

The Office Window

A rather disagreeable weekend! If these high winds continue, the autumn glory is going to be on the ground before it becomes glory. An authority assures that the early withering of leaves is attributable to the drought of early summer and that trees, which may appear to be dead or dying, may only be suffering from lack of water, and the advice continues to be given that such trees be spared for the opportunity of being revived by moisture next year . . . Was interested to hear the mayor of a large city, who presides over a council on which members have contrary views and do not hesitate to express them, when asked if long and controversial debate was not a waste of time, uphold such argumentative debate. This mayor reminded that, whether at the municipal level, or in federal or provincial government business, when debate, regardless of the persistence of the argument, is not exercised, then does the working of a democratic form of government cease, and a dictatorship begins. Though a degree of dictatorship would conduct business more quickly, this gentleman, who, according to press reports, must be sorely tried upon many an occasion in presiding over his council, very evidently has no liking for the idea of dictatorship and spoke strongly in favour of argumentative debate among members of all ruling bodies. That puts we, the people, in the position of being either indifferent or stupid, when we tire of listening to reading about debate. Public business is our business and we should be informed and have an opinion and not permit someone else to think and decide for us. The loss of democratic freedoms can happen . . .

There is so much clock watching in regard to work these days that the role being played by the members of Bradford Fire Brigade, in taking pleasure and pride in completing the interior finishing of the new fire-hall, is a refreshing change. Their contribution in labour is going to very substantially decrease the cost of the building and, according to report, their pride in the building is making the workmanship very fine. In addition, these energetic chaps are really enjoying themselves and their work. Pride, and pleasure in that work, go together in accomplishing good results. We realize that it is not the modern thought, but we have a tremendous respect for busy hours in maintaining both mental and physical good health . . . Glad to see the business people meeting together. They are the people who should be among the most vitally interested in promoting the town and they have an excellent committee appointed to give leadership and direction. Was glad to learn that Franklin (Bud) Gardner's talents are being put to good use in this regard. He knows the needs of this town too well; is too able a citizen and too energetic in working for the town's benefit, to be permitted to live the life of the retired from public life for long. Some other energetic young business men, whom it is desirable to have taking responsibility in leadership, along with the Mayor, combine to make a promising beginning and guide for organization. A body such as this, working in co-operation with council, could be a wonderful asset to the town, and indirectly to their own business. This column extends best wishes for success. . . . 'Tis believed by many that the safest investment is land, but even land can change in value very rapidly by the changes in its surroundings. Read in a neighbour-

ing newspaper of an attempt having been made to purchase

part of certain private property for a sewage disposal plant. The owner of the property is reported to have named a most exorbitant price and now the municipality is considering having the land appraised and expropriated. The private property owner is a well-known name, and, would suppose that the buildings and other features are very fine. Wouldn't it be a pleasure to sell a few acres at an appraised price for a sewage disposal plant? It is said that the land is not valuable and that is the reason for choice, but would imagine that to the owner, its acreage is an attraction of the property. Bradford is fortunate to have a land area for its lagoon, distant from private property. With well trimmed lawns, that body of water, jokingly named a lake and for the Mayor by other councillors, is not unattractive as seen from private property . . . In York county the new Ontario Assessment Manual aroused considerable controversy at county council, the representatives for the rural fringe areas of Metropolitan Toronto being the main objectors. That the use of the Manual is not mandatory for all of Ontario, was another objection, however, on vote, the count went 17 to 10 in favour of approaching the Department of Municipal Affairs regarding use of the Manual.