

The Office Window

Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth of Canada, left Ottawa yesterday amid the thunderous cheers of the loyal and admiring citizens of the capital city, and the great majority of the people of Canada, who love and greatly admire their Queen, were happy that her visit was concluded in safety to her person, if not without such unpleasant incidents in this land, as she has never experienced in any other part of the Commonwealth. Her courage and her dignity have but added to the affection and admiration of her loyal subjects. That while in this country, upon the invitation of this country, such incidents occurred, has rightly aroused indignation among people here and in Britain. . . . To-morrow, October 15, is the tenth anniversary of Hurricane Hazel, the storm which brought destruction and death in this central portion of Ontario and flooded the Holland Marsh gardens area, destroying crops and property. The night of October 15, 1954, and many of the days and nights which followed, will long be remembered by residents of the Marsh area, Bradford and the Bradford district. Ten years ago, that flood was a major disaster, but in retrospect, in regard to the marsh area and its relation to the general prosperity of the district, it is doubtful that many would rate it as such. The marsh residents, who were rated as new Canadians in 1954, found that they had so many friends, ready to extend a helping hand, in Bradford and the Bradford district, and in the Provincial government, that they were established as well known members of the community by the time they returned to their homes. The flooding is said to have been good for the land and,

when the inconveniences which followed evacuation of property were over, residents returned to freshly renovated homes, and a general air of prosperity was evident which has continued. Anyone who doubts that progress is being made each year in this area should see pictures of the marsh as it was in 1954, and also of Bradford in the same year. Trailer-town was on the site of our present community centre grounds during the 1954-55 winter. Much has happened since that. . . . The most recent issue of the Municipal World published two articles which should interest every community and the majority of property owners, because the majority of owners of property are not owners of newly built buildings, but rather of those which have been in use for varying periods of years. These articles appeared under the headings, "Restorations and Our Centenary," and "Community Initiative." In connection with the former, a few quotes indicate the thought: "The Canadian Centenary has stimulated a growing awareness of restoration value among many municipalities." "We should not approach the conservation of our historic structures as if they were butterflies to be impaled upon a pin and exhibited forever under glass." "Major historic attractions such as Upper Canada Village and Fort Henry, have taken history out of the textbooks and the ivory towers of historians and translated it into a form of family entertainment." "Let us use our historic resources, along with any other means, to sell Canada to Canadians, taking from the altars of the past, the embers, not the ashes." The subject of Community Initiative reports upon the presentation of the Community Initiative award to Yorkville Village, in Toronto, at the first Stratford Seminar a-

wards for Civic Design, in the Avon Theatre, Stratford. The citation stated that the award was made to the Yorkville community for the significant role it played in focussing attention upon the need for rehabilitation in the older areas of communities, and it has accomplished this with such effect as to make an excellent contribution to civic design. . . . Every town and village has a few ancient buildings which, in their present condition, detract from the appearance of that municipality, yet, like the buildings in Yorkville Village, instead of demolition and costly replacement by the new, some imaginative renovation and restoration, could make them beautifully outstanding in structure and design, in contrast to their modern neighbours. Recalling the Yorkville area of the pre-restoration period and contrasting it with the exclusive centre it has become, the award is known to be well merited, and to those who have thoughts of restoring an old building, a visit to that area should be profitable. Canada's centenary is a date for which all improvements are being planned to be ready in advance, be they municipal historical projects or the renovation and restoration of private property. . . . Note that Newmarket council did not agree that ratepayers should purchase some \$150. worth of "red tape" to provide reflectors on the bicycles ridden by school students in that town, it being suggested that students might be able to purchase this tape themselves, its cost being 25 cents per bicycle. The Newmarket youngsters must ride on the streets, or they wouldn't need the tape.