



A WEEKLY EDITOR LOOKS AT Ottawa

As this is written Ottawa is being clipped, manicured and waved and decorated for President Roosevelt's visit. There is intense interest on the part of usually blasé officials and citizens, temporary war-jobbers and the thousands of others who make this capital, Churchill, Eden, Madame Chiang Kai-Shek, Giraud and now the very popular F.D.R. himself. It will be an historic occasion, one of the ever increasing evidences of U. S.—Canadian friendship and inter-national coordination. The vast concourse of beautifully kept lawns in front of the Peace Tower, where Mr. Roosevelt will speak from, will, it is estimated, accommodate 20,000 people. The S. E. O. sign will surely be out early. His talk, going over the air waves is at high noon which is always heralded here by the boom of a cannon.

We hear a lot about manpower, but what about Canadian woman power? Well, there are 4,240,000 women over 14 years of age in Canada. Here are some interesting figures about them. As of January 30, 1943, of this number there were 1,152,000 in industry and 250,000 directly or indirectly in war industry. 1,000,000 women numbered 830,000; women students 309,000. There were more than 31,367 in the armed services (and that figure must be considerably increased by this time). 300,000 are considered unemployable.

Canada's vegetable oil industry is one of those revolutionized, in a sense, by the necessities of this global war. This industry is, of course, agricultural. Take flaxseed, of which 33% of that used was imported in 1939. In 1942, however, all of the 3,388,195 bushels used were of domestic origin. Our acreage objective for 1943, is 2,452,000 or an astounding increase over the previous year of 67%. All these changing phases having to do with our agricultural and industrial economy will be part of the post-war problems.

It is all right to lend your ration book to your farmer friend who uses a great deal of tea, while you use very little? The Prices Board says no, and Thelma Craig of the Information branch answered me this way: "Rationing is for the equal sharing of certain commodities which are in short supply. It does not mean that Granny, just because she likes the extra pot of tea, should be able to have double the ration of the woman next door, nor does it provide for the swapping of tea and sugar by two neighbors who live across the road from each other." Fact of the matter is the whole rationing system is set up on the basis that the majority will conserve their use of rationed articles to actual and immediate needs.

Harking back to the Order-in-Council which made it an offence to waste coal or heat, owing to the serious fuel situation facing Canada, it is interesting to know that our nor-

mal penicillin coal needs are about 30 million tons. This year, geared to such a high war tempo, provision must be made for about 47 million tons. Canadians can be selfish as individuals and sneak excessive heat, more than necessary, or they can play ball for the good of all in Canada. It's really co-operation for national conservation instead of coercion that is wanted.

Talking with a newspaperman back from Washington the other day, he told of trying out a meat shop right close to the main drag which advertises horse meat—choice stuff from "young wild western horses." He bought a roast and thought it quite tasty. Cost less than half the price of beef. He was afraid, however, that in time they would be ringing in "18-year-old farm horses," or something.

The Quebec conference enhances Canada's status in the eyes of the world. In this connection I find that in 1937 our capital city could boast only two legations, four consulates and one High Commissioner's office. To-day there are representatives of 22 nations always in close touch with the Canadian government. The housing shortage in Ottawa creates problems, too, for numerous commercial and military attaches and their staffs. A very international flavor is exhaled when one comes across the flags of United Nations in front of various homes and buildings scattered around the city.

Recently a gathering of members of sheep breeders associations at the Central Experimental Farm here saw a demonstration of the drug phenothiazine, in the latest method devised for controlling sheep parasites. Dr. W. E. Swales, Science Service of the Department of Agriculture, showed how the medicine, a two-inch tablet, is plopped into the throat of the animal, using a tongue depressor. An expert can do 50 lambs an hour. One reason for the importance of the drug at this time is that parasites destroy the animal's instincts which are so valuable for the making of surgical sutures needed on the battlefield.

Children in the country, here's a war job for you. The National Research Council needs 100,000 pounds or more of the common milk-weed, for experiments in blending with certain types of synthetic rubber. It will be paid for. Farmers who have goodly stands of the weed can cut with a binder, leaving a long stubble of at least 8 inches and making small sheaves. Dried sheaves shipped collect to Ottawa will be worth \$30 a ton. For further information write Dr. Harold A. Senn, Division of Botany, Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa.

Having a chat in his office one day recently with Fred McGregor, chief enforcement officer for Canada of the Wartime Prices Board, I had a look at some of the counterfeit gas ration coupons seized when Black-Marketeers of a ring were roped in. Pretty clever imitation they were, but eventually the law caught up with the racketeers. Enforcement in control legislation is a big job, taken on a nation-wide scale.

When you hear of abandoned farms, you think of former drought areas of western Canada. Therefore it might jolt far easterners and far westerners to know that an official release just out shows that in Eastern Canada there are between 12,000 and 13,000 farms, covering about a million and a half acres abandoned, lying idle for some time. Surveys show, paralleling the western causes much the same, they were abandoned because land was originally submar-

inal for agricultural purposes, some because of unseasoned farm prices, etc.

It is amazing the number of people who come in a continual flow, from various parts of Canada and the United States, and visit the Peace Tower. To reach the top and get that wonderful panorama view from the balcony right under the big clock, one has to climb a couple of short series of stairs and ascend by two different elevators—one slow, the other faster. The attendants everywhere are, I find on every visit, most courteous. The Memorial Chamber is worth a visit to Ottawa alone. On the descent one is always given a good view of the famous carillon bells.

Naval Service Headquarters is pepped up about the special "Wren Recruiting Day" planned by the W.R.C.N.S. in connection with the anniversary of a year of service with the navy, scheduled for August 29. Over 4000 of them are now in navy blue, with 5500 being the number aimed at by March, 1944. New recruits will shortly find themselves in the newly revised natty uniform. Wrens are to be drafted to the United Kingdom and Newfoundland, and what better hope of adventure is there for girls interested. The other day I watched a second flagpole being erected atop the Navy Building. It strikes the blue and red field with a large yellow anchor. That's the Naval Board flag, flying beside the usual naval ensign.

They say the cost of living in Ottawa is really high, but how does it compare with things out your way? Here are a few average prices listed by The Ottawa Citizen the day of this writing: sirloin steak 40¢ lb.; round steak 38¢ lb.; prime rib rolled roast 42.7¢ lb.; ham, boiled, 67¢ lb. and medium bacon 48.1¢ lb.; grade "A" eggs, 44.3¢ dozen; creamery butter 38.5¢; Canadian cheese 33.4¢ lb.; oranges 40.6¢ cents dozen. United States anthracite stove coal at \$16.74 ton; vegetable shortening 19.1¢ lb. I do know restaurant eating, piece by piece, is high—but if one shops around off the main by-ways it is possible to dine reasonably, even if not in fancy surroundings.

Health Also to Be Found In The Victory Garden

"Insurance companies consider gardeners to be a very good risk," says Dr. H. Wasteneys, biochemistry department head, University of Toronto, who has long been active in the community gardens movement, and who is co-operating with the Health League of Canada in its national Victory Garden campaign. "In fact, according to my experience there seem to be more elderly people engaged in gardening than in any other occupation. There seems to be something vital and living in the very soil itself which gives renewed vigor and energy to the body."

There is nothing healthier than getting out into the sunlight and fresh air and digging in your garden," he emphasizes. "The man who sits all day at his office desk, or the war worker who toils at his bench or lathe can both equally find relaxation and keen enjoyment in their Victory Gardens. And what is most important, the man with a Victory vegetable garden not only helps himself, he also helps his country by supplying his own private source of fresh vitamin-rich vegetables and thus lessening the strain on already overburdened transportation facilities, and releasing manhours for other urgent tasks."

Dr. Wasteneys declares that the experience a Victory Gardener gets in growing his own vegetables adds to the interest provided by his garden. As two growing seasons are alike, new problems and new discoveries are eternally confronting him, and testing his skill and ingenuity. "The thrill to be gained by producing one's own carrots, beans or cabbage is a thrill well worth experiencing," says Dr. Wasteneys, "and, strangely enough, it fails to diminish year by year. During the depression years, community gardens saved many a desperate and discouraged man from crime or suicide. To-day, Victory Gardens play an essential part in the whole picture of our national war effort."

COLLECT BOOKS FOR FORCES
Boy Scouts of Windsor, Ontario, in a one day drive collected more than 6,000 books for the armed forces. At one home they netted 30 volumes of "Book of the Month Club" selections. This was the second such drive by the Windsor Scouts, the first drive netting them more than 5,000 books.

—81 Labour Exchanges for boys and girls between the ages of 14 and 18 already exist in the London area, and their number is steadily increasing. Great Britain was the first country in the world to set up a public service to assist juveniles to find employment.

SUPPLY AND REQUEST
Have you heard that this age of shortages and rationing has changed the old phrase, "the law of supply and demand," to "the law of supply and request."—Pictou (N.S.) Advocate.

WAR 25 Years Ago

Victorious in the Battle for the Droucourt-Queant Switch, Canadian Troops Dig in at the Canal du Nord

BY H. H. GORDON
Canadian Press Staff Writer

Twenty-five years ago Canadian soldiers consolidated newly-won positions in front of the famous Canal du Nord after smashing through the German defence system known as the Droucourt-Queant Switch, an integral part of the elaborate Hindenburg Line fortifications. Fighting as part of the British 1st Army, the Canadian Corps for a week prior to the battle for the Droucourt-Queant position had fought with distinction and advanced some 10 miles as Marshal Ferdinand Foch kept up a series of hammer-blows against the enemy along the Western Front. Following the break-through in the Hindenburg Line the Canadian Corps prepared for the attack on the Canal du Nord and its capture on Sept. 2 marked the end of German resistance in the area.

The 1st and 4th Canadian divisions together with the 4th (Imperial) Division captured the Droucourt-Queant Switch. Protected by elaborate wire entanglements, the German positions had the benefit of deep shell-proof dug-outs and concrete emplacements. Several fortified villages lay on the Canadian front—Elaing, Dury, Villers-les-Cagnicourt and Cagnicourt. Beyond them were the forests of Boche and Lokon and the Arras-Cambrai road cut through the Canadian front almost in the centre.

Behind a terrific barrage the Canadians jumped from their trenches at five o'clock on the morning of Sept. 2. The enemy replied with heavy artillery fire and no man's land was an inferno as the overseas troops, advancing behind tanks, dashed through lanes cut in the German wire. Blasted by machine-gun fire, the Canadians suffered heavy casualties, but in less than three hours the enemy's main defences had been stormed and the drive continued to the second line. The Germans fought desperately, knowing only too well what the loss of the Droucourt-Queant line would involve.

The Canadians were not to be repelled and by nightfall they had penetrated deeply into the Germans' second line of defences. The following day they were ready to resume the advance, but only sporadic bursts of machine-gun fire came from enemy strong points.

Airplane observers reported the Germans were retreating to defences behind the Canal du Nord and the information proved correct. The enemy had pulled out of the front and Canadian and British troops advanced in broad daylight to their new positions, harassed by heavy artillery fire. During the first week of September the British 1st Army established itself in trenches only 200 yards from the canal.

Service Men Will Not Suffer From Trucking Order

"Trucking Order 121 was never intended as a bar to hitch-hiking servicemen and it has never been enforced as such," M. W. McCutcheon, Services Administrator of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board said in a statement to-day. "The order was designed to conserve essential trucking equipment, which cannot be replaced. Toward this end the order had to be broad in outline so that it would prevent trucks being used primarily for transportation of passengers and to conserve them for transportation of passengers and to conserve them for transportation of essential goods."

All board officials have been advised that truck drivers are permitted to carry two passengers in the cabs of their trucks when the trucks are being operated as freight vehicles. No permit is required for this. Farmers and truckers may obtain permits to carry passengers in certain other cases such as transporting employees to and from work, or transporting their families, on essential business when there is no other means of travel. Several thousand of such permits have been issued."

COMPULSORY VOTING

It is becoming apparent that so many Liberals and Conservatives are so stupid and blind to the torments which will wipe them out of existence, and will determine upon retaining their identity in the next appeal to the country that compulsory voting would appear the only solution to the present political outlook.—Pembroke (Ont.) Standard-Observer.

Men, 30, 40, 50!
Want Normal Pop, Wis, Vigor?
Buy Certain Trade Tablets, Contains special vitamins...
At all drug stores. Start taking Green Tablets today.

Acton Fair

Friday and Saturday

September 17 and 18

BIG FIRST NIGHT SHOW

FRIDAY EVENING, the 17th, --- 8.00 p. m. to 11.00 p. m.
THREE HOURS WITHOUT A DULL MOMENT

FEATURING

THE MERRY MAD CAP REVUE
Music Singing Dancing Magic A Variety Program

High Jumping Horses Musical Chairs
Potato Race on Horseback

MIDWAY OPEN
Ferris Wheel—Merry-Go-Round—War Exhibition

Second Day Features

Saturday—Sept. 18th, at 1.30
GRAND STREET PARADE at 1.30 — SCHOOL CHILDREN, DECORATED BICYCLES AND CARRIAGES
Parade Led by Lorne Scots Band

Features Before the Grandstand
HIGH JUMPING HORSES
OLD TIME FIDDLER'S CONTEST STEP DANCING

June Checkley, Acrobatic Dancer
Bill George, Radio Artist—Rod Roderick, Magician

BIG MIDWAY

War Exhibition — Games — Rides
Ferris Wheel — Chair-o-plane

BEST BABY COMPETITION IN TENT ON GROUNDS
PARADE OF LIVE STOCK AT 3.30 P. M.

Special Calf and Foal Exhibits—Special Prizes for Bacon Hogs and Sheep
LORNE SCOTS BAND WILL SUPPLY THE MUSICAL PROGRAM

Big Exhibit of Livestock

Loud Speaker Amplifying System on the Grounds
All Members of the Active Service Forces, in Uniform Will Be Admitted Free.

Big Fair Night Dance

IN TOWN HALL—SATURDAY NIGHT—GOOD ORCHESTRA
Dancing 8 to 12

Write Secretary for Complete Information and Prize List
R. W. LOWRIE, President. C. B. SWACKHAMMER, Secretary.

R.A.F. Armourers at Work in Tunisia



The armourers of the R.A.F. had a busy time behind the scenes as each new wave of bombers went over to attack the Axis positions in Tunisia. They prepared and fused the bombs, had fresh supplies of ammunition ready to take aboard, and generally provided the fire-power for British aircraft. Picture shows—An Armourer unpacking a load of trouble for the Axis on a forward airfield in Tunisia. His Squadron had just moved to a new airfield, and preparations were being made for attacks against the enemy.