinforced by fresh blood from the fields." On the other hand, in my opinion, the long-range interests of the Dominion will be best conserved by improvements in rural living standards (i.e., farm income), enabling the so-called glamor of the city's lights to move out into the country's farm homes?

"Bruce County"

were so many Canadians better off, but on the other hand, never were so many dissatisfied with their lot.

Just what the outcome will be if patronage continues on the decline, is hard to say, but one thing is certain, at the present rate, more and more red ink is going to be used as tabulations are made throughout the winter months and profit and loss accounts are summed up in the spring.

"Baby Bounty" System Wouldn't Work

New York City's welfare commissioner is toying with the idea of providing "baby bounties," as they term them, to encourage young married couples to have children. The plan is probably well meant, but it is doubtful indeed if it would have the desired effect.

As far as "baby bounties" or children's allowances are concerned, they have many advantages and corresponding shortcomings, too, as Canada has found out in the years since the nation's children's allowance plan came into effect. In general, it might be said that such allowances do certainly provide advantages for most children on whose behalf they are paid; but there has been no evidence in Canada—or in such countries as Italy and Germany where bonuses for children were also provided for some years—that per capita payments for children have any significant effect on the birth rate.

Birth rates are an exceedingly puzzling matter. Influences which both theory and common sense would indicate a desirability for increased birth rates often lead instead to reduced ones; whereas influences that should lead to their decrease more often than not result in large increases. Examples are not hard to find. Countries such as Canada and the United States, which have the resources to support high birth rates, actually have quite low ones. On the other hand, countries such as India and China, with their developed resources strained beyond all capacity to provide a reasonable living standard, have comparatively high birth rates; particularly among those groups whose economic status is lowest. Incidentally, population studies have disclosed that the difference in birth rates is not nearly as great as it is popularly thought to be, but a difference nevertheless, does exist.

Thus it is apparent that birth rates may rise despite adverse economic conditions, but it does not by any means follow that they will rise because of favorable ones. Against this situation is the puzzling fact that economic influences, especially good ones, are more likely to start a trend toward lower birth rates, and a trend toward lower birth rates is much easier to start than one toward high birth rates.

A closer study of the question of birth rates by the New York authorities concerned would show, in all likelihood, that the greatest single influence militating against the birth rate among younger married couples these days is the difficulty—or rather the almost sheer impossibility—of finding living accommodation where children are permitted. Needless to say, this condition is not peculiar to New York City.

As long as those who own rental accommodation maintain their Herod-like attitude that the only good tenant child is a dead one, then birth rates may be expected to fall, despite all the baby bonuses or other encouragements that can be devised. If the New York people who would like to see the birth rate increased could do something concrete about ensuring that couples with children could rent living space, then the problem would be solved. And this goes for everywhere, of course—not only in New York.

FOR PARENTS ONLY

(By Nancy Cleaver)



LEARNING TO TALK

A baby's progress fascinates his parents, and there is no part of his growth more interesting than a child learning to talk. Usually by a year he is saying a few simple words such as "mama" and "bye-bye"—often repetitions of one simple syllable. Of course he chatters to himself in a jargon which no one can interpret, although his mother likely can distinguish the meaning of different kinds of crying. At a year and a half he likely uses about a dozen words—and is very proud of his vocabulary! He seems to understand the meaning of a number of words which he does not attempt to say.

Children Differ

There is no one "normal" rate of learning to talk—children vary greatly. Older children in the family who talk to the baby often help him master new words. By his second birthday a child uses short sentences of two or three or even

four words. Often he avoids pronouns and refers to himself not as "I" but by his first name, "Dodie sees cho-cho train." Before another birthday comes around he is showing real delight in his new accomplishment—talking—and by the time he enters school many a child has a vocabulary of over a thousand words.

Question marks punctuate a little boy's or girl's remarks. Some are asked just for the sake of talking—for the pleasure of hearing his own voice. Other questions show that the child really wants to find out something. Mother—and father too—sometimes weary answering so many questions—but this is the child's way of adding to his store of information. Mothers who are "too busy" to answer a little child's questions are indeed too busy. Sometimes it is impossible for a mother to give an immediate answer. Parents may rest assured that as a child grows older and asks "difficult" questions about the beginning or the end of his life, if no answer is given at home, the child will seek answers elsewhere.

If a child is slow in talking, the parents are often worried, and occasionally they make the mistake of nagging at him or trying to force him to speak. The child resents this pressure and the result of this treatment delays his speech still further. Rather mother should try to discover why her child is slow—perhaps he is being waited on to such a degree that he feels no necessity to express his wants. Perhaps he sees other children too seldom and the grown-ups in his home talk in long sentences and do not use simple words. Medical experts reassure parents that slowness in mental development is not always linked with slowness in talk. Many normal children, indeed some especially bright youngsters do not start to talk until much later than other youngsters.

Most parents find it a temptation to "talk baby talk" to their tiny child—particularly if he is their first born! An occasional lapse into "baby talk" does not matter, but if a mother habitually uses baby-talk to a child who is learning his first words, it confuses the youngster. It is difficult to imitate "baby talk" and the parents are the child's first language teachers! It is rather pathetic to hear an older child—or even an adult, talking "baby talk." Mother thinks it "cute" but the neighbors and friends are apt to be bored by this older child's desire to be important and the centre of the attention.

Don't Repeat Theme

Parents should also refrain from repeating to others in the presence of a child his original coined words—such as "the big black dog frightened me!" or cute sayings. These are of special interest only to those who especially love that particular child.

But a mother can make a fascinating Child's Own Book for her own pleasure and in it write down the child's first words, first sentences, the words which harmed him, the words he made up. In those pre-school days the child's cute remarks which a father may get a great kick out of hearing should be briefly jotted down. These childhood stories are soon forgotten unless a record is kept. They provide "good reading" for fond parents when the children are grown because they bring back happy memories of the days when the sons and daughters were small.

DAYS OF YORE

From the Files of
The Stouffville Tribune
31 Years Ago

"The Rivals," Sheridans popular, humorous play, which was presented by the pupils of Stouffville Continuation School on Friday evening, drew an audience that almost filled the Auditorium. It was very encouraging to both teachers and pupils to see such interest shown in their efforts. The cast included: Edmund Cadieux, Norman Dales, Kathleen Freil, Miss Grengelbank, Walter Rusnell, Walter Burkholder, Fred Brillinger, Arthur Lehman, Harold Sanders, Allan Sangster, Greta Smith, Lena Sanders, Fern Wideman and Eric Nighswander.

Miss Brain, who has spent a great deal of time and whose efforts are responsible for the production of the play, deserves much credit for the splendid success. At the close of the program she was presented by the pupils with a beautiful bouquet of flowers as a token of their appreciation.

Bloomington—A successful Sock Social was held at the home of Mr. R. N. Fairles on Monday evening. A number were present from Stouffville, Goodwood, Ringwood and Lemonville.

26 Years Ago

Few there are who dreamed that the Ku Klux Klan organization would ever reach Stouffville, but it is the avowed opinion of some that some person at least among our 1200 inhabitants is a member of that organization, for on Thursday night of last week a real Ku Klux cross was burned in J. B. Wurts' field immediately north of Dr. Freil's residence. In the darkness of the night the cross stood out very distinctly with its extended arms and upright bar aflame, and people who saw it wondered what significance it had for Stouffville.

Richard Foote, son of Mr. Walter Foote, has leased a farm west of Aurora in King Township, where he will move early next spring. Up to the present Mr. Foote is operating his father's farm on the 8th of Whitechurch.

The Marg Haig Sr. Mission Band held their annual meeting on Dec. 9th. The officers are: Miss Alice Byrne, Miss M. Sherrard, Miss Eldene Lewis, Miss Jean Collard, Miss Daisy McConnochie, Mrs. Aitchison and Miss Mae Mowder. Lemonville—The Ladies' Aid has installed new lamps in the church.

6 Years Ago

Mr. L. C. Murphy has purchased three building lots on Harold Street from Mr. James McGivern who moved to Fenelon Falls last summer. This means more garden space for the high school principal.

Four local boys, Gene Paisley, Ronnie Conner, Gordon Lewis and Allen Wells are practicing with Markham Junior O.H.A. entry, along with some twenty other hopefuls.

Mr. and Mrs. Allen Neal have rented rooms in the home of Mrs. Wm. Waddell, Main St. west for the winter season and moved in this week. Mrs. Waddell will shortly be leaving to spend the winter in California.

Bob McConnochie, in Holland with the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, sent home to his mother, Mrs. D. McConnochie, a petite pair of Dutch wooden shoes. Bob says the shoe-maker will whittle you a pair to wear in twenty minutes.

Councillor Leslie J. Harper has purchased a 46 acre place known as the Lloyd farm at Pine Orchard, and will take up residence there in due time.

QUADRUPLETS BORN TO JERSEY COW

It's quads on the Ocie Baker farm in Anderson County, Texas. The mother is Baker's Jersey cow. The two heifers and two bulls were born Wednesday. All are normal, healthy animals. Last year, the cow gave birth to twins.

TARS' PUDDING WELL FLAVOURED

A gallon of rum, 600 eggs and 160 silver three-penny bits went into a giant mixing bowl last week under the benevolent eye of Rear-Admiral P. S. Smith.

Along with other ingredients they will make Christmas pudding for 2,000 men he commands in the navy barracks at Devonport, England. The performance is an annual navy ritual.

The National Film Board of Canada produces about 140 documentary films each year, including English, French and foreign-language versions.

Five travel films, especially made for showing over U.S. television networks, have been produced by the National Film Board of Canada.

THE OLD HOME TOWN

By STANLEY

