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**NOTES and COMMENTS**

**People Should Be Given A Chance**

One hears more and more local conversation each day concerning the need for a sewage system in Stouffville and while everyone recognizes that the cost is little short of tremendous, nevertheless it is up to council to give the ratepayers a chance to speak on a ballot their feelings in the matter.

We have talked with a good many residents on the subject and have failed so far to turn up a "knocker." While admitting that the additional taxes and water rates would be substantial, most seem to feel the matter has to be faced for the good of the community.

Council has rather hedged on the matter and not without reason since the tax rate, even without sewers is climbing and is due for a heavy jolt this year again with the new county rate and the new high school. There is also the matter of new pavement on Main St. which has to be faced before long and what deal will be forthcoming with the Provincial Highway people in this regard is not known.

However, regardless of all these factors, council members who are aware of the growing concern over sanitation, should allow the people to vote on the question at least, "are you in favour of council proceeding with a sewage disposal system." If proper arrangements are made such a vote could be taken at the annual municipal election this December.

**Ragged Reverence**

The flag of our country, usually the Union Jack, at least until Canada has a distinctive flag, is not being used as reverently as it might be in this community. It flies over our two public buildings, the post office and school, and is often in tatters because it is allowed out in the elements too long. A similar situation exists in many other communities.

Officials whose responsibility of flying the flag seem to think that when one wears out another should be run up and allowed to blow or droop as the wind wills until it is reduced to a tattered rag.

This is certainly not proper respect for the flag. And now that another spring and summer season is upon us it would be an excellent time to remedy the situation and have bright and crisp new flags flying from the staffs. While being meticulous can in some instances be as great a fault as carelessness, it does not require meticulous care to treat the flag with the type of reverence that does not allow it to become a tattered and faded remnant of torn cloth.

**Now Is The Merry Month Of May**

This is the month of May, and a fitting time to herald the arrival of spring. There have been some false starts and no little delay altogether, but no reasonable person may now deny it is here. It is noticeably shy, even yet, being cooler than most of us would like, but who would quibble when across the lawn there gleam the sunny gold of the forsythia, the clear yellow of the daffodil and the rich blue of tiny scillas? The rains of April have brought forth the color of the grass and along the street the trees are bathed in a green mist. The earth is alive again.

One of the most miraculous sights in nature is the unfolding of a maple bud. The swelling pressure of the embryo leaves within the bulging cover of the bud finally splits it open. Within, pressing forward and interlocked in a complexity beyond belief, are the tiny leaves. They emerge perfect in shape, marvelously small, and in the course of a few weeks may grow five inches across. To think of billions of miracles like this every spring is enough to bring a man to his knees.

The glory of the verdure is a relief after the drab landscape of fall and winter. But along with the seen beauty have come the heard melodies of woods and meadow. In the very early morning, just as the day begins to dawn, one robin starts awake and with a single chirp sets off the whole incredible chorus of the feathered choir. It is a remarkable sound, comparable to a whole peal of bells going at once. And almost as suddenly as it started, it stops and the day-long chores of finding food and a place to locate a nest begin. Sheer joy at being in Canada in spring cannot be contained, however, and off and on all day the lilt of the robin, the vibrant whistle of the cardinal, the homely cawing of the crow, can be heard ringing with unsurpassed excitement.

The cool breeze of night has a smoothness which the winter breeze could never offer. The very stars seem to be softer and richer in color through the faint mists of spring. Jupiter's shining orb takes the eye in the northwest, and at the zenith itself, the Dipper poises alarmingly upside-down. In the pools of the woods, the hylas whistle their incessant monotone. In the silent hours before dawn, the gentle hiss of rain will come and go on the roof, to have gone before the sun comes up in golden glory.

**Poor Advice**

Federal authorities should insist that only butter be served in government institutions, the Farmer's Advocate suggests. If Ottawa is wise it will ignore that advice.

If it took sides in this matter, the next step might well be to bar citrus fruits, tea, coffee and a lot of other foods that are not produced on Canadian farms. Indeed there would be much sounder argument for banning these than margarine, because the latter is produced in Canada though usually from largely imported raw materials.

But this idea of asking the government to decide what we may eat, or wear or buy, to favor one group at the expense of another, is all wrong. It is contrary to democracy and contrary to common sense. How can Canadian farmers hope to sell their surplus production in foreign markets if they ban all trade in the other direction?

Once before Ottawa got its fingers badly singed in this butter-versus-margarine business. It would be well advised to keep well away in future.

**REPORT FROM PARLIAMENT**

By Michael Starr, M.P. Ontario Riding

Parliament reconvened on Monday, April 26th, and the debate on the Budget continued. During this debate we have heard speeches on various subjects and not entirely on the aspects of the Budget. It gave an opportunity to Members to talk on any subject with which they were familiar, and against the rules of the House the Speaker has given leeway in allowing them to deliver speeches on subjects of their own choosing.

Most Members during the Easter Recess found that conditions of unemployment in their Ridings were far worse than they had anticipated. The unemployment situation in our own district is a very serious and acute one. During my stay at home I had numerous people approach me, requesting that some aid be given them or that employment be found. We have had well over six hundred in our district who have been cut off supplementary unemployment insurance benefits as of April 15th. In most cases these people have no other income. There are those in this category who have not been in Oshawa for a period of one year and, as a result, are not eligible for relief. They find themselves in very dire straits.

As much as we would like to be optimistic about the future, the present and the immediate future do not look any too healthy. The amazing aspect of the whole situation is that the Government is still looking on the situation with optimism and is stubbornly defending its position that jobs will be available very shortly. We hope they are right.

As expected, the Liberal majority in the House of Commons brushed aside as of little consequence the Progressive Conservative motion calling upon Parliament to deal with the unemployment problem. There are always consequences, however—ultimate consequences at the Polls—when a Government fails to deal adequately with a problem of great concern to the people, who hold the fate of elections in their hands. If Parliament does not deal with unemployment then who will? This is no sixty-four dollar question. Everyone knows that the answer is zero unless Parliament acts. The Progressive Conservative Motion was lost. The problem of unemployment remains and is rapidly getting worse. The motion was put to a vote following six days of debate in the Commons. It might not be correct, however, to say that the debate was entirely futile. It has served to instruct the country on exactly where the Government and the Opposition stand—at exactly opposite ends of the issue.

The Progressive Conservative motion simply asked that a Committee of the Commons study the unemployment situation and suggest methods to deal with it. There was nothing remotely unreasonable about the request. Surely, that is the least the Commons could do under the circumstances. One Member described this debate when he said "The Government gave the unemployed a political brush-off". They did so by a recorded vote of 101 against the 63 votes supporting the Progressive Conservative resolution.

Labour unions, labour executives, industries and municipalities, are worried about the situation and what it holds in store in the immediate future, but there is nothing they can do except to bring it to the attention of those who are able and in a position to do something which would alleviate the present critical situation—and that somebody is the Federal Government of Canada.

It is hard to understand their attitude towards this national problem. No one would want to deny that unemployment is a most serious matter for the man without a job, no matter what the statistics say. Figures may prove that not many people in Canada will die this year of, say, a certain disease, but if a man is dying of that disease no statistics in the world are going to make him think that disease is not serious.

Nevertheless, that does not answer the question of how serious a national problem unemployment is today. Looking at it from the standpoint of twenty years ago, when 22% of the labour force was unemployed in 1934, it does not look bad. On the other hand, looking at it from the standpoint of ten years ago, when only 1.5% of the labour force was out of work, it looks serious.

To my mind the immediate alleviation of this problem would be the raising of unemployment insurance benefits.

**Whitchurch To Repair Crossings**

Mr. W. MacIntosh appeared before Whitchurch Township Council on Thursday evening to ask consideration for improved road conditions on the approach to the rail way crossing on the township sideroad a mile and quarter north of Aurora. Mr. MacIntosh stated that the crossing was extremely dangerous because of the high elevation of the crossing and the narrowness of the road which approached it. Reeve McLaughlin told the deputation that the matter would be given consideration by the Road Committee.

Later, Road Supt. Davis revealed that the township and the railway had discussed improvements to the crossing last year and the railway section boss had advised that the road would have to be widened to allow for installation of proper guard rails. At that time he said the township had agreed to do the necessary machine work if the railway would supply the fill. However, nothing had been heard since that time from the railway. Council agreed that the C.N.R. should be asked for a reply to the previous suggestion for improvement.

In connection with the Leary crossing near Gormley which has been on the agenda for some time, a communication was read by Clerk Crawford stating that the C.N.R. would pay 30% of the cost of improving the sight lines and that the usual grant would be forthcoming from the Grade Crossing Fund. The railway's estimate for lowering the banks and removing the grove of trees obstructing the vision, was \$2200. However, the communication stated that the railway would be glad to agree to a smaller cost if the township could provide a better estimate. Council agreed that the work could be done more cheaply by

**Wells Contaminated Richvale on Guard**

One thousand residents of Richvale are in danger of nitrate poisoning from contaminated wells. They were warned on Thursday by the York County Health Unit that their water was seriously polluted and should not be used for drinking unless it has been boiled. The area affected takes in the whole Richvale area, south of Richmond Hill, north of Langstaff and west of Yonge St. About 600 homes are in the district.

The wells were condemned by a local contractor than by the railway and the road supt. was asked to obtain an estimate.

last night at a meeting of the Health Unit after a survey in which tests showed that of 118 wells tested, only 11 were labelled safe, and even these wells will be subjected to further tests.

The water was examined in laboratories of the University of Toronto and the Provincial Health Department.

Health Unit officials said it was still not determined what had caused the pollution of the well water. It is believed, however, concentration of septic tanks in the heavily built-up area being near the wells was the principal cause.

Chiefly in danger are newborn babies, stated Robert Craig, chief inspector of the Health Unit, who conducted the survey. If they drank enough of the polluted water they could develop a form of

nitrate poisoning which would cause them to turn blue with possibly fatal results, he said. This has happened many times in western Canada and even in Ontario, he said.

Parents of new-born infants were warned today not to use even boiled water in babies' formula since boiling does not neutralize nitrates — it only kills bacteria in the water. They were advised to use water only from the few wells which were given a clean bill of health. One of these wells is the one located at the district public school.

Health unit officials blamed the situation on the shallowness of the wells. Deep drilled wells would have brought the residents uncontaminated water. Piping the water in from elsewhere was the best solution, they said.

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