

The Thurston family tree is tall, sturdy, has many branches and is deep-rooted. For many years the village of Dunsford and the Township of Verulam has been the home of many of the Thurston Clan but the geneology roots were established in the Old Land.

Many of the Thurstons enjoy longevity. For instance, W. M. Thurston who lives on the old homestead, south of Dunsford, is in his 92nd year, while his brother, Albert Thurston, living with his father on the Verulam homestead, has the idea that he will outlive both his father and his uncle and attain the century mark.

J. Thurston proved to be an interesting conversationalist as he sipped a hot cup of coffee at a local restaurant. "What a noticeable change has taken place on the farm, especially in the matter of farm products and in wild-life," remarked Mr. Thurston. "A complete revolution has taken place. For instance, some years ago every farm had an orchard and the number of apples in many varieties was prolific. Today it is almost impossible to find a farm with a good orchard."

"I well remember the delicious St. Lawrence, the Russets, Talman, McIntosh Reds, Spies and the wonderful Crab apples, plums, greengages and grapes—they are practically all gone."

Mr. Thurston recalled wild-life on the farm: "I wonder what has become of the flocks of beautiful feathered birds, the wren, the humming bird, the chickadee, the snow bird, the canary and others with their deep-throated chirps, tweets and song. We have lots

or sparrows, starlings, crows, robins and some wood-peckers but many of the most beautiful songsters are practically extinct."

He might also have added eagles have disappeared, the cranes are few and hell divers are seldom, if ever, heard or seen.

According to the observations of Mr. Thurston, skunks are on the increase and racoons are plentiful. Ground hogs are in abundance and foxes are petering out. Racoons are nesting in beaver homes and muskrats are in abundance.

Remember the usefulness of the racoon in days gone by when every farmer boasted of a fine 'coon coat and beautiful and warm bear-skins made the best cutter and sleigh robes and when the buffalo cutter-robe was almost a luxury?

It is true. Orchards have become commercialized and there are very few of them in the local area and much wild-life was killed off a few years ago when the entire area was sprayed from the air, killing

flowers and birds, as well as weeds.

Birds are gradually finding their way back to the local area and flowers in the wilds are increasing.

The day of the good old-fashioned apple and pumpkin pie has almost disappeared in favour of the supermarket product just as has been obliterated from the farm of the barefoot boy with cheek of tan.

So also has come a change in farm cookery. Instead of the old-time farm batch of home-made bread and scones, the farmer's wife hustles into the supermarket or local bake shop. Even the delicious old-time apple-sauce has gone and the article comes in cans and home-made dumplings are almost a thing of the past. The youth of today will never have the glee of eating a real old-time scrumptious home-made farm meal.

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In and around Oakwood and Taylor's Corners the Eversons are widely-known as successful tillers of the soil, but few people of distant parts of the County of Victoria know of their musical talent. Lufey Everson and his son Clare were members of the Cambridge Street United Church for many years and they also have made a great contribution in connection with the United Church at Oakwood.

Recently another member of the family, Gordon Everson, a son of Clare Everson, presided at the console of the organ at Queen Street United Church in Lindsay and also as choirmaster. He graduated from Teachers' Training College at Peterboro several

years ago and for seven years past has been organist and choirmaster at Oakwood. He is at present a teacher at Sunderland Public School.

The fine contributions of the Eversons in choir church work cannot be estimated in dollars and cents and they have never looked for monetary reward. They have talents which they freely and gladly presented to the church of their adoption.

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It is very probable that many Lindsay citizens were inconvenienced because of the recent strike of railway employees across Canada. One citizen was Hiram Neal, well known to many Lindsay residents as a former employee of the Canadian National Railway and now engaged as a school crossing-guard at the Leslie Frost School. Mr. Neal was visiting in Regina, Western Canada, the city where he enlisted as a private in World War I.

He had renewed acquaintances and was ready to re-entrain for the home journey when a strike was declared. He managed to get a seat in a large passenger bus and left the western metropolis the day following the walk-out by strikers.

"The homeward journey by bus was not actually as comfortable as by train, a trip I knew all about, but nevertheless it did give me the opportunity of seeing the country from an entirely new angle."

Continuing, Mr. Neal stated that he enjoyed crossing the wide expanse of fertile prairies and witnessing the tremendous harvest which was due to be stored away.

"It was quite a sight to see the hundreds of acres of tall ripened grain glistening in the sunlight."

The visitor to the west also spoke enthusiastically concerning the grandeur and beauty of the bus trip through the northland, especially around Lake Superior and in the Kenora region.

"The bus really whisked by the mile-posts and made remarkable time and the passengers were well looked after. I noticed that the driver was cautious and many a time stopped the bus in order to inspect the big vehicle. He was also quite obliging."

While in Regina, Mr. Neal, as a Legionaire, had the opportunity of visiting the Legion hall.

"The Legion halls in the west, especially the one at Regina are truly magnificent," He added: "Wall-to-wall carpets, spacious dining rooms and good food and I also noticed that the liquor laws are different than in Ontario, as men and women are allowed to drink their beverage in the same room. This is different to the routine in Ontario."

"This particular Legion hall had a fine dining room and it was patronized by both sexes. This to me seemed to be the reasonable way to handle beverages and I noticed that everything was well-managed and under control."

"Old war buddies have disappeared but a friendly contact was made with one war veteran in particular and old days of World War I were re-

All in all, the strike on the railroads did alter the plans of Mr. Neal but the experience was a pleasing and memorable one.