

The Week at OTTAWA

By DOUGLAS GREEN
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OTTAWA (CP)—The role which Canada will play in providing food-stuffs, material for reconstruction, relief and rehabilitation when hostilities in Europe cease was discussed by Prime Minister Mackenzie King in the House of Commons last week when he spoke of plans for Canada's participation in the Pacific war.

Mr. King gave assurance that full employment awaited service personnel to be demobilized when the fighting ceases in Europe. There will be "ample work" to do in this country for all whom it will be possible to demobilize.

The prime minister's reference to food requirements of the liberated peoples in Europe and those of the United Kingdom recalled Canada's special responsibility as an active participant in the program of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration. Demands upon Canada for food and other commodities would continue at a high rate.

Douglas Abbott, parliamentary assistant to Defence Minister McNaughton, said during discussions of army estimates in the war appropriation bill he could not estimate the number of men the army would require during the coming year as was done in other years consequently estimates had to be made on a month-to-month basis.

Col J. L. Ralston, former defence minister, brought up the question of the rights of overseas troops in the Dominion's post-war labor market, and Mr. Abbott said he would take up the matter of seeing if defence headquarters could consider protective measures ensuring that men discharged in Canada would have no advantage over men overseas in this regard.

Urges Clarification
Veterans are entitled to reinstatement in the positions they held before call-up, but Col. Ralston said that during his tours of the battlefronts he had found the men overseas keenly interested in their chances of getting jobs at home, and thought the government should take steps to assure troops discharged in Canada would have no advantage.

Details of contracts between Canada and the United Kingdom for the purchase of bacon, ham, beef and eggs in 1945 and tabled in the Commons by Agriculture Minister Gardiner provide Canadian producers with an assured market for their products but emphasized also the importance of increasing hog production, as advocated recently by Dr. G. S. H. Barton, deputy minister of agriculture.

While contracting to purchase not less than 450,000,000 pounds of bacon and ham in 1945, the United Kingdom has undertaken to accept whatever additional quantities of beef and eggs are available provided shipping space can be provided.

In referring to a sharp decline in hog output in the first quarter of this year, Dr. Barton said Canada was "long on wheat but short on meat," and should concentrate on feed grain and hog production to meet current commitments and to safeguard her post-war market position.

Though cattle marketings are holding up well, the agriculture department said in January that hog marketings were likely to drop sufficiently below the 1944 volume to "more than offset" increased cattle marketings.

DOGHOUSE BLUES

VANCOUVER (CP)—Mrs. Elizabeth Dunbar was fined \$5 and ordered to pay \$10 to repair a doghouse she damaged when annoyed by its occupant's barking. "Silver," an English setter, was not called on to testify against Mrs. Dunbar.

To Continue to Pay Milk Subsidies

The Dominion Government will continue to pay the same subsidies on milk and milk products during the 12 months beginning May 1 as in the period May 1, 1944 - April 30, 1945, the Dominion Department of Agriculture announced.

The subsidy of 10 cents per pound of butterfat used in the manufacture of creamery butter and of 20 cents per 100 pounds on milk for cheese manufacture will be paid throughout the year. In authorized areas a subsidy of 35 cents per 100 pounds on fluid milk will be paid to producers from May 1, 1945 to September 30, 1945, and 55 cents per 100 pounds from October 1, 1945, to April 30, 1946, except in certain areas where it will continue at 25 cents. For milk used in the manufacture of concentrated milk products and of milk sugar, subsidy will be paid at the rate of 15 cents per 100 pounds from May 1, 1945 to September 30, 1945. This will be raised to the winter level of 30 cents per 100 pounds at October 1, 1945.

Subsidies paid at present and up to April 30 are 40 cents per pound of butterfat used in the manufacture of creamery butter, 20 cents per 100 pounds on milk for cheese manufacture, 55 cents per 100 pounds for fluid milk except in certain areas where it is 25 cents, and 30 cents per 100 pounds of milk used in the manufacture of concentrated milk products and milk sugar.

Australian Drought Causes Heavy Loss

Protective Measures Planned to Combat Aridity and Soil Erosion

SYDNEY, Australia (CP)—Millions of tons of soil are being swept away and millions more are being loosened and shifted by the drought which, along with its erosive influence, is holding in its grip a large portion of New South Wales and other areas in Australia.

The Sydney Morning Herald says that the combination of drought and war is bringing home to the community lessons that should have been learned long ago, but which have never hitherto bitten deeply enough into the national life to force governments and individuals to adopt protective measures against the worst features of drought and soil erosion.

"It is not only the death of livestock that matters, it is the death of the soil itself," adds the Herald. "Somewhere in the great outback there is a frontier beyond which man cannot maintain permanently his agriculture or his flocks. He may succeed for a time during cycles of comparative productivity, but with every swing of the pendulum back to aridity, he finds himself thwarted."

Soil Mains Factor
There was a time when the struggle sometimes ended in his favor, but those were the days before his stock had eaten out the natural coverage of the soil, his axe had destroyed the scrub that stood between him and the desert, or his bare fallows had exposed the land to denudation. As these protective barriers have disappeared, the frontier has crept eastward.

Forced anti-erosion measures are planned, but, according to Professor Wadhams, professor of agriculture at the University of Melbourne, landowners will not take kindly to a board of inspectors under proposed legislation. Many landowners, he says, regard inspectors as being worse than rabbits.

Australia's recuperative powers, with good rains, are emphasized by Lands Minister Tully of New South Wales, who says that, despite the drought, the demand in that state for grazing blocks of home maintenance standard is greater than ever.

Russian Women Form Brigades Rebuild Homes

Stalingrad Housewife Started Scheme Which Has Been Taken Up All Over The Soviet Union

MOSCOW (CP)—Russian housewives, schoolteachers, office workers and even grandmothers are rebuilding the ruins of war.

Credited by Russian War Relief in New York with starting the organization of women "work gangs" now in action all over Russia is Alexandra Cherkasova, a housewife, who began with her own home in Stalingrad two years ago.

Nothing was left of the house but the cellar, covered by rubble. With the help of her two children, Mrs. Cherkasova managed to remove the debris, scour the walls, break through a window for light and air, and set up housekeeping.

All of Stalingrad lay devastated, the only men left were invalids or old people. It was up to the women to restore the city and Mrs. Cherkasova got an idea. She called some friends and neighbors together and convinced them they could work better and faster as a team. They agreed but where to start and what to do first was the problem.

Repair Apartments
Since homes were badly needed for the wounded, Mrs. Cherkasova and her team of nineteen women, all servicemen's wives, started to repair the famous Pavlov House, an apartment building which was defended for 59 days in fierce door-to-door, hand-to-hand encounter. Doing things they had never done before as bricklayers, linemen, plasterers and carpenters, they attracted the attention of all Stalingrad.

In less than five days other teams of women volunteers had started and the idea spread throughout the city. Women without any previous experience formed what is known in this country as "work gangs." They adopted the name of Cherkasova, who started the movement and there are now 50,000 or more Cherkasova Brigades in the liberated cities of Orel, Kharkov, Kiev, Sevastopol, Minak, Odessa, Smolensk and elsewhere.

There is not a single professional worker in any of these brigades, made up of women such as Maria Villachkina, a kindergarten teacher; Ekaterina Konobeyeva, a cook; Alexandra Martynova, the mother of a large family; Anna Mazurkina, a grandmother over seventy, with three grandsons in the Red Army, and Agripina Morchukova, also a grandmother who stood for several hours a day waist deep in water unloading beams.

Tighten Machinery Ration Rules

Farmers are urged to continue to repair and keep in operation farm machines which they already own and are strongly advised to consult their nearest farm equipment rationing officer before disposing of the machinery they now own, with the thought of replacing it either immediately or at some later date.

Abuses in the distribution of farm machinery have necessitated an amendment to the Wartime Prices and Trade Board Order No. 347. The present provisions make it plain that, if a person disposes of machinery which he owns and is of a class or type which is rationed with the thought of replacing it later, without first having consulted the farm machinery rationing officer for his district, his application for new equipment will not be considered. A number of cases have been reported where the farmer finished some particular operation early in the season, sold his equipment to a neighbor, and later made application for new machinery, stating on his application that he had no machinery of that type.

Farm equipment supplies for Canadian farmers are equal to those being made available to American farmers in relation to the output in both countries during the years 1940 and 1941. In both the United States and Canada, however, the supply which can be built under existing circumstances falls short of meeting the demand.

LONDON'S BIG ROLE IN INVASION TASK

LONDON (CP)—For months it was a secret that London had a big part in launching the D-Day armada of invasion ships and the subsequent build-up at the beachheads, but now it has been disclosed that from the beginning of operations to August 31st, London loadings included:

More than 311,000 personnel of the British liberation army; more than 123,400 vehicles; more than 666,000 tons of general stores, including ammunition.

The working of commercial ships in the port, vital to London's daily food and supplies, proceeded at the same time as the invasion work.

The invasion task involved the loading of about 2,000 ships of all types and almost all the operation was handled at docks of the Port of London Authority. The job was done in utmost secrecy and a special security organization had to be set up.

YOUNG LORD PUPIL AT VILLAGE SCHOOL

ELVEDEN, England (CP)—Benjamin Guinness is the name on the register of the doll's house school in this Norfolk village. But the seven-year-old is the heir to an earldom and a fortune of £7,000,000 (\$31,500,000).

Benjamin formally, Viscount Elveden, walks to school every morning with his little sister, Eliza. The boys like him, for "our Benja's a good man in a scrap." The viscount is all boy. Elveden is what is an "estate parish," for it is owned by Lord Iveagh, Benjamin's grandfather. In the same class at school are Stella Jackson, daughter of the Earl's gamekeeper; Brian Trett, son of the head gardener; Peter Gould, son of the tractor-driver; and Roy Hadden whose father runs the parish garage.

COCKROACH CONTROL

Cockroaches are nocturnal insects and spend the daytime in the warmest locations they can find in the kitchen. After the lights are turned off for the night they come out and run over floors, tables and pantry shelves in search of bread crumbs and other similar foods.

For their control the Entomological Division, Dominion Department of Agriculture says that, after their hiding places have been discovered, the neighbouring floor or shelves should be dusted with sodium fluoride or by one of its registered proprietary cockroach powders in such a manner that the insects will run over the powder in their nightly excursions. Also by means of a small hand duster the powder may be forced down behind the skirting board and into any cracks that may afford a hiding place. Sodium fluoride is poisonous and should not be exposed where it might endanger children or pets or come into contact with the food. A slow-acting but safe material to use is powdered borax.

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THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON EDUCATION

which has been appointed to enquire into and report upon the system of education in Ontario will hold its first sessions in the Senate Chamber of the University of Toronto at 10 a.m. and at 2 p.m. on April 11, and on April 12, 1945, under the Chairmanship of the Hon. Mr. Justice J. A. Hope.

Such briefs as are submitted on or before April 10, 1945, will be given preliminary consideration at the first sessions. Briefs submitted after April 10, 1945, will be considered at subsequent sessions of the Commission.

The sessions are open to the public.

All organizations interested in any of the problems related to public education are invited to submit briefs to

R. W. B. Jackson, Secretary,
Royal Commission on Education,
Parliament Buildings, Toronto.



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or buy new equipment



or electrify your farm



or modernize your house

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He will tell you—and show you—that your bank is just as eager to meet the sound credit needs of the farmer as of the merchant or manufacturer.

BRITISH NAVAL AIRMEN RETURN



Picture taken on board a British aircraft carrier showing Fleet Air Arm pilots and crews who took part in successful attacks on enemy shipping off the coast of Norway. A troop transport, supply ships, and an escorting armed trawler were among the enemy vessels damaged.

Photo shows: Commander Flying shouting landing instructions through loud hailer from the "Fly control" platform (R) as aircraft returns from a strike.

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