

"Seventy and seventy-five years ago we never heard the name 'Teenager' but we did have some troublesome young people — they were called "Scallywags", "Rascals", and sometimes "Rogues". Young people today do not get enough rest; when I was a lad and when I was reaching the mature age my father insisted and saw to it that I got to bed at nine in the evening and got up at 5 in the morning".

The gentleman speaking was J. E. (Ern) Harrison of 26 Mill Street and from all appearances the rest prescription worked. Mr. Harrison celebrated his 92nd birthday recently, had a birthday party of relatives and friends in his apartment and he was the life of the party. Hale and hearty physically and mentally fit it would appear he has every right to believe that proper rest prolongs longevity.

Another antidote, according to "Ern" (his friends call him) is "never be afraid of work". "I seldom have a drink of hard stuff and I do not chew tobacco or inhale cigar-



ettes — and it does not help to worry".

Ernest Harrison saw the first light of day on a farm in the Udora-Victoria Corners district in Ontario County, several miles west of the Victoria County western boundary line. At an early age he moved with his parents to a farm south-west of Woodville and an important part of his

schooling was at a small red school house known as McIndo's. As a boy he took to the life on the farm.

As the years sped by he hired out with a farmer named Thos. Short, police chief in Lindsay. His first "big" salary was \$145 for the entire year. "I had many friends among farmers and I met many as I worked on practically ever farm between Manila and Lindsay along the road called No. 7. Farmers were not the most generous people in the world but I found them honest and kind and providing good meals and good accommodation for hired men".

Young farmer Harrison was a proud man when he owned his own farm south of Manila and not far from the then busy hamlet of Sonya. He prided himself in being one of the first in the district to build a modern barn and he was always progressive, according to his friends.

For instance, said one old friend, "Ern was a prime mover in everything that went on. When telephones were some distance away Ern was one of the first to link up with the Manila system and was instrumental in getting others to sign up. When Hydro was many miles away over around Sunderland Ern Harrison was the man who helped to get sixteen farmers and a business man named Prentice at Sonya to subscribe for service".

“I always believed in attending Church and many a first Prime Minister?” he was  
mile I walked, and I enjoyed  
Church, hearing the sermons

and meeting people”.

“You are 92 years old — did you ever hear or see Sir John A. Macdonald, Canada’s asked.

“Well, I certainly heard a

lot about him although I was just a boy. I never saw him but I have always admired him".

"I have voted for different political parties but I have been an admirer of John Diefenbaker — he has been a great man for the people of Ontario. I also admire William Scott, the present young and aggressive Member for this Riding".

J. E. Harrison maintains

that the farmers are the backbone and the breadbasket throughout the world. "Farmers have always worked hard. In those early days farmers literally sweat blood as they cleared the land of stumps and stones, planted and harvested crops at the first crack of dawn and sometimes by moonlight. Farmers did their best to keep the church and the school going and they also found time for a bit of play".