

Editorial

Let's Not Go Overboard

While we cannot agree with all the comments made by Councillor Parsons at the current meeting of Stouffville municipal council regarding county council, we must go along with his thoughts on the proposed \$9,000,000 hospital plan as proposed for York County.

Let's not go overboard with this hospital plan. The cost of this plan, at least for the smaller municipalities, is just too large. It is estimated that the plan would cost Stouffville almost three and a half mills.

We go along with the idea that the erection of several cottage hospitals, on the Uxbridge scale, would serve the needs very well for some years to come and at a fraction of the cost. We know that in Richmond Hill there is a strong movement in favor of a multi-million dollar hospital there. Richmond Hill should have a hospital. It is a municipality which will shortly be twenty thousand people, certainly large enough to support a hospital of its own. The enlargement too, of Newmarket Hospital is reasonable, but to engulf us all in a plan to the tune of nine million, is, we think, going too far. A cottage hospital for the north, a

similar institution at Richmond Hill, and some enlargement at Newmarket should fill a great deal of the need for the time being.

In this connection, Stouffville could give assistance to its own hospital for very little and yet to great advantage in comparison to the vast expenditure which would be required by the plan now under study.

Another most important aspect is the costs of operation which are tremendous in these very large institutions. Since the beginning of the Ontario Hospital plan there has been a wholesale rise in hospitalization. Many are of the opinion that there is a tendency to encourage the admittance of people to hospital who in other times would not be sent there. This pressure of an ever-growing patient list has in turn put the onus on hospitals to increase staffs and build greater and greater facilities when the increase in population does not seem to warrant it.

While, it is true that these very large hospitals can give some added services, the operations of institutions on massive scales usually bring added waste in materials, and in their attitude for spending which can outweigh their added value in facilities.

Preparing The Budget

Budget time for both the municipalities and the various organizations which make up the community, is just around the corner. Municipal-wise, we here in Stouffville, enjoy a good standard of living. This living standard has to be maintained, even if it is impossible at times to maintain the mill rate. With few exceptions the only way a municipality can economize is by spending its money wisely. We cannot go along with anyone who thinks that we can economize by reducing services just because better ones would cost more.

Take for instance the works department. It could get by with a reduced budget by the use of cheap road tops or cheap maintenance materials, but this only means, that the

cheap tops would require additional work the next year. In this connection, our own town council now uses the services of a competent firm of engineers to determine what is best for our streets. Certainly these engineers have to be paid, but this cost is still not as great as redoing the work a second year because of shoddy workmanship the first year. Such firms are also used by the townships and for the same reason.

Too many times in the past work has had to be repeated two or three times because it was not done properly in the first place. Councillors cannot be expected to be experts in these matters and to save the costs of repeating certain jobs, are far ahead by engaging proper engineering guidance.

Can Be A Most Useful Office

We note that now most organizations have established their officers for the current year, each has chosen a publicity chairman. This is good—it indicates that each organization recognizes the need for publicity. It shows that each organization, regardless of how commendable may be its work or objectives, realizes its need for adequate support from the general public.

Among the most important services these publicity chairmen can render in discharging their obligations, is maintaining a close contact with the local newspaper.

A New Look For Teachers

The Toronto Teachers' College has fallen in line with the popular trend and will select a campus queen at a forthcoming college prom on Feb. 16th. Although we definitely feel that such practices have been grossly over-publicized in big city centres, we would suggest this particular promenade of teacher talent has merit.

For too many years, the middle-aged spinster, sporting horn-rimmed

glasses and wielding a black leather strap has been the symbol of the public school classroom instructress. Although this imaginary personality no longer exists, the image has continued to haunt the profession.

The Toronto Teachers' College is now fighting back to disprove the theory. Although in many instances, beauty and talent queen promotions have been much over-done; for teachers it's been long over-due.

Farm Ponds

We note in the news that farmers in some sections of the country are finding it necessary to haul water by tank truck to water their stock. A winter drought has put some in the predicament where they are forced to purchase water. Some are supplied from Markham's Don Mills Rd. wells in this manner.

Probably those who find themselves in this unfortunate position lack farm ponds which serve useful

purposes in emergencies. Besides providing a source of water for stock, a farm pond is insurance in case of fire, for nowhere else could the local fire pumper obtain water close enough to be of any use.

A farm pond is desirable for other reasons. In fine weather it can be a relaxing place where one can appreciate the pleasures of rural living. In summer it can be a grand place to swim and in winter one can skate on it.

Laff Of The Week



"He arrived with this note . . . 'Please remove thumb.'"

Sunday School Lesson

THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD (Lesson for February 12) John 7 to 9

GOLDEN TEXT — I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life. — John 8:12

THE LESSON AS A WHOLE

It is significant that our Lord encountered the most severe hostility to His ministry in Jerusalem. This significance lay in the fact that Jerusalem was the very heart of Judaism, and as such, should have been the first place where He was fully recognized and appreciated. The religious leaders, who gloried in their orthodoxy, proved to be the most bitter enemies of the Lord Jesus.

This enmity arose out of two evil attitudes—pride and jealousy. The new Prophet, by His incisive reproofs, had struck hard at their pride, often humiliating them before the common people. By His deeds, the genuineness of which they could not deny, He had gained the ear of the masses. Thus both their authority and their position were being threatened.

In the seventh, eighth, and ninth chapters of John the breach widens between the Lord Jesus and these religious officials. The common people take sides. Some regard Him as genuine; others as a deceiver. The battle lines are drawn. The Lord directs His most solemn denunciations toward these false leaders, branding them as willful children of the Devil (see 8:44). The climax is reached when they attempt to execute Him without the formality of a trial (8:59).

But the severity of this opposition does not hinder the outflow of the Saviour's mercy to the poor and needy. Both "grace and truth came by Jesus Christ" (1:17). Truth has challenged error and now grace meets need. The eyes of the blind are opened and the healed one becomes a rejoicing worshiper.

The Heart of the Lesson
What natural light is to natural darkness the Lord Jesus Christ is in the realm of the moral and the spiritual. The function of light is both to expose and attract.

In the eighth chapter of John, Christ had not only declared Himself as the world's light but had demonstrated this by exposing the hollow pretensions of the religionists who opposed Him and attracting the guilty by His forgiving grace. In the following chapter the healing of the blind man was the text for His sermon, and while it begins with the restoration of a man that was physically sightless, it ends with a nation that was spiritually sightless. To those who were consciously blind, and who turned in their helplessness to Him, the Lord gave the gift of sight. Exactly the same is true in the area of the spiritual. But pride, self-righteousness and unbelief are equivalent to pulling down the shades on the soul; illumination is impossible.

Such an attitude denies the fact of blindness. In fact, it loudly professes sight. But by

so doing it makes impossible the entrance of the light of God and the forgiveness of sin.

The glorious light of the Gospel radiates from the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit. It dispels the darkness within, and translates us out of the darkness around (Col. 1:13; 1 Peter 2:9). It makes the believer "light in the Lord" (Eph. 5:8). But we must remember that the condition upon which this blessing is received is our acknowledgement of our blindness and our utter inability of self-help. Only Christ can open our eyes.



SUGAR and SPICE

By Bill Smiley

Something rather frightening is happening to the steady, reliable Canadian citizen. I don't know what's behind it, but it's both unnatural and unnerving. He is beginning to enjoy the winter! Or, at least, he pretends he is.

For generations Canadians approached the winter sensibly. When the first snows came they put on their long underwear, a gloomy look, and a long-suffering air, and stayed as close to the fire as possible for the next six months. Winter was something to be lived through and there was no nonsense about enjoying it.

But this dour and honest outlook has been completely shattered within the last few years. Every weekend thousands of people head out of the cities with their skis and a couple of crocks. Motor clubs hold races through the blizzards, over the icy roads. Curling rinks are crammed. People are spending weekends at their cottages, tramping through huge drifts to get into them.

The other day, a friend told me he had taken his family out for a midwinter picnic, on a Sunday. The temperature was about 8 above. He dug a hole in the snow, built a fire and heated some stew. "The kids loved it," he said. No ants. No flies. And almost no fingers on the smallest boy, by the time they got him home.

But it's not only the young who are revelling in the elements these days. Everyone is infected. Staff members at our school have organized a hockey team. You should hear them sitting around bragging. They may be short of wind on the ice but they're not when they don't have the skates on. Most of them haven't played hockey for more than 20 years. But they are as rabid as the local peewees.

Elderly gentlemen who should be sitting at home with pipe and slippers enjoying the peaceful twilight of their years may be found on any curling rink, dashing up and down as though the devil himself was after them and sweeping as though angina pectoris was a tropical fruit.

Matronly ladies, who should be at home knitting booties for their grandchildren, may be seen hurtling down some near-perpendicular slopes, bowing over everything in their paths, from fellow-skiers to small trees.

Winter carnivals are spreading across the land with the speed of bubonic plague. At these, a few good-looking young ladies

For Parents Only

FOR YOUR VALENTINE PARTY

A small boy or girl loves to make things and he or she can have a wonderful time before February 14th with red cardboard, or white paper and red crayons or paint, paste and an old magazine from which pictures can be cut with blunt scissors. White paper dollies make a fancy edging. If a child has learned to print or write, he has all the fun of making up his own Valentine message.

A mother who was giving a Valentine Party for little children decided to let each small guest make a valentine as soon as he arrived. She asked the mothers of the children to equip them with a pair of blunt scissors on a white tape so they would not be lost. A prize was given for the best shaped heart, one for the most attractive picture chosen from the pile of old magazines, and one for the neatest printed message. This plan proved to be very popular.

In another home the daughter chose to have a Valentine Cookie Bake Party with five of her best friends. Extra mixing bowls and spoons were borrowed, and each guest was given an apron and a simple recipe, each one slightly different, for a dozen cookies. The girls had great fun mixing their cookies under the mother's supervision, cutting them out with a heart-shaped cutter, and decorating them with a paste of icing sugar colored red with vegetable coloring.

Mother kept an eye on the cookies while they were baking, and the guests were delighted with the success of their baking. A small box of cookies was packed in wax paper for an old lady who was a shut-in and the rest of the batch were eaten with vanilla ice-cream and red jelly powder dessert.

A popular game at a Valentine Party is a version of the old favorite "Find the Thimble".

One of the players goes out of the room and is "it". A small red candy heart is wrapped in cellophane and hidden in some odd place such as on the rung of a chair. When "it" comes back in, he immediately searches for the heart. The group hum a Nursery Song softly. If "it" is a long distance from the heart, but sing more loudly as he approaches it. Each player has a turn and the heart is hidden in a different place each time. The player wins who finds the heart in the fewest minutes.

Not long ago a parent remarked, "I've heard of musical chairs, but how do you play it?" This old-fashioned game never fails to provide fun for everyone and is a natural for a Valentine Party.

A row of chairs is placed down the centre of the room facing alternate ways. There is one less chair than the number of players. When the music starts (or when the whistle blows) the children march around the chairs. They know when the music stops (or when it blows a second time) they each must try to sit on a chair. The child who is unsuccessful drops out and one chair is removed each time, until there are just two players competing for one chair. The winner is the one who is successful in sitting on it at the end of the last turn. Valentine Telegrams is a pen-

cil and paper game for older boys and girls. Give each of them a sheet and a pencil with either the letters VALENTINE or I LOVE YOU printed one above the other down the left margin of the paper. Give them three minutes to make up a telegram to a friend using words beginning with these letters and offer a prize for the most perplexing telegram. Examples of telegrams may be something like this, "Very Artistic Loads Exceedingly Needed to Interest Naughty Elephants" or "I Lent Olive Very Expensive Yardstick Ownership Undoubted."

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