

### Civilians at Singapore 1942-45

(Continued from Last Week)

In April the Camp was visited by Major-General Saito who surprised internees by addressing them in terms of courtesy expressing sympathy with them and telling them he was working on some new ideas for the betterment of their conditions. The new ideas were revealed on 1st May when internees were moved to Sims Road Camp. The change from the prison conditions of Changi to the open air life of the Sims Road Camp was generally welcomed but the condition of the Camp was a disappointment. Many of the huts (built of rough wood and Attapeu) were very dilapidated, some being on the verge of collapse and the great majority of the roofs leaked more or less seriously. Congestion in living quarters was as bad as at Changi, the average space for internee being about 24 sq. ft.

Like Mr. Asahi, General Saito started his regime with an ambitious program for the improvement of conditions in the Camp. Extra huts were to be built to relieve congestion, materials were to be provided for repair of huts, separate accommodation was to be built for married couples and families, and a pig, poultry and cattle farm established which would ultimately fill the Camp's requirements in meat, eggs and milk. But also like Mr. Asahi, the General found the forces of obstruction too strong for him. No materials could be obtained for repairs or new construction until March, 1945, when 1100 new internees were sent to the Camp. The new huts then built were less than required for their accommodation and original internees had to submit to increased congestion. The farm was established but on a scale so small that it made no appreciable contribution to the Camp's food supply.

An important change in the life of the Camp which followed upon the move to Sims Road was that a greatly increased number of men were engaged on regular work for 3 to 6 hours daily. At Changi only some 700 to 800 men had been engaged on regular duties. The number was now increased to 2,000. At first, the additional labor was mainly employed on gardening, wood cutting, and leveling a site for the farm (which was never used) but during recent months a large number of men have been employed on work which is of no apparent benefit to the Camp. The construction of roads outside the perimeter, the sinking of a large oil storage tank, and the digging of tunnels said to be for ARP use but which have all the appearance of military works.

Work is nominally voluntary but the non-worker is cut down to a starvation scale of food and on several occasions during the last few months, the Nipponese have threatened to cut the rations for the whole camp unless men worked harder. The necessity to work a stipulated number of hours in order to qualify for a mere subsistence scale of rations meant that most internees were compelled (particularly during the later stages of internment) to do more physical work than was consistent with their weakened and ill-nourished condition. Internees became more and more emaciated; ulcers, boils and carbuncles were prevalent, and tended to develop into serious septic conditions. Treatment was hampered by shortage of anti-septics, medicines and bandages.

During the last few weeks, dispensaries were unable to supply bandages and patients were required to bring their own. Other common illnesses were dysentery, pellagrous dermatitis and malaria. The latter was due to refusal of the Nipponese to allow our Health Officers to carry out anti-malarial work outside the Camp during the early months at Sims Road or to supply oil to deal with mosquito breeding places.

Since the last cut in the Camp ration scale (since February), the full-time four hour worker's daily ration had been 9 ounces rice, half ounce fish, half ounce oil, 10 ounces of leaf, and a little salt; most internees had lost weight rapidly and many were now in a state of extreme emaciation with their resistance to disease at a dangerously low ebb. In spite of repeated requests, no extra food was provided for the sick.

Under General Saito's regime, there had been no fundamental change in the methods of administering discipline but major incidents were less frequent. On three occasions, men accused of making contact with persons outside the Camp perimeter were severely beaten and kept in confinement, under the customary conditions of privation for periods of from 3 to 10 days. A camp official, accused of answering a Nipponese sennyu disrespectfully, was knocked down by a blow from the sennyu staff and then severely kicked and finally taken to the guard room where he received about 12 strokes with a heavy pole. A bone in his wrist was broken. The Liaison officer for the Women's Camp was assaulted by a member of the Nipponese guard (Yamada) whilst he was performing his ordinary sanctioned duties. He was punched, kicked, seized by the throat, shaken, and generally manhandled. There were many other instances of face-slapping, punching and kicking of internees by Nipponese guards, one of the most oppressive of whom was Yamada.

(Continued Next Week)

### The Week at OTTAWA

BY I. L. DENT HODGSON  
Canadian Press Staff Writer

OTTAWA (CP)—Wheat held the spotlight on the Ottawa stage last week as the government consolidated a 1946 policy aimed at maintaining production at high war levels and conserving as much wheat as possible for shipment to a starving world.

Included in the week's developments were announcement of a nine-point production and conservation policy by Prime Minister Mackenzie King, announcement of the 1946 initial wheat price by Trade Minister Mackinnon, and conversations between members of the Canadian Wheat Board and the cabinet wheat committee from which further developments were expected to result.

Mr. King's announcement outlined three conservation steps: a 10 per cent reduction from 1945 on wheat available for domestic milling, a 50 per cent reduction in wheat for distilling purposes, and a campaign to encourage saving by consumers of wheat products and encourage home gardens.

Three other points are aimed at getting food to starving countries as soon as possible, marketing of wheat held by farmers on their farms will be encouraged, reduction of inventories of wheat and wheat products is urged, and increased quantities of oats and No. 4 wheat will be made available for export if possible.

If, in addition, priorities for rail transport of wheat for export have been established and modification of regulations affecting bulk shipments of flour and feed is planned, farmers are being urged to plan their production to obtain the maximum yield of food stuffs over the next four years.

Meanwhile the government offered encouragement to farmers in western Canada with three long-awaited equalization certificates for the year 1944-45 wheat crop will be started in June and the 1944-45 barley equalization payments will be made in May. The initial wheat payment of \$1.25 a bushel basis No. 1 Northern in store at Fort William-Port Arthur or Vancouver will be continued for the new crop year ending July 31, 1947. Payments on the 1944-45 Ontario wheat equalization fund will begin in May.

The wheat participation certificate system entitles western farmers to share with the wheat board any profits made in selling the wheat at \$1.55 a bushel on the export market.

New government moves were expected soon to give farmers incentive to deliver wheat they have been holding in storage on their farms and thus help meet the immediate needs of famine and near-famine lands.

The wheat board has estimated 50,000,000 bushels are being held back from delivery while other estimates run even higher. It is contended that big growers in many cases are not delivering wheat in order to save on income tax. The argument is that if a farmer delivers all the wheat he has to sell in one year he would pay more tax in the event of a crop failure the next year than if he spread his deliveries over two years.

Any government move to encourage such deliveries, therefore, is expected to involve readjustment of income tax payments. If 50,000,000 bushels could be made available in this way by July 31, it is estimated Canada may be able to ship about 100,000,000 bushels overseas before the end of the crop year. This would mean a carry-over of 50,000,000 bushels into the new crop year, which wheat experts say is the minimum carry-over possible to meet domestic needs until the new crop deliveries start.

As the Throne Speech debate progresses, criticism of the government's housing and reconversion performance came from all sides of the house. Opposition members said the reconversion program had "bogged down" and that government steps to meet the housing crisis were "hopelessly inadequate." Even Liberal members joined in the criticism.

In reply, Reconstruction Minister Howe said about half the factories in Canada already had completed their reconversion program; of the remainder, 50 per cent would be completed within six months, 75 per cent within a year.

Mr. Howe said the most recent estimates showed 44,000 additional dwelling units were provided in 1945, of which 39,000 were new units and the rest converted homes. This compared with 34,000 units in 1929, previously Canada's high building year.

While the number of units which could be built in 1946 would be limited by the amount of building materials available, he predicted a "considerably larger" house building program in 1946 than last year.

He added that "a wholly incorrect impression" existed that Canada was exporting far greater quantities of lumber than before the war. Last year, he stated, only 41.5 per cent of Canadian production was exported, leaving 2,860,000,000 board feet for domestic consumption. In 1946, the Canadian cut of lumber would reach about 5,200,000,000 feet—greater in the Dominion's history—and of this

more than 3,000,000,000 feet would be retained in Canada.

Mr. Howe also announced a new ruling under which priority for building materials will be given to veterans' homes and materials would be channelled into government-approved low-cost housing projects such as those being built by Wartime Housing Ltd. under the Veterans Land Act. Top priority will go to veterans with homes 75 per cent completed but which are being held up for lack of materials.

### Say Girls Prefer Beach to Kitchen

#### Australian Women Agitated By Airman's Allegations

BRISBANE, Australia (CP)—Girls this week were discussing in agitated groups an Australian airman's allegation that they were too independent and career conscious to make good housewives.

The airman, Corporal Michael McCormack of Queensland, was one of 300 RCAF men married to English girls, who recently returned to Australia after five years' service in Great Britain.

"Australian girls are smarter than Englishwomen," he said, "but they prefer to spend their leisure baking on the beach, rather than in the kitchen."

Which all goes to show that there's a way to a man's heart. By way of compensation, about 1700 Australian girls married to American servicemen with their babies are making last minute arrangements to leave Australia on the Monterey and Mariposa, shortly.

Some of the brides have been waiting for a passage to the United States for more than a year. Others who will not travel in the ships have been heartened in their long waiting by an announcement that all U.S. servicemen's wives, approximately 6,000, should be on their way within six months.

Laundry facilities, playrooms, nurseries and equipment for sterilizing bottles and utensils will be available, aboard the two liners expected soon. For feeding children, there is evaporated, condensed and whole milk, also cream of wheat, tomato juice, fresh fruits and fruit juices, vitamins A and B, cod-liver oil, and varieties of vegetables.

### OLKARING AUCTION SALE IN ERAMOZA TOWNSHIP

FARM STOCK, IMPLEMENTS, TRACTOR, EQUIPMENT AND FURNITURE

The undersigned auctioneers have received instructions from MRS. EMMA McDOUGALL (Widow of the late John McDougall) To sell by public auction at her farm, Lot 21, Con. 6, Eramosa; situated on the 7th line which is the Everton Line, 3 miles N. of Everton on MONDAY, APRIL 1st

Commencing at 1:00 o'clock the following:

HORSES: 1 Bay Mare, 8 yrs. old, about 1500 lbs.; 1 Bay Gelding, 3 yrs. old, about 1500 lbs.; 1 Black Gelding, general purpose, 17 yrs.; 1 Yearling Percheron Colt.

COWS: 1 Roan Cow, milking well, bred in Feb.; Red Cow, milking well, due time of sale; Red Cow, fresh; 3 Angus Cows, with calves at foot.

FAT CATTLE: 6 Fat Steers, rising 2 yrs. old (Angus)

YOUNG CATTLE: 13 choice Angus Yearlings

HOGS: Sow, due in June; 6 Big Chunks, 8 Shoats.

TRACTOR AND EQUIPMENT—M. H. Tractor, 101 Jr. on rubber, recently overhauled with brand new motor, 2-furrow Tractor Plow; 2 Walking Plows, M. H. 17-tooth Cultivator with power lift and tractor hitch; (Lang Plow); McCormick-Deering 7 Ft. Binder, new; M. H. Drum Loader, new; Potato Plow, M. H. Side Delivery Rake, Turnip Sower; M. H. 11-spout Disc Fertilizer Drill, new; M. H. 13-spout Drill with fertilizer attachment; McCormick 6 ft. Mower; 2-furrow Plow; 3-drum Steel Roller, Lynchfield Manure Spreader; Buggy; M. H. 10 ft. Dump Rake; Bob Sleighs; Cutter, Wagon and Hoe; Templin Fanning Mill; Hay Rack; Hay Fork and Rope; 2000 lb. Scales; Belling, Pulleys, etc.; Set of Harrows; 3 Steel Barrels; Pulper; 2 h.p. I.H.C. Gas Engine; 4 h.p. Johnson Air Cool Gas Engine suitable for washing machine; Forks, Hoes, Shovels, Grain Bags, Whiffletree, Logging Chains, etc.

FURNITURE: 2 Kitchen Ranges; 1 Dresser with Mirror; 2 Beds with springs and mattresses; 1 Coleman 3-burner Gas Stove; Mellotte Cream Separator; Milk Pails.

HAY AND GRAIN—400 bus Mixed Grain; 5 ton Clover Hay.

POULTRY EQUIPMENT—Fountains, Hoppers, etc.; Brooder Stove; 1 Brooder House, 8 x 10, one 10 x 12.

Terms: Cash. No chattels to be removed until settled for.

No reserve as the farm is rented. Eramosa W. I. will have a lunch counter.

ROY HINDLEY, J. A. ELLIOTT, Auctioneers 1941-2

Albert Gray, Clerk


### AUSSIES CO-OPERATE IN POULTRY SOCIETY

LEETON, Australia (CP)—Formed on a capital of \$90, a registered co-operative society of poultry farmers here has made a profit of \$2,890 in 9 months.

The new society now is to buy its own premises and will supply poultry feed to members. A killing and preserving company may be built. This is one of many primary producers' co-operative enterprises now gaining support throughout Australia.

CANADA'S ORIGINAL AROMATIC PIPE TOBACCO

## OLD CHUM



### RENEWAL OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BOOKS

To All Employers:

All Unemployment Insurance Books for the year ending March 31st, 1946, must be exchanged for new books.

New Insurance Books for the fiscal year 1946-47 will be exchanged by the Local National Employment Office in your area for expired Insurance Books.

Protect the benefit rights of your employees by sending in their expired books properly completed on March 31st.

There are severe penalties for failing to make Unemployment Insurance contributions for your insured employees and for failure to renew the Insurance Books as required.

### UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE COMMISSION

UIC-1W

We Specialize in Attractive Printing

# Give to conquer CANCER

Next to heart disease, cancer is the greatest single cause of death on this continent. It kills 1,000 Canadians every month. One out of every eight persons now living must expect to die of cancer, unless far-reaching preventive measures are taken.

Cancer is a deadly killer unless the patient seeks early medical advice. But when caught in its early stages, cancer is generally curable.

The cause of cancer is still unknown, and there is yet no specific cure. But if diagnosed in time and treated by surgery, x-ray or radium, a cure can be effected in a majority of all cancer cases.

It is now proposed to organize an energetic campaign in Ontario against cancer in all its forms. This campaign will have the following objectives:

- 1—To organize and operate fully equipped cancer clinics at suitable centres, where people may be examined, and, if necessary, treated according to the most scientific methods.
- 2—To pay a portion of the cost of treatment of cancer for those needing financial help.
- 3—To pay travelling expenses to and from clinics if needed.
- 4—To conduct an energetic program of cancer research.

To carry out this program, the first need is money. Your donation will definitely help to reduce the number of deaths from cancer in this province. It will help hundreds of people to be medically examined in time and to escape from the deadly clutches of cancer. It may well help research scientists to discover a cure for cancer and so free mankind forever from the dread scourge of cancer.

This appeal is for an objective of \$2,000,000 to provide for a three-year program of cancer research, treatment and province-wide service.

## ONTARIO CANCER FOUNDATION

This organized drive against cancer is a joint effort of The Ontario Cancer Treatment and Research Foundation and The Canadian Cancer Society.

Contributions may be made through your local bank or at the

Hamilton Cancer Campaign Committee  
United Gas Company's Office  
82 King Street East, Hamilton, Ont.