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OUR EDITORIAL COMMENT

Local Dentists Favour Fluoridation

Dr. M. B. Dymond, the Ontario Minister of Health, has personally voiced his objections to the fluoridation of drinking water. According to recent reports, Dr. Dymond has been quoted as taking such a stand when the matter was broached following a vote of Metro Council. The Minister's opinion on the highly contentious matter has raised a wave of protest from members of the medical and dentistry professions.

It is rather difficult to understand on what facts Dr. Dymond bases his opinion. According to the published news report, the Doctor did not elaborate too fully on his statements.

Dr. Neil C. Smith and Dr. Wm. A. Murphy, two Stouffville dentists have given the fluoridation scheme their whole-hearted support. Both doctors state that the benefits of fluorine in drinking water have been proven in the United States, Canada and Britain. They said that all Dental and Medical Associations in Canada and the United States were in favour of the fluorine project.

Dr. Smith said that there is a chlorine additive in Stouffville's drinking water. He noted, however, that chlorine, like any type of medicine could be dangerous if not used in a proper proportion. He said that similarly, precautionary methods must be applied in the use of fluorine.

He said he is certain that the fluoridation of drinking water is a definite decay preventive. He pointed out that economically the scheme was sound. He said that in Toronto, it would cost approximately ten cents per person per year.

Dr. Murphy contended that it is merely a question of educating the people on the benefits of fluorine. He noted that it was quite likely that the thought of pasteurization of milk was met with similar protest. In commenting on Dr. Dymond's reported statement, Dr. Murphy said that apparently the Health Minister favoured another method, other than drinking water, in which to provide fluorine.

"At the present time, there isn't any other way," he said.

It is quite unlikely that the opinions of "laymen" on the subject of fluorine carry much weight with the average broad-minded citizen. They are merely opinions of individualists and are subject to error. However, when the Minister of Health, a graduate physician, intimates his distrust in the scheme, then it's time his grounds for such thinking were brought out into the open and made public information. Perhaps Dr. Dymond is right. Perhaps thousands of other medical men are wrong. To date, I have not heard one sound reason to support the minister's stand.

Reading Still Survives

The recent report of the annual meeting of the Stouffville Public Library indicates that books are still managing to survive in this television age. Circulation at the library was substantially up over 1957, and the circulation of 11,582 books was just short of the all-time high of 1952. A total of 704 persons used the facilities of the library during the year.

The joys and benefits to be derived from a good book in a quiet room continues to be a real attraction. The all-absorbing impact of television upon the young which had so many parents worried a couple of years back, appears to be a thing of the past. Many can now take it or leave

it alone. Many do have their favorite programs the same as adults do, but hobbies, school activities and books are just as interesting to the children as TV.

Newspaper publishers were at first concerned about the economic impact of TV and some were justified in the initial years. However, the power of the printed word has now more than proved its superiority and both readership and advertising have returned to even higher levels than before the new media.

TV is fitting in, but is proving to be only one segment in the many avenues from which we can receive ideas and form opinions.

Improve Local Tax System

Stouffville municipal council instituted a new municipal tax system here last week which should benefit both the municipality and the rate-payers alike. For a long time there has been some discontent on the fact that local tax payments crowded so close on Christmas and the end of the year. A great many residents find that they have numerous finan-

cial commitments about this time and municipal taxes falling due only add to the burden.

The new dates for the payment of taxes, June 1st and Nov. 1st, will remove this objection. Ample time is also given between instalments.

The municipality will benefit by having the use of tax monies earlier in the year which could provide some assistance by alleviating borrowing.

Got Tiger By Tail And Can't Let Go

We have almost arrived at the point where the automobile has become the foundation of our national existence. We have pampered and petted this gas buggy of 50 years ago until it has grown into a monster.

We have shaped and built our scheme of things around this mechanical parasite and now we must continue to live with it or see our national economy severely strained. We have allowed it to undermine mass transportation by rail.

We now have this mechanical monster by the tail and can't let go of it. We stubbornly and smilingly hold on and watch the tiger's breath poison the atmosphere. Thousands

more try to help matters along by outdoing the tiger and end up a gory mess of broken bones along the highways.

This man-made contraption has brought pleasure but has also caused numerous heartbreaks.

The expense of feeding this mechanical monster has become a heavy drain on the pocketbook.

It has made life hazardous for the pedestrian, so that he must keep alert at almost every turn to stay alive.

And what do we propose to do about all this? Why — we simply build more tigers and wider and better highways.

LAFF OF THE WEEK



"... and then I said, 'Listen, do you call yourself a barber, Mac?' ..."

BETWEEN OURSELVES

BY Archer Wallace

An Old Man Steps Out

An old man, exactly seventy years old, said to me recently: "I'm stepping out." He saw my astonishment and hastened to add: "I am seventy and the firm I've worked for have a rule that seventy is the limit, so this is my last day at work; I'm stepping out." I have known that man for over thirty years and he was always the same, cheerful and friendly. Changes have come so gradually that I've hardly noticed them. He has slowed up a little, doesn't walk so erect and — well, he pulls his thin hair over the surface of his dome. That is, he makes a little go a long way. Bless his heart, I'm beginning to do that myself, although I know it's a losing battle.

He's stepping out; quitting after more than fifty years of steady work not always with the same firm, although he has served his present employers thirty-five years. He gets a modest pension and from now on he will have a lot of time on his hands. He will be able to do some of the things he has longed to do.

In ancient times, old age was dreaded. It was taken for granted that the "Slough of Despond" was at the end of life — not at the beginning as Bunyan has depicted it. What the people of long ago hoped for was perpetual youth. They believed that a modern cynic has said: "After a certain age there is nothing left but the pleasures of the table." A Roman philosopher wrote: "As long as the fates permit, let us enjoy our lusts." Millions agreed with the sentiment: "Let us eat and drink for tomorrow we die." Many of the wisest and best thinkers of the past accepted this melancholy view.

Life is better for old people than in ancient times, perhaps not so much as we think, but still an improvement. Just think of reading. A century ago the percentage of old people who had enough education to read was small — among working people less than five per cent. Books were a luxury and newspapers fewer and not so well edited. Then there is the boon of the radio. Of course there are programs we don't like, but we don't have to listen to them. There is endless enjoyment to be had in others. I shall not forget the picture of old people I saw in Newfoundland, far removed from a railroad, listening to church services and musical treats and loving every minute of it.

When a number of leading personalities were asked if they would like to be starting over again, most of them emphatically said no. They had had their day and were satisfied to leave it at that. Most of these men were in retirement and were enjoying it. One man said that if he had his life to live over again, he would probably commit the same mistakes; if not, he would make others — probably worse.

My old friend who has just stepped out has remained good-natured and optimistic. Life has not embittered him. Older people outlive hate. It is not always so, but it should be. Life ought to teach us understanding and toleration. Old violins produce richer music and with less effort than new ones. Our sympathies ought to grow warmer and our judgments more mellow as time goes on. This has happened to most of the old people I know, and it is fairly general.

A striking verse in the Bible is that promise in the First Psalm: "His leaf shall not wither." In nature the sweet greenness of early leaves passes into darker shades as summer comes, to be followed by the yellowness of autumn. But here is a glorious promise. Old age may have its enthusiasms and hopes, even more thrilling than those of earlier days. There need not be cynicism and despair for "The trees of the Lord are full of sap." We may say with Robert Browning: "The best is yet to be."

Our quotation today is by Hugh Black: "The end of life is the test of life."

For Parents Only —

Temper Tantrums

by Nancy Cleaver

"Mary is an awful little spitfire! She is continually flying into a rage when I insist on her putting away her toys or coming to her meals."

"Tommy certainly lives up to his red hair! Never a day goes by but he has a real scrap with one of his chums."

"Beatrice goes along quietly for several days. Then, just when I'm in a store or have company, if I cross her will in some small matter, she has a temper tantrum just to have her own way."

The mother of an only child, a child who has seemed such a sweet and docile youngster, is naturally very disturbed when suddenly her child flies into a temper tantrum. If she has the opportunity to talk with other mothers of young children, she will likely be comforted and reassured when she discovers that a temper tantrum is not a rare thing among little children. Rather, it is to be expected that a small child, feeling violent anger at some frustration, should show his emotion without restraint. This is a passing phase in the lives of many preschool children, but an uncomfortable one for both parents and child. What is the best way to treat these explosions of rage?

There is no one sure method of treating a child in a tantrum, but it is important that a mother study her own youngster and discover just what are the conditions which most often provoke his baby wrath. Perhaps his temper troubles have a physical basis. He may be too tired or too hungry. It may be that his little extra rest in his daily routine, or an earlier meal hour, or a drink of fruit juice and a cookie, or an apple, midway between meals, may be what he needs.

On the other hand, if he is very vigorous and active, he may want more opportunities for physical exercise and satisfying play in the fresh air. Once he has left babyhood behind, he should have the company of another child, and a playmate of his own age may lessen this outburst.

The reason may not be physical, but emotional, and if the parent suspects that his child is using temper to attract attention, the child's rages should be ignored. One of the best ways of treating temper is by isolating the angry youngster. A little time by himself to sit down quietly and look at a book may be a wise plan. At the same time the child's craving for attention should be sat-

Need More Health Clinics Says Dr. King

Stating that the Medical Health Unit needs more clinics in the county, Dr. King presented to County Council the 1959 budget in the amount of \$200,055.48, an increase of approximately \$16,000 over the 1958 budget.

Child Health Centres—Immunization, advice and counsel to parents of infants and young children was available to 7,817 children during the past year at 14 locations monthly. This was an increase in average attendance from 27 per clinic to 40 per clinic across the County. "Service is limited in many locations," Dr. King stated, "by lack of suitable accommodation, sufficient volunteer help and shortage of health unit staff particularly medical officers and public health nurses."

Approximately 20,000 elementary school children and 5,000 secondary school students receive services in 152 individual schools in the County. School building programs have made tremendous strides in even the smallest rural school section in the last few years and the attention of schools to health aspects in this field deserves the highest praise, Dr. King continued.

Boarding Homes—Children's boarding homes accommodating children under three years of age are registered with the medical officer of health and given periodic supervision. A total of 128 children's boarding homes were registered in York County in 1958. Homes for the aged and so-called nursing homes, privately operated, are subject to licensing by the Clerk of the County of York since August 1958, and 13 such establishments have been duly licensed.

EARLY FILES

1954

Water Supply—Dangerously low! Dangerously low! — that was the state of the town's reservoirs, after it had been discovered that the reservoirs held but a meagre two feet of water. The municipal authorities went straight out to stop the leakage and after a lot of hard work, were successful. It was later believed that there were other leakages and an appeal was made through the Tribune, to conserve the water supply and to use it with constant economy.

Appeal Case Dismissed—Mrs. Eli Shank of Markham filed suit in the Supreme Court, complaining that her deceased aunt, Mrs. Eleanor Casely who died in the previous year, had been incompetent, at the time of making out her will. Mrs. Shank's husband also protested that he did not think that Mrs. Casely had, in the latter years of her life, been capable of handling her own affairs.

In reaching his verdict, Mr. Justice Rose said that there had been no evidence produced to verify their complaints and the dismissed the case, leaving the plaintiffs liable for the costs of the court.

Mrs. Casely's estate was valued at \$13,000. This was divided as in the will, equally between nine beneficiaries.

Just a Bit of Spite—It appears that someone was out to spite the Road Superintendent of Markham Twp. when there was a threat of charges against him by some of the road foremen.

The municipal councillors of the township met co-ordinately with a delegation of the road foremen to hear the complaints, but the meeting eventually petered out when no-one would step forward to lodge a complaint.

Deputy Reeve characterized the affair as "just a bit of spite work."

Isled in another, more desirable way. Perhaps he needs more loving, more time when mother sings to him, or he sings with her at the piano. Possibly Father could spend a little longer on a bedtime story.

Temper in a child is very apt to create strong emotions in the parent, but this is one occasion when a mother or father must try to remain calm. There is no point in shouting at an angry child, or giving him orders to "snap out of his temper" exhibition. For tantrums, with the great majority of youngsters, spanking or physical punishment is worse than useless because it usually prolongs the spell of temper. The most important thing of all is that the child should be helped to leave this kind of behavior behind as he learns to handle his vexations and anger.

Temper tantrums become a major problem only when a child gets his own way by this kind of behavior. Mother and father should be united in preventing this as in other principles of training. They should agree that as far as possible, the youngster will not be allowed to gain what he wants by a tantrum. It is true that a small child sometimes seems to take advantage of parents by going into a rage when a visitor is present, or when he is out in company. But it is better not to give in to him a single time, even if it is an embarrassing experience to have another person watch one's own child in a violent, even a destructive mood.

Learning to control one's temper may take a long time—some people never learn. But loss of temper at any age is a sign of lack of maturity. Conquer temper tantrums if you want to grow up — is a good slogan. (Copyright)

Canada for Me

I've travelled far o'er land and sea,
And to the utmost bounds of earth,
And yet no country have I found
Like Canada, my place of birth.
Her hills and valleys, mountains, plains,
Are clad in nature's richest hue.
Her rivers, lakes and woodland streams
Are, all of them, of deepest blue.
Her forests are forever green,
In summer's sun or winter's snow.
Her prairies yield the richest grain,
Their boundless wealth cannot be told.
With fruits her orchards do abound,
Of apples, peaches, plums and pears.
While fish in all the streams are found,
And birds and flowers are everywhere.
In these rich bounties all may share,
The great and small, for all are given.
Here famine's cry can never come —
In Canada, the good, the free.
While some may choose afar to roam,
O fairest of the lovely fair,
This is the land, the land for me.
God bless our great and noble Queen,
Long may she o'er our nation reign,
And to her may God's grace be given,
Our glorious freedom to maintain.
To God we offer grateful praise,
For all our freedom, joy and peace,
And may the honour of His name
From our blest Nation never cease.

—Leslie Grove

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New Postage Stamp in Honor of NATO's 10 Years

As part of the ceremonies which will mark the 10th Anniversary of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization — Postmaster General, the Hon. Wm. Hamilton has announced that a new postage stamp will be issued on April 2, 1959.

It is particularly fitting that Canada should honour the Alliance on its 10th birthday. The Secretary of State for External Affairs has stated:

"It remains true that to some extent NATO was the product of a natural evolution — an association of peoples who for the most part see eye to eye, who have the same desire, and determination to preserve their traditional institutions and ways of life, and who desire to collaborate not only in the immediate military task at hand, but in much wider fields — economic and social, as well as political. I believe that the place of NATO in world history will depend on the success which its members enjoy in developing their political, economic and social partnership."

Historic ties of tradition, race, language and religion have bound Canada closely with the other 14 member nations and with them, Canada has worked to achieve increasing unity within the Alliance.

Keeping in mind, that NATO is working continually toward World Peace, the design of the new postage stamp contains, in the upper left-hand corner, the dove of peace with an olive branch in its beak. In the left-hand margin appear the initials NATO and the French OTAN in the right margin. The centre of the stamp depicts the globe of the world showing the area in which the NATO member countries are located. The stamp designed by Philip Weiss of Ottawa, is blue in colour on a white background and is of the popular 5 cent denomination. The stamp is being produced by the Canadian Bank Note Co. Ltd., Ottawa.

The paper mills have contributed very largely to hydro-electric power development.

The Old Rocking Chair

(Mrs. J. Drudge, Elmira, Ont.)

Some months ago an expert on home furnishings remarked that not one home in 20, or perhaps 50, has a rocking chair. It was not always so. Fifty years ago a home was poor, indeed, which did not have one, or several. When company came to call, good manners told you to offer the visitor a rocking chair.

"More comfortable" than chairs were distinguished in those days as straight chairs, and rockers. Mother rocked as she knitted or crocheted. Babies were rocked and sung to sleep — how else? Grandpop rocked on the front porch, moving with the sun, or now and then shifting off a creaking board.

Rocking had a soothing sort of effect. The tranquilizer of the latter 1800's and early 1900's.

The paper mills have contributed very largely to hydro-electric power development.