THE Flesherton Advance

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MEMBER OF THE C.W.N.A.

F. J. THURSTON, Editor

PORTLAW

Mr. and Mrs. John McArthur and son, Donald, and Mrs. Elsie Cameron of Durham were visitors recently with the latter's daughter, Mrs. Everette Blackburn.

Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Patton visited with Stanley's mother, who is a patient in Markdale hospital.

We are sorry to report Mrs. Mary McMullen not enjoying good health lately. Her granddaughter, Eleanor Shier, is staying with her.

Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Boyce and Marie, Mr. and Mrs. Art Wilson and family, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Croft and daughters, Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Boyce were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Fisher, Doreen and Thelma, on Fri., March 28th. The family took this way to honor their mother, Mrs. Boyce, on her birthday. During the evening Mrs. Kenneth McKee phoned her mother to wish her many happy returns of the day.

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth McKee, Ruth and June, of Toronto, also Mr. and Mrs. Norman Jackson of Hamilton spent the Easter holiday with relatives here.

Mr. John McKee, accompanied by Ray Pedlar and Mr. and Mrs. Bert Sparks spent a day in Hamilton recently.

CEDARSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. W. A. White, E.D.
Pastor

Service next Lord's Day at 11 a.m. April 13th. Subject: "A Tender Rebuke." Text: Isaiah 40:27-28.

Church School meets at the close of the morning service.

We invite you to worship with us. You will be welcome.

"This 'Gates Ajar' design is a handsome one," said the tombstone man.

"It is just what I want," said the widow, "He never shut a door in all our married life without being told."

NOTICE

TO USERS OF MILK AND CREAM IN FLESHERTON

The public is hereby notified that on and after Tuesday, April 1st, 1947, it will be unlawful to sell unpasteurized milk or cream in the Village of Flesherton, by order of the Ontario Department of Health.

—DR. T. D. PARK, M.O.H.
Village of Flesherton

Editor's Note : This is the seventh and last of the series of weekly articles which Clark Young, treasurer of the Ontario Plomen's Association, has written about the visit of Canada's champion plowmen to Britain. Others in the party were Floyd Steckley and Austin Nairn, winners of the Salada Trans-Atlantic class for horse-drawn jointer plowing at last fall's International Plowing Match, Fred Timbers and Alex Black, Esso Open Tractor class winners, and George Waldie, trip manager.

TORONTO — Our trip has ended, and, as with most travellers, we wouldn't have missed it for the world, but we're glad to be back home again. Now it is my task to summarize the results of our tour, difficult though it is to sort out the importance of all we've seen and done.

We were in Britain in a time of crisis when the unprecedented bad weather added to all the accumulated troubles after the war. But none of us can speak too highly of the hospitality we received everywhere we went. The British people have an unusually high regard for Canadians and this speaks volumes for the conduct of our men and women in the armed forces who were overseas during the war.

We were terribly disappointed that continuing snow and cold prevented any plowing whatever, and our hosts were equally disappointed. I believe that if Canadian plowmen make the trip next year, our British friends may arrange matches for another time to make sure the weather will not interfere.

Another result is that Scotland's champion, Bob Allen from Aberdeen, plans to compete in the International Plowing Match at Kingston, Ont. next fall. You may remember that British plowmen actually were booked to sail on the Athenia in 1939. Because of the war's outbreak their passage was cancelled and the ship was the first sunk by a Nazi submarine.

The weather was a constant hindrance to plans and the fuel crisis meant cold hotel rooms night after night. We were to have seen the Giant's Causeway in Ireland, but the snow blocked the roads. However we managed to visit a good cross-section of England, Scotland and Northern Ireland and were able to make some conclusions about the state of British agriculture.

LONGER GROWING SEASON

In many respects farm methods in Britain are different from those in Canada. The normal rainfall in the Isles is much heavier and the growing season is much longer there. Labor is more plentiful but the farmer is hampered by the land ownership system and lack of machinery.

Because most of the farms are rented, the farmers are not in a position to modernize their buildings and so they just carry on the hard way, year after year. The buildings are quite different from those in Canada and most of the hay and coarse grain is put in stacks or covered sheds, requiring much more hand labor than is common in our country.

A great many tractors are used for plowing and cultivating but the majority of farmers still stick to the one horse cart for hauling their crops and for drawing out the manure. I saw only one manure spreader of the wheel type. Threshing machines are still fed by hand, and without a straw blower. Some have straw bundlers on the back. The cylinders are of the rasp-bar type, because the British farmer wants his straw in long lengths. Combines are on the increase, but needed machines won't be delivered for a year or more.

They use more commercial fertilizer than we do and reap heavier crops. We might learn something in that respect. The Old Country is still the fountain-head as far as beef cattle are concerned, but I believe we surpass them with our dairy cattle.

We can't compete with them in the quality of their grain, for they have the longer season and more moisture. British standards, in pounds per bushel, are: wheat, 63; barley, 56; oats, 42. The Canadian standards are respectively 60, 48 and 34. In the past we have tried British seed grains and they have tried ours, but the experiments weren't successful, because of the difference in growing conditions.

Some reforestation is being attempted in Britain, with trees supplied by the government for a small charge. The British do not practice contour plowing, as far as I could determine from numerous inquiries.

British farmers during the war were divided into three classes — those who could run their own farms without help or advice; those who carried on with some help from government agricultural experts; and those who were poor managers to the extent that the government stepped in and replaced them with more competent fen. John Wilson of Shifnal Shropshire, told me there were only a few farmers that had to be replaced in the area where he was supervisor. Farmers who needed advice readily accepted it and the plan worked smoothly.

Mr. Wilson also said that the farmers raised no market hogs, as they did not have the grain to feed them but depended on Canada to supply pork products.

MACHINERY EXPENSIVE

In general, machinery is much more expensive overseas than it is at home. Motor cars are more costly to run, the license alone 25 shillings ($5.00) per horsepower, and car insurance, which is compulsory is very high. Gasoline is still rationed and the average car is allowed only 10 gallons a month.

All food is rationed with the exception of poultry and fish, which are hard to get. Meals are very expensive. All wearing apparel is rationed, with the exception of hats and caps, and the allowance does not go very far.

The suel sjtuation, of course, is very bad, and many cities are back to the wartime blackout. In spite of all these difficulties we heard very few complaints from the people. These are our impressions, and of course some of them were gathered in only a few weeks.

We had a last few interesting days around London. On one trip we were shown through a big tire plant and saw a stable equipment factory near Reading. The equipment was good, but too expensive for the average farmer. We saw one new machine which milks cows and pipes the milk directly to the dairy cooling system.

Another day was taken up with obtaining our passport visas and a visit to the Anglo-American Oil plant in its wartime quarters outside London on the Thames. Mr. Burgess and Frank Ellis were our hosts.

The next day brought our grand finale in London. We had dinner at the famous Simpson's restaurant in the Strand as guests of Anglo-American and Salada, and later we saw a good variety show at the Paladium theatre. The theatre was so cold we had to keep our coats on, but our hotel, the South Kensington, was the warmest of the entire tour.

Next morning, a Friday, we left for Southampton to board the Queen Elizabeth for the voyage home. We sailed that afternoon and arrived in New York the following Wednesday. The weather was better than on the eastbound crossing and none of us missed a meal, although the big ship rolled a bit. Canada's champion skater, Barbara Ann Scott, and her mother had the cabin next to mine, but we saw little of them, because Barbara was resting after her strenuous European tour.

TRIP WELL PLANNED

Our entire trip was well planned from start to finish and all of us are grateful to the sponsors, the Salada Tea Company of Canada, Ltd., and Imperial Oil Ltd., Their representatives took excellent care of us all the way through. We are also indebted to the officials of Canada House, Ontario House, and the Canadian National Railways, who took such pains to arrange our travels.

We have returned thankful we have in Canada such a land of plenty. Our big disappointment was the lack of plowing in Britain, but we shall always remember the courage, steadfastness, and warm hospitality of the British people, and their kindness to us as we visited their cities, their farms and their homes. The trip was well worth while, and we'll never forget our experiences.

When a man of eighty dies, his heart stops for the first time after 3,363,840,000 beats.

Bermuda has no springs, wells, rivers, or lakes. It is entirely dependent upon rainfall for its water supply.

United Church Notes

Rev. A. G. Macpherson, B.A.
Minister

Have you met the Risen Saviour? Where and how we can all meet Him is the sermon theme for Sun., April 13th, at Flesherton, Inistioge and Eugenia. Let us make every Sunday an Easter Sunday.

The Sunday Schools at Flesherton and Eugenia now meet at 11 a.m., Proton at 2 p.m. There are classes for every age and interest. You are invited to join in the study of the Word of Life.

St. John's senior choir meets for practice at 8:15 Friday evening at the home of Mrs. Alex. Henderson. All members and new-comers are urged to attend.

The Young Adults' Club will hold their April meeting at the home of Rev. and Mrs. A. G. Macpherson on Tuesday evening, April 15th. Everyone 18 years and up is cordially invited.

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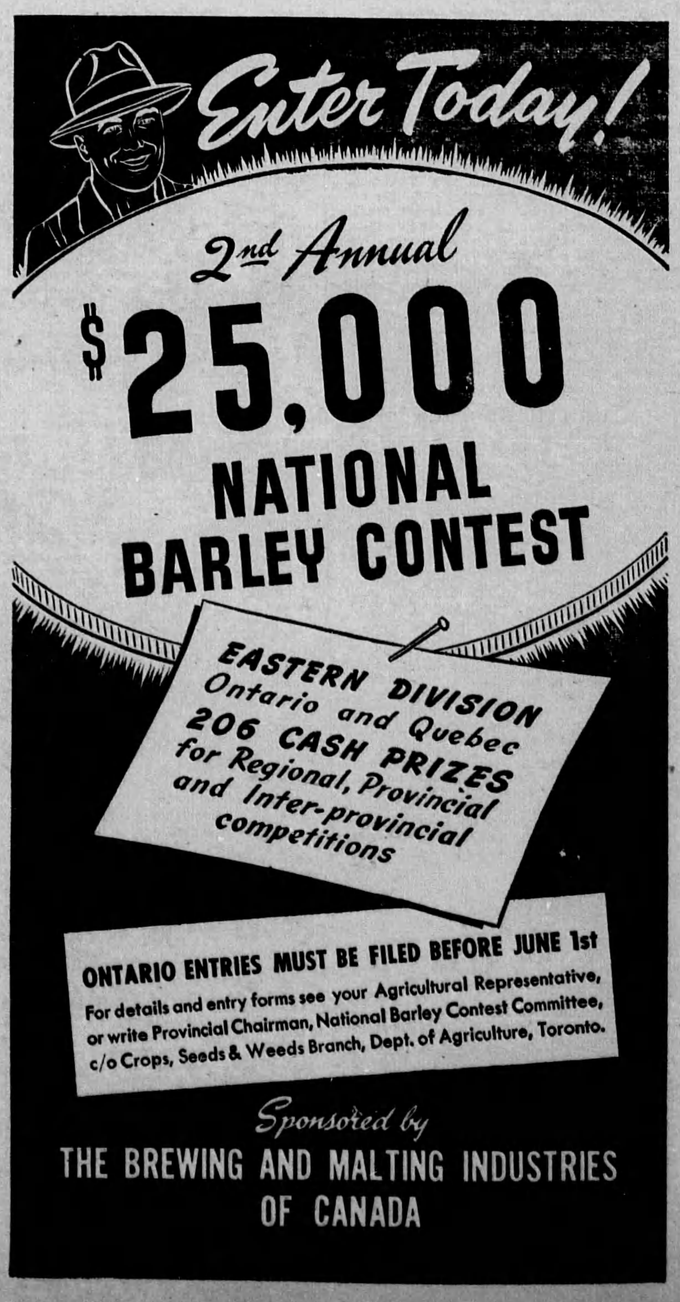
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