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Editorials

Contest of Yesteryears Revived

A Toronto daily has helped revive the spelling bee, and here in Stouffville we have already had a zone winner, details of which are related elsewhere in this issue.

The Ontario Educational Association is co-operating in reviving the spelling bee on a province-wide scale. Pupils are finding it's real fun and carries competitive thrills not expected from such a "dry subject."

The Provincial finals will be held at the Ontario College of Education on April 5th. Rural schools are taking an active interest in the contest. The country scholars have the reputation of being adept spellers, and it will be interesting to see how they fare with the urban pupils.

Still Lots of Building To Do

One often hears it remarked that the construction of new houses, factories and other buildings in Canada is being overdone, that we have just about caught up in this era of post-war construction.

But the contrary is true, points out The Financial Post. With the enormous backlog for housing created during the war, thousands of families are still doubled up. It is also forgotten that a very large percentage of our buildings are old, still sound and in good central locations, but 20 to 40 years behind the times in plumbing, heating and lighting equipment.

The casual observer forgets too, that in public building, roads, schools, hospitals, churches, court houses, city halls, armories and such we have only started to begin catching up with needs.

Above all, however, it must not be forgotten that Canada is growing bigger and faster than ever before, that Canadians are more prosperous than ever before, and that what may look like a record volume of building for 14 million people a year or two ago is much too small for the almost 16 million we have today.

Hurry, Spring!

This is the time of year when our eyes become weary of seeing snow and winter gets downright boring. When March is here, winter in most quarters is regarded as a guest who has over-stayed his welcome.

It is difficult, at this time at least, to think of anything good about winter. It may have some appeal during a heat wave in summer, but at this stage of the year winter is a burden that Ontario residents are forced to put up with.

Mother is weary of zipping up snow-suits and dad is tired of fuel bills and youngsters no longer enjoy the snow as they did two months ago. It is plain that winter has lost its appeal and may as well be over and done with.

And spring! Well, we can't think of enough good things to say about spring. Spring makes poets more poetical, lovers more romantic, old folks several years younger and youngsters more frisky. (The latter is about the only thing we have against spring.)

Spring makes us intoxicated with the sheer joy of being alive.

Hurry, spring, hurry!

Salaries For Reeves

In an historic move recently Markham Township has become the first municipality in the district to pay its Chief Magistrate an annual salary. Under the new legislation which carried unanimously in Council, Reeve Alfred LeMasurier and his successors will receive an annual salary of \$1500.

While this is a new departure for the payment of elected officials, it is one of considerable merit and will doubtless prove its worth. With the rapid development of the district, more and more work has fallen on the shoulders of the local elected representatives and particularly Reeves of municipalities. In many instances, local Reeves spend as many as four days weekly away from their own businesses or work in the interest of the municipality they represent.

As development continues, the trend is expected to spread to other municipalities in the district. From the government standpoint it is a good system as it enables the Reeve of the municipality to carry out his duties without being out of pocket. From the democratic angle it insures that any citizen may run for the office and be compensated for the time he loses from his own work. To a degree, it works in the same manner as the federal or provincial parliaments, which are designed in such a way that a person's personal finances are not a barrier against becoming an elected representative. —The Liberal.

LAFF OF THE WEEK



"Stanley makes giving up smoking a real test of will power."



Inwardness of Religion

THE MONK SAVANAROLA, who lived in Florence during the thirteenth century, was one of the most fearless preachers of righteousness who ever lived. In a corrupt age he condemned the evils of his day and spared none, not even the leaders of the church.

HE USED THE PEOPLE OF Florence to bring their mirrors to the marketplace so that they might be destroyed. He regarded vanity as one of the prevailing sins of his day and he believed that if people could no longer see themselves reflected in looking-glasses, their vanity would fade away.

IT IS A TESTIMONY to his good influence that the people obeyed and in a public square the mirrors were piled high and then destroyed. History records that in a short time there were as many mirrors in Florence as there ever had been, only the styles were different. Vanity was still in the people's hearts.

THIS WAS THE MESSAGE OF JESUS, that religion dealt with inward motives and his severest criticisms were aimed at complacent religious people who imagined that if they observed the laws and regulations of their creeds all would be well. Religion, Jesus insisted, was a matter of motive, an inner spiritual concern and God looked not on the outward appearance but on the heart.

WHEN A YOUTH was given a stiff sentence for breaking into a store and getting only fifteen cents his defending lawyer protested that a jail term was cruel and unjust: "Sixty days in jail for stealing fifteen cents is monstrous," he declared. The Judge replied: "I am sending him to jail for stealing, not for the amount he secured." It wasn't the thief's intention to steal a few cents; no doubt he was bitterly disappointed.

THERE IS A STRONG NOTE of encouragement in the knowledge that God looks deeper than the surface. He sees all the good which never finds expression; all the longing, learning and striving. He knows the people who mean well but fail through ignorance or weakness. The world is full of people who fail over and over again. But the only real failure is to give up trying.

JESUS TREATED SOME PEOPLE of his day with amazing tolerance and understanding. He forgave the woman taken in adultery; he made allowances for Peter's weakness and profanity in the courtyard. He did not condone their conduct but he did know that they were really much better than their behaviour indicated.

ONE DAY JESUS STOOD by the treasury in the temple and watched men and women as they brought their offerings. He saw men who cast in out of their abundance, and knew how to measure such gifts. He saw a poor widow cast in two mites, and knowing that even so small an amount involved much sacrifice. He spoke in glowing terms of her gift. His was the religion of inwardness — of motives — and He knew that the woman had it in her heart to give much that circumstances made impossible.

DAVID HAD IT IN HIS HEART to build a temple for God. Doubtless it was the deepest desire and greatest longing of his heart. He was forbidden to erect it, and that must have been a crushing disappointment. The sins of former years rose up against him and robbed him of that great honour. But the story does not end there. His desire to build the temple was recognized and commended and God, through the prophet, said to him, "Whereas it was in thine heart . . . thou didst well." (1 Kings 8:18).

WE CAN THANK GOD that He sees motives. That was a fine thing Abraham Lincoln said when he heard the Beatitudes read: "I hunger and I thirst."

OUR QUOTATION FOR TODAY is by Seneca: "It is not the incense we offer to God that matters, but our devotion to Him."



For Parents Only

Wanting to Work

By Nancy Cleaver

"Wanting to work is so rare a merit that it should be encouraged," Abraham Lincoln once remarked. A modern father, annoyed at his son's unwillingness to labor along with his eagerness to give his opinion on every subject that came up, asked the boy: "What have you done on this subject to entitle you to an opinion? How much experience have you had in this affair, so that you can have a reliable opinion about it?"

Perhaps this very father discouraged his son when he was a little fellow and he wanted to help his Dad with some small carpentry job around the house. Most small children are eager to help grownups with work which fascinates them. "Can I help?" is a request often on their lips. If his offer of assistance is refused or postponed, he is not apt to repeat it. Children don't like being rebuffed any more than adults appreciate a "brush-off."

civil defence notebook

Prov. Responsibilities

(4th of a series of 24 articles)

The ten provincial governments in Canada would be responsible for a sort of family-like cooperation among their communities should a nuclear war ever hit this continent. Meanwhile, during this time of peace the provinces' job is to make such cooperation possible should emergency conditions arise.

The latest civil defence thinking has underlined this duty of the provinces heavier than others. For evacuation of cities likely to be hit by the enemy with the unbelievable destruction of the H-bomb now is considered the only really safe defence against annihilation. But where are these people from the cities to go? How are they to get there? Those are questions the provinces must answer. They are seeking the solutions now. They appear in several steps.

First, the provincial governments had to create their own civil defence organization. This was done following conferences among federal and provincial authorities in 1950-51 and regularly since. Each province now has a functioning C.D. organization within the framework of its government. Each has a cabinet minister responsible for C.D. and a provincial co-ordinator. Their staffs vary according to how actively the province participates.

Canada's constitution is such that communication between various governmental levels runs from the federal through the provincial to the municipal or local. This places responsibility on the province for co-ordinating the efforts of its communities into the plan for the whole country.

The province must help its communities organize their own C.D. setups; it must keep municipalities informed of the latest developments and provide training of civil defence volunteers within the province. It also must provide the legislation necessary for local authorities to operate; that is, it must delegate the necessary authority to carry out a civil defence operation.

Advance warning of an impending attack would come

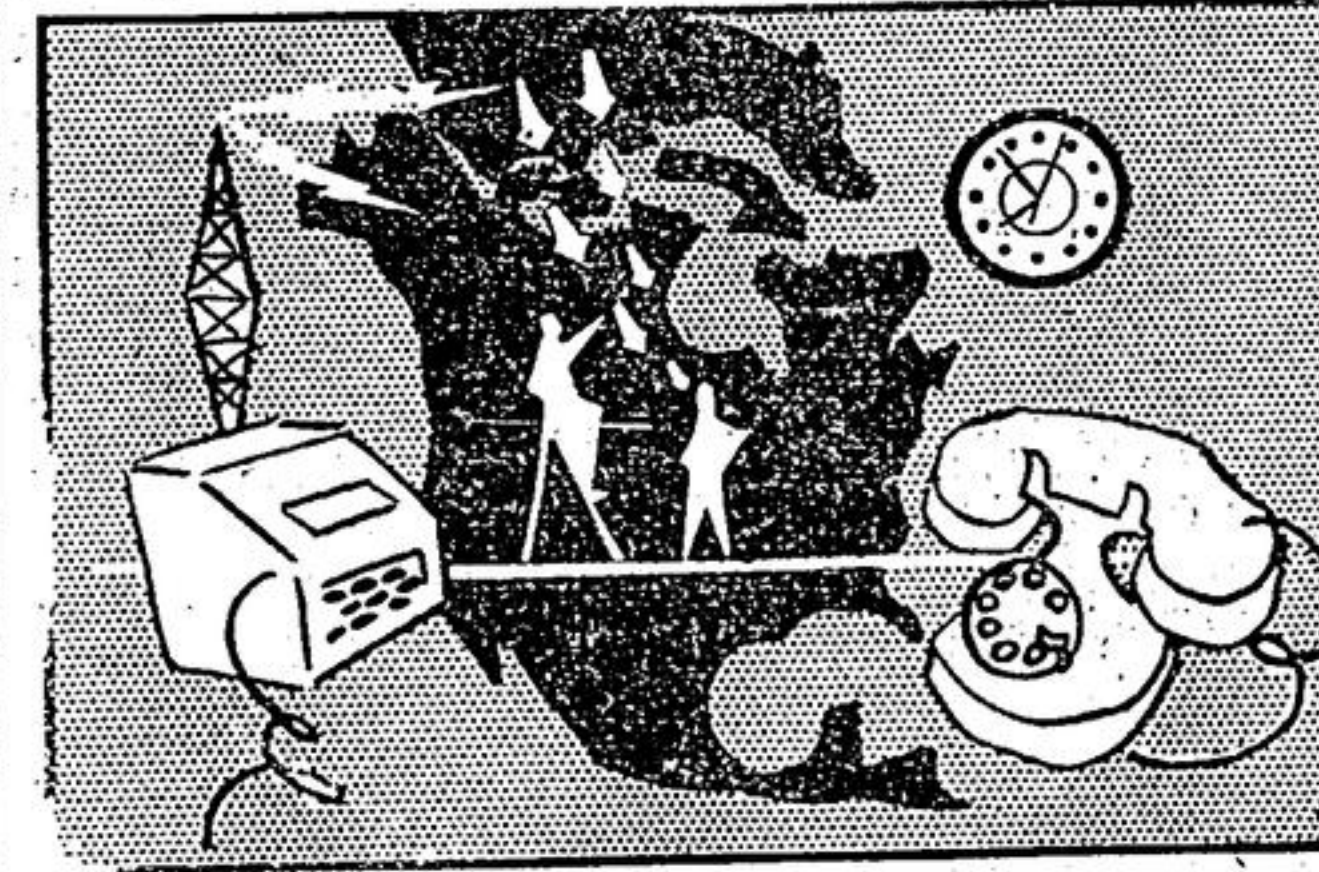
through the provincial facilities from the federal organization and should communications on a national scale be interrupted, the provincial organization would have to supply direction for local plans.

What about the money necessary for equipment, training and organization centres? The province is responsible for assisting in this way, too. It can get financial help from the federal government which will match provincial contributions on a dollar-for-dollar basis up to an amount based on the population of each province. If the province agrees (the federal government, under the constitution, cannot work directly with the municipality unless the province allows it) the federal C.D. organization can contribute 25 percent of a local project's costs. Then if the province puts in 25 percent, the federal contribution will be increased by another 25 percent, leaving the municipality with the other 25 percent of the cost to pay. Beyond this federal assistance the province must go itself.

The big job of each province, however, is to organize reception areas to take in people evacuated from cities likely to be bombed. These will be towns and villages ringing the target cities. Because of the destructive power of the new weapons these reception areas must be not less than 50 and may be up to 100 miles from the city.

The province must organize routes to be taken to these reception areas, seeing that the first arrivals go to the farthest area. These areas would have to provide food and shelter from weather as well as radioactive fallout that might be carried by winds from the target area. These facilities must be capable of caring for the evacuees for at least 48 hours, probable time for any fall-out radiation dangers to disappear. If the radiation danger, determined by C.D. radiation detection teams, were stronger, the reception areas would have to be equipped to decontaminate personnel.

Should whole cities be made uninhabitable, their residents after the bombing would have to be re-established in new communities, posing new problems that would fall again under provincial jurisdiction.



the child is working, do it in a kindly way. A task may be a little too difficult for a child. If he is taking too long to do it, help him finish it. Don't take over the job and do it yourself!

The next time your child is helping, delegate more responsibility and cut down on directions: If your child is old enough and keen about that particular task, work toward the time when your son or daughter can complete the task all by himself or herself. Show how to avoid making the same mistake twice. Be generous in your praise of a job well done.

Sometimes in a home where there are older boys and girls at school, they have become more and more pre-occupied with their school work, their friends and their own interests and activities. They rarely ask, "Can I help?"

Frequently, mother in a mistaken idea that she is being "good to the children," asks little or nothing from them in assistance in the work of the home. She may not realize it, but a house where mother does the children's beds, tidies up and picks up after them, is an excellent training ground for a selfish husband or a helpless wife in a few years time.

In the fair division of the work of the home, father, because he is away so much and can look on things with a more impartial view, should give some direction. Everyone, even a small child, should have some work to do. A Family Council when father reviews all the work mother does each week is a good idea. In some homes each child is allowed to choose at the end of the week some job he likes to do which he will carry out the next week. The tasks that no one is likely to pick, such as washing the dishes, are written out on slips and rotated so that each one has a turn. Contributing to a home as well as receiving from it, is all part of belonging to a worthwhile family!

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Three Provinces Plan For Elections in '56

Three of Canada's 10 provinces plan general elections in 1956 — Newfoundland, Quebec and Saskatchewan. Election talk in four other provinces ranges from near certainty in New Brunswick to hints in Nova Scotia and British Columbia and bare possibility in Manitoba.

Not talking elections at all are Prince Edward Island, Ontario and Alberta which in 1955 re-elected governments for 3-year terms.

If seven provinces should go to the polls, it would be the busiest election year since 1886 when all seven provinces of the day held elections.

In Newfoundland, Premier Smallwood says an election will be held and speculation favors a fall date. In the last election—Nov. 26, 1951—the Liberal party won 23 seats, the Progressive Conservatives five. Now the 28-seat house has 20 Liberals, four Progressive Conservative and one CCF with three seats vacant.

In Quebec, Premier Duplessis

has announced an election this year but the date is not known. Speculation favors late June or early July. In the last election, July 16, 1952, Union Nationale captured 68 of the 92 house seats against 23 Liberals and one Independent. Now there are 68 UN members, 22 Liberals, one Independent and three vacancies.

The Saskatchewan election is expected in June after spring seeding. Already about 100 candidates are in the field, CCF members hold 41 of 33 house seats, with 10 Liberals, one Progressive Conservative and one vacancy. In the last election—June 11, 1952—CCF won 12 seats, Liberals 11.

New Brunswick's expected election could be delayed until 1957. Hugh John Fleming, Progressive Conservative premier, has held power since the last election Sept. 22, 1952 when his party won 36 seats and Liberals 6 in the 52-member house. The government now has 33 members, Liberals 16; 3 seats are vacant.

Education Now Costs \$50 Per Person

It is sometimes said that what is everybody's business is nobody's business. This is not true of education. This statement is being explained more fully during Canadian Education Week, from March 4 to 10 this year.

Over a hundred thousand teachers, several thousand school board officials and hundreds of provincial departmental officials are giving full-time service to approximately three and a half million students enrolled in Canada's elementary and secondary schools. Almost a hundred thousand public-spirited men and women are giving long hours of voluntary service as members of Canada's 22,000 School Boards and over a quarter million parents have allied themselves with Home and School and Parent-Teacher Associations actively promoting Better Schools for Canadian Children.

Add to these the thousands of citizens serving on Education Committees of Service Clubs, Boards of Trade, Agricultural Organizations, Business, Industrial and Labour bodies and the many Women's Organizations across the country and it must be seen that there is no business receiving the attention of more citizens of Canada than the Business of Educating Canadian Youth.

The fifteen national organizations united in the Canadian Education Week project represent a combined membership of well over two million. There need be no fear in Canada of what is Everybody's Business becoming Nobody's Business.

Education is Big Business. The annual budget for operation and maintenance exceeds Six Hundred Million Dollars and the annual cost of construction of new schools is currently close to Two Hundred Million Dollars. Averaged over every Canadian from the youngest infant to the oldest inhabitant, the total annual cost is now approximately Fifty Dollars per head. Financing Education is one of the biggest problems today facing all levels of government—local, provincial and federal.

When the five-year suspension proposal was debated in the House of Commons a year ago, it was narrowly defeated by a vote of 245 to 214, a majority of only 31 votes. This time the majority was 31—in the opposite direction.

Meanwhile, while Parliament was undecided on the issue, the home secretary, Maj. Gwilym Lloyd-George, took no chances. He reprimanded nine convicted murderers scheduled to be executed. Nine times in a row the royal prerogative of mercy was exercised on the advice of the home secretary.

None Since Aug. 12, when a 22-year-old coal miner was hanged for the murder of his mother-in-law, has there been an execution in the whole of the United Kingdom.

"Judicial Death Takes a Holiday," headlined the London newspapers, while the more sensational printed stories about how Albert Pierpont, Britain's official hangman, has gone fishing every day since last summer.

According to a recent Gallup Poll, one in three Britons is an abolitionist, while 13 percent of those polled are undecided. The results of a poll of 26,000 readers by the tabloid Daily Mirror were even more striking, showing a 2-to-1 majority against hanging.

The British penchant for hanging dates back to the 16th Century when, under the reign of Henry VIII, 72,000 executions are said to have taken place. In recent years an average of a dozen men and women have been convicted of murder and executed every year in Britain, although the number of murders committed exceeds 170.

To the argument that the death penalty is the best deterrent to murder, a Royal Commission which studied the problem from 1913 to 1953 concluded: "There is no clear evidence in any of the figures we have examined that the abolition of capital punishment has led to an increase in the homicide rate or that its re-introduction has led to a fall."

Men employees are given an evening a week for courting purposes and two days if they go to prayer meeting regularly. After 14 hours of work in the store a day, the leisure time must be spent reading good literature.

Alcoholism Talk For Convicts

Ontario Reforms Minister Foote says that more than ten thousand prisoners in Ontario reformatories and industrial farms will be given compulsory education on alcoholism.

He said in an interview that there are more than 5,000 prisoners in Ontario institutions because of liquor misuse.

"These people represent a challenge which we now are prepared to accept. They will be given complete instruction on alcoholism just as alcoholics are at the Alex G. Brown Memorial Clinic at Mimico. All that will be missing is the medical end of the treatment."

The program will be under the direction of Dr. Gordon Bell, director of the Mimico clinic. He will supervise lectures. Staff doctors at provincial institutions will be given training courses at Mimico.

Mr. Foote said: "It may take several years before we are in a position to determine the value of this program, but we are all agreed that it should be tried. It is an excellent opportunity to experiment in group therapy and treatment."

Definitions

Fellow Traveller: A person who sits next to you in a Russian streetcar.

Confirmed Bachelor: A man who's never Miss-taken.

History: An account of how other nations have always been wrong.

Classical Education: Something that enables you to dispense the wealth which it prevents you from achieving.

Hot Water: What you can keep a small boy out of—if you put a bar of soap in it.

Antique: Something that nobody liked well enough to wear out.