

Personals

P. G. Joseph Hunt was home over the week-end.

Miss Mildred Hollinger spent the week-end at her home here.

Miss Jean Beattie of Peterborough was home over the week-end.

Mrs. Shaw of Hamilton is visiting with Dr. and Mrs. W. G. C. Kopyay.

Miss Helen Malinger of Fergus, spent the week-end at her home here.

Mrs. R. M. McDonald and Miss Margaret Garvin spent the week-end in Toronto.

Mrs. J. B. Dryden has returned after visiting her son and family in Flint, Mich.

Mr. E. F. Johnstone of Toronto visited his mother and friends over the week-end.

Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Murray spent Sunday with Mrs. John Moffat and family in Toronto.

Seaman Bev. Arnold of Toronto, visited his mother, Mrs. B. G. Arnold over the week-end.

Mr. Lowrie Chalmers of Toronto was a week-end visitor at the home of his sister, Mrs. A. W. Peabody.

L. A. C. and Mrs. Allan Mercer of London spent a few days at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Arnold.

Friends will be glad to know that Mrs. J. E. Gamble is improving favorably following her operation in the Toronto General Hospital.

Mr. D. Roszell, of Abernethy, Sask., is visiting with his mother, Mrs. S. Roszell. He was accompanied to Toronto by his son, L. A. C. J. L. Roszell, who had spent a furlough at his home in Abernethy, Sask.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Day, Mrs. Greer and baby, Col. and Mrs. Geo. Day and Janet, of Rockwood; Mr. and Mrs. Roy Wambrough, Robbie Carol, and Bonny, Miss Wernetta Smith of Toronto, visited their mother and grandmother on Sunday.

Prairie Dog Town In Isolated Spot Near U.S. Border

Saskatchewan Houses Only Colony of Cat-Sized Gophers in Empire—Population Hits 10,000-Mark

REGINA (CP)—The only prairie dog town in the British Empire is located about a mile from the American border in southern Saskatchewan down on the Frenchman River, below Otter Lake.

The town is situated behind almost inaccessible trails and gullies where the hills of the district are eroded into pinnacles of fossil clearly imbedded in them. This district was not covered by the great glacier of prehistoric times and it presents an unspoiled picture of one of the earliest phases of the geological development of the Dominion, with flora and fauna entirely different from those in other parts of the province.

The prairie dog, known to science as the cynomys ludovicinus, has multiplied in this region until the population of the colony has reached 10,000. The little animal with the big name is not a dog at all in the ordinary sense of the word. A strict vegetarian, the dog looks like a cat-sized gopher with all the features of the burrowing rodent, weighs on the average about three pounds and is about 14 inches in length.

Makes Loud Racket It has a rattling bark and the racket around the town is deafening when a stranger approaches. The little animal has a reddish or greyish buff coat and a black-tipped tail giving it the general appearance and gait of a Walt Disney creation.

The federal government has sent men out to report on the town on several occasions, but the most recent visitors were two enthusiastic amateur naturalists, E. H. M. Knowles, Regina barrister, and Charles Holmes of Dollard, Sask.

As the visitors approached, the dogs were hunched over mounds of earth they threw up at the entrance to the burrows they dig straight into the earth for 14 and sometimes 16 feet. The mounds above these burrows dot the landscape of the town as far as the eye can see. Once the prairie dogs are scared down their holes, they will not emerge for hours and only careful stalking can bring the visitor within 75 yards of them.

Five dogs were shot on this occasion for research purposes, but the general feeling is that protection should be given to these animals who used to graze by the million in this border area and whose population has dwindled steadily with the settlement of the land.

Mrs. H. P. Plumtre, director of the Red Cross Enquiry Bureau at Ottawa, states that 597,460 acknowledgment cards were received up to October 15th—from Allied-prisoners-of-war located in 217 different camps, for Canadian Red Cross food parcels received.

Overseas Mail

Letters from the Local Boys Serving in the Cause of Freedom

Dear Mr. Mills:

It is now over five weeks since I received a Pass Book, as this is most unusual. I was wondering if perhaps your name has been omitted from your mailing list, perhaps you would check, as I feel there must be a slip-up somewhere. Also please convey to the War Service League my sincere thanks for Christmas parcels just received in good shape. I keep going so strong. As yet I haven't heard how Acton handled the Fifth Victory Loan, but trust you were as successful as with the Fourth. The Army here in Newfie did pretty well, having subscribed 166 per cent. of our quota.

Winter hasn't sneaked up on us yet, I see by Canadian papers, that snow has arrived in some districts. We are carrying on here in our usual manner with or no excitement to break the monotony, but we live in the hope of getting away from here soon. If you didn't already know, you will now, that a letter from here doesn't amount to much, censorship regulations are very strict on the one hand, and on the other, the country and its natives for the most part are anything but inspiring, that being the case I might as well shake a leg. In closing, thanks again to the Service League, and to all of you in Acton, a sincere Merry Christmas, and a better New Year.

ALBERT E. MILLS

DUBLIN (CP)—An estimate of the equivalent of \$900,000 has just been introduced in the Dail for the alleviation of distress due to war and famine in Europe and India.

CLEARING AUCTION SALE

W.M. McDougall
Will hold a Clearing Sale of Small Farm Equipment, including Brooder Houses and Poultry Equipment and 300 Leghorn Pullets on

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17th
at two o'clock at his farm at Erasmont Centre Inn
ROY HINDLEY, Auctioneer

CLEARING AUCTION SALE

W. J. STOKES
Will hold at Clearing Auction Sale of his entire Farm Equipment on

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16th
commencing at one o'clock, at his farm at Bellfountain. Terms Cash.
ROY HINDLEY, Auctioneer

Municipal Election

December 6th, 1943

My very best thanks to all those who worked on my behalf and came out on a very bad day to register their votes.

I will do my best to justify their confidence.

To all the electorate of Acton my very best wishes for the coming festive season, and a quick return to normal civil life in 1944.

J. H. BOULTON

GREGORY THEATRE

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10
"CHINA"

Loretta Young, Alan Ladd, Comedy "Blonde & Groom", Cartoon "Uninvited Pest", Chapter 5 "Overland Mail."

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11
Matinee at 3
"JITTERBUGS"

Laurel and Hardy.
"BELLS OF CAPISTRANO"

Gene Autry, "Fox News."

MONDAY, DECEMBER 13
"THE AVENGERS"

Ralph Richardson, Deborah Kerry, Comedy "I Spied For You", Cartoon "Jasper Goes Fishing", Travelogue "Scenic Oregon."

Letters to the Editor

R. R. No. 1, Thorlax

Dear Free Press: The weather is always a popular topic for discussion. And, as I look over the Free Press, and read of the tractorists still plowing, then hear Andy Clarke tell of the dandelions in bloom, the big tarps and citrus being harvested, ever-bearing strawberries and raspberries being picked it makes me wonder if this is really Ontario we live in. It from up sold here the 10th of November and has never thawed since to even moisten the top. A number of snow flurries came and went away. But lately what has come has stayed and has been gradually accumulating till now we have fairly good sleighing. Cars and trucks are still able to run without difficulty so most everyone finds it quite comfortable getting around, depending on their own methods. Farmers appreciate the sleighs come more for convenience.

Farmers, their sons and farm workers are very prominent people these days. Our Prime Minister in his address gives them great praise for their excellent contribution toward the war effort. And Selective Service calls them during their spare time to go to the bush and cut pulp or firewood. Some people would have even the sleighs come more for convenience. Meat processors and the canning industry need help. Railways are short-handed. Base metal mines needing more men but still more and more men are being taken for the forces. It doesn't seem consistent. But in spite of it all we're so thankful to be so free to work hard and support the effort towards a complete victory which as days go by we're being led to believe will be assured.

Great conferences have taken place between the great leaders of the Allied nations, the decisions reached will be the means of freeing countless peoples of those nations who have been subjected to degrading ignorance, poverty and misery of so many kinds. The great conference recently held in an Atlantic city where 44 nations pledged their support to the post-war plan of supplying aid to the needy ones in every theatre of the war, regardless of their ability to pay, until they once again have the ability to such worthy plans and it is hoped will be made to work.

Individuals feel they have such a small part in all these plans but if each one does his or her part faithfully, wasting neither time, food or material or opportunity, we will accomplish great things jointly. The government and agricultural department are preparing to enact laws to protect the farmer against deflation. They will place a floor base on produce. This seems a worth while list of legislation. In spite of the fight to control prices and regulate distribution by rationing the cost of living has advanced 18 per cent. If for one, hope it can be controlled. I well remember experiences after the first world war and have no desire to repeat them. It's not a question of supply in this country. The supply is always here. It's just distribution. Recently I had an opportunity to visit with a man just returned from work on the Alaska highway. He had seen a great deal of that north country and although still in its crude and undeveloped state, he felt it holds promise for great future development.

The whole effort has been a costly and tremendous undertaking but no doubt warranted with such a serious threat so immediate. Now I don't propose writing a long letter but feel I have somewhat neglected my duty lately so wanted to make a slight contribution again. As I write, we are having a heavy snowstorm from south-east and the forecast just broadcast says it's to continue all day and to-morrow so we're assured of sleighing in this country. But it's the season for winter so no one is disappointed.

Cordially Yours,
R. W. Johnson

Tons of Dehydrated Food Products

In a recent report by the Agricultural Supplies Board seven Canadian plants have processed vegetables from the 1942 crop which have been delivered to the armed forces in Canada and shipped to Britain in the following quantities, dried weight—potatoes, 1,158 tons; cabbage, 78 tons; carrots, 78 tons; onions 43 tons, and turnips, 46 tons in addition to about 300 tons (dried weight) of onions dehydrated at one plant under direct contract with the British Ministry of food.

Canadian egg powder to the amount of 12,861,841 pounds was shipped by the Special Products Board to the British Ministry of Food during the year ended March 31, 1943. Since January 1, 1943, the official bacteriological analysis of all egg powder being exported to Britain has been, and is, the responsibility of the Division of Bacteriology and Dairy Research, Dominion Department of Agriculture.

THIS WEEK

BY JOHN C. SOOBY
Canadian Press Staff Writer

Premier Drew is in Britain and in an interview in London he said plans are advanced—and some already completed—for development of the province's power resources, including the St. Lawrence River, and they will be completed as soon as the war ends.

Development of the Province's power resources, the premier said will aid industrial expansion in new areas. He added he doesn't see any great opposition to the St. Lawrence power scheme.

The premier flew to England to prepare for the establishment of an Ontario office which will prepare plans for post-war sale and distribution of Ontario products and which will assist members of Canadian armed forces who come from this province. The London office would be established within a reasonably short time.

He also said an increase in Ontario's agricultural production is planned because neither this province nor other parts of Canada can now produce the food which will be required in post-war years.

"We'll need more farm workers than we have ever had in Ontario," he said. "We have never reached our maximum production in agriculture. We can use farmers from this country too."

The premier forecast a great development in Ontario in both industry and agriculture. He said he is anxious to co-operate with men in the armed forces with a view to placing demobilized personnel in worthwhile jobs.

Ontario is already making plans for the employment of school children on the province's farms and industries next summer.

As an aid to the war effort, a special committee has been formed to make a survey of the situation. The committee will include representatives of the departments of agriculture, labor and education, the Ontario Teachers' Association, the School Trustees' Federation, the Y. W. C. A. and the Red Cross.

There were few features in Ontario municipal election results this week, but among interesting results were the victories of Sam Lawrence in Hamilton and Mrs. Ann Shipley in Teck Township.

Mr. Lawrence, prominent C. C. F. official, was elected mayor of Hamilton, defeating his only opponent, Controller Donald A. Clarke by 1,700 votes. He succeeds William Morrison long-time mayor who retired because of health reasons.

Mrs. Shipley, one of the few women candidates in the widespread election, was elected mayor of Teck Township in the face of what was considered strong opposition from supporters of Local 240, United Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers of America.

Labor Minister Daley has expressed disappointment at Prime Minister Mackenzie King's announcement of a federal government proposal to establish a manual labor code applicable to war industries only. "We are very disappointed," Mr. Daley said. "It is our firm opinion that no proper distinction can be drawn between what is a war industry and what is not a war industry. Acting Premier Kennedy said in a telegram to Mr. King that Ontario desires a labor code which will be permanent and not merely for the duration."

Talking Turkey

The main thing about your Christmas turkey is that it should be tender, brown and well-stuffed. It matters little whether the breed was a Bronze, White Holland, Bourbon, Red, Black Norfolk, Narragansett or Slate. The proof of a bird is in the eating. However, your turkey holds more than gastronomic interest, according to ornithologists of the Royal Ontario Museum. Young as it may be, its history stems back several centuries.

Indians of the American southwest first domesticated the turkey, a species found native only on this continent. Spanish explorers took Mexican breeding stock to Spain from whence it spread to other countries of the Old World. It reached England between 1520 and 1540. It was brought back to America by the early settlers. In the course of time the several varieties mentioned above were developed by breeding. Apparently all originated from Mexican stock. The wild race which was once plentiful in eastern North America seems to have contributed nothing to your Christmas dinner, although your pioneer forefathers feasted on it. Wild turkeys which once came in the woods of southern Ontario are preserved as specimens in the Royal Ontario Museum.

LONDON (CP)—Fifty old soldiers, veterans of the Matabeleland and Mashonaland campaigns of 1890, 1893 and 1896-97 gathered at a dinner here to talk over old times and battles which gained Rhodesia for the Empire. Among the cables read was one from Lord Athlone, Governor General of Canada, who served with the campaigners.

London Features "Dressy" Styles

Color, Cut and Pockets Stand Out In New Spring Fashions

BY DENISE DALYBOW
Canadian Press Staff Writer

LONDON (CP)—Confidentially—and mildly doesn't know it yet—Britain's 1944 clothing styles show more tendency toward "dress" than they have for years. Taking it from top to bottom, the gay array will find necklines and skirts a little lower.

A "sneak" review of spring models being shown to buyers by top-notch fashion designers revealed that the three most interesting points in the collection are color, style and pockets. Colors featured include pillar-box red, royal blue, emerald green and gold in such materials as jersey, couture, heavy rayon-linens and woolsens—all suited for long wear.

Sleeves, too, are a feature for the three-quarter lengths are in again. They were the fashion before the war but fell off during recent years. New designs show skirts at least a couple of inches below the knees.

The general scarcity and high price of handbags welded such an influence on designers that they planned pockets on almost every garment. That's definitely new, because they once were all but extinct.

Dual-purpose dresses—those with matching short jackets—occupied a prominent place in the collection. The new designs are manufactured into both utility and non-utility dresses. There's a big difference in price—\$9.45 to \$47.25—but the utility or cheaper dresses appear just as smart as their expensive sisters.

ARCTIC GARDENS

The widespread influence of the Dominion Experimental Farms is exemplified by its work in the Arctic Regions. Although the total acreage of the Mackenzie basin under farm and garden cultivation is only between 2,000 and 3,000 acres scattered along the river from Fort Smith to Akkavik and confined mainly to gardens, they have been materially assisted by the small sub-stations conducted by the Experimental Farms Service for the past 20 years, mostly at mission stations.

Famous Chicago Sun Editor Urges Letters From Home

Writing from Naples, H. R. Knickerbocker, chief of the Chicago Sun Foreign Service has this to say about letters for the armed forces:

"People at home can scarcely conceive what an important role letters play in army life where loneliness is likely to be more damaging to happiness than enemy bullets. A good many men receive letters written daily from some and even though sometimes 20 or 30 letters pile up, these men, knowing letters are coming, remain cheerful. The most miserable wretches are those of the crew who have no one at home to write to them. The faces of these boys as mail is being delivered to others would bring tears from stone."

BRITGTON, England (CP)—E. S. Hudson, Minister of Agriculture, visited West Sussex recently and saw 45 acres of grain growing on land cleared of tree stumps which had remained since the trees were felled by Canadians in the last war.

Real Estate and Insurance

We have been attending the Twenty-first Anniversary of the Founding of the Ontario Association of Real Estate Boards held in Toronto this past week, where a conference was held and information dispensed by experts on Town Planning, Municipalities on Post War Re-Construction, operation of the National Housing Act, Home Loan Improvement Plan, Conversion of Older Dwellings, Property Management, Rental Control, Advertising and Appraisal of Properties, and the Real Estate Broker's Act, the latter enacted at the request of the brokers themselves, to protect the public against non-bona-fide persons handling real estate.

We will be pleased to help and advise interested parties. Select Town and Farm Properties for sale. No dilapidated properties handled.

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We Know That

Christmas Shopping in wartime is very difficult, but we assure you that the merchants have been doing all in their power to procure merchandise for you, and it is a problem. However, we have done what we could and we are listing below numerous articles that are both practical in wartime and lovely gifts to brighten the home this wartime Christmas.



OCCASIONAL CHAIRS

Including the famous "Lazy Boy" by Snyder's Ltd., complete with foot stool at \$51.50.

Also a nice assortment of designs and colors and good solid construction from \$10.25 to \$37.95.

HASSOCKS

A nice assortment of shapes, sizes and colors, ranging from \$2.75 to \$6.50.

Give Mother and Dad a Studio Couch

A lovely gift and also a real comfort for them. We have a very nicely balanced stock to choose from.

MATTRESSES

We have at present a large stock of Mattresses including the Sleep Units, which of course include Inner Spring Mattresses from \$29.95 up. All sizes. White Layer Felt, a lovely comfortable mattress at \$16.50 to \$19.95, all sizes. Also Blown Felt Mattresses from \$7.75 to \$11.50.

PICTURES

We have a lovely Range of Pictures, in a large assortment of frames and subjects, including the famous works of the Danish artist Torgesen.

ASSORTED LAMPS

Including Tri-Lite Floor Lamps, Table Lamps, Pin-up Lamps, Bed Lamps, Boudoir Sets and Radio Lamps. We have a very nice stock on hand but since we cannot procure any more this year we would advise selecting your lamps early. Priced from \$1.95 to \$21.50.

OTHER SUGGESTIONS

Also a nice range of Tables, Smokers, Magazine Racks, Cedar Chests, Cushions, Mats, Card Tables, High Chairs, Pillows, Comforters, etc.

A Deposit will hold Any Article Until Christmas on terms in accordance with the regulations of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board



Johnstone and Rumley

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