A COUNTRY EDITOR SEES Ottawa

WRITTEN SPECIALLY FOR THE WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS OF CANADA

by JIM GREENBLAT, Editor of the SUN
SWIFT CURRENT SASKATCHEWAN

RATIONING

We who think in terms of 50 chickens and four cows can hardly conceive the magnitude of the task in planning and distributing the millions of Number 2 Ration Books, which you may or may not yet have when you read this.

"This rationing is something which affects about 12 million people 24 hours in every day," quietly said L. B. Unwin, Canada's rationing chief, in his Montreal office.

Just a little background of Mr. Unwin will serve to show why it looks to me that these wartime jobs are being efficiently handled. It sounds a little Harotio Alger. At 51, Mr. Uuwin is vice-president in charge of finance for the Canadian Pacific Railway, and president of their growing Airlines. He came out from Kent, England, at sixteen and in 27 years reached his present job. He was a railway clerk at Chapleau in 1908. He won the Military Cross for bravery in the first Great War, starting out as a buck private, ending as a Major. He now serves without cost to his country. Tall, unobstrusive , baldish! astronomical figures, big jobs, he takes in stride.

Local Boards in National Set-up

You wondered why your Local Ration Board was set up, with its fora-time inactivity. Now you probably know. It was all part of a nation-wide scheme to do a tremendous job with the least disturbance and at a minimum of cost to the taxpayer. There were wheels revolving within wheels, policies to be determined before Mr. Unwin's crew got going. Then there had to be directives to those who would do the actual work in cities and town from Sydney, N.S., to Victoria, B.C.

Just imagine the confusion—not to even think of your own feelings, if you had come in from the farm on a blustery day and some inefficient, if patriotic, vounteer worker got your card all balled up. But all this had been taken care of which you sat out the winter around the pot-bellied stove. The Distributing Chief appointed by your own Local Ration Board had definite instructions on every tiny phase of the operation, and so did the other volunteer workers who are doing, or did, something which is their contribution to the war effort. Just think of it: all these folks working without remuneration. That's the home front for you. It means a big saving to the taxpayer, too.

Mr. Unwin told of the different sets of conditions which had to be provided for in distribution for urban and rural centres. That was worked out beforehand, with leeway given the local distributing chief because he knew local conditions better than the fellows in Ottawa or Montreal.

The Story Behind Ration Books

Do you know that the King's Printer started delivering ration books to the administration between January 20th and 26th at the rate of a million a day, with the distribution, Dominion-wide, set for Feb. 19th to March 1st. You know yourself what was in each book. They were in cartons of 1,500 books each, banded in 50's. There had to be provision, I was told, for additional sheets in regulative quantity, of course, for underground soft coal miners and diabetics. Just imagine the detail involved, and still in this set of Montreal offices with its clatter of typewriters and ringing of 'phones there was adiating all over Canada, with decision and clarity of purpose but an absence of any bedlam, a distribution of ration cards so vast as to stultify the imagination unless one was on the scene.

As you know, the No. 2 book was not mailed out, but you folks had to "come and get it." Some of us just hate to put ourselves out and the administration realized that. They realized also that Canadians do not have to be Gestapo'd into anything, and are amenable to reason. And why shouldn't they be, with a war on? If we want to play rummy in the back of John Black's real estate office, the government doesn't move John's premises to your doostep. So. Mr. Unwin's outfit wasn't a bit disturbed about Canadian consumers' reaction to this decision.

Distribution is Complex

They had to be sure that every town of 500 people had at least one distributing centre; that cities of 100,000 or more had offices located strategically to accommodate busy people, to avoid bottle-necks, even going so far as to issue instructions that doors in the places decided on were conveniently located to avoid congestion. We wouldn't think of things like that out our way. Do you know I was even shown how instructions were sent out on how the tables were to be arranged to handle people quickly.

The administration, for instance, had to figure out such things as return cards from ration book No. 1, which were handed in before you got a new one; and the green sheets for tea and coffee which were jerked out from children's books. Each and every book, card or sheet had to be accounted for to avoid letting any unscrupulous person get their hands on them.

Volunteer Workers Dollar Savers

Mr. Unwin told of the vast number of volunteer workers necessary to put the job over. Reports coming to this office, analyzed and bird's-eye-viewed for his benefit, show that Canadians responded and saved the nation millione of dollars which can be converted to tanks, planes, guns and instruments of war. "The success of the whole scheme will depend," he said, "upon the resourcefulness and on the hard work which everyone contributes." They rely on that, here in this Montrzeal headquarters of consumer rationing.

As an outsider looking in, I felt they had evolved a system which aimed at simplicity combined with effective control.

I didn't think I had to bother these people with questions on the why and wherefore of rationing. The necessity is plain logic and doesn't take any undue reasoning.

In previous and following articles the picture of Canada's wartime personal and collective economy is painted just as factually as I can make it from on the spot. If you or I want to criticize methods, that's a democratic privilege. So hop to it if you feel the urge. But at least you are getting a little of the background, I hope.

URGENT!

Great Britain asks or seventy-five million dozen Eggs from Canada in 1943.

That is nearly one-third more Eggs than there were produced in Canada last year.

This task can be accomplished best by every producer striving to get more Eggs per Hen.

The average production per month in Canada last year was nine eggs from each hen. Two more eggs per bird per month will do the job.

YOU'LL BE PLEASED WITH YOUR RETURNS

Flesherton Creamery & Produce Co.

Phone 66 Angus Avis, Manager

CEYLON

The sympathy of this community is extended to the bereaved family of the late Donald McLeod, Flesherton, whose funeral was held last Saturday to the Flesherton Mortuary Chapel.

The many friends of Mr. George Cairns are sorry to learn that he had the misfortune to have his ankle severely injured while working in the bush recently. His leg was pinned down by a log. We hope the injured limb will soon be much better and that he will be able to go to work again.

Mrs. Will Gibson was a visitor with friends in Detroit the past week.

Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Irish, Toronto, Mrs. A. McNally, Markdale, visited recently with Miss M. Hemphill and Mr. S. Hemphill, and attended the funeral of the late Miss F. C. Hemphill, which was held Friday last to the Flesherton Mortuary Chapel.

The sympathy of this community is extended to the bereaved relatives of the late Miss F. C. Hemphill, Flesherton, who passed away last Wednesday. Mr. S. Hemphill of this village is a brother of the deceased.

Sergt.-Major Gordon Micks, R.C.A., Pettawawa, was a week end visitor with Mrs. Micks and little sons, Bobbie and Jackie.

Congratulations are extended to Miss Isobel Cameron, Durham, and Mr. Everette Blackburn, Flesherton who were married last Saturday.

Gnr. Chas. McWilliam left Saturday for Pettawawa, after spending his furlough with his parents, Mr and Mrs. John McWilliam.

Miss Frances Collinson, Markdale, was a week end visitor at her home.

Messrs. Percy Hunt and Stewart Muir are the canvassers for this village for that worthy cause: "The Red Cross."

Mr. Wm. Crutchley, Durham, was a week end visitor with Mr. F. R. Oliver, M.L.A., and Mrs. Oliver.

A pleasant social evening was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ken Stewart last Wednesday evening, when nine tables of euchre were enjoyed. The winner of the men's prize was Mr. Lawson White and for the ladies Mrs. Cecil Alexander.

L.A.C. Ivan Turner, Jarvis, was a week end visitor with Mr. and Mrs. F. R. Oliver.

Mr. F. R. Oliver of Toronto spent the week end at his home.

VICTORIA CORNERS

Mrs. Milton Bannon visited in Toronto the past week with members of her family,

Several are suffering from the 'flu and we are sorry to report Mr. Jas. Linton having developed it in one of the more serious stages, suffering an attack of pneumonia. We trust that Mr. Linton may speedily recover his usual good health.

SUSPICIOUS SCOTS

In Banffshire lime dust at the county council quarries was offered to farmers for nothing, but only three farmers applied for it. When the road surveyor advertised the dust for sale, a revenue of about £1,000 resulted.—Winnipeg Prairie Farmer.

There seems to be some astonishment in officials circles because "permission" given certain types of restaurants to raise the price of meal beverages was promptly acted upon. That is the way "permissive" regulations are regarded where revenue is concerned.

PRICEVILLE

Mrs. C. Ward and little son of Midhurst spent the week end in town.

Friday evening progressive euchre was held in the north line school. Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Fisher were winners.

The storm over the week end affected school and church services. When so few were out, both church congregations worshipped together in the United Churh.

Mr. Hermie McLean is the new mail courier, in place of Mr. Wm. McKechnie, who has been carrying the mail. Mr. McKechnie found it rather difficult to farm and draw the mail. It has been an extremely bad winter for the mail couriers and all hope that from now on the roads and weather will improve.

The Women's Day of Prayer is to be held in St. Andrew's Church this Friday, March 12th.

The Institute met at the home of Mrs. Sims Thursday afternoon, with a fair attendance, considering weather and roads. Miss Anna Shortreed had the topic and gave a very interesting paper on "Hobbies." Donald and Kenneth Nichol donated a very fine wall bracket on which to sell tickets to raise money for war work, the gift being greatly appreciated.

Pte. Earl McLean spent the week end at his home here.

Mr. C. A. McLean spent a couple of days in Toronto recently.

Mr. and Mrs. Colin McLean celebrated the 47th anniversary of their wedding recently.

Well, we're getting down to earth again.

Dentist: "What kind of filling do you want it your tooth, son?" Boy (without hesitation): "Chocolate."

MEN'S

ORDERED CLOTHING

You may NEED a new Suit or Top Coat shortly. If so, we strongly recommend placing your order NOW, while fine quality imported material is still to be had.

SUITS or TOP COATS

W. R. Johnston designs $27.50, $32.50, $36,50
Tip Top Tailors designs $29.75

All made and tailored to your individual measure. Fit and satisfaction guaranteed.

NEW WALL PAPERS

Our selections for the season of 1943 are now on display. You'll find exceptionally good assortment of patterns.

"PIONEER FEELS IN STOCK

Chick Starter Laying Mash
Poultry Concentrates Pig Starter

Have you bouht a War Savings Stamp today?

F. H. W. HICKLING

General Merchant FLESHERTON

WARNING

CANADA FACES A WOOD-FUEL FAMINE NEXT WINTER

ARE YOU one of the Canadian householders who burned fences, doors, and even flooring to keep warm in this winter's sub-zero weather?

Or perhaps you are one of the lucky ones who just managed to scrape through?

In either case, you will want to be prepared for next winter when greater hardships loom unless you take immediate action.

The shortage already has affected many communities . . . total stocks of dry wood are nearly exhausted . . . in some places the small supply of green wood cut for next winter is being used *now* to meet the present emergency.

Throughout most of Canada, fuel-wood is obtained not far from where it is consumed. Its production and distribution are the business of local citizens.

The Dominion Government recognizes that the wood-fuel shortage is so serious that even with the full co-operation of everyone in affected communities an adequate supply is not assured. Accordingly, it has been decided to stimulate the output of wood-fuel by assisting those normally engaged in its production and distribution. To this end, the following measures will be adopted:

1. A subsidy of $1.00 per cord will be paid to dealers on all commercial fuel-wood contracted for and cut on or before June 30, 1943, and held to dealers' account on that date.
2. The Coal Controller has been authorized to arrange in his discretion for the payment of such portion of the transportation costs as he considers proper in respect of fuel-wood, particularly in cases where dealers, to procure supplies, find it necessary to contract for fuel-wood at locations outside the area from which they normally derive their supplies. In order to obtain any such reimbursement, dealers must obtain a permit from the Coal Controller before contracting for such supplies.
3. The Coal Controller will repurchase from dealers at dealer's cost all commercial grades of fuel-wood on which a subsidy of $1 per cord has been paid and which are still in dealers' hands as at May 31, 1944.
4. Assistance will be given in providing priorities for necessary equipment.
5. Farmers now on the farm, and who leave the farm temporarily in response to this appeal to engage in fuel-wood cutting, will be deemed by National Selective Service to be carrying out their regular occupation as farmers and will be given all the rights of deferment of military service which such an occupation now carries. Such temporary absence should not, however, interfere with agricultural production.

Municipal councils, farmers, fuel dealers, individual citizens, service clubs, and all other groups in communities where wood-fuel is burned, are urged to begin at once a rapid survey of their local situation, and to take immediate action to relieve the shortage.

THE DEPARTMENT OF MUNITIONS AND SUPPLY

Honourable C. D. Howe, *Minister*

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