

The Stouffville Tribune

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NOTES and COMMENTS

Forbidding Prospect

Toronto is considering a law which will make it a punishable offence to smoke in any city store employing more than 25 persons. That will be a terrible blow to the heavy smoker who has to accompany his wife on shopping tours.—Fort William Times-Journal.

Canadianism

Canadianism at its best is the way the Abbotsford, Sumas and Matsqui (B.C.) New describes this recent development: "In Mission, a Canadian of East Indian descent was elected to the village commission. In Lillooet, a Japanese doctor was honored in similar fashion by ratepayers."

"In a world so torn by racial strife and intolerance, these acts by two British Columbia communities are important. They indicate that there is increasing recognition of the democratic principle that men of brain and good will, regardless of color, merit the public trust of their fellows. What they did is an example to other communities everywhere."

"They"

Hardly a conversation lasting more than a few minutes in our town is complete without some reference to "they." "They" should do this, that or the other thing to improve the community.

This is a situation that is by no means confined to our town. It is common throughout the province and the nation. Just who "they" are, we are not sure. We suspect, however, that governments — municipal, provincial or federal — are involved somehow.

By taking the attitude that "they" should be responsible for everything, we shuffle off any feeling that we, personally, are responsible in any way to see to it that things are accomplished.

In our town we hear such questions as: Why don't "they" bring more industries to town? Why don't "they" keep the streets clean? Why don't "they" do something about the cost of living, the housing situation, the roads, the appearance of the town? Why don't "they" build more sidewalks, provide better street lighting, develop sports among the young people, organize a drama society? The list could go on ad nauseum.

This "they" business, we believe, is symptomatic of the "leave it to George" attitude that is prevalent all over the country.

Isn't it about time we realized that instead of "they" we should say, "we" and then go ahead and get things done? Nothing is impossible if "we" really want it and go after it. How? By thinking and planning and working together, by putting our best effort into any project we want carried out.

What our town and indeed all Canada needs is more "we" — a lot more — and less "they".

A Few Suggestions

Frequently, in rapidly growing towns, a survey has been made to get ideas for local improvement. There are several ways of doing this but one of the most popular is through the Press.

It is not that anyone doubts the ability or intent of the Council but everyone realizes that the Council is composed of very busy men and sometimes incidents occur of which they may not be aware but which might suggest an idea for some addition or change that would add to the town's safety and attractiveness.

Several such incidents have happened in Stouffville. In recent weeks, one as late as Friday, Jan. 19, when a minor accident in front of Queen's Court created a traffic hazard that might easily, on the icy street, have been more disastrous.

When one considers that the traffic on Main Street has been, by actual count on several occasions, an average of twenty cars per minute and that Main is the only through street and that there is only one railway crossing in town, the conclusion is obvious and should be remedied without delay.

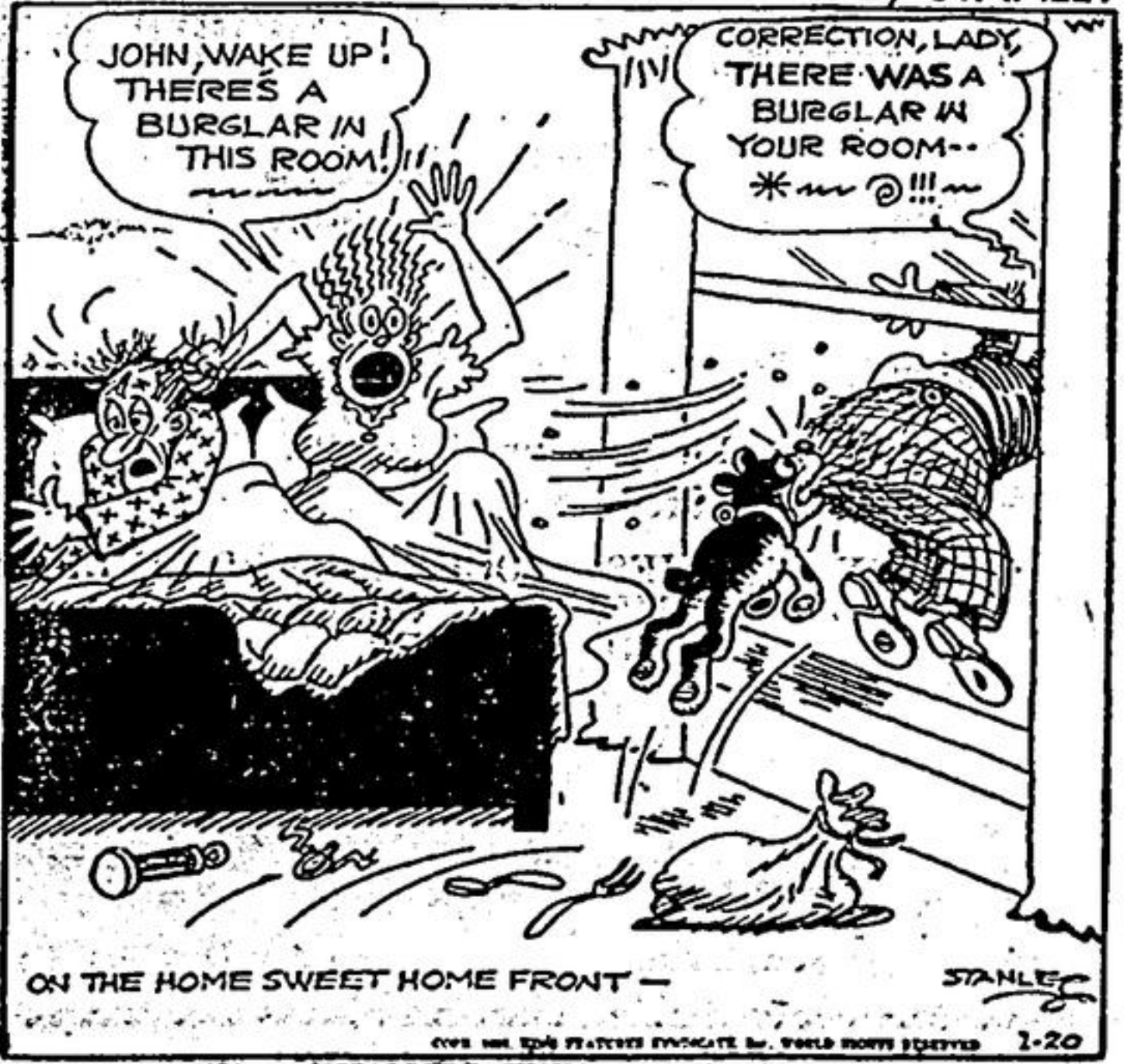
Again — it is no reflection on the local constable to suggest that he either should be on full time duty or have a deputy on call in cases of emergency when he is of necessity out of town.

Then that parking problem: Prohibiting parking on one side of the street is only an irritating partial solution — persons who get fined for illegal parking will very shortly be taking their business elsewhere — as also they will if there is no place to leave a car while they shop, take in a show or hockey game. The boulevards are nice but would it not be wise to sacrifice some of their, at present doubtful, beauty to the march of progress — a few feet off each side would provide some of that much-needed parking space and still leave plenty of width for a good, safe street.

We believe that the present council has some of these projects in mind but we believe also that they would feel their position strengthened if some citizens were to express themselves about the urgency of the need. It will cost money but, after all, what is money compared with lives that are endangered every time there is a traffic accident?

(Contributed)

THE OLD HOME TOWN By STANLEY



FOR PARENTS ONLY

(By Nancy Cleaver)

AIDS TO LEARNING

"I wish I knew just what are the steps to learning," an anxious mother exclaimed to a friend. "My husband is determined that our daughter Mary shall play the violin. She seemed mildly enthusiastic about it when she started her lessons over a year ago. Now she is neglecting her practicing and I am at my wits end to know what to do with her."

Have you ever felt like Mary's mother? Have you been puzzled as to what to do because you are not sure just what are the steps in learning? How does a child learn?

To begin with, he must WANT to learn himself. Mother or dad desiring him to learn is no substitute for his own inner urge. It is doubtful whether any kind of music lessons, forced on an unwilling pupil will ever be very successful, no matter how keen a father may be for his child's musical training.

Children desire to learn about the world in which they live. Most of the questions they ask, all day long, are prompted by a genuine thirst for knowledge. It is a great pity when parents or teachers are too busy or too weary to satisfy this quest for information.

Learning is dependent on three main factors—the desire to learn, the capacity of the individual and the repetition of the lesson. Capacity to learn is the ability which the child has within himself. This is something inherent in him — a fixed thing. Either a child is born with or without special kinds of ability. Thus it is of great importance that parents and teachers, as far as possible, look on each child as a separate individual, a little different from any other person.

The wise parent does not label her children as "quick" or "slow" by the yardstick of their standing in school reports. John may only rate a "B" or "C" in his written

work but may be in the "A" class in the woodwork class or have an exceptional knack in working with machines.

Although the capacity for learning is fixed, the two other factors—the desire to learn and the repetition of the lesson can vary greatly. A child with medium capacity who is "on fire" to learn, and willing to go over and over a lesson until he has mastered it, will equal, if he does not surpass, the performance of a more gifted child with no such eagerness to learn. In the honour group in any school may be found pupils, not only with high "I Q's" but with exceptional powers of persistence in studying their lessons.

Never forget the old axiom "Learn to do by doing." A child learns through activity. Not what mother or teacher says but what he himself does counts. John may often watch Dad turn off the water and replace a worn washer in the tap by a new one, but not until he himself has done this can he claim that he has learned this small plumbing task.

Young and old are thrilled by a sense of achievement by learning something worthwhile. Everyone likes warm and sincere praise. This pride in accomplishment and enjoyment of commendation are two important incentives to learning.

Mother and Dad know their child is born with certain capacities; they recognize that he himself must desire to know and he himself must concentrate on his own lesson. But parents can set a good example by being eager for new knowledge themselves. They can provide opportunities for "learning by doing," and be generous with honest praise. Understanding is so important in a home. Mother and Dad can best aid son or daughter because they know what are the steps in all true learning.

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East York Member Writes

Dear People of York East:

We can be happier about training schools and reformatories for girls in Ontario than ever before. Things are moving, and in the right direction. Up until now the girls and the women have had a raw deal.

During the second World War the girls were put out of the institution which was built for them in Galt and it was turned over to the WRENS. But when the war ended the girls didn't get back to their own institutions which had good buildings, a schoolhouse, a skating rink, a reception house, etc., etc., instead the smaller boys from Bowmanville Training School were put at Galt.

Bowmanville has several hundred acres of land, and could easily have accommodated more buildings. Both the older and younger boys making common use of school rooms, gymnasiums, rink, etc., though at different times.

The good news now is that the girls are going home to Galt. You will be wondering where they were in the meantime. They were in two posh houses that wealthy Americans built on the shore of Lake Ontario at Cobourg bought by the Ontario Government. These houses with their imposing pillars looked beautiful from the highway and photographs, but they are utterly unsuitable for the use to which they were put. The school-rooms were just originally bedrooms as were the hobby rooms, sewing rooms, etc. The corridors in the place were wide but useless. The girls had to travel a quarter mile or so along the highway to go from one house to the other which made the task of the staff much greater. In fact the conditions were so trying that the excellent professional staff at Cobourg were resigning one by one.

Every time I talked to officials of the department or to the Superintendent at Bowmanville and Galt, they waxed eloquent over the beauty of the houses at Cobourg, and I said, "If they are so wonderful, it was time the boys and men had them for awhile," but I could not interest anybody until Mr. Foote became Minister of Reformatories, and now it is a very different story. John Foote, V.C., was a prisoner of war for three years, which gives him knowledge of the inside, and now the girls are going back to Galt and I venture to say the professional staff will be remaining.

Isobel McNeil, O.B.E. Superintendent for the girls school has under the supervision a psychiatrist, instituted a counselling service in an endeavour to find the root cause of each girl's problem and start her on the right road. It seems to have worked. Recidivism has greatly reduced, and that is the test of any training school or reformatory. If the boy or girl, man or woman, do not return to an institution, they have been cured of their anti-social thoughts and actions.

In a lecture given by Alex. Edmison, K.C. at Don Mills United Church last fall, he gave out of his experience the causes of crime. He has been the chief official of the John Howard Society for many years:

1. Law-breakers come from unsatisfactory homes where the parents are divorced or immoral,

drunkards, etc. Eleven out of fourteen cases out of the very many he has handled came from such homes.

2. Law-breakers come from slum or depressed housing areas, crowding, lack of privacy, etc.

3. Unsatisfactory school life, law-breakers did not go beyond fifth and sixth grade, did not like school, and did not learn a trade.

4. Law-breakers are usually without church affiliation, did not attend a Y.M.C.A., had not been a Boy Scout, or a member of any socially conscious group.

The public interest in this question of the reform of law-breakers should be keen since practically all return to society at some time even the lifers. If they return in the same frame of mind they were when they left society, there is no safety for persons or property. Then, too the cost of crime is enormous. I remember hearing that it was estimated that convictions on the average cost \$1,200, and then there is the keeping of the law-breakers, the buildings, the food, clothes, the staff. It amounts to a pretty pile of money, and unless the reformation is accomplished, the whole expenditure fails in its objective.

The problem of the reformation of women law-breakers is the problem of the Mercer, and so far not much has been accomplished, but I am very hopeful that Mr. Foote will tackle even that.

Agnes Macphail, M.P.P. for York East

DAYS OF YORE

From the Files of The Stouffville Tribune

26 Years Ago More tangible results on the part of the Stouffville Baptist Church congregation toward the building of a new church was in evidence this week; when a quantity of gravel was deposited on the new site at the corner of O'Brien Ave., and Main Street, on a lot which has been vacant for many years back.

The two rinks of local curlers who entered the Ontario Tankard games in Toronto, won their first round from Mount Forest, but were knocked out in the second round by Brantford. The Stouffville rinks were: W. J. Mather, C. Armstrong, J. S. Dougherty and H. W. Sanders, skip; also H. Brilling, W. R. Sanders, W. Armstrong and Sam Armstrong skip. Mr. Sam McKuen of Mill Street is in possession of two fractured ribs as a result of a fall.

On Saturday morning, January 31, 1874, at eleven thirty, just fifty-one years ago, the double-headed engine which ran on the Toronto and Nipissing R.R. exploded at Stouffville station, killing three men, throwing one, twenty-two rods, and wounding four others.

11 Years Ago

The Uxbridge Choral Society of 60 voices under the direction of Mr. Herbert M. Fletcher, Conductor, will render a concert in the United Church, Stouffville, under auspices of the Stouffville Senior Institute, to aid this organization in their work for the soldiers. More than 400 Sunday School workers assembled in Markham

INFLATION

(By R. J. Deachman)

Inflation! Everybody is talking about it. Explanations are appearing every day. If people read them they might know more about it—possibly they wouldn't. There is one simple explanation: Too little production, too much money. It's good business to blame the government for it. Somebody has to carry the load — let's put it on the broadest shoulders. The CCF has a simple solution: clap on controls, fix prices—and listen to the cheers of the simple as they go down to work in the morning feeling that wages can go up and up indefinitely without having the slightest effect upon the cost of living. There are many workers who earn a living by their toil but are paid neither salaries or wages. They are paid directly out of the products they produce or for the services they render. The farmers are a perfect example of this form of payment. Then we have those who are paid by fees, doctors, lawyers and sundry others with similar functions. They charge what the service will bear. They seem to do fairly well at it.

As everybody knows inflation is not unpleasant. We all seek higher prices. We know or should know, it has been driven into our minds even in nursery rhymes, that what goes up must come down. Then follows this word of warning: "Let everyone look out for his crown." With all these admonitions this sage advice still goes unheeded. If for instance every farmer when he sells his products at an inflated price put aside in a savings account a sum equivalent to the excess price it would be a very pleasant help in dark days and lower prices. He doesn't, he buys a car and when the crash comes vents his spleen against the wickedness of the speculator who, in his opinion, kicked down the temple of high prices for his own benefit.

Organized labor—bless its simple heart—has a pet theory. Its contention is that labor can raise its wage rates in industry, in transportation and in any other form of effort—nothing happens! If on the other hand prices of farm products go up there must be a corresponding increase in wages in order to take care of the increased cost of living! They, therefore, with a thoughtfulness, born out of the opportunity, bring forward the claim that nothing should be done to check the upward movement of wages and salaries. But price control should be imposed on other products so that labor might eat its cake and pie and sell it too—while it profited from inflation!

What a dream, historically labor

is right. It tried it before. In the depression of 1931, '32, and '33 while others suffered labor got the highest percentage of the product produced of all the different groups in the army of production. Yet all is not gold that glitters in the mind of a labor leader. There was in these years a sharp decrease in employment. Funny isn't it? One touch of fact should stop the circulation of that first story. In 1949 net national income amounted to \$12,917 millions. Out of this labor took \$7,682 millions. If it had taken 9 billions instead of 7 billions would there have been enough left to pay the other costs? Labor thinks there would. It received close to 60% of the national income. Try raising wage rates 10%, and then ask yourself where the money is to come from if prices are not to be raised.

Inflation is a disease. We try to treat the symptoms. The only remedy is to remove the cause. It is caused by too much money or purchasing power accompanied by an insufficient quantity of goods. Right here the government may begin to function or fail to function. What can the government do? It can face the problem—do it at the start when the trouble begins. It may cut expenditures. Did you ever hear of that? It was the political slogan of opposition parties half a century ago, now they promise more expenditures. Isn't that difficult? Yes. It may even be impossible in a period of war or threat of war.

The government can, if it has parliamentary support, cut down the expansion of social services. Family Allowances, Old Age Pensions are definitely inflationary unless they are paid for out of taxes. At a time like this there is a limit to social services. It may be doubted if the beneficiaries of these services have gained from their application — inflation may have devoured the benefits. The fact is that the total purchasing power of the "poor," taken as a whole, is greater than the purchasing power of the rich and any attempt to restrict inflation must be done by construction of buying power so that existing production can satisfy reasonable demands.

No one need envy a democratic government in time of war or in time of inflation. If it does right it will probably be defeated. If it takes the wrong course it will be defeated. So the way is difficult. Scylla looms on one side—Charybdis on the other. Between the two the best of men may hesitate. There are times when the governed live a happier life than the governors. This may be such an occasion.

last Thursday for the annual meeting of the Markham Township Sunday School Convention. Officers elected were: Pres., Don Ratcliff, Stouffville; 1st vice, E. J. Stiver, Unionville; 2nd vice, L. Stouffer, Stouffville; secy-treas., G. L. Williamson; assistant, Gordon Reesor.

Vandorf—On Sunday our pastor, Rev. W. A. Westcott was guest at a Hamilton church where he was pastor prior to being on our circuit.

Glasgow — Miss Gertrude Slack spent last week in Toronto with Mr. and Mrs. Morris Hornsby.

The Goodwood war workers met last Friday, Jan. 26th, at Mrs. Jack Rae's. Election of officers was held,

Mrs. Rae, president; Mrs. Herb Wagg, secretary; Mrs. N. Knetchel, treasurer.

5 Years Ago Pte. Bob McConnochie reached Hamilton this Tuesday after two years overseas as a member of the Argyle and Sutherland Highlanders. Overseas two years last September Lance-Cpl. Murray Nendick returned last weekend. Murray was attached to the Provost Corps and saw active service in Italy.

A head-on collision during a game of hockey Tuesday night resulted in David Ratcliff and Norman "Butch" Steckley receiving nasty wounds in the head. On opposite sides, the game was between Baker Hill and Bethesda.



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