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C. H. Nolan, editor Jas. Thomas, sports & assist. A. V. Nolan & Son, Publishers

NOTES and COMMENTS

On The Tax Bills

Municipalities this year are being compelled by the Ontario government to state on their tax bills the amount of all grants — or perhaps the amount by which the mill rate has been "reduced" by reason of these grants. It has been the case invariably in the past that the standards to which municipalities had to comply to obtain these grants, were so high and costly that in many instances, the municipality could get along more cheaply without the government aid. However, if municipalities are compelled to do this, they might consider also stating the amount the mill rate has been increased by reason of the province's refusal to pay a more equitable share of education, welfare and other services which should not be such a heavy burden on real estate.

Out Of His Element

Hearing tales from travellers about the wonders of life in the southern climes, we got to speculating as to how man ever came to inhabit the so-called temperate zone. Warmth-loving creatures with a temperature tolerance range of about twenty degrees, a goodly number of mankind themselves living in a climate with violent fluctuations which parboil them in summer and deep freeze them in the winter.

Man is obviously not built to take such punishment. Otherwise he would have come equipped with built-in long woolies, the thickness of which waxed and waned with seasonal changes. The very fact that the cradle of man's civilization was under the tropic sun rather than the northern lights demonstrates the type of climate for which man was intended.

Failing a permanent return to his proper environment, man might well take a leaf from the book of his feathered friends. In the winter they go south where all sensible creatures should be. In the summer they fly north to a climate which is, at least, bearable.

We often wonder who coined the expression "bird-brained." —The Mildmay Gazette.

Easter Seal Campaign

The Easter Seal Campaign in aid of the Ontario Society for Crippled Children is now in full swing, sponsored locally by the Stouffville Lions Club.

To the 9,000 handicapped children scattered throughout Ontario, on farms, in city homes or in remote hamlets, the 1954 sale of Easter Seals means hope. To them the Easter Seals bring treatment and training, a possibility of independence and relief from the physical handicaps that birth, illness or accident left them.

Last year the Ontario Society for Crippled Children, whose only appeal for funds is made in the annual sale of Easter Seals by nearly 200 service clubs, carried out the biggest program in all its history. And this year, the 9,000 youngsters who are listed on their roles as "active" cases will have increased, because Ontario's swiftly-growing population means hundreds of new cases each year. The objective in this year's Easter Seals campaign, March 18th to April 18th, is \$500,000.

The organization that cares for this number of children is amazingly small: A tightly-knit office staff at headquarters in Toronto, a score of highly-trained nurses, a corps of volunteer doctors and an army of public-spirited citizens who give freely of their time. The result is a volume of service out of all proportion to the money spent in the work.

This work takes several forms. There is a nursing service, made up of 21 graduate nurses, each of whom has taken a special post-graduate course in orthopedics and is authorized by special Act of the Ontario Legislature to wear the title Orthopedic Consultant. These nurses visit the homes of handicapped children, teach the parents how to administer therapy treatment or direct the child to medical attention.

The nurses function in specific divisions of the province, ranging from the Lakehead area to Eastern Ontario. Available for their use are 4 qualified therapists whose value is indicated by the fact that the Ontario government requested the assistance of two during a polio epidemic last year, which assistance was provided by the Society at no cost to the province or patients.

Five summer camps this year will give outings to 1,200 children who would otherwise have no such holiday because of their inability to attend conventional camps. This is the biggest crippled children's camping program of any single political area in the world, and its importance is that it more than gives a holiday; it teaches children who often are embarrassed by handicaps to care for themselves and get along with other youngsters. Year round, too, one camp, Woodeden, near London, is a cerebral palsy centre to provide special treatment for such cases.

Clinics for the examination of children in areas far from major hospital centres are also organized, and last year 15 of these were held, with top specialists from Toronto, Hamilton, Ottawa and elsewhere giving free services. If children need hospitalization, this is provided on the specialists' advice, and local doctors co-operate in providing treatment at home.

In many other programs, the Easter Seals provide the means for alleviating suffering and providing training such as that in the unique Variety Village, which is operated by the Society for the Variety Club of Toronto, where crippled children learn trades. And all these programs add up to a chance for youngsters whose future otherwise looks dark.

For Parents Only

"MAPS ARE FUN"

By Nancy Cleaver



Did you ever wonder who drew the first map? Perhaps a cave man took a pointed stick and sketched on the ground a rough drawing for his mate to see where he had gone on his last hunting expedition. Maybe a fighter scratched on a soft stone a picture to show where he thought the enemy of the clan were hiding. In days of peace and in times of war, from the dawn of history, maps have played a vital part.

The earliest maps which are in existence were scratched on clay tablets by Babylonian merchants around 2500 BC to show their estates. In the 5th Century BC the Greeks drew the world which they knew around the Mediterranean on bronze plates. It was the Greeks who first conceived of the idea that the world was not flat but a sphere. Later this was doubted by the conquering Romans.

The Romans were practical soldiers and they drew maps to show their conquests. Their network of roads made an impressive map. These roads were constructed into the lands overcome by Alexander the Great. On their maps the Romans depicted the earth as a flat disc surrounded by water.

In the middle of the thirteenth century, one Englishman, Mathew Paris, worked on a map of his homeland for the use of travellers. Three centuries later, Elizabethan England was the first country to conduct a survey and publish a National Atlas.

Interest was awakened in Cathay or China and other parts of the Far East by Marco Polo's voyages. His new discoveries were shown in an atlas issued in 1375. It was the sailing men who were convinced that the old Greek idea of a spherical world was correct. In the sixteenth century Johann Schoner became famous for his wooden globes with paper "gores" applied on their surface.

The discovery of line engraving gave a great impetus to map drawings. First Italy and later Netherlands took the lead in the production and distribution of maps.

There was no standard mile until late in the eighteenth century. The different countries could not agree on the meridian. Even the English who first placed it in the Azores, moved it to St. Paul's, London and later to Greenwich (where it remained).

There are a vast number of maps of our earth's surface with its over fifty million sq. miles of land and twice as much water. With aerial photography, a new era in map drawing has been born.

How great is the variety of maps in today's world! In Is-

rael, where the rainfall is so scanty, their map of dew fall is important. Daily maps of weather conditions in other parts of the world are studied by experts to guide them in their weather forecasts. Geologists find maps indispensable in searching for new mining finds. How many millions of holiday travellers pour over road maps to plan their trip each vacation.

Learning about maps can be fun. They are a fascinating part of our modern life. Their collection provides an absorbing hobby for many people—and in the story of the art of map making is found one of the most important records of the growth of knowledge and civilization.

Ask the librarian at the Public Library about books on Maps. Three which are written for school children which are worth buying are the Map That Came to Life by Deverson (Oxford University Press) and By Map and Compass by Mustard, (Macmillan Co. of Canada) and Down to Earth by David Greenwood.

A good map on the wall adds greatly to the atmosphere of a living room or den. It can be mounted on heavy cardboard or framed like a picture.

Retain Armistice School Holiday

The Ontario legislature's education committee turned aside a suggestion that schools remain open on Remembrance Day.

The suggestion was put by W. E. Brandon (PC—York West), committee chairman, who said the spirit of the day would be better served if services were held in the schools.

Education Minister Dunlop said the Canadian Legion would oppose the dropping of the holiday and suggested the committee take no action until the Legion changes its stand.

Canada's Oldest Grocer in Business At Cameron

Believed to be Canada's oldest grocer, William Hewie of Cameron looks ahead with confidence to the future as he enters his 94th year and his 48th year in business at the same stand. Unlike most people today who are looking for shorter work weeks, Mr. Hewie says he finds he hasn't enough time to do all the things he wants to. "I've worn out one floor and I've got at the second one," Mr. Hewie's day starts at 6 a.m. and he says he hardly ever gets finished until around 11 p.m. Looking over at an attractive young lady who had just entered the store

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he said, "I could get a lot more done in the day if I didn't have to answer so many questions these boys and girls ask me." Mr. Hewie was born 2½ miles north of the village in which he does business. He has a brother Peter, 84 years of age, who celebrated his diamond wedding recently. A sister lives at Sterling.

Ontario County Now In Century Year

Without anything special to mark the occasions, other than the reading of the first minutes by Warden Wilson at the January session this year, Ontario County Council is now in its hundredth year. It is in the same position as the Town of Whitby which was incorporated in 1855 and will mark the centennial next year. The first council session was held in 1854, and many and valuable are the historical records now in the county vaults at the Court House. The corner stone of the court house was laid in 1953, by members of the Masonic Order who turned out in large numbers from all parts of the county and some from outside places. First members of the council were designated as town reeves and deputy-reeves.

Records in possession of William G. Manning, county clerk and treasurer, show that Brock Township had reeve and deputy-reeve. Mara and Rama, in the north part of the county were one municipality, represented by a reeve. Township of Pickering had a reeve and deputy; Reach and Scugog were one under a reeve and deputy; Scout township also included the village of Beaverton which was not then incorporated or recognized as a village; Uxbridge township included Uxbridge town not then incorporated as a municipality but represented by a reeve. Township of Whitby included the village of Whitby, the Twp. of Whitby and East Whitby, with a reeve and deputy. Oshawa, as already noted, was then a struggling village. Thos. Nicholson Gibbs was the first warden.

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