

I Went Shopping

Buying the pan started an amusing experience. I asked a clerk if he had one to sell, he pointed at a pan and said: "There." "Will it hold water?" I asked. "I wouldn't know," was the reply. "Have you any other?" "No, take it or leave it."

I looked at a well dressed business man who stood beside me, raised my eyebrows, looked back at the so-called clerk and shrugged his shoulders. Then I turned to the man and said: "How much is that chap worth a month?" He bit off the end of a fresh cigar and said, "13 in a competitive economy. In fact you wouldn't give him that if people were buying instead of grabbing stuff off a table." He touched a light to his cigar. We walked up the stairs. It was a basement store. "The state," he said will build a house for that chap. He will spend the baby bonuses his wife receives. Peace has its casualties, he's one of them."

I called a taxi service which sometimes patronize and asked them if they could send me a truck to take a barrel out in the country and get it filled with earth. "Yes, in ten minutes." They arrived in ten minutes. The man who drove the truck knew his business, he made time but took no chances. He was the type of man who would pick the fragments of a car out of a junk heap and make a jeep out of them, attach a motor to it, keep the grass on the sides of the road mowed, while others were waiting for the thistles grow.

I asked the man at the greenhouse if he had retired. I knew that he had been in business for many years. "Oh no," he said, "I just had some of the burden, let the boys carry it. But I work a full day, I'm as fit as a fiddle and never seem tired. Drop in sometime next February, I will be right in that greenhouse, I wear the same straw hat all the year round. Slow work, but I look forward to the evenings. I'll tackle the next job after that." He waved me goodbye as we drove through the gate.

Why is it that we usually get good service in an off hand pleasant type of way, out of a hardware store. The men in the hardware stores are generally more grouches than the average. It may be a grocer has a more grouches job. I called a hardware store to ask if they had a lawn edger. "Sorry, but I haven't got a thing in that line. We are not making them in Canada any more." Then as an after thought, you might try "Kankins." "I did," said I, they told me to call you. "We had one," he added, "that came from Japan some years ago, but Hirohito isn't making them either." When they boys had nothing they sold it to you happily and made you feel good about it. There is real triumph in salesmanship.

"Honey dew melons are very nice," I said to the girl in the store. "But it is like buying a pig in a poke" and I don't even know why a pig should be in a poke, or that one ever was, but chances are that the melon is not ready to eat." I will tell you a secret," she said, "one that I tell every body. Pick the melon up and shake it. If the seeds rattle, eat it tomorrow morning for breakfast, it's ripe. This one doesn't rattle, come back tomorrow or the day after." I came back, the seeds rattled. The melon was ripe.

The world has taken a terrible beating. Under such circumstances some of the good comes to the top and some of the bad. Whatever comes out of this world to which we look forward, the reward will go to the people who render service, who do it quickly and efficiently, and leave you with the happy idea that life, to them was a pleasure, that they were trying to do a job and do it well. There will be no place, at least not one of safety and success, for people who in times like those have nothing to give you, and leave you under the impression that they are glad of it.

Wide Demand for Canadian Potatoes

Inquiries for Canadian field crop and vegetable seeds have come from almost every country of Europe and since V.E. day the office of the Plant Protection Division, Dominion Department of Agriculture has been receiving requests from several parts of the world for Canadian Certified Seed Potatoes. By intensive work, Canadian scientists have improved the quality of most of the imported seeds so that today Canada furnishes a major factor in vegetable seed production in an important producer of "seed" seeds.

In the demand for potato seed, history is repeating itself. Louis XVI of France (1754-1793) offered a prize to any subject who could find a crop that would produce large quantities of food in a small area. A man named Parmentier came forward with the potato and demonstrated that huge quantities of food could be produced from one acre.

From the 1944 crop, Canada exported about three and one-half million bushels of certified seed to the United States, Uruguay, South Africa, Cuba, Venezuela, Bermuda, West Indies, France, Dominican Republic, New Zealand, and even to Ireland. Most of the Canadian seed potatoes exported are grown in the Maritime provinces.

The Week at OTTAWA

By H. L. JONES
Canadian Press Staff Writer

OTTAWA (CP) — Canada's nine provincial premiers met the federal government in the capital during the week to chart a new deal in Dominion-provincial relations, a deal designed to bring to Canadians stability and security in the days of peace ahead.

They called it the Dominion provincial conference for reconstruction. And when the first phase ended and the premiers went home with far-reaching federal proposals for study, there was a general feeling that this would be no repetition of the 1941 conference failure. For perhaps the most notable thing about this conference was its spirit of cooperation.

In opening the meeting Prime Minister Mackenzie King told the delegates Canada must go forward to a better social order, "to a more reliable economic structure than we have ever had before." To achieve it would be no easy task.

The Dominion's proposals in brief called for exclusive Dominion collection of personal income, corporation and inheritance taxes, larger federal subsidies in return, limited federal action in social security, the old age pensions and unemployment assistance fields, larger federal grants to provincial activity in health insurance and part of the old age pension field, federal grants for provincial public works when times to serve in the maintenance of full employment.

There was some disagreement as to procedure. Some provinces were inclined to think the financial end of the Dominion proposals did not go far enough. Premier J. Walter Jones of Prince Edward Island said his province would lose money. But the spirit of cooperation prevailed and all nine premiers agreed to accept the Dominion proposals as a basis for study, withholding any of their own until the conference convenes again November 26th.

In winding up the preliminary phase Mr. King noted it had been a historic week, underlining the urgency of the problems of reconstruction more emphatically than before. There had been the disclosure of the atomic bomb. Gen. Cretar, 1st Canadian Army commander, had been welcomed home and then Russia had entered the war.

Finally the news on the conference's closing day had indicated the end of hostilities with Japan might come at any time. (At that time the Allies were considering Japanese surrender proposals.)

The cessation of war production and the full flood of military demobilization may in fact be at hand, Mr. King said.

Political Time Out

After the premiers went home Mr. King acted on those final words to the conference. He announced the setting back of the opening of parliament from August 23rd to September 10th in the light of war developments. It was imperative, he said, that the government have a chance before the session to review its war program and it was obviously impossible in the short time left between now and August 23rd for the several departments of government to complete the sweeping revision of plans which now will be required.

Just what those sweeping revisions might entail was not immediately made known. But it was considered likely there would be a reduction in the government outlay of funds entailing revision of the budget; there would be a revision of taxation, public works projects might be launched if labor shifts failed to keep stable the scale of available labor and available jobs. Then, too, there would be the big job of fully demobilizing Canada's armed forces.

News of the Jap surrender terms stirred other government departments besides the prime minister's office. Those concerned with the restrictions which geared Canada for war said the end of hostilities would bring a change in the economic scene, but they warned there would be no immediate wholesale lifting of wartime curbs. Continuing shortages in certain lines, particularly labor and materials, the need for food overseas, commitments for UNRRA and the requirements for Canada's occupation troops, all had to be considered.

A preliminary canvass disclosed the immediate picture: Canada will still have a great rationing early next month, immediate easing or perhaps even lifting of gasoline restrictions is expected; there will probably be increased supplies of certain liquor and wines, and there will be no immediate change in rent, wage and foreign exchange control regulations.

There was assurance from all concerned quarters that existing wartime controls will be lifted just as soon as possible, that is just as soon as the need for which they were invoked no longer exists. But that too, will take time.

LIGHT TOBACCO CROP

DELHI, Ont. (CP)—Despite the warm dry weather of the past few weeks, the 1945 flue cured tobacco crop in Ontario will not be heavy, F. A. Stinson, officer in charge of Delhi experimental sub-station, announced.

350-Foot Tunnel Built by Airmen To Break Prison

Attempted a Mass Escape from Camp Near Berlin Failed Because of Miscalculation in Direction

LONDON (CP) — Allied airmen who staged the mass break from Stalag Luft III at Sagan, near Berlin, early last year that provoked the Nazi shooting of 50, including six Canadians, made their flight through a tunnel more than 350 feet long, equipped with a railway, ventilation system and electric lights, an Australian Spitfire pilot has disclosed.

In a BBC broadcast, the unidentified Australian, a prisoner in the camp, said not only was the tunnel length a world record for prison camps but it was 30 feet deep to evade German sound detectors, and 80 officers escaped through it.

The tunnel the third one built was "the work of what was called the 'organization' the work of 500 men for 15 months," he said. "We carried out the whole show in a pretty bare ten compound about 350 yards square swarming with German security guards night and day. As well as the tunnels we had to organize factories for mass forgery, map and compass-making for producing iron rations, tailoring, carpentry and metal work shops.

The three tunnels were called "Tom," "Dick" and "Harry" for security reasons and "Harry" was the successful one. The men began planning the break about Christmas, 1942, and six months later had "Tom" built, but the Germans discovered it. The second tunnel was found unsuitable because the Germans cut down a wood where the exit was projected, so early in January, 1944, work began on "Harry."

The entrance to "Harry" was a trap door in a room the Germans searched at least six times without finding it. At the bottom an underground pumping chamber was carved and an air pump built and installed. From old tin the prisoners made an air pipe line that had a secret intake in a disused chimney.

Underground Workshop

An underground workshop was created where the prisoners assembled wooden frames for shoring the tunnel and built a wool railway line and trolleys with flanged and metal-tired wheels.

In the two-foot-square tunnel the men worked naked or in underpants, for clothing would have hampered them and dirt stains on the clothing would have given away the secret. They were helped in their work when a light fingered officer obtained 600 feet of electric cable and the lighting system was installed.

The break was decided upon the night of March 24, 1944 and about 10 pm that night the last few inches of soil were cleared at the exit. But the men found they had miscalculated and the exit was in the open, a bare 15 yards from a sentry box instead of a wood as planned. Tenison was terrific, men became stuck in the tunnel because of the bulging paraffin and to complicate matters the lights went out owing to an R.A.F. raid on Berlin.

Shortly after dawn the escape was discovered when a German sentry saw a man crawling toward the wood. Of the 80 who went out, four were caught immediately and one by one the others were rounded up, frost-bitten and exhausted but three got back to England.

The German camp commander was court-martialed and about a fortnight later his successor told prisoners 50 had been shot "attempting" to evade capture.

British Airwomen Learn Cooking Art

Course Under Educational Vocational Training Scheme is Popular with Waifs

BOSTON SPA, England (CP) — A 10-day course in cooking and shopping is open to members of the Women's Auxiliary Air Force at a Royal Air Force wing headquarters here.

Part of the educational vocational training scheme, the course is receiving an enthusiastic reception from girls who entered the service straight from school and from young married WAAF's anxious to learn about home management before their demobilization.

The girls, after preliminary lectures, are divided into groups of four, each taking it in turn to be responsible for a dish on the menu at each meal. First, though, they have to buy the food.

have been built for the purpose and stocked in a way that would make any civilian customer gasp. Tomatoes and cucumbers are on the counter, branded goods on the shelves, silver and paper wrapped cheese in the packages in the windows, baskets of new-laid eggs and choice cuts from the joint.

Here the would-be housewife is taught economical buying. The shopkeeper lays traps to test her.

Trainees have the use of pro-war and there are electric, gas and open stoves. Accessories range from gray to shortbread.

Meals, which the girls eat after they have cooked them, are prepared from air force rations with a 20 per cent increase to safeguard against wartime disasters.

So far, only members of the W. A. A. F. have attended the course, but there have been many applications from R. A. F. personnel as well, although the applicants didn't say whether they were bachelors or doubting husbands.

MOUVENIRS POKE CUSTOM PROBLEM

LONDON (CP) — Hidden in a garage "somewhere in England," is a high-powered German car which a Royal Air Force ace hopes to drive when pleasure motoring is permitted in this country.

Worth at least \$1,500, the car was "liberated" from the continent and brought here aboard a landing craft. It is proving a headache to customs officers who are facing many smuggling powers as hundreds of servicemen return from the continent each day.

Several months ago a Dakota transport plane arrived from Belgium with two machines. A cruiser which put in at a British port from Italy unloaded a quantity of fine furniture.

TRAINS FOR PACIFIC

BRANSON, Man. (CP) — More than 200 Canadian airmen, some veterans of combat in Europe, have started training here for the Pacific theatre.

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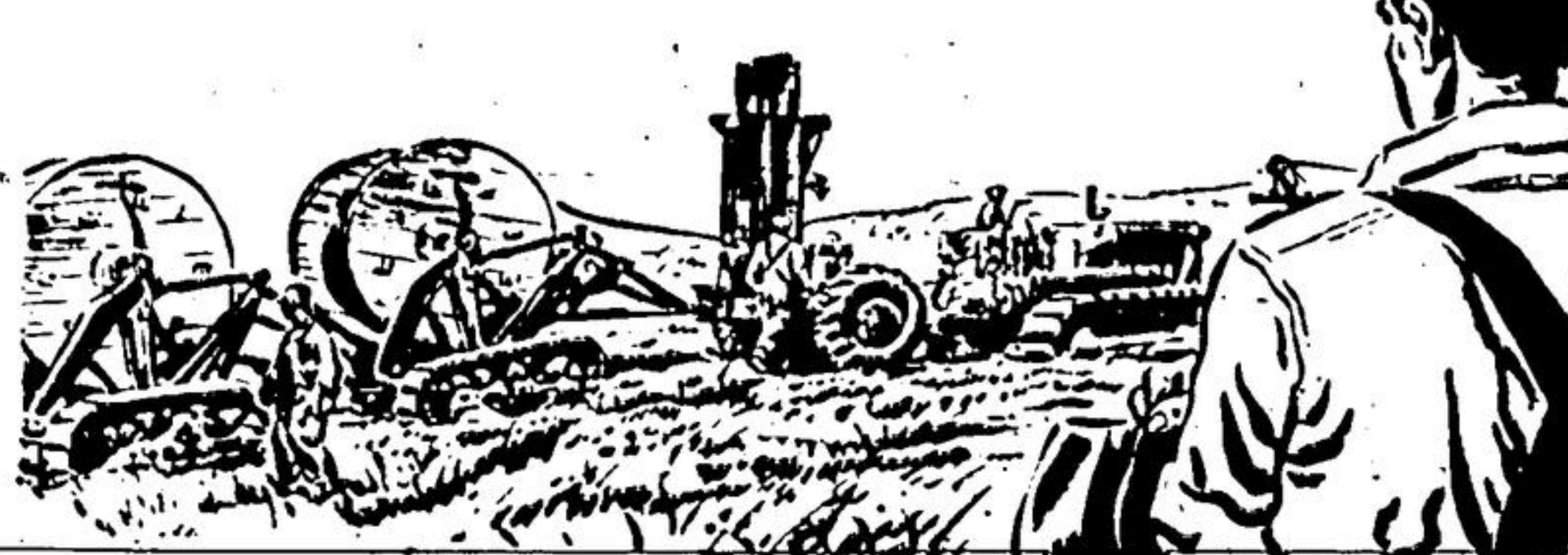
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IMAGINE CUTTING OUR SUGAR SUPPLY! IT'S UNFAIR! ETC.!

World sugar stocks are dangerously low... use less — use with discretion

THE WARTIME PRICES AND TRADE BOARD

Ploughing Deep for Future Growth



It all means PEOPLE AT WORK

Laying underground cable is just one of many projects planned to improve service and effect long-range economies. They mean work for thousands of people — all our present employers — plus all those turning from war service.

AFTER FINAL VICTORY, WE'LL STILL BE Busy as Bees

War made it more essential than ever that strategic telephone channels be guarded from interruption by storm and other hazards, and work has gone steadily forward on our great triangular underground cable route between Toronto, Ottawa and Montreal.

As the supply of men and materials increases, more and more open wire will be replaced by underground cable between London and Windsor, between Montreal and Quebec City — to East Coast points, where increased traffic and operating prudent demand it. New areas, too, will be brought into the Long Distance network. Here is still another major task ahead of us as part of our post-war construction program.

Our Active Services Giving Wings to Words

Picobac

THE PICK OF TOBACCO

It DOES taste good in a pipe