Rural Mail Carriers To Get Better Deal

A new deal appears in store for Canada's rural mail carriers, the men who battle the elements to carry the mail to country folk from coast to coast.

It was announced in the House of Commont as Postmaster-General Cote introduced a bill that will increase payments for mail delivery contracts. If the bill is approved, the minister said, he will use the new powers to ensure the rural carriers get a better deal.

Sponsors Committee

At the same time the minister sponsored a resolution to establish a special Commons committee to study the "general administration and operation of the rural mail delivery service"—something many members have sought for years.

The postmaster-general's twin moves won general approval from all sides of the House. In the debate members of all parties came up with suggestions, including a pension scheme, civil service recognition and better contracts for delivery of rural mail.

Some asked elimination of "political patronage" they said had been rampant in giving rural mail contracts.

Mr. Cote said there would be no discrimination or unjust patronage in the awarding of the contracts with rural carriers who were giving good service.

Says Tender Unfair

H. W. Herridge (CCF-Kootenay West) said the tender system of letting contracts is unfair in that it provides no security. A man who had diligently delivered rural mail for years might find himself cast out for someone who bid just slightly lower.

Angus MacInnis (CCF-Vancouver East), F. D. Shaw (SC-Red Deer) and John Diefenbaker (PC-Lake Centre) spoke out against "patronage" in awarding rural mail contracts. Mr. Diefenbaker said the new legislation would give the minister a "juicy melon." William Bryce (CCF-Selkirk) also thought the legislation opened the way for political patronage.

Walter Dinsale (PC-Brandon) said in his area rural mail is being discontinued in some areas because people are moving to the cities. Elimination of mail deliveries could only speed up the movement to urban areas.

Urge Extension

T. J. Kickam (L-Kings) and others joined in urging that delivery should be provided for farmers living off the beaten track. At present there had to be three or four mail boxes to the mile for delivery to be extended and this should be reviewed.

Asks Consideration

George Sulford (L-Leeds) believed length of routes, number of boxes and condition of the roads should be factors considered in granting contracts.

C. W. Hodgson (PC-Victoria, Ont.) got a nod from Mr. Cote when he suggested that where a rural mail carrier had proved he could give satisfactory service, he should get a renewal of his contract providing he was not asking more money. That had not been done and there had been cases of patronage.

The federal budget is to be brought down Feb. 19. Here's hoping it will have much more to offer the taxpayer than what 19 means in cribbage.

As Joe Harrington observes in the Boston Post: Somehow the attempts to solve our international problems remind me of the housewife, who burned a piece of rubber in the kitchen to drive away the odor of boiled cabbage."

Edmonton Journal says it's all right to carve a career, but one shouldn't chisel one.

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Weekly Soil and Crop Meetings

The Directors of the Soil and Crop Improvement Association of York County have decided to hold a series of Wednesday afternoon meetings in the Agricultural Rooms, Newmarket (opposite the Town Hall) from February 18th through to March 25th except Seed Fair day. One crop topic will be assigned to each afternoon with the sessions running from 1.45 to 4 p.m. The program in most cases will include one speaker, some pictures and a discussion period when those present can bring up their respective problems.

A notice and outline of the programs will be mailed to members of the York County Soil and Crop Improvement Assoc. but any farmer in York or adjoining counties will be welcome. Better get your name in for notices. Tentative plans for these meetings are as follows: Feb. 18th, Soils and Drainage; Feb. 25th, Turnip and Potato meetings (separate meetings); Mar. 4th, Silage Day; Mar. 11th, Hay and Pasture; Mar. 18th, Seed Fair; Mar. 25th, Grain Crops.

Truck Hits House, Driver Found Asleep at Wheel

The driver of a loaded gravel truck which crashed into the front porch of a house on No. 7 Highway Thursday was found asleep at the wheel by the police. Constable Harvey Cox said he found Glen Breedon, 32, of Regent St., Toronto, slumped over the wheel. Breedon was awakened by the officer and charged with drunk driving.

Sitting in the living room of his new house, E. C. Barnes said he thought an earthquake had started. There was little damage done to either the front porch or the truck.

Markham Township police said that when Breedon lost control of the steering wheel the gravel truck ran 65 feet off the highway.

Another trouble with the rising generation is that it doesn't rise early enough.

Plowing Match Dates Announced

F. A. Lashley, Secretary-Manager of the Ontario Plowmen's Association, announced today that the 1953 International Plowing Match would be held on October 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th.

Announcement of the dates was made following the 43rd Annual Meeting of the Association which concluded yesterday.

The Match will be held in the united counties of Northumberland and Durham, between Cobourg and Port Hope on Number 2 highway.

In addition to the numerous classes that always form a part of the "International" there will be added interest this year as the result of the erection of a new "World" match which will see teams representing many countries competing under "World" rules.

Plans for the holding of the "World" match as part of the International are in an advanced stage.

New Civil Defence Buildings Erected

By George Abell of Stouffville

One of the few large buildings to be erected in this part of the world in the past few years was a rather queer looking brick tower about fifty feet high and forty feet square. Around it are rows of buildings that resemble army huts, made of prefabricated concrete sections and painted a rather sickening shade of yellow.

The whole thing takes up about five acres of an old brick yard near the railroad tracks a quarter mile from the station and as nobody knew what it was being built for it has been the subject of plenty of speculation last summer and fall.

When the workmen erected one eight foot chain link fence with three strands of barb wire on top around the place the rumors really flew thick and fast. The dear old elderly ladies set and told each other over the bridge table or in the fish queue that it was to be a prison for homicidical maniacs who would specialize in particularly horrible murders of elderly ladies each night after they escaped.

The kids had it figured out as a rocket station for lunor travel and were all set to stow away on the first flight.

As the 8.14 for the Big Smoke pulled by each morning, we fathers checked on progress and eventually came to the conclusion that it was to be a detention camp for income tax dodgers or those of us who could not pay the Christmas bills by January 30th.

But all is now clear for last Saturday there was an invasion of photographers, press cars and very important people who solved the mystery by formally declaring the place open.

Our ideas, as usual, turned out to be all wrong but the truth is rather disgusting. That humdrum looking set of buildings is to be base headquarters and training school for the country's first Mobile Civil Defence Unit. Apparently the whole country is to be zoned and one of these mobile units set up in each zone.

We see the recruiting posters for Civil Defence everywhere with their slogan "We can't be sure, we can be ready" and know that behind the scenes the work of organizing again to save life and property if trouble comes again must be going steady forward.

But the British are a very peculiar race of people insofar as they do things on a big scale in a very quiet way indeed so that it comes as a shock when the results are announced. Now we know that the C.D. service is really on a sound basis and ready to spring into action if needed but every time the 8.14 goes by that bunch of yellow buildings you can almost hear everybody in the train saying to themselves "I hope that it's all just a waste of money and never has to be used."

Today was the big day in Edinburgh when Miss Jane McNeill said "I do" to the Earl of Dalkeith, only son of the Duke of Beccleugh who owns just about everything that isn't securely fastened down in all Scotland.

Among the two thousand guests who saw the ceremony were the Queen, Prince Philip, Princess Margaret and others of the royal family. It seemed to me as if the Queen was entering the lion's den but I might have known that everything would be O.K. for all the people of Edinburgh cheered her to the echo.

Some of the Scots people are raising the roof over the Queen being known as Elizabeth II of Scotland. They claim, with perfect right, that good Queen Bess never was Queen of Scotland so the present title should be Elizabeth I of Scotland. Seems silly to the rest of us but these few Scots are really serious and just last week tried to blow up a new port box that had the arms of the present Queen on it.

Everybody else in Africa, Asia, Korea, Egypt and India is kicking at John Bull so a few more Scots can't make much difference. Don't suppose they are as serious as the rest of them.

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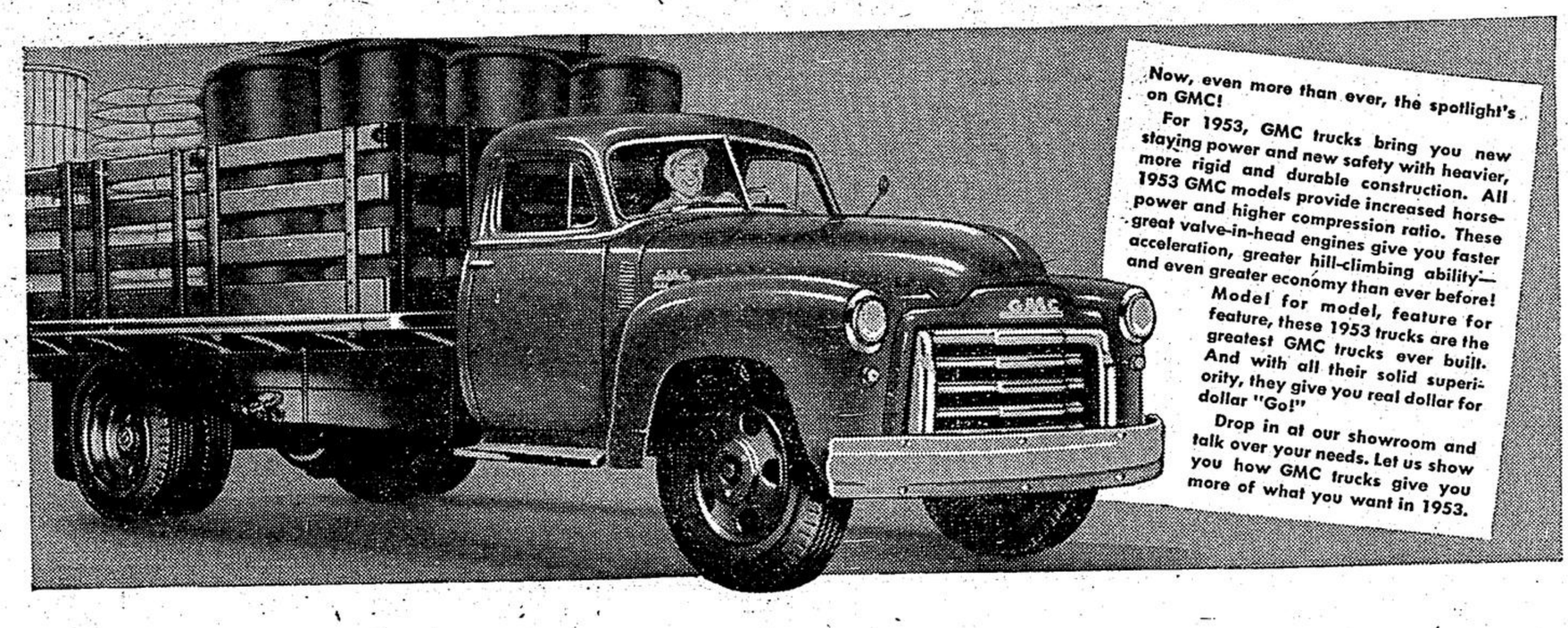

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