

## The Office Window

The visit of a Prime Minister to a small town makes history in that town and will be remembered long after all political associations with such a visit have been forgotten, therefore last Wednesday, when Prime Minister John Diefenbaker, Mrs. Diefenbaker, and the latter's daughter and young son visited Bradford, it was most becoming that they were welcomed by the school children, who received a very informal and cheery greeting from the Prime Minister. It was an occasion that they will remember. . . . We've heard a few rather nice little stories following that visit. There was the small boy from a township school, brought in after school by his mother. At school the pupils had been divided into groups representing the several political parties and this boy had not been assigned to Mr. Diefenbaker's party. However, as the Prime Minister's group left the Community Centre, Mrs. Diefenbaker noticed this boy's interest and she stopped, shook hands with him, and exchanged a few words of greeting. He is now a convert to Mrs. Diefenbaker's politics. . . . The gift of behaving naturally under all circumstances is a wonderful one and is one of the charms of Bradford's Mayor. As Mayor, he met Prime Minister and Mrs. Diefenbaker and their guests at the train and brought them to the Community Centre. As the party neared the B.-A. station, Mayor Magani noted the staff of the B.-A. lined up in front of the station, and the Mayor, being Joe Magani, confided in the P.M., that the car in which they were riding had been specially groomed, shined and polished by the chaps lined up in front of the B.-A. Mr. Diefenbaker said, "Let's turn in there." But the request was too late. They were past the spot, with other cars crowding behind. But the P.M. did not forget and as they returned to the train he asked about the gas station and in they turned, only to discover that the car polishers were elsewhere. Readers can imagine the remarks exchanged the following morning when Mayor "Joe" told them the story. . . . For ourselves, appreciation goes to those worthy friends, the Bradford fire-

men. Our only knowledge of the Prime Minister's visit was the announcement heard by your editor at Lions Club and at the hockey game on Monday evening. From that announcement one was made in this newspaper, and from no other information. On Wednesday afternoon we were stopped on Simcoe Street by police, who are strangers to us, and told not to enter the Community Centre grounds because the remaining space was being reserved for the Prime Minister's party and for the press. Since we had not at any time been contacted, the press did not appear to include the local press, therefore we said nothing and looked ruefully along the line of cars down the street, and thought of the walk to and from the building. We were just starting to drive on when shouting halted us and a Bradford fireman called, "That's the press". Those firemen led us in and we were parked in a choice spot, reserved for the press. Discovering that the building appeared to be filled with people and that our fate was likely to be standing room, after the arrival of the Prime Minister and his party we returned to the comfort of our advantageously parked car from where we heard everything in comfort, as did many others in the parking area. . . . The mill rate has not been set in either Bradford or West Gwillimbury but if these municipalities follow the trend of all neighbouring municipalities the rate will go up. Every week newspapers reaching this office bear headlines announcing increases in tax rates and in all cases a cause for the increase is given as the rising cost of education, especially in the secondary schools. If you read the editorial in last week's Witness, copied from the Richmond Hill Liberal, it will be realized the school rates there have raised the tax rate in the town and adjoining townships, varying from four to seven mills. The story is the same as told in the other newspapers and, if rumour is correct, the increase at B.D.H.S. this year cannot do other than give the rate in local municipalities a real boost. Elsewhere, in discussing education costs, councils have expressed the opinion that, though taxpayers can only bear a certain amount of a burden, yet it is false economy

to neglect other municipal services in order to provide every demand for schools, and they feel that other services must be provided and if schools are going to require so much, they must become a Provincial responsibility. There is going to have to be some unity among rural municipalities regarding the financing of education. In the larger urban centres, where there is a big industrial assessment, the problem is not nearly so acute, but taxes in city suburban rural districts, without industry and with educational costs, are getting completely out of line. . . . The letter of acceptance of purchase of the town property, which includes the firehall and jail, having been received from the Department of Public Works, at the price of \$17,000, it seems timely that a story associated with the reducing of this price from \$20,000, in order to make the sale to the Department, be told. At the meeting of Council attended by representatives of the Department, at which the latter refused to recommend purchase at more than the \$17,000, the Mayor was not present, being in Florida, and the Deputy-Reeve had to leave the meeting early. There was some difference of opinion regarding reducing the price below \$17,500, and, according to the story as told this writer, the morning after the meeting reported in the press, another meeting was held, and finally to settle the matter, the Mayor was contacted by phone in Florida. It was his answer which made the final decision that sold the property at \$17,000, as he believed they'd never get so good a price again; that this is the spot on which the

majority of people want the post office, and, if the talk continued for long between Bradford and the Mayor in Florida, the \$500 in question would be paid to the telephone company.

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