

The Stouffville Tribune

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OUR EDITORIAL COMMENT

Pickering's Municipal Offices Completely Out-Dated

Some serious thought will have to be given to the matter of a more up-to-date municipal office building in the Township of Pickering. For a progressive municipality, the Council Seat and clerical offices located at Brougham is hardly a centre that would indicate even the remotest sign of progress. Although the matter of more adequate accommodation has been touched on at various meetings of council, no definite steps have been taken to start the re-building ball rolling.

There are perhaps two reasons why council is hesitant about taking a firm stand on the matter. First and foremost, I believe that there is a strong possibility that the hamlet of Brougham may soon lose its identity as the "capital" of Pickering Township. That is, of course, if the south end of the municipality advances residentially and industrially according to present plans. It would of course, be utter folly to erect a \$75,000 municipal building at Brougham today and then move the council seat to Dunbarton or West

Rouge tomorrow.

The second obstacle in the path of such a plan would be a feeling of resentment on behalf of many rate-payers. The question of high taxes is, and always will be, a bitter pill for residents to swallow. Add to this, a multi-thousand dollar building program and resentment would no doubt swell ten fold.

Conditions under which the Township employees now work are as archaic as the verandah-enclosed structure itself. Department heads are stowed away behind a labyrinth of antiquated hallways and staircases. The council chamber is continually filled to capacity by weekly delegations and the reeve has already hinted that some other make-shift quarters may have to be acquired to cope with the situation. While the surrounding municipalities of Markham, Whitchurch and Scarborough point with pride at their Administration Centres, Pickering must take a back seat in this department. The time is not too far distant, however, when positive action will have to be taken to right a serious wrong.

Could Provide Fine Summer Service

Remember the Sunday evening band concerts, which were so popular in many communities some years ago. While we do not have a band in Stouffville, one hears little of these concerts anymore even where there still are organized bands.

We were much impressed the other evening while watching TV to see a Salvation Army Band Concert on the Hamilton channel and to enjoy the rendition of fine old selections as only such a group can render them.

While a number of our town churches do hold services during the summer in the evening, one of the largest denominations does not. The

thought came to us of how fine it would be if our churches could jointly sponsor Salvation Army band concerts, for Sunday summer evenings in our beautiful town park. We venture to say that the interest in such concerts, if properly publicized, would be greater, and would draw many more folk than do all the church services now being held.

Whether or not the Army could be interested in financial arrangements made for such open-air presentations, we don't know, but we do believe that they would bring people together for a quiet Sunday evening period and provide a worthwhile addition to our local Sabbath.

Rules for Swimmers

With summer barely started, many drowning tragedies have already been experienced. Unless strict precautions are taken by the public, drowning is bound to take a continuing toll.

The rules of safety with respect to swimming have often been stated, but are worth repeating. Swimmers should avoid going into the water soon after a meal, or unaccompanied by others. Unless they are skillful, they should stay near the bank. Even proficient swimmers should learn about the water they are using before venturing too far out, so as to avoid hidden dangers. And all parties of

swimmers should have one member versed in resuscitation.

Those using boats should follow similar rules. If they cannot swim, they should wear life belts. Better a little discomfort than death by drowning. A non-swimmer should not go out in a boat alone and should, if at all possible, be accompanied by a swimmer.

Our streams and lakes offer much enjoyment. There is no need to mar the pleasure through thoughtlessness or ignorance. Given proper precautions by the public, the summer can be a pleasant time instead of a period marked by unnecessary tragedy.

Additional Service Stations Not Needed Here

Stouffville has never lacked for the convenience of gasoline service stations, in fact, the village and immediate area is becoming top-heavy with such centres. This being the case, it is rather difficult to understand why council has given approval for another outlet at the east end of the town.

At the present time, local motorists may obtain service from any one of twelve stations located within a short distance of two miles. Between the hamlet of Ringwood and the Ninth Concession alone, there is a total of nine. With some dealers depending almost entirely on gasoline sales for their livelihood, the ever increasing competition has forced them to remain open for more than

twelve hours per day.

It would appear that the parent firms have little or no regard for either their own dealers or the struggling opposition. They are continually requesting permission to erect more stations even though they must realize that local traffic does not warrant such service. One station on the westerly outskirts of the town is already closed down and its weed-infested boulevard presents an unsightly approach to the village. Others have frequently changed ownership.

We feel that council should use a restraining hand when dealing with these applications. Competition may be the spice of life but locked pumps and closed doors are certainly not good advertisements for Stouffville.

HALF-PAST TEEN



THE SAVING GRACE

Before cars had such a vogue I went to preach in an Ontario village which was a mile or two from the station. I was met by an eighty-four year old man who was driving a lively horse. I took a look at the animal, raring to go, and after a little hesitation, I got into the buggy.

Then I made a stupid remark: "This is rather a lively horse for an old man to drive." "Yes, it is," he replied, "and I wouldn't let an old man touch her."

I deserv'd that; somebody should have hit me on the head with a hammer. I found out later, that the old man had the greatest sense of humour in the village, and was extremely popular.

It isn't an accident that the word humour has the same root as human. I have never known any person who had a good sense of humour to be cruel or even unkind. Jan MacLaren said he never knew trouble to break out in any family where there was humour in the atmosphere. It is the people who take themselves too seriously who get mad and carry grudges.

It is hard to understand why some religious people have frowned on any sign of humour. Ages ago the writer of Proverbs said: "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine. The man lacking humour is likely to be incapable of pathos; that is, sensitivity. Good humour indicates a healthy soul in which bitterness and censoriousness have no place. What is called the saving grace of humour does much to oil the machinery of our complex life and if angry people could be made to laugh at themselves, their ill nature would vanish.

Colonel Baker, head of The Canadian Institute for the Blind, told me there is more laughter in their big dining-room than we could find almost anywhere. He said: "Their sense of humour is a gift from God."

William H. Prescott, the blind historian, had a sense of humour and of love of fun which never left him. He was one of the most cheerful men who ever lived. One day an uncle of his who believed that he was becoming deaf called up Prescott. The historian insisted that his uncle's deafness was all imaginary and in order to prove it, suggested that a watch be placed at one end of the room and that both should approach it slowly and should stop as soon as either heard the watch ticking. "You will hear that ticking as soon as I do," said Prescott. "Then you will realize that your hearing is all right, for I know mine is good."

Very slowly the two men approached the watch, advancing only a few inches at a time. "Do you hear it?" asked Prescott.

"Not yet," said his uncle. Steadily the couple advanced until they were only a short distance off. "I knew I was deaf," said the uncle. "I cannot hear a thing."

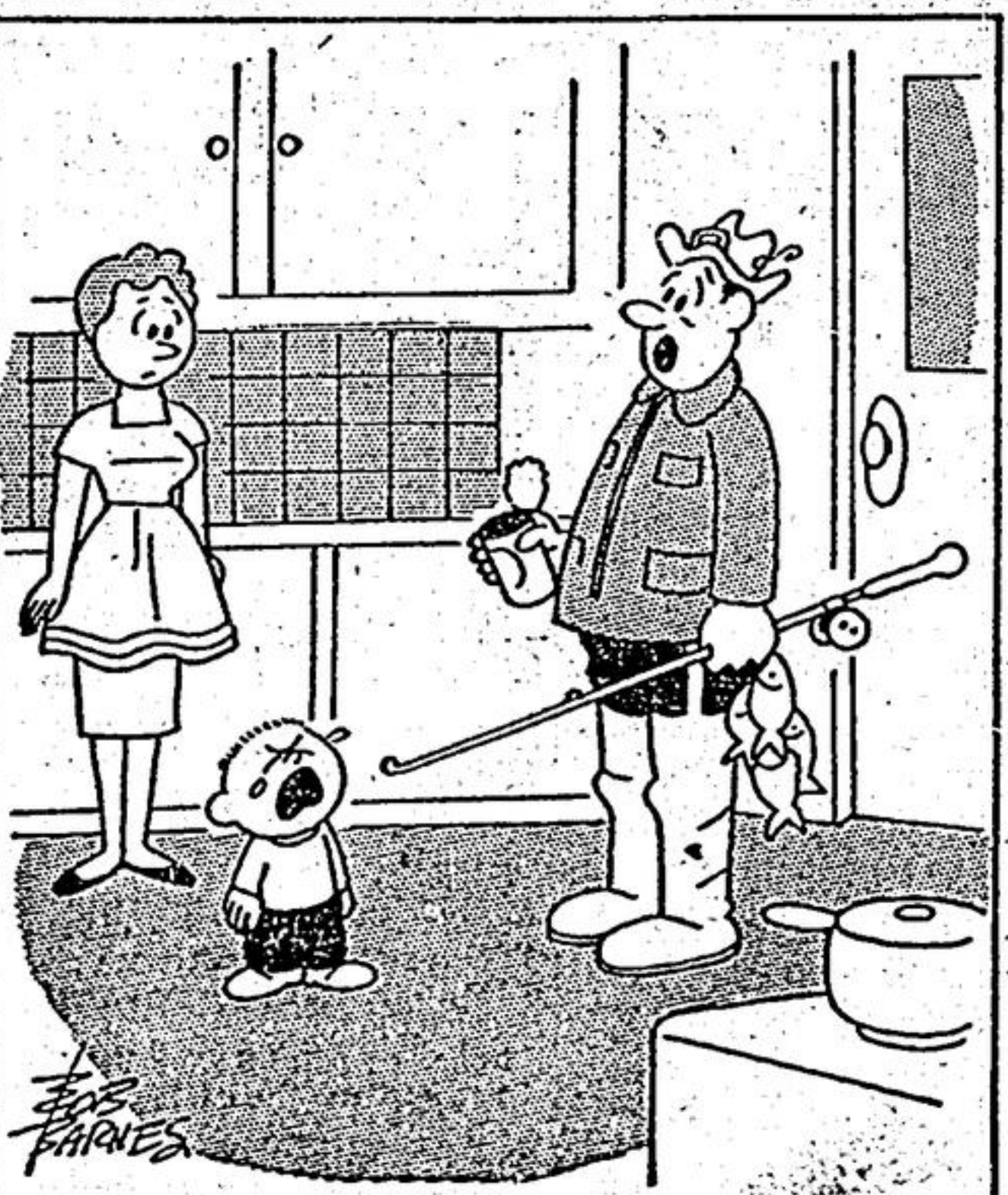
"Don't worry," replied Prescott, "I hear nothing myself." When they had their ears less than ten inches away, Prescott's face had a bewildered expression. "I must be getting deaf myself," he groaned, "I cannot hear any ticking; surely I am not going to be both blind and deaf."

Finally he got so close that his ear touched the watch — still no sound. Then he fairly yelled, "Why, the old watch isn't going."

His wife confessed that she had stopped the watch and that she was nearly convulsed with laughter as the two men strained to hear the ticking of a watch that wasn't going. Then Mr. Prescott had one of his fits of uncontrollable laughing, for while he enjoyed all kinds of fun, he seemed to relish it all the more when the joke was on him.

Our quotation today is from Paul's Epistle to the Romans: "Rejoice with them that do rejoice and weep with them that weep."

LAFF OF THE WEEK



"New, how was I to know he had a pet worm in there who was visiting with the others?"

The Sunday School Lesson

DECISIONS

DETERMINE DESTINY (Deuteronomy 29 to 34 (Lesson for July 12))

GOLDEN TEXT—The Lord, he will be with thee, he will not forsake thee, neither forsake thee: fear not, neither be dismayed.—Deut. 31:8.

THE LESSON AS A WHOLE

Approach to the Lesson
Moses' days on earth were drawing to an end. His disobedience years before had been costly: he would not enter the Holy Land (Deut. 4:21, 22; 31:2). Instead he would die a lonely death in the land of Moab and be buried in an unknown sepulchre. (Deut. 34: 5, 6).

Four Old Testament books — Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy — relate the career of this mighty man of God. He was courageous and consecrated to the end. Knowing of his imminent death, and that in spite of the solemn safeguards and warnings he had uttered, Israel would quickly turn from God to idolatry (Deut. 31:16), he yet faced the future unafraid. He charged his successor Joshua to be "strong and of a good courage" (Deut. 31:23), and committed his own destiny into the hands of the Lord he had long and devotedly served.

Moses was aware that Israel's choices would determine her future. God had spoken. If she heeded His Word she would be blessed. If she disobeyed, she would be cursed.

Everything depended on what the nation did in the light of God's Word. To emphasize this truth and to bring the Word and will of the Lord repeatedly to Israel's remembrance, Moses took the following steps: (1) There in the land of Moab he repeated the divine commandments and statutes frequently; (2) he decreed that the Law of God should be publicly read in "fasting every seven years" (3) he had the Book of the Law placed in the ark of the covenant (Deut. 31:26); (4) he taught the people a song commemorating God's unchanging nature and His dealings with His people Israel and reminding the nation to be true to her Lord. Verse by Verse

Deut. 30:15—"See, I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil. . . . Repeatedly in Deuteronomy, Moses tells the people that blessing will follow obedience and a curse will result from disobedience.

Verse 16—" . . . I command thee . . . to love the Lord thy God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments . . . that thou mayest live and multiply; and the Lord thy God shall bless thee in the land."

The frequent reiteration of this theme—the summons to loving obedience—reveals Moses' sense of urgency. The Land of Promise lay just across the Jordan River. The great Lawgiver yearned for Israel to prosper. But he knew her history of rebellion against God; he understood that blessing depended on obedience. In this final appeal

he pours out his heart before the nation (especially Deut. 30:17-20), pleading, warning, beseeching her to obey her God.

Deut. 31:7—"Moses called unto Joshua, and said . . . in the sight of all Israel, Be strong and of a good courage. . . . thou must go with this people unto the land . . . thou shalt cause them to inherit it." The Lord had told Moses to encourage his faithful successor Joshua (Deut. 1:38; 3:28). The curtain was about to be drawn on his own earthly career. Officially, formally and publicly ("in the sight of all Israel") he urged Joshua to be brave and stressed the new leader's God-appointed assignment: he would lead Israel into the land across the Jordan and enable her to secure it.

Verse 8—"The Lord . . . doth go before thee; he will be with thee . . . will not fail thee, neither forsake thee: fear not." Some forty years earlier Moses had told the nation to go up boldly and possess the land. They had miserably failed. Only Caleb and Joshua had proved truly courageous (study Deuteronomy 1:21-38). Now the summons to courage is addressed to Joshua alone, and it is fortified by the assurance of the Lord's personal, constant, and unfailing presence in the heroic task of leadership entrusted to him.

Verse 9—"Moses wrote this law . . . delivered it unto the priests . . . which bare the ark of the covenant and unto all the elders of Israel." This is a specific claim to the Mosaic authorship of Deuteronomy. The book was written both as a record of divine revelation and for the purpose of instruction. When finished it was officially and solemnly presented to Israel's religious and civil leaders (priests and elders).

Verse 10—"Moses commanded them . . . At the end of every seven years, in the feast of tabernacles." The document now prepared was to be read periodically in the presence of all the people. Here the precise time for the reading is specified. Every seventh year was "a sabbath of rest unto the land" (Lev. 25:4), and of course unto the people. How could they be better refreshed spiritually than by listening to the Word of God? The Feast of Tabernacles (commencing on the 15th day of the seventh month, Lev. 23:34) was an appropriate occasion, for the people would be assembled for worship (Lev. 23:35).

Verse 11—"When all Israel is come . . . before the Lord . . . in the place which he shall choose, thou shalt read this law before all Israel in their hearing." God had already revealed to the people through Moses that in opposition to the pagan polytheism of Palestine, a central place (where the one true God would be worshipped) would be set up. (Deut. 12: 10, 11). This of course proved to be Jerusalem. There the entire nation would listen to the reading of the Word. Thou, i.e., the public reader, would be the re-

ligious or civil officer in charge of the nation.

Verse 12—"Gather the people together, men . . . women . . . children . . . stranger . . . that they may hear, and . . . learn, and fear the Lord your God, and observe to do . . . This reminds us of the gathering of the people at Sinai to hear God's Word. All the people must assemble, even those whose understanding might be limited geographically, or by age. The purpose of the reading was four-fold. The people must hear the Word, be instructed by the Word, be prompted by the Word to new reverence for God, and must show the effect of the reading by obedience to the Word.

Verse 13—"That their children, which have not known . . . may hear, and learn to fear the Lord your God, as long as ye live in the land. . . . Moses had already emphasized parental responsibility to instruct children in the things of God. One purpose of this public reading was to reinforce parental efforts and thus to aid in perpetuating from generation to generation the knowledge of God's will. The children "have not known"; some perhaps were just reaching the age of discretion; none had learned through personal experience the tragic lessons taught by the wilderness wanderings.

The choice before Israel as she crossed the Jordan westward into Palestine was clear, explicit, solemn, and reiterated. Obedience to God would bring victory and blessing. Disobedience would spell disaster. "Life and good" on the one hand, and "death and evil" on the other (Deut. 30:15); these were the two possibilities.

The prophecy of Israel's failure which the Lord revealed to Moses and Joshua (Deut. 31:16, 18) was later fulfilled. God's Word never fails. After Joshua's death the nation fell into grievous idolatry. The result was defeat, anarchy, and confusion.

But while the Lord is inflexibly just, He is also merciful. Embedded in Moses' series of stern warnings is a wonderful covenant of grace. Israel would indeed apostatize. She would be driven from her land to seek out a dreary existence in alien countries (Deut. 30:1). But if she should return to the Lord in repentance and obedience He would yet intervene on her behalf. (Verses 2-10).

Note the details of His amazing promise. He would come and gather the scattered Hebrews, even from the ends of the earth, and bring them back to their land (verses 3-5). He would bless and multiply them. They would experience a spiritual conversion. Their enemies would be cursed. They would prosper materially as well as spiritually.

All these blessings are connected with the return of the Lord (v. 3). Already Israel is back in her land, although in unbelief. Surely our Lord's coming is near.

For Parents Only -

Canadian am I in Blood and Bone

by Nancy Cleaver

Recently the Canadian Authors' Association has one of its finest national conventions at the University of Manitoba, and on Saturday, June 22, the Winnipeg daily paper devoted a whole page to Manitoba writers. One reader commented on this convention: "It's not a very large one, as conventions go, but its importance cannot be measured by its registration. We Canadians need to be reminded that we are Canadians—not people copying the ways of the lands from which we or our ancestors have come, nor imitators of our powerful neighbour to the South. We have a life of our own. We look to our writers to interpret our present confusing age and to remind us of our thrilling past!"

One of Canada's truly great poets of yesterday struck the national note in these lines: "Friends have I found in far and alien places, beauty and ardour in unfamiliar faces, but first in my heart this land I call my own! Canadian am I in blood and bone!" (From "These Three Score Years" by Charles G. D. Roberts).

Newspapers play a very vital part in encouraging the growth of a sane and healthy nationalism. They constantly remind their readers of changes in the Canadian scene. Not long ago the Canadian Press reported that immigration to our land since the Second World War has passed the one and a half million mark. At least one out of every fifteen persons in Canada today is a post-war immigrant. By the end of 1957 it is expected that this special wave of newcomers will reach at least 1,588,000.

Native newspapers in the language of the homeland are most welcome to folk who cannot help being a bit homesick. These publications are a wonderful means of educating new Canadians in local and current events and giving them a picture of our way of life. We are a bilingual country. One of the most practical ways senior students could become more proficient in sight reading of French or English would be for a class to subscribe to one of the leading newspapers published in Canada's other tongue.

Winnipeggers are justly proud of the President of their local Canadian Authors' Branch, Kathleen Strange. Not only Cana-

dians; but readers in other lands have gained their first clear picture of the trials and joys of pioneering on the prairies in her autobiographical book, "With the West in Her Eyes." After a stay of two years in England she received a real welcome back to the country where she came as a bride after World War I. In the Lethbridge Herald she commented on her return: "It would take a far more clever writer than I to put into words the intangible 'something' that calls people back to Western Canada from far more beautiful parts of the world; that holds them in these big out-thrusting cities of ours; that induces them to create, often against great odds of wind and weather, incredibly beautiful gardens and parks and wide streets bordered with grassy verges and shaded by gracious trees; that inspires them to erect buildings with clean and flowering lines, that can hold their own with the most splendid of the land.

The only answer I can find to why I feel such happiness in coming back to Western Canada is that one's heart is where one's home is, and Western Canada for me is Home."

We are fortunate that in an earlier day Nellie McClung, Ralph Connor, Frederick Philip Grove, and Ernest Seton Thompson also called this area "home". In the home of my childhood their books found an honored place. My father was one of the most active members of the Carnegie Library in Fargo, but he believed that every household should have a library of bought — not borrowed — books. Thus birthdays and Christmases always meant presents of exciting new volumes with our names and the date written on the front page.

In an age when so much of a family's budget is spent on entertainment and recreation, would it not be well to revive the habit of buying books regularly? Boys and girls at school are particularly fortunate in the number of attractive historical juveniles, such as "The Young Surveyor" and other books by Olive Knox and "Famous Canadian Stories," edited by George E. Tait. Adele Wiseman's novel, "The Sacrifice," deserves the awards it has received. "The Unknown Country" by Bruce Hutchison is in a class of its own, and history lovers who purchase W. L. Morton's new

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history of Manitoba will be rewarded.

The writers of tomorrow are growing up in our homes today, and so are the readers, the listeners to radio drama, the viewers of TV. As parents, let us do what we can to give our boys and girls an appreciation born of knowledge, a love of their own, "their native land." (Copyright)

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