

Human Side of Drought's End In Australia

The Farmer Down Under Gets a Reprieve From Doom with Coming of Rains

MELBOURNE (CP) As one of the most dramatic stories, Australian newspapers have reported this year unfolded, it was watched by hundreds of thousands of people. For many of them it was more than a story; it was a reprieve from economic doom.

Across hundreds of thousands of square miles, the rain that southern Australia had been waiting for anxiously for months drummed down on the parched ground.

Perhaps the worst drought some parts of this country have ever known was ending.

Like all good news stories, it involved people—men and women, and children—but it involved also the majestic processes of Nature that sweep millions of tons of water out of their atmospheric track and poured them over the continent.

You can estimate how much rain it takes to break a drought like this when you realize that even to provide a fall of one inch over the State, Victoria needs more than 5,000,000,000 tons of water.

And this rain— inches of it in places fell over an area many times the size of Victoria.

The meteorological forces that had a part in that titanic waterlift extended from the Indian Ocean to the lonely seas away to the south of New Zealand.

The Malice farmer and his family, listening to the rain hammering down on the roof, did not worry about meteorology. The rain meant something different to him.

Here is how a man who has lived most of his life in the north-west and battled with droughts described what the rain means to the farmers.

"First of all it means relief for the stock. Every farmer feels more for his animals in a drought than for himself.

"They flock outside the gate, looking for feed and he has nothing to give them. Now, the farmers know it is only a matter of days until there is some sort of a pick for the animals in the paddocks.

"Then it means the prospect of a good harvest. These people are born optimists; if they weren't they would have tossed it in long ago. And so they see in the rain possibilities that others not used to their country would never see.

"They have known good times in the past, and they are satisfied that they will come again. That will mean a chance to get things round the home perhaps a refrigerator when one can be bought, or a new motor car later on.

"One of the first worries of many will be to buy a cow, so that the family can have butter again and a bit of cream.

"There are perhaps 20,000 farmers who have been buying butter. When they can get their own cows again, not only will they be supplying themselves, but some will have a surplus to sell.

"But though the rain means so much to these people, the wounds left by the drought will last for years. Many have lost all their stock. It will be years before some are in a financial position to replace them fully."

That is the human side.

Canadian Movies Help Rural Schools

Rural school inspectors and teachers have an ally in the National Film Board. Many small schools with no projection equipment of their own now have showings of films on social studies, science and natural history and other subjects each month when the Film Board field representative arrives on his regular visit to their community.

Films on the geographical features, natural resources and industries of Canada, as well as other countries in other parts of the world, have helped to make geography a favourite subject, while those on the rotation of the earth have aided teachers in explaining wind belts and the change of seasons. Pictures on nutrition have proved effective in persuading school children to drink plenty of milk and eat more vegetables.

Teachers frequently base assignments for essays, the drafting of map and posters on films of special interest, which have been shown to the pupils. Models of totem poles, old-style threshers, or Dutch villages have been made by children after seeing the originals on the screen. Pupils in the higher grades in some schools take full charge of the showings and conduct debates on the subject of one of the films at the end of the program.

In addition to National Film Board productions, the field representative is glad to screen whatever educational films the teachers have secured from other sources to tie in with the topics which they are teaching. This service has made it possible for more schools than ever before to make use of the material in Department of Education film libraries to provide greater educational opportunities for children in rural areas.

The Week at OTTAWA

By H. L. JONES
Canadian Press Staff Writer

OTTAWA, August 18 (CP) Gen. McNaughton, formerly Canada's No. 1 military figure of this war, has left the Ottawa scene after an eight-month fling at politics in which he handled the toughest portfolio in the cabinet through one of the most critical periods.

Gen. McNaughton's resignation as defence minister and his replacement by Navy Minister Abbott was announced during the week, the first of a number of cabinet moves to consolidate Canada's war-expanded government departments on a peacetime basis.

Other shifts are expected to be announced later and will include disbandment of the war services department and the finding of ministers for the post office and national revenue departments, posts now vacant.

Prime Minister Mackenzie King said that Mr. Abbott, one of the younger ministers, who was an artillery bombardier in the First Great War, will head both the navy and army portfolios. Eventually all three defence services—navy, army and air force—will be under one minister with separate duties.

Gen. McNaughton, whose services Mr. King praised highly, will not wholly sever his long connection with Canadian defence. The former overseas army commander, who retired from that post in 1943 and entered the cabinet in November last year as a defence minister, now becomes the chairman of the Canadian section of the Joint Permanent Defence Board and will serve without salary.

During his eight-month career as defence minister, Gen. McNaughton weathered the reinforcement crisis and was defeated twice at the polls, first in a by-election in Grey North and later in the general election in Qu'Appelle constituency in Saskatchewan. He was still without a seat in parliament on his resignation.

Great Career
The prime minister said he was sorry to lose the general from the cabinet and added that "the service Gen. McNaughton has rendered to Canada and to the world is so large that it will take time to be appreciated. I want to thank him for the assistance he has given me and my colleagues in the government in the most difficult period in Canadian history."

"I hope this is only a pause in a great career."

The week-end brought further changes on the political scene, but no further cabinet shifts. Senator J.H. King, former government leader in the senate, became speaker of the senate, succeeding Hon. Thomas Vlen, who becomes a private senate member. Senator W. McL. Robertson of Moncton N. B. succeeds Dr. King.

Dr. Gaspard Fauteux, Liberal member of the Commons for Montreal St. Mary's, was appointed speaker of the house of commons, succeeding Hon. J.A. Glen, who previously had been appointed minister of mines and resources.

W. Ross MacDonald, Liberal member of the commons for Brantford, was appointed deputy speaker of the commons and Dr. Arthur Beauchesne, veteran clerk of the commons, has consented to continue in office for another year.

Roy T. Graham, former Liberal member of the commons for Swift Current, became assistant clerk and Lt.-Col. W.J. Franklin of Ottawa, commanding officer of the Stormont-Dundas-Glenora Highlanders of Cornwall Ontario, at the beginning of the war, became sergeant-at-arms. He succeeds Brig. Milton V. Gregg, V.C., now president of the university of New Brunswick.

Canada's Reconversion
Canada's reconversion from war to peace still held the attention of the capital during the week. Reconstruction Minister Howe, the man who has most to do with it, said conversion of war plants to civilian production will have passed its most difficult stage before autumn.

He reiterated that the government's general policy would be to maintain wages at a high scale but in some instances workers might have to take civilian jobs at less money than they were earning during the war. Civilian industry was going to call for more new skills and a man who had to learn a new skill could not expect as much as he was earning in a skilled warplant job.

At the same time, defence headquarters announced suspension of the practice of detaching soldiers to jobs in work of national importance except on a voluntary basis. To avoid any disruption however, soldiers at

present employed on urgent projects and who did not wish to continue on a voluntary basis would remain on duty until Sept. 7 and would then be returned to their units.

Canada has begun large shipments of work horses overseas again. With the first shipload embarked at Montreal on a 700-horse contract to France, the agricultural department disclosed it also had a contract to supply 5,000 work horses to the Netherlands, and another, larger French contract was expected later.

Because of shipping difficulties, it was expected that only part of the Netherlands contract would be filled this fall. The shipments brought to mind the days of 1915-19 when Canada was a major exporter of horses, sending 20,000 of them overseas, mostly to the United Kingdom.

EDMONTON FAMILY'S TAME CROW PERFORMS

EDMONTON, (CP) The Ondrack family of Edmonton have a tame crow worth its weight in gold.

Rescued from a pillaged nest when it was small enough to be fed with an eye dropper, the Crow now several months old has become a household word around the neighborhood.

"Joey," always an early riser, wakes the family up at seven every morning clamoring for something to eat, escorts the separate members of the family to the street car. Then he spends the rest of the day teasing the neighborhood dogs and mischievously steals nails from carpenters working in the district.

Boarding a street car one morning Mr. Ondrack found "Joey" perched happily on his hat, much to the amusement of the other passengers. A taste for cigarets is another of the Crow's habits. Holding a cigaret in his beak he will defy efforts of anyone to deprive him of it.

"Every regular employee returning from war service will be placed in a position at least equal to that which he occupied when he left the company. Every effort is being made to decide upon a specific assignment for each employee prior to his return."

from Address of President F. Johnson, at 1945 Annual Meeting

It's good to be BACK IN HARNESS!

And it's good to have you back, Harry. We've both got a big job ahead of us, catching up with all the things we've been unable to do since you went away.

Did you know, for instance, that there are now over 70,000 applicants for telephone service on our waiting list? No need to tell you what that means in new equipment—not just instruments, but cables, switchboards and all the other things that go into a telephone system. No need to tell you, either, that all of us are looking forward to the day when the whole Bell family will be together again, working away at our job of catching up and keeping up with our customers' expanding telephone needs.

It all means **PEOPLE AT WORK**. In the years ahead Canada's expanding economy will call for great extension and improvement of telephone plant. **IN THE MONTHS AHEAD, WE'LL STILL BE Busy as Bees**

Advertisers Meet the Most People

THE WARTIME PRICES AND TRADE BOARD FARMERS' BULLETIN

HUNGRY EUROPE NEEDS MEAT

The shortage of food in liberated Europe is desperate. Meat is one of the most critical needs.

As a great food-producing nation, Canada must, can—and will—help to meet this emergency.

That is why slaughtering has been placed under strict control.

That is why ration coupons will soon be used again by Canadians to buy meat.

There is only one objective:—To reduce meat consumption in Canada in order to provide direct aid for the hungry peoples of Europe.

Slaughter Control

Farmers who slaughter meat for their own or their farmer neighbor's use are required to submit monthly reports (Form RB-61) and to surrender coupons for the meat they use and sell.

Any excess of meat over the farmer's or his neighbor's needs may be sold only to the holder of a regular slaughter permit.

The minimum amount which a farmer may sell to such a permit holder is one quarter of beef or half a hog carcass. Sheep, lambs or calves slaughtered by a farmer for his own or his neighbor's use may not be sold into the meat trade.

Locker Operators

Under the meat rationing regulations, locker operators are required to submit a list of their patrons to the nearest Ration Branch Office.

A supply of Consumer Declaration forms is being forwarded to each locker operator who will, in turn, distribute them to his patrons. The patron is responsible for completing the form and filing it with the Ration Branch Office.

Consumers must surrender coupons for all meat held in lockers over and above 4 lbs. for each person in the household at a rate of 2 lbs. per coupon. However, no more than 50% of the "M" coupons in the ration books of the consumer and his household need be surrendered.

MEAT RATIONING FACTS

Amount of Ration will be roughly 2 lbs. (carcass weight) per person, per week.

Rationed Meats. All cooked, canned, fancy and "red" meats.

Unrationed Meats—beef brain, head, tail, blood, tripe; calf brain, head; pork brain, head, tail, pig feet, spare ribs; lamb brain, head, tail, fries; poultry, game and fish (canned or fresh).

Coupons—Brown "M" coupons in Ration Book No. 5. One coupon will become valid each week.

Coupon Values—Group "A", 1 lb. per coupon; Group "B", 1½ lbs. per coupon; Group "C", 2 lbs. per coupon; Group "D", 2½ lbs. per coupon; Group "E", 3 lbs. per coupon.

Tokens. Tokens, eight of which are equivalent to one coupon, will be used as coupon change.

Farmers must turn in to their Local Ration Boards a coupon for each 4 lbs. of meat (carcass weight) they use in their households from their own slaughtering. So that they may buy other meats from their butchers, no more than one-half of the valid coupons in the hands of the farmer and his household need be surrendered. Farmers who sell meat to a neighbour farmer must collect coupons at the rate of 4 lbs. (carcass weight) per coupon.

Rationing is your assurance of a fair share. It is a protection against waste... shortages... inflation.

That is why farmers are asked to continue to collect and turn in coupons to their Local Ration Boards—once a month—in the RB-61 envelope.

Picobac

THE PICK OF TOBACCO
It DOES taste good in a pipe