

Editorial

Let The Speculators Squirm

With some apparent apprehension, the municipal members of Pickering Township's Council have given their approval to a complete re-assessment of all lands within the municipality. The project, the theme of considerable debate at a recent meeting, was finally okayed on a split vote. To date, we are still at a loss to know why there should be any hesitation on council's part to increase the land values when it is perfectly obvious that areas in the southern portion of the township are completely out of line. It is perhaps regrettable that this action had not been taken earlier.

According to the reeve, Sherman Scott, the re-assessment program will have little effect on property now used for agricultural purposes. In other words, it is bulk land presently held for speculative designs that will bear the brunt of the total increase. To this end we would say "get on with the job". These land parasites are in no way concerned with the

future progress of Pickering Township or any other municipality. They stuck their fingers in the pie hoping to pull out the big plum. In some cases, their "fast buck" plans have backfired and they now find themselves holding the crust without the filling.

We would not suggest, however, for one minute that this land is not valuable. On the contrary it is worth many times more than it was a decade ago, but the attached price tag is out of the average man's reach. Perhaps, through re-assessment, the speculator will finally let go of the string and the balloon will return to the ground.

We would contend that any council should be cautious about making a move that would adversely affect the tax bills of every John Smith ratepayer. However, they should shed few tears if the increased land valuation shifts a few of these "squatters" from their stagnant nests. They could be doing the municipality a real favour.

A Rural Luxury

In a rather one-sided ballot vote, the Glasgow School Section in the Township of Uxbridge has rejected the suggested purchase of a \$5,200 bus. The result of the poll was certainly understandable since the purchase price, operating costs and depreciation estimates suggested an expenditure that could not be termed as practical for a rural area. We would suggest that the present school rate of more than 21 mills is rather high. In addition, the erection of a new school building is proposed within the next five years which would add to the debenture debt.

Door to door pick-up of public school pupils is a fine project but in spite of our modern-day trends it's just not practical under a sectional system. With a little organization, a car pool could be arranged. This would indeed be a benefit to the small tykes who are actually the only children directly affected. There are few days throughout the school year when the older pupils cannot "brave" the elements. If Johnny's two-mile hike to school is considered an unbearable hardship, then it's a problem for the parent to solve, not every ratepayer in an entire section.

Kill Two Birds With One Stone

The problem of High School drop-outs and teen-age drivers has perhaps obtained more newspaper and magazine publicity than any other subject of our day. In spite of the volumes of contributed material, few, if any writers have successfully presented a workable solution to the matter. This week, Mrs. Reuben May, of Goodwood presented an article to The Tribune which literally kills the two birds with one stone. The columnist, Vicki Fremlin of the Farmer's Advocate suggests that no would-be driver should be permitted to own a license until he has acquired a satisfactory high school standing. The item makes good sense and for this reason we are putting a portion of it back into print. We think you will agree.

"My idea is to make the obtaining of a driver's license contingent on a satisfactory school record. After all, if a person has never in his life demonstrated any sense of responsibility, any capacity for self-discipline, is it realistic to think he will be a responsible, law-obeying driver? No indeed, it is not. If a 16-year-old boy hasn't the brains to get through Grade 9, is it fair or right to turn

him loose on the public with an automobile? No, it isn't.

"I know that teen-agers have fast reflexes which should make them good drivers. But with modern cars and modern traffic, good driving does not depend on reflexes—it depends on a developed sense of responsibility and a respect for traffic laws. Any idiot, I say, can drive a car; and far too many idiots are allowed to drive them right now. However, I suspect that many teen-agers who are behaving like idiots only do so because no one has found the key to making them behave sensibly.

"In fact, plenty of the droppers-out and loafers have potential ability, which they have never made any effort to use. If something as important as a driver's license were at stake, however, I am willing to bet that there would be a startling upgrade in most boys' school work.

"We would of course have to make retention of the license, as well as its original acquisition, dependent on maintenance of good school records. We might find that we have an unsuspected supply of good brains developing among us, that would otherwise have gone to waste."

Electricity Is A Big Farm Worker

Next week, Feb. 5th to 11th, is National Electrical Week. Electricity, sold to homeowners and business people in town by our public utilities commission, is a most common-place worker, but did you ever stop to think of the major importance electricity has assumed on the farm?

To an ever-increasing degree it is contributing toward making farm work easier, faster and more profitable. Farm homes now have electric washing machines, clothes dryers and irons. The problem of food storage is solved by the services of a refrigerator and a home freezer, and when it's time for relaxation—there's radio or television.

The farmer can harness electricity to help milk his cows, feed and water stock, brood young chicks and pigs, and grind feed. Adequate yard lighting is another electrical boon.

In efficient workshops electricity provides power for such tools as drills, lathes and grinders. Electric welders are fast becoming important maintenance units for emergency repairs in the farm workshop. Paint-

ing machinery and buildings is accomplished in shorter time through the means of a spray gun run by an electrically-operated air compressor; and machinery can be pressure-lubricated. Clean seed is essential in seeding operations on any farm. Electric motors can be a great help in cleaning grain before it is delivered to the elevator. This reduces dockage which is deducted from the gross delivery of the farmer's grain.

There seems no end to the things electricity can do to help farm work.

According to university tests, an electric pig brooder saves up to 1½ pigs per litter; use of a hay dryer increases ton-value of hay \$5 to \$10; poultry house lighting and water warming can increase egg production 11 to 19%; an increase of 5 to 10% in milk production is gained when an electric water system is used; a farmer can save up to 684 hours a year with an electric milking machine; an electric milk cooler, handling four 10-gallon cans a day, saves from \$4 to \$5 monthly, by keeping down the bacteria count.



New Warden Magistrate O. S. Hollinrake, age's Reeve Joseph Fry, as (left) swears in Markham VIII- York county's 101st warden.

Sunday School Lesson

THE TRUE BREAD (Lesson for February 5)

John 6

GOLDEN TEXT — I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst. — John 6:35

THE LESSON AS A WHOLE

This significant discourse of our Lord's on the bread of life is closely associated with His feeding of the five thousand on the shores of the Sea of Galilee. The day following this great sign, the excited crowds followed Him to Capernaum. Their interest, however, was not in such a Messianic credential, but rather in the prospect of their getting another free meal! (See John 6: 26.)

In thus discerning their motive, our Lord delivered this revealing, yet conscience-searching message. It contains the elements of rebuke, instruction, and exhortation. The meaning of some of its statements lies on the surface: a youngster can understand. On the other hand, some of these declarations are profound, and challenge the most thorough investigation.


It is perfectly obvious from this sermon that the Lord Jesus Christ had the fullest confidence in the Old Testament, and that He considered it not only historically accurate, but also a prophetic witness to His person and work. These very Scriptures, in which the Jews boasted, had proclaimed a miracle-working God who physically sustained the masses of Israel in the foodless and waterless desert. All this should have prepared them to receive Him as the true bread and as the giver of spiritual life.

But the fact that they were more concerned about their stomachs than about spiritual considerations had blinded them to the recognition of their true Messiah. But even this did not chill the love of Christ for them nor weaken His concern for their highest blessing.

The Heart of the Lesson Both the manna and the miracle of the loaves had been but pictures of the real food, the real eating and the real life. Jesus Christ is the food that is indispensable. Just as our physical appetites can never be satisfied by admiring or believing about food, so we can never be saved by merely assenting to the facts of the Gospel. On the contrary, we must receive the Saviour into the full confidence of our hearts (see John 1:12). In other words, we must "eat" Him—make Him our very own.

This brings eternal life. Such is not mere eternal existence—the demons and the lost have that—but rather the very life of God Himself. It is not only ever-enduring, but it is that quality of life that is divine. The interest of the throngs lay in the hope of more free meals. Their concern was centered entirely in the physical and the temporal. They saw Him—yet never saw Him at all! So it is today. There are multitudes whose only interest in Christianity lies in its material by-products.

But for the one who has a conscious spiritual need, or appetite, the Lord Jesus is both the source and the sustenance of true life and satisfaction. Such will come to Him, and in so coming will manifest the amazing fact that they are among the Father's love gifts to His dear Son, and destined to share His eternal Glory.



SUGAR and SPICE
By Bill Smiley

If there is one thing above all and the only one with both feet on the ground, the rock on which the cruel waves of life are shattered, the bringer-home of bacon, the captain of our little ship, I am revealed as a sort of village idiot, an inept burden on the slim shoulders of my spouse, a clay-footed idol, a juggler with shaky hands, and an utter economic flop.

There is a reason for my strong feelings toward these harmless household hoaxes. Periodically, my wife insists that we draw up a budget. It happens about twice a year, and around our house it always produces strained relations, mounting tension, and a roaring fight, in that order.

During the year, I have a rough idea of where we stand financially. And I keep it deliberately as rough as possible. It doesn't take the mind of a magnum to figure out that five from four doesn't produce a plus sign. All right, so I'm an escapist. I bury my head in the sand. And if there isn't any sand around, a beaker will do.

I know the mortgage wasn't paid last year, the taxes are overdue, we've had five bills in a row from the dentist and I've missed the discount on the hydro bill, which has been in my hip pocket for three weeks. But these things don't really bother me too much. It's when my wife gets on one of her financial-genius kicks that life becomes pretty ghastly around our place. She invariably does it when she won't even take "yes" for an answer.

She had one of those attacks this week. They often come in midwinter, when my resistance is low anyway. She sits down firmly and produces lots of paper and a pencil. Then she compiles fantastic lists of stuff, everything from tires to toilet paper, from oil to oranges, puts a price on everything and adds it all up.

This takes about two hours, during which we discover the following: that I don't know how much life insurance I have; that I don't know how much the taxes are; that I can't remember whether or not I've paid the interest on the mortgage, and such-like.

Perhaps that's why I dread these sessions so much. With a few strokes of the pencil, I am transmuted. Instead of the firm, petite, the Lord Jesus is both the source and the sustenance of true life and satisfaction. Such will come to Him, and in so coming will manifest the amazing fact that they are among the Father's love gifts to His dear Son, and destined to share His eternal Glory.

For Parents Only

By Nancy Cleaver

CHILD'S VISION IS PRICELESS

According to the records of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, about one person in every eight hundred of our total population has poor enough vision to be considered blind.

The care of a child's eyes is of great concern to parents. Your son's or daughter's vision is priceless. Are you guarding this gift? Does your child show signs which should lead you to suspect that he does need attention for his eyes?

Especially in the pre-school child, the condition of the eyes "crossing," frowning, rubbing the eyes, the "trick" of shutting one eye or squinting, or holding books or small objects very close to the eyes, stumbling or inability to catch a ball in a game may all be hints to a parent that something may be wrong with his child's eyes.

If there is any doubt at all about this, a child should be examined immediately by an eye expert and his suggestions should be followed to the letter. Annual eye examinations would detect many minor faults and save serious harm to eyes needing glasses, corrective exercises or other treatments.

Occasionally a child's sight is threatened by an unexpected tragic accident when the sharp point of a pencil, a pen, a stick, a penknife or scissors enters the eye. Blunt scissors and no toys with sharp edges are essential safety-first rules in a home with little children.

Each year a few children have their eyes hurt in fireworks accidents. This kind of carelessness on the part of adults in charge of minors is almost inexcusable.

Most parents know that during certain contagious diseases, such as measles or whooping cough, a child's bed should be placed in the room to avoid direct glare from the sunlight. The eyes should be used as little as possible for close work during convalescence.

At all times parents should see to it that there is proper lighting in the room in which a child is reading or playing or working. The light should come from behind the child. If the light is in front, the child's

eyes receive both direct and indirect glare. If from the side, some glare may still be present. During periods of rapid growth a child's eyes need protection from strain or being over-taxed.

But during ordinary health, investigation has shown that a child's sight is often being slowly but surely harmed by bad habits such as bending or stooping, or lying in a prone position, with the eyes much too close to the book or object attracting attention. Concentrating for longer than half an hour, without resting the eyes and working or playing in a poor light are also disastrous to good eyesight.

Parents who realize that a child suffers discomfort, headaches, slow learning, unhappiness and possibly a permanent handicap if eyes are not properly protected from strain will do all they can to save their children's eyesight. Insist on proper posture and correct lighting.

Even little tots should not form the habit of keeping their eyes fixed at a distance closer than a foot. A longer distance about 17 inches, between the eyes and the book should be observed by older children.

A child should form the habit in early years of sitting upright in a small properly designed chair when he wants to read. Because of faulty posture, short sightedness (myopia) increases from a small percent of children who enter kindergarten at five years to about 30 percent of boys and girls starting high school.

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