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NOTES and COMMENTS

NO LONGER FREE NURSERY STOCK

It was no surprise to learn that the Department of Lands and Forests had at last cut out playing Santa Claus in giving away nursery tree stock for reforestation. From our observation when anything is given away with that magic and appealing word "free" particularly when coming from a government, it is not fully appreciated, is taken advantage of by some while others become down right careless by neglecting such handouts when they get them.

According to the announcement, owners of land suitable for reforestation or shelter belts will now pay \$14 per thousand for Scotch pine and \$10 per thousand for other specie. This brings Ontario's policy in line with that of most European countries, most of the United States and other Canadian provinces. Revenue from sale of trees is expected to be about \$200,000. Ontario has been distributing about 20 million trees a year for reforestation projects from the various reforestation nurseries, such as the one at Orono.

—Bomanville Statesman

VOTING RIGHTS AND POLL TAX

There has been an urging in some of the surrounding communities for an extension of the voting rights for municipal elections to cover those who pay the \$10 poll tax levy. The poll tax has never been collected in Stouffville although the matter was given council consideration some years ago. Municipal regulations as they now stand limit the voting right to people assessed at a minimum of \$100 or \$200 for joint ownership. If those in Stouffville who would be eligible to pay poll tax were to have a vote, the regulations would have to be amended to lower the property qualifications since \$100 assessment on last year's mill rate was \$5.40.

The 1931 mayor of Orillia, Wilbur M. Cramp has urged the provincial government to consider amendments to the act to change voting qualifications to the same standards as required for Dominion or provincial elections. This would give practically every resident over 21 years a municipal vote. He argued that conditions have changed considerably since the Municipal Act was drawn up, that nearly every person working now pays considerable in taxes and he felt all possible should have a vote in municipal polls as well as in the provincial and federal fields. This argument of course would only apply in a municipality such as Stouffville, if a poll tax was collected. The resolution also recommended provision for an advance poll and subsequently the Ontario Legislature gave its approval for the latter change although no action was taken on other recommended amendments at that time. It is a matter which is being much considered and it is quite possible that these proposed changes will be discussed again. If an extension of voting rights would encourage a wider interest in municipal affairs, it would appear to be a worthwhile change.

TAXES ALWAYS COME FIRST

Mr. Coldwell has announced that the C.C.F. intends to circulate petitions asking the Dominion Government to establish a contributory system of hospital medical, dental and optical care for everybody, free of charge, to be paid for by the Dominion Government, but to be administered by local authorities responsible to the provincial governments.

In addition to all this he expects the Dominion to furnish the money for building hospitals and training nurses, doctors and dentists in sufficient numbers to assure the best professional care for us all.

It is typical of all promoters of plans for doing good with other people's money that they never want the administrators of their plans to be answerable to the taxpayers whose money they spend. Their favourite plan is to have the administrators responsible to the provincial governments, which will have power to draw on the Dominion Government for whatever money is required: and the Dominion will have no choice but to provide it.

This, in itself is enough to condemn any plan for spending the taxpayer's money. To require one government to collect taxes for another government to spend is a bad principle of taxation. It encourages irresponsibility in the handling of the people's money, and is a sure road to waste and extravagance. It strikes at the root of responsible government.

Mr. Coldwell tells us of the comfort it would be to every man to know that, in case of sickness or accident, he would be assured of the best of care without charge. Of course it would be nice to be relieved of all worry on that point.

But not many of us worry about those things anyway because such things might never happen to us. We worry about the problems that actually do arise, the bills we know we will have to pay.

There is the monthly rent bill, or the monthly payment on the purchase price of the home.

There are tax-bills, fuel bills, water and light bills, repair and maintenance bills, installment payments on our furniture and appliances, food and clothing bills, transportation costs, and a host of other things that people must have in order to live.

Among the lower-paid workers these certain expenses take every last cent the worker earns.

The lowest estimate of the cost to the people of this proposed National Health plan is over \$100 a year per family.

Where would the wage earner with a family to keep get this extra \$100? What obligations would he have to leave unpaid because the money was being taken from him?

We should not forget that this plan is to be paid for out of taxes, and when we are paying our bills taxes always come first. The Dominion Government can collect its taxes from us before we ever get hold of the money. That is why the promoters of this plan want the collecting done by the Dominion.

If the C.C.F. will be frank enough to explain, right on the face of their petitions, that the scheme will cost at least \$100 a year per family, we venture to predict that they won't get many signatures.

The working people of this country have plenty of financial worries now without having their difficulties complicated by having another \$100 a year extracted from their earnings.

FOR PARENTS ONLY

"GOOD LUCK, MIKE PEARSON"

"It's a great honor for Canada and a great responsibility for me. I will do my best to discharge that responsibility." Lester B. Pearson told reporters when he was elected by fifty one votes in the secret balloting for the new president of the Seventh General Assembly of the United Nations. Any one who has known Canada's Minister of External Affairs is confident that a wise choice has been made in the man who will guide the Assembly's debates in the fine new building on New York's East Side.

Parents of school age boys and girls are glad that their attention is focused on the U.N. Assembly now a Canadian has become its president. Mike Pearson is critical of useless debate. In order to bring matters quickly to a head, he follows the plan, as U.N. president, of giving his own opinion at the first of the discussion. Then the delegates from sixty nations can either agree or vote down his suggestions.

Some students think that history is made of events which have little relation to their own lives. It was our privilege to study history under "Mike" Pearson at Varsity and it was anything but boring when he was the teacher. Possibly it was his desire not just to teach but to make history, which led to his decision to enter the Department of External Affairs at Ottawa in 1928.

Carlyle once said that "Biography is the only true history." A good way to study history is through the lives of the outstanding men of each age. There are many lovable traits about Mike Pearson's character which make him seem to youngsters a "regular guy."

When Mike Pearson was just six a fifteen year old boy, Jack Tait, lived next door. Jack was distinguishing himself as a runner. Later he made the Canadian Olympic Team of 1912, and continued to shine at sports. Mike Pearson said of him "He was my first idol as a boy!"

An interest in athletics came naturally to the three Pearson brothers, and Mike when he was a little fellow used to go with his grandfather to baseball games. The old man's eyesight was failing and young Mike used to recount the game, play by play, to his granddad, Marmaduke.

As he grew older Mike Pearson, played baseball, hockey, lacrosse, rugby, and also coached these games. For a short time in Guelph he played for a semi-professional baseball team. He was remembering this experience when a woman reporter at the U.N. San Francisco Conference in 1945 asked him, "Mr. Pearson, what have you got that the other diplomats lack?" and he answered, "Perhaps I'm the only one here who has been paid for playing baseball."

His own comment on his school life explodes the myth that he was such a brilliant scholar that he never had to do a tap of work. He once said, "I plugged at my studies. Some things may have come to me quickly but I did my share of homework always. On the whole I worked for everything I got." Mothers might find this well worth knowing round about homework time some evening!

Both Mike's father and his grandfather were outstanding Methodist ministers. His mother truly graced the parsonage in which she lived. Recently when he was made Chancellor of Victoria College, there was no more happy guest present than his mother. "At eighty-four she gets more out of life than almost anyone I know," was her distinguished son's quiet comment. How many children can say that of their mothers?

Last December, for the second consecutive year he was chosen by the British United Press Editors as Canadian News "Man of the Year." He is our most travelled diplomat, although he doesn't sleep well on trains and gets sick on planes. But in London as High Commissioner for Canada from 1935 to 1938, in Washington, where after two promotions he became our Canadian Ambassador in 1945, people speak of him with admiration and affection.

He has been on the ground floor of the United Nations from the start, and served on the Security Council, the Political Committee and the Conference of Food and Agriculture. In 1950 he was one of three men appointed by the Assembly to negotiate a truce. One of his finest pieces of work was in the Palestine partition which established Israel. This brought to an end the strife between the Arabs and Jews which threatened the peace of the world.

"Lester B. Pearson is one of the really big men in the United Nations limelight!" was the judgment of one of the outstanding news commentators. As Canadians we are proud of his record and of the honour which has come to him. We all—parents, and boys and girls—wish him the very best in the perplexing, and often frustrating international field. Good luck to you, Mike Pearson!

A Canadian department store sales dollar breakdown shows that 18 cents goes for wages. Next biggest item is 14 cents for taxes.

BYGONE DAYS

From the Files of The Tribune 26 YEARS AGO

Mr. Jas. Ratcliff of this town, accompanied by his sister and brother-in-law Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Matthews of Toronto, narrowly escaped death on Friday night as a result of a motor accident which occurred on the highway 16 miles north of Barrie.

On Friday afternoon there will be an extensive auction sale of livestock at the Stouffville stock yards. Not less than 100 head will be offered for sale.

The proverbial thrill that comes once in a lifetime came to hundreds of Ford owners at the Western Fair in London last week when they saw a standard Ford rump away from a Whippet and Chevrolet in the special five mile race on the Queen's Park track. Delbert Holden is the local agent for the Ford.

Potatoes dropped to \$1 per bag at Goodwood this week. Buyers are paying 25c cash for turnips and 70c for carrots.

During the heavy rain storm at midnight on Friday last, many of the eastend people who enjoy a telephone in their homes had all the joy taken out of sleep by the constant buzzing and loud ringing which could be heard all over the house. Nels. Byer, the newly appointed hydro knight and the Jennings boys who have charge of the local telephone system were soon called from the land of dream and located the trouble on Stouffer St. where a wire had fallen across the hydro line.

S. W. Hastings has installed a mechanical device for unloading car loads of stone or coal and the work is being done by the Jupp Construction Co.

There are 170 pupils enrolled at the local public school and 71 in the Continuation School.

One day last week Chas. Atkinson shot an eagle on his farm at Bethesda. The bird was a monster measuring seven feet from tip to tip of its wings.

The continued rains with some degree of warmth at times has developed a second crop of strawberries. Mr. Fred March on the 5th con of Whitechurch reports a beautiful apple blossom.

The largest farm stock sale to be held in this locality thus far this season took place on Saturday on the farm of Geo. Maye at Goodwood. The size of the sale might be judged by the fact that the total proceeds amounted to

THE OLD HOME TOWN By STANLEY



\$4,400. A second-hand binder sold for \$200; a drill for \$95, and a cultivator for \$75. Cows averaged the high price of \$107.00 while the one horse reached \$166.

Harry Pugh was awarded the first prize for the best strike out in tractor class in sod at the South Ontario plowing match held last Saturday at Columbus.

18 YEARS AGO

A car load of vegetables and other needed things were shipped last week from Locust Hill to Tyvan, Sask. where the contents will help a needy district.

The Snow White Dairy conducted by Mr. Harry Sawyer, was sold this week to one of the other dairymen Mr. Clayt. Baker of the Maple Leaf Dairy.

Perhaps Roy Brillinger of Gormley stands at the top of the list as a producer of potatoes in this section. Certainly around Gormley he is the potato King. He had under cultivation this year 23 acres of spuds and expects to harvest some 5,000 bags.

Markham Township Council are giving serious consideration to furnishing their relief patrons with Alberta coal this winter instead of hardwood which was supplied last year. Hardwood, 4 ft. length cost the municipality \$8.50 a cord, and the coal can be purchased for \$8 a ton.

As announced in the press last week Chas. Hoover member of the Markham Township Council was on Monday appointed to the position of treasurer of the municipality at a salary of \$800 per annum.



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