

IT KNOWN

Last night it snowed. Today the bars are thickened. With winter's blimp extravagance. Within their dim exteriors the sun has patched the dark with yellow stitches, long and thin. Bright chimneys, eloquent with red-ar-smoke. Point from the nest of house-tops. Window-panes. Wink frosty eyes at juniper and oak. Shaking the stars out of their shaggy manes. The stubble-fields now sleep beneath white quilts. And in the pasture-top, budding the snow. A gentle coil with spindly legs like white. Explores a pleasant world he does not know. Last night it snowed and dawn has purified. This portrait of a winter country-side. Conette Middleton.

Twenty Years Ago

From the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, November 17th, 1943.

Quebec Winter Fair opened on Monday.

A federal meat stamp received \$4.50 for the white clover from 12 acres.

Mr. Charles Helms is erecting a new store on Main Street in front of his residence.

The carpenters are making necessary changes to the first gallery and pulpit platform at Knox Church for the installation of the new pipe organ.

The normal service on Armistice Day was largely attended. Rev. R. E. Zimmerman gave the address.

WOMEN

MISS ANN ON Wednesday, November 4, 1943, at her late residence, Hanover, Lower St. Patrick, Montreal, in the 88th year.

Women Farmers Urged to Stay in Land Army

British Government Plans Holidays for Girls Who Are Willing to Continue on the Land.

LONDON, CP. Members of the Women's Land Army who helped gather British harvests when men had gone to battle are being allowed to claim their release from service although the need for their help is as great as ever.

Tom Williams, minister of agriculture said in announcing the release plan that as an incentive to keep women in the land army all who have served for two years or more and who are prepared to serve for a further year will receive a holiday with pay at the state's expense. The holiday will be a week for those with two years service and an additional three days for every additional year of service.

W. L. A. membership rose to a peak of 80,000 in mid-1944 and there has been some decline since, with an enrollment of 43,000 in England and Wales in June, 1945. Scottish and Northern Ireland enrollments for the 1945 harvest are not available as yet.

Mr. Williams said the W. L. A. members had undertaken to serve for the period of the war and provision would be made for their release, if desired, beginning Dec. 1.

The loss of considerable numbers of W. L. A. workers in coming months would cause great difficulties for farmers for whom they had been working and would have a damaging effect on food production at a time when the world food situation still was critical.

Stagger Release

But some members for good reason would wish to claim the release to which they were entitled. To give farmers reasonable opportunity to replace the women workers, releases would be spread over a four-month period, members having four years' service being entitled to claim release in December and those with less than four, in January. The remainder may claim releases in February and March those of 3 years and over being released first and the others according to length of service. The scheme will not apply to women who have joined the service since the end of the war in Europe, and who have undertaken to serve for two years.

Women released from the W. L. A. will be subject to any general labor controls applicable to other women of the same age, but I understand that no woman who has been away from home for three years or more would be required to undertake work which involves her leaving home again," Mr. Williams said.

"Perhaps I may add that members of the W. L. A. who decide to remain on the land in response to my appeal, and new recruits, can be assured that their services will be urgently required for another three years, if they wish to remain. It is my intention that the W. L. A. organization should remain in being to look after their interests for as long as it is required and the number of members justifies it."

The secretary of state for Scotland, Mr. Westwood, had agreed that similar release provisions for W. L. A. women should be made in the north.

The Week at OTTAWA

By H. L. JONES Canadian Press Staff Writer

OTTAWA (CP) Parliament has been given a tentative word-picture of Canada's peacetime armies, the forces which will back her world security pledges of the United Nations Charter.

Defence Minister Abbott told the Commons his plans during the week. But he qualified all figures by adding they were "tentative," pending a clearer definition of Canada's future military obligations.

The minister said it was planned to have a permanent post-war army of 20,000 to 25,000 men, compared with 50,000 in the regular army before the war. This would call for a big-scale group augmented by two armor regiments and one medium artillery battery. In addition to that full-time force there would be a part-time reserve organization of some six divisions.

The opposition was cautious and somewhat critical. Maj. Gen. R. D. Pearce, National Progressive Conservative who holds the V. C. from the First Great War and who took the 1st Division overseas in the last one, believed an advisory board should be appointed to work out details and without later Canada's future army. Parliament should not be asked to commit itself at this particular time.

Mr. Abbott said he would consider that.

A Big Job

Another West Coast Conservative, Howard Green of Vancouver, South, thought the government would face tremendous difficulties in raising men for the post-war reserve. He warned it was wrong to run away with the idea an efficient force could be trained on a one-night-a-week basis. The government should be warned against slipping back to the 1939 outlook, but there were signs of just such a trend.

Wilfred Lacroix, Liberal from Quebec-Montgomery who broke Liberal ranks when home defence troops were sent overseas and then returned his support in the June federal election, said some were demanding use of conscription for Canada's peacetime force. This though he hesitated to think it might be sponsored by "brass hats" who would be jobless if Canada did not maintain a large army.

The Quebec member urged that Canada should aim at her complete independence from Britain. A big army would just be another step toward the imperialism Canada should avoid, he said. The Dominion should instead aim at playing a peaceful role in the world like Switzerland.

Developments good and bad appeared on the labor horizon during the week. Settlement of a dispute between the United Packinghouse Workers (UO) and Canadian packing plants following a series of conferences at Winnipeg appeared to have removed the threat of a strike by 12,000 packing house workers.

But even as Labor Minister Mitchell gave this good news to the House, he had also to announce a more serious turn in the strike of 10,000 Ford Motor Company workers at Windsor. He said the workers had turned down a proposal for settlement and no reply had been received from the Company.

While these developments stirred the troubled labor scene, the labor department came up with a national labor review which showed for the first time since the war that job hunters outnumbered the available jobs. Unemployed at Oct 5 were put at 146,597 across Canada, while there were 133,531 available jobs at that date. Included in the available jobs were 35,000 vacancies in logging and lumbering.

Emergency Crop Year

Another emergency crop year has been declared in some sections of the Prairies. Agriculture Minister Gardiner told the Commons that more than 3,000 townships in the eastern half of Alberta and the western half of Saskatchewan had suffered from severest drought since 1937. Under provisions of the Prairie Farm Assistance Act these farmers would be given assistance, without which they would not be able to carry on.

The act for such assistance was passed in 1939 and since that time only one crop year that of 1942-43—has not been declared an emergency crop year.

Expenditures to the extent of 1944 had benefited to the extent of millions of dollars—\$43,741,382 to be exact in emergency payments. Of this \$17,215,339 had been made from the fund built up by one per cent. levy on farmers' sales of grain and the remainder—\$26,526,042—has been paid by treasury contributions.

The Senate this week heard a suggestion from Senator T. A. Crerar that it take upon itself an examination into the state of Canada's natural resources. Mr. Crerar is a Liberal senator from Manitoba and former Mines and Resources Minister and he believed such an investigation should be made with a view to recommending methods for development of natural resources to help Canada meet foreign commitments.

The Senator held that corporation taxes on business concerns were unimportant in essence and had a severe effect upon mining, which, unlike forests and other resources, was a

"wasting asset." What came out of the ground in ore couldn't be put back in and mining firms saddled with corporation taxes passed over lower grade ores to mine those which would permit them to operate at a profit and thus the life of the mines was shortened.

Canada needed a sound general policy for all her natural resources, he said. It was a "reproach" that fire and insects took a greater toll of her forests than the cutting of them.

DANISH FACKLE UNEMPLOYMENT

By Gudrun Vachler Denmark is fighting a cure to unemployment. To-day, in spite of the difficulties of getting coal for industrial and transportation for farm exports, fifty per cent. of the Danish communities have no unemployed. And fifty thousand farmers have asked for extra help for 1945. In 1943 this per cent. of all workers were not really unemployed.

The story behind this goes back to before the war when Thorvald Stauning, Denmark's Labor Prime Minister, was visited by Supreme Court lawyer Valdemar Hvill. He suggested the Prime Minister get together some of the leading men to tackle the unemployment question Stauning looked at the list of men.

If you can get these men to tackle anything together, he said, "you have done more than I have ever been able to do."

The conference met and an Association was formed called L. A. B. Landsarbejdningen til Arbejdsloshedens Bekampelse. Hvill was elected president of the association.

"The answer to no work is work," said Hvill, "and it is everybody's responsibility to find work for others. Our only wealth is our people and the work of our people. Unemployment is not just a technical and economic problem, but above all a moral problem. It depends on our will and courage, our imagination and unselfishness. Let's get to work."

They did. First the big unemployment monster was chopped into small parts. Local committees were formed and it was made a home town project to see what could be done. In most communities L. A. B. found ready response because of the preparatory work existing local citizens to take civic responsibility which had been done by Moral Re-Armament, of which Hvill was a national leader.

What happened in one town was typical. The leading industrialist got interested. "But," he said, "we would need the mayor's co-operation, and everybody knows that the mayor and I are not on speaking terms. I would hate to block the way for this project, so take my name off."

Next day he called up. "I've been thinking all night about it. This is bigger than our squabbles, so I am going to offer my services to the mayor." He published a letter in the local paper that was an apology. His action started things going and local community projects sprang up all over town.

All through the war years L. A. B. seemingly occupied with "unpolitical" activities, built up a network of patriots.

In 1943 Hvill and his associates in L. A. B. ignored the iron fist of the Nazi occupiers and turned to prepare Denmark to meet the huge unemployment expected after the war. The L. A. B. agents in this "preparedness campaign" were mostly former officers from the disbanded Danish army. They personally visited every landowner in the country. A hundred thousand farmers in 1300 villages were asked what jobs were waiting to be done on their farms and how many extra men they could employ after the war.

As a result the labor department got a detailed picture of the work possibilities in farm communities unparalleled in any other country. They knew every roof that leaked, every field that needed drainage, every barnyard repair job. And even more important, every farmer in Denmark found himself taking a personal interest in finding work for at least one more fellow Dane. Fifty thousand men found work in this way. A leading newspaper commented, "The three letters L. A. B. will in years to come mean work for many idle hands."

That this development is receiving world-wide attention is evident from the following comment by George Light, Chairman, National Trade Union Club, London, England:

"I have known this scheme since its inception. The co-operation shown by people in all parts of the country has been remarkable. Much has been done, much more remains to be done. The ghastly tragedy of unemployment is everybody's responsibility in the country. To try to avoid it is playing a coward's part. We must drive poverty from our midst. This is one practical way of doing it."

Prepare to Fight Hoppers in 1946

Prairie Farm Invasions Not Hoped Conditions Will Determine Extent

ESTEVAN, Sask. (CP) P. C. Brown, Dominion entomologist in this southeastern Saskatchewan community, thinks the region faces the threat of a grasshopper invasion next year, but its intensity will depend on climatic conditions and other factors.

Mr. Brown has completed an egg count in the area from Moose Jaw, west of Regina, east to the Manitoba boundary, and his investigations have shown that most of this territory has some infestation, with the egg count ranging from light to moderate.

If a dry spring follows, grasshoppers will thrive and the damage to wheat fields may be great.

In general, the area south of Qu'Appelle east of a line from Turford, Verwood and Big Beaver, and west of Yulak, Weyburn and Hatfield shows a light to moderate infestation.

Grasshopper eggs are found mostly in roadside ditches, drift ridges and stubble fields.

Infestation is considered light if the egg count runs from five to 19 a square foot, moderate if it runs from 20 to 40 and severe if it runs from 41 to 40 eggs a square foot.

Counts further west, extending into Alberta, indicate the prospects of a grasshopper plague which may assume dangerous proportions if conditions are favorable in the spring.

Weather A Factor

Dry weather in the spring is ideal for the hatching of grasshopper eggs. During the summer-long moulting period, the young grasshoppers develop insatiable appetites. Flight follows rapidly when the adult stage is reached, making maturing crops in far-off sections the prey of a plague which began hundreds of miles away.

Though grasshoppers prefer the succulent stems of growing plants, they will chew off everything from binder twine on stacked grain to wild onions.

A control program which has proved successful involves tillage of the soil, timely use of guards, trap strips, burning young grasshoppers along roadways, the early sowing of crops and the use of poison bait on infested fields. Community campaigns have been organized during the severe invasions.

In 1934, organized control saved western farmers \$17,500,000 at a cost of less than \$1,000,000.

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