

The Office Window

As the deadline date approaches for application to be made for approval for the desired per capita centennial grants for municipal projects from the federal and provincial governments, concern is expressed, according to reports in the daily press, because of what appears to be indifference on the part of many municipalities. A tremendous amount of money is being spent, and is going to continue to be spent, in anticipation of and in preparation for 1967 and any municipality which does not receive its share and spend its share to the best possible advantage of the municipality, is foolish. . . . Among the projects decided upon by municipalities to date are several which have been long desired in a community but money has been lacking to carry out the plans. Now, in the grants, people believe they see the necessary financial assistance for their ambitions and have made application for approval accordingly. If this approval is granted Canada's centennial will be marked by Centennial Pools, Centennial Arenas, Centennial Parks, etc., etc., in many places. It will be a repetition of the memorials, following the war. . . . Another thought is that the becoming mark for a 100th birthday is something historic and one of this group of thinkers, Dr. Emerson, archaeologist, of Toronto University, addressed Bradford council meeting last week. Surprisingly, his thoughts were identical with what we had suggested for the waste land down at the bridge, but Dr. Emerson's plans went beyond ours, which only mentioned beautification of that area, including a small attractive building from where literature, recalling the unusually interesting history of the area, with accompanying maps, could be distributed to tourists. Dr.

Emerson included all of this but suggested that the history extend back to the Indian trails here and reminded that this is the entrance to Huronia. He would begin the story for literature with the Indians and complete it with the development of the Holland Marsh, and, we might add, Ontario's Lieutenant Governor. He advised of four or five places where grants for such an historical site might be secured and he repeated again, to place it right down there at the entrance, "opposite the little vegetable markets." We are accustomed to those markets, but they are Bradford to many who drive No. 11. It's the unusual that is remembered and catches the fancy. . . . Dr. Emerson's suggestion of an historical site to mark the entering of Huronia and this historic area, would not necessarily need to interfere with another project, if one is desired, because to begin such a site would not be a very expensive item and it would appear that, if started in good time, there are several sources for grants apart from the government. Sufficient time to do the work properly would contribute more toward the success of such a project than even financial assistance, but with honest respect for the latter, in the form of grants, we withdraw all mention of a "beautification" at the bridge and in future will refer to it as an "historic site". . . . Dr. Emerson offered a nice beginning for interest, if the project is undertaken here, by stating that he would contribute a collection of Indian relics to place in the building. The Huronia sign is now at the bridge and for tourists this would make the county link. . . . Read that Aurora has had double the enquiries about commercial and industrial land over those of last year, but that some land owners, when the demand is good, up their prices so that there is no sale. How some people love to hold land, doing without the money it would bring in if sold, and

pay high taxes on it while they wait for a gullible buyer! When we see people doing this, and we have some right here, we think of one of the most magnificent land areas in this province, which for many years was held, with taxes mounting, by its owner, who would neither sell nor subdivide. The owner made a will which would have kept that beautiful property as they wished it kept, but after death its value made taxes so high they took the estate out of private control and today, instead of that beauty continuing as something very beautiful, it has been commercialized. Subdivision and sales many years ago would have given much pleasure to others and financial security to the owner, and a beautiful spot would have been preserved. That owner certainly waited too long and others could do the same. . . . Last Friday we received something of a shock in discovering the Bradford P.U.C. building undergoing repairs, having heard from at least two members of the Commission that a new building was to be built. Made enquiry and were told that with other plans for new work the new building cannot be afforded at present. Where did the idea come from that there is lots of money around that corner, or is someone kidding someone? . . . Thanks to the Men's Thursday Night Bowling Club. The flowers are beautiful and we're certainly enjoying them.

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