

Editorial . . .

Disappointing Turnouts

While it might not be right to say that there was a poor response to newspaper urgings that voters turn out for the current nomination meetings, the fact remains that in a couple of instances, at least, there were not as many as there might have been. Neither Whitchurch Township nor Stouffville had a good attendance.

This would indicate that the ratepayers are fairly well satisfied with the way the municipal affairs in these two municipalities are being handled. There were several questions in each case which we had felt sure would come in for some "airing." There has been a growing tendency for most of the questioning to be done by arm-chair critics who always fail to show up in the proper place at the proper time to make their

criticisms known. The fact that those elected here this week are for two years, we believed would have brought out a much larger group, while in Whitchurch, the fact that the township is facing a big bump in taxes by the addition of a police force was thought to have been sufficient to have seen a bigger crowd at the meeting.

Poor attendance is not encouraging but can be discouraging for members of council who would like to feel that the average taxpayer is a little more interested in what council is trying to do. Councillors would like to have a little more than your silent vote, they would like your interest as well. After all, Mr. Taxpayer, it is your business that is being handled.

Nothing Upsetting About Change In Voting Age

It was recently agreed by a Committee in our House of Commons at Ottawa that the federal voting age should be reduced from 21 to 18. This latest proposal is not likely to upset any government to any great degree. Such changes were not always so and years ago any such suggestion usually brought about fiery debates in the House.

It may be recalled by many that at one time it was thought that "all was lost" if the women of the country were allowed to vote. It was thought that temperance and prohibition movements would realize much additional support from this change. This

was the change that broke down the old-line wall which put strict limitations on the right to vote.

Most common reason given for the latest change in the age limit is generally that since the state demands military service at age 18, and any citizen deemed fit to die in battle should be deemed fit to vote.

Looking across the country we see that in Saskatchewan the age is already 18 and in Alberta and British Columbia it is 19. These three provinces have never suffered any dire consequences from this change, nor have they shown any marked improvement.

Legislation Beats Education

Last week, at a coroner's inquest held at Buttonville in Markham Township, a spokesman for the Ontario Farm Safety Council informed the hearing that his organization was carrying on a country-wide education program in an effort to reduce the annual tractor-accident toll across the province. We feel that this group of stalwart workers, as honest as their intentions might be, are fighting a losing battle.

Their method can be likened to the Emergency Measures Organization who, not so long ago were urging residents to construct permanent bomb shelters in their basements. The people replied with "It can't happen here".

Try to educate every motorist into installing seat belts in their cars and you will inevitably hear the reply "It can't happen to me". It's like

the minister who attempts to reach the sinner who never darkens the door of the church. The message is lost.

We say that if rules and regulations can be drawn up that appear practical, then they should be made law and enforced.

We have stated on previous occasions that tighter restrictions should be placed on the operation of farm tractors both on travelled roads and private property. The stand has aroused some resentment but our position has not changed.

Placards, posters and panels are only so much educational poppycock when it comes to saving man against himself unless there is a law to back it up. Education without legislation is hopeless but combine the two and you have working rules that really mean something.

Two Sides To A Story

In this week's issue of The Tribune, there is a letter from a parent that concerns the suspension of their boy from classes at the Ballantrae Public School. The correspondence suggests that the matter should be aired before a special meeting of the board.

We took the time and trouble to contact the principal on the issue and we think it only fair that the other side of the story should be told. This is not the first suspension for this particular lad. He will be permitted

to return on Dec. 11th. Both the parents and the trustees have been informed of the suspension by registered mail.

Since the facts of the case are of a private nature, they will be regarded as such unless otherwise authorized by the principal or the board.

We always tend to be a little bit wary of parental grievances against a teacher after "Johnny" gets nipped on the knuckles for misbehaviour and in the majority of cases there are two sides to every tale.

A Community Service

On Monday, election day in Stouffville, there was no excuse for anyone to miss his trip to the polls for want of transportation. The Stouffville Ratepayers' Association provided this personal car service

from 10 a.m. until 8 p.m. The local organization deserves a pat on the back for this novel idea, one that we hope will be repeated when the election of 1965 rolls around.

Ottawa To Study Lottery Issue

Continued pressure from the provinces has finally forced the federal government to take a special look at the lottery question. The matter has been referred to a special committee emerging from the Federal-Provincial Conference of last week.

Seven of the provinces, including Quebec which is pressing the strongest, have already

expressed views in favor of changing the existing ban on such operations.

Premier Robarts of Ontario is on record as favoring changes in the Criminal Code which would permit lotteries for charitable purposes. The other provinces expressing themselves were Quebec, Saskatchewan, Alberta, Manitoba, New Brunswick and Newfoundland. Quebec would like a change which

would permit each province to operate its own lottery business if it so desired. The revenues realized would be used for educational, hospital and charitable purposes.

Ontario has only expressed the desire to free charitable organizations from the ban. Manitoba, through Premier Roblin says he would rather see off-track betting made legal rather than legal lotteries.

"Sorry, old chap, I'm a stranger here myself"



EDITOR'S MAIL

November 28, 1963

The Editor, Stouffville Tribune, Stouffville, Ontario.

Dear Mr. Editor: I sense your deep anguish as you open this second letter from me — "Oh, no! — not again!" But, really, it is your own fault. Having said my little piece, it had not been my intention to write again, until I found myself (I say it facetiously) falsely accused in one of your editorials of today's Tribune. I am one of those whom you charge with referring to gambling as a "crime."

Mind you, I am not insulted at the charge; but I am afraid it would call for another letter to tell you what I really think of gambling — and I know your space would not permit the revelation. My concern just now is that you seem to have misread my letter; and, if that is so, others may not have seen the light.

Certainly there was broader purpose in my having written than that of specifically defining and declaring gambling to be a "crime." As far as the character of gambling is concerned, to say the least, it does have a dark cloud of doubt about it, and responsible people should strive to serve with the aid of something less doubtful.

When in doubt, obey that nobler impulse. My burden was threefold: — 1. That the law does not necessarily become an "ass" because a lot of people chafe at its discipline; and that we ought not to pressure the government for a change of law until we are sure that we are sure that we cannot be successful in doing good within the law.

2. That any service club, if the word "service" means anything, ought to be as concerned with nurturing a high sense of moral and spiritual values, through its service to the physical man, as is conducive to blessing his soul, without destroying his soul. I repeat: "There is something lacking in the spirit and geni-

us of any organization, church or club, that must limp along on the "take from petty gambling . . . rather than exerting itself to discover a method of fund-raising that is beyond moral question."

3. That we owe the liquor industry nothing; but are guilty of the folly of supporting a blood-sucker.

Since I am writing to you this second time, and to take something of the load of responsibility for anti-gambling sentiment from the stooped shoulders of the cranky-clergy, allow me to squeeze in a quote from the Toronto Telegram for November 23, 1963: — "Claude Roof, manager of the Better Business Bureau in Montreal, says sweepstakes, including state lotteries, 'can never be operated in the best interests of Canadian consumers.'"

He was commenting on the possibility that the provinces may be permitted to hold lotteries for charitable purposes.

"Lotteries are an unsound business stimulant, reprehensible as an advertising gimmick, and too costly to ensure a profitable result," he said.

"Charity, religion and government should not be subject to the vagaries of chance, and lotteries at best must always be a puerile expedient — certainly no substitute for sound administration."

Hopefully Arthur Walsh.

Nov. 28th, 1963.

Mr. J. Thomas, The Editor, The Stouffville Tribune.

Dear Sir,

Having absorbed the previous two weeks of "the Editor's Mail" in The Tribune, I believe my temperature and my capacity for enduring any more such biased opinions have reached their apex of tolerance.

May I humbly submit the other side of the story concerning the Lions' work in Stouffville. Over the years I have participated continually in the Stouffville hockey programme in the

local arena and I still am. Who is responsible for the development of this efficient programme? The Lions' Club of course. In 1957 a well used addition was placed in the town park. Being associated with the work of the Lions, Lion Art Latcham generously donated a luxurious swimming pool to the Lions and the town. The Lions' club has also taken the responsibility to set up various park facilities such as picnic benches, a refreshment booth, playground equipment, baseball supplies, and public seating stands. I am sure that all of us realize the town of Stouffville would be thoroughly stymied without the help of the Lions club.

If the gentlemen who have nobly criticized the method of obtaining funds by the Lions' Club for such worthwhile projects would list the ways and means they have contributed to the welfare of their community, their letters would have been much more profitable in aiding the Lions and their problems.

It is so often that the dog who growls the fiercest, eats the most and contributes the least to the kennel.

Sincerely, Donald M. Smith.

RR 7, Stouffville, Nov. 28th, 1963.

Mr. James Thomas, Editor, The Stouffville Tribune, Stouffville, Ont.

Dear Mr. Thomas,

We would all like to thank you for the handsome Elmer Safety plaque which we have placed on the north wall under the picture of our queen. We will try hard to keep up the record.

It was very interesting to hear you say you were giving it to us because having received your early education here you would like to give something to the school in return. Upon inquiry we have been unable to learn of anyone else who has ever displayed such generosity to this school.

We are three miles from a public library and all like to read. Wouldn't it be wonderful if you had started something and others would follow your example and send an interesting book to overflow the school library shelves? Thanking you again for the plaque and taking time to visit us.

The pupils of S.S. #12, Markham Your friends (Miriam Hoover)

RR 2, Stouffville, Ont., Nov. 28, 1963.

When Can't A Boy Be A Boy?

— when he is a student in Ballantrae school, if he acts as a boy should and becomes a little too aggressive, he is sent home and told not to come back for a period of time. I don't think that that a child should be deprived of an education for a day, a week or a month. One of the basic fundamentals of childhood should be a right to learn and a right to be taught. In this age with our government stressing a better education, is it right for any man to refuse a child the right of this? If there is a boy who has not in the course of his boyhood ever wrestled with another boy, then he must be either mentally or physically handicapped. I know that a boy must be taught not to be a bully but it is human nature for him to want to wrestle with another boy of his size. If we want our boys all to be pantywaistes, then we should dress them in satin suits with frilly collars. I don't know what other people want of their boys, but I know I want my boy to be able to face life and not cry at every disappointment. Should a child go to school knowing that if he does anything to displease the principal, he will be sent home for an unknown period of time? When an inquiry was made of the Inspector of schools of this district, if this could be done, the answer was, if the pupil misbehaves, he can be suspended.

Is it hurting the child to be given a holiday? If he is ten or twelve years of age, it won't hurt him now but in years to

Sugar & Spice

by Bill Smiley

Culture? It's wunnerful! And it gets wunnerfuller all the time. This was my only possible reaction after another shot at enriching the lives of some of our students.

Every year, when it's over, I sign an oath in blood, sweat and tears that I'll never do it again. And a year later, there I am, up to my thick head in the swamp of cultural enrichment.

It all begins innocently enough. I learn that there is going to be a production, in a city theatre, of some of the plays the kids are studying in school. The date is a month away.

"Wouldn't it be grand," I coo to myself, "if the youngsters could see the real thing? It would be an experience they'd never forget. It would kindle a real interest in the drama. It would show them that Shakespeare (or Shaw) is exciting, sad, funny, romantic, not just a whole lot of stuff like rising and falling action, memory work, suspense, pathos and dramatic irony."

Right! I say to myself, firmly. "We'll do it. These kids are going to have their chance."

I contact the other teachers. They are enthusiastic. I contact the principal. He is not, but clears it with the school board.

The teachers ask the grade elevens how many would like to see "My Fair Lady," the musical based on the play "Pygmalion," which they are studying. About half the hands go up. When it is announced that we'll be attending a matinee and will miss half a day's school, the rest of the hands go up. Then, with the speed and skill of a spavined water-buffalo, Mr. Smiley, the old impresario, lumbers into action.

Phone the theatre. Yes, they can give us 142 tickets for that date.

Call the bus company. Yes, they can shoe-horn us into four buses on that date.

Fire off a confirmation letter to the theatre, accompanied by the down payment, a cheque issued on Mr. Smiley's personal overdrawn account. Everything is running like oil.

And just about here, gravel begins to get into the gears. Six kids who didn't want to go have decided they'd like to. They are added to the list and a phone call produces tickets for them.

For three weeks before the big day, teachers accost Mr. Smiley in the halls and hand him amounts like \$29.83. This is for "nine tickets for the show and three bus fares except George Jones lost a dollar so I loaned it to him but I had only 83 cents and Mary Smith's mother won't let her go and she wants her money back but I haven't her name ticked off so I don't know if she gave it to me and what should I do?"

In the ensuing three weeks, Mr. Smiley, who gets a very small allowance at home, spends miscellaneous bits of ticket and bus money on lunches, cigarettes and raffle tickets, and quails inwardly as he contemplates the coming showdown with his wife, who looks after their joint account.

Two days before we're to go, the bus company informs that only three buses will be available. Mr. Smiley raises hell and another bus. The day before we leave, eight of the kids haven't produced a nickel, three of them have changed their minds and won't go, and four are at home, sick.

Mr. Smiley, the poor old divil, flies about like a dart in a windstorm, trying to make tickets, bus seats and bodies come out even.

But, somehow, the cavalcade is sailing down the highway on Wednesday afternoon, the students singing merrily. Mr. Smiley, ashen and muttering to himself, slumped in one of the buses. Only two kids have forgotten their tickets. Only one is bus sick. Only three have tried to sneak a smoke.

Eight hours, 200 miles and one cultural experience later, Mr. Smiley is delivering to her home, 14 miles out of town, the girl who forgot to tell her parents to meet the bus on return. Ecstatic and brighteyed, she babbles effervently, "Thanks - very - much - Mr. - Smiley - I - really - enjoyed - it - and - I - had - a - wunnerful - time - do - we - hafta - have - our - homework - done - tomorrow?"

Computer To Cut Costs Of Producing Meat, Milk, Eggs

To farmers over fifty, it may seem hard to believe that an electronic computer, the "mechanical brain" of the business world can be used to build balanced rations for hens, cows and hogs, that will enable these animals to produce more efficiently and at lower cost. But that is what Dr. W.D. Morrison, Director of Nutrition for Master Feeds, told a group of feed dealers, bankers and agricultural representatives. Sliver, Bros., Stouffville is the local dealer-

ship. Great progress has been made in improving rations for animals and birds through the time honoured method of balancing ingredients according to their major nutrient contents," Dr. Morrison told his audience, "but all too often such rations have contained either too much or too little of certain vital nutrients such as lysine, methionine, phosphorus, etc. If they contained too much of any nutrient, their cost was higher than necessary. If they contained too little, their efficiency was impaired. Either way, they failed to produce results at the lowest possible cost to the feeder."

"The electronic computer works on the principle of balancing the actual nutrients (not ingredients)," he said, "With its almost infinite capacity for equation and calculation, it can specify formulas that provide all the essential nutrients, in correct amounts, at the lowest cost. Of course, it is necessary to 'tell the machine' what kinds and amount of nutrients are required by the animals the ration is intended for."

Russell Richardson.

1964 Work-a-day

Keith Clark

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