

### The Farmer and The 5-Day Week

As seen by an Alberta Stockman  
I have read recently, with surprise, that the question of a 40-hour week may shortly come up for discussion in Alberta. I am a stockman, or what might be termed a mixed farmer, and a veteran of two wars.

Last fall we came within a few hours of a serious tie-up in the packing houses, and a settlement was reached by a reduction in working hours. I have little or no knowledge of union shops, closed shops, master agreements, or check-offs, but I have very definite ideas on a 40-hour week. Strangely enough, I am in favor of a 40-hour week or even less, providing, of course, that all our citizens will enjoy these shorter hours. With this in mind, I would like to direct a few questions to employers, labor union members, and even to the ordinary man on the street.

Are you in favor of making any provision to give the farmers a 40-hour week?

Will any one of you produce or invent a cow that can be persuaded to take a milking holiday from Friday afternoon at five o'clock, until Monday morning at eight o'clock?

Will any one of you produce or invent a pig that will not squeal and will be perfectly content to do with out being fed all day, Saturday and Sunday?

What about the hay or grain that is ready to harvest will some one arrange to have the rain held back on Saturday and Sunday?

What about our boys who, after years of overseas service, have returned to our mixed farming areas in an 80-hour week? Are they to be paid for 40 hours only, or are they to be paid time and a half for the other 40 hours? If so, who is going to pay them, and from what source is the money coming?

Will a 40-hour week on the farm mean two shifts? Will two shifts mean a 50 per cent increase in the farmers' costs? If so, will you city boys agree to pay the farmers prices to cover this increased cost? Will you pay 60c a pound for good beef, 60c a pound for butter, 70c a pound for bacon, 60c for eggs, 15c a loaf for bread, 15c for milk, \$2 for a chicken, and guarantee to take all the farmers' produce at these prices?

If a 40-hour week is granted on the grounds that it will increase employment, will those getting the benefit of these short hours agree to legislation being passed imposing penalties on anyone taking on additional work?

In addition to the ordinary necessities of life, farmers are principally interested in the costs of processing their products. If the costs of processing are increased by the adoption of a 40-hour week, who is going to stand the increased cost? Who is there to stand it except the producer?

Why are we farmers so dumb that we sit still and see this developing right under our noses? Why are our so-called farm papers not putting this situation more clearly before the farmers?

Are the farmers going to speak up, or are they again going to leave it to the usual dog-fight between the processors and the professional labor leaders?

How many millions will it cost the producers if the processors stop artificializing, and grant labor demands in full this year? Will labor's requests include not only a 40-hour week, but a substantial increase in pay, as it did in 1945?

Will somebody tell me if the flour mills, the dairies, and the packing houses are making too much profit, and is the government taking substantial taxes thereon? Is agriculture, directly and indirectly, paying a goodly portion of the Canadian tax bill?

If agriculture cannot make a profit, who is going to dig up the money to rehabilitate our boys who fought for us, while we stayed at home and oggited for more pay and more profits?

I believe all western farmers recognize our responsibility to the returned boys, but who is going to dig up the money for the taxes to pay our obligations to them?

As one who has seen something of the suffering in Europe, I am worried, as I realize that we will find ourselves in the soup, unless farmers, industrialists, businessmen, employers, labor leaders, in fact all of us cut out a lot of this nonsense, and wake up to the fact that work, and work only on the part of all, is the basic solution for prosperity and happiness.

(Reprinted from a letter in the Edmonton Journal, written by H. J. A. Hervey, Midnapore, Alberta.)

#### MORALIZING

- The greatest sin: Fear.
- The best day: To-day.
- The biggest fool: The boy who will not go to school.
- The best town: Where you succeed.
- The most agreeable companion: One who would not have you different from what you are.
- The greatest invention of the Devil: War.
- The greatest mistake: Giving up.
- The best teacher: One who makes you want to learn.
- The meanest feeling: Feeling bad over another's success.
- The greatest need: Common sense.
- The greatest thing in the world: Love.

### The Week at OTTAWA

By H. DENT HODGSON  
Canadian Press Staff Writer

OTTAWA (CP)—One of the most touchy tasks the House of Commons ever is called upon to face. That of parliamentary redistribution after every decennial census may be solved with a minimum of argument if the government's present plan is adopted.

The plan, which must have the approval of both the Canadian and British houses, is to amend the British North America Act to permit addition of 10 seats to the 245 seat Commons. This would mean all provinces would hold their present representation or improve it, except Saskatchewan, which would lose only one seat.

Under the B. N. A. Act, representation for Quebec is set at 65, with other provinces represented in proportion to their population as compared with Quebec. Population shifts since the last redistribution have been from western to central provinces, and under this system, Saskatchewan would lose four seats and Manitoba three, according to the 1941 census figures.

Redistribution usually undertaken shortly after each census was postponed until after the war and western members were expected to raise the argument that the war-time population movement out of the west has reversed since the 1941 census, making the figures then established no longer applicable and not a fair basis of redistribution.

While there is little likelihood so contentious a measure as redistribution would pass the Commons without heated debate even under the government's new proposal, the plan may temper the debate, slated for late in the session.

It is not proposed to change that part of the B. N. A. Act which allots four members and the Yukon one, regardless of population. This system would be to divide the remaining 250 seats into the total population of Canada less the populations of P. E. I., Yukon and Northwest Territories. The quotient then would be divided into the population of each province and the result would be the number of members each province would be entitled to elect.

Quebec would gain seven seats, British Columbia two, and Ontario and Nova Scotia one each. Saskatchewan would lose only one and the remaining provinces would hold their present representation.

Actual representation, according to the last census, would then be as follows (present representation in brackets): Nova Scotia 13 (12); Prince Edward Island 4 (4); New Brunswick 10 (10); Quebec 72 (65); Ontario 83 (82); Manitoba 17 (17); Saskatchewan 20 (21); Alberta 17 (17); British Columbia 18 (16); and Yukon 1 (1).

However, it is unlikely this change will take place during the present parliamentary session. By the time the measure went through the British House, was sweated out in committee here, and the constitution amended, it would be almost impossible to finish it without delaying the end of the session.

The monster United States coal strike, crippling drastically the economy of Canada's southern neighbor, was beginning to make itself felt similarly in Canada last week. Officials in the capital expressed alarm at the effects of the strike on this country's domestic and industrial front.

Only government steps to conserve the dwindling stockpiles of soft coal were orders limiting deliveries to consumers other than householders to hospitals and institutions by guaranteeing them a sufficient supply to last until June 30. However, officials of both Canada's major railways conferred with government authorities early this week to consider a more vigorous step.

The proposal was that Canada follow the lead of the United States in limiting passenger and freight railway traffic.

U. S. freight shipments were cut to the "bare necessities of life," and passenger traffic was reduced 25 per cent. In Canada this resulted in stoppage of shipment of sulphite pulp to U. S. points from the lakehead and blocked the heavy lumber shipments out of British Columbia.

Although strikers and coal companies declared a fortnight's truce, this was not expected to ease the Canadian situation. E. J. Brunning, coal controller, said the truce would bring little, if any coal to Canada. Meanwhile, officials tried to keep coal-

hungry Ontario and Quebec industries supplied by shipments from Alberta and Nova Scotia mines, which normally produce less than half the Dominion's consumption quota.

One of a confusion of 2,400 designs, Canada is gradually acquiring a new, distinctive Canadian flag. The joint Commons-Senate flag committee last week seemed to be focusing its attention on three.

Number one is the familiar red ensign, with a gold maple leaf replacing the present coat-of-arms in the fly. Number two, a diagonally-divided red and gold affair, with a green maple leaf in the center. The third is more complicated—a white ensign in the fly and bearing four diagonal, with a red maple leaf in a red circle blue stripes.

While committee members continue to stand on their own views, many and varied observers explained that the actual choice might be a composite of several good designs, altered, if necessary, to achieve tasteful proportion.

After being delayed by a handful of opponents in the Commons, the bill enabling the \$1,250,000,000 loan to Britain passed through the Commons last week by an overwhelming 167-7 majority and shot through the Senate to await royal assent before becoming effective. Main reason for its abrupt passage through the Upper House was to beat a vote in the United States Senate on the \$3,750,000,000 U. S. loan to Britain. Passage of the U. S. bill also was required to make the Canadian loan effective.

#### DO YOU KNOW?

At the end of February there were 125,000 more persons in the labor force of Canada than there were three months earlier. The Prices Board has revoked regulations governing the sale and distribution of canned lobster.

In 1943 a survey of industrial expansion in major fields showed an increase of 125 per cent over 1938.

Co-operation of the public with Prices Board authorities in tracking down any black market activities is one of the surest ways of eliminating black markets. 31,659 radio sets were sold in Canada in January. Shirt manufacturers have been directed by W.P.T.B. to turn out more low-priced shirts and fewer sports shirts.

#### HARVESTING EXCHANGE

EDMONTON (CP)—Interchange of harvesting equipment between the United States and Canada has been arranged allowing operators to take their equipment and a crew of six men across the border, it was announced by R. M. Putman, provincial director of agriculture extension.



"THAT'S A LOAD OFF MY MIND!"

Mrs. Mason's husband gets his pay in cash. Since he's working all day, his wife banks it for him, and she says she's always [happy] 'til she gets it safely there. And her brother, who runs a store, says he worries too about the money from the cash register! Safeguarding your money is one of the prime services rendered by your bank.

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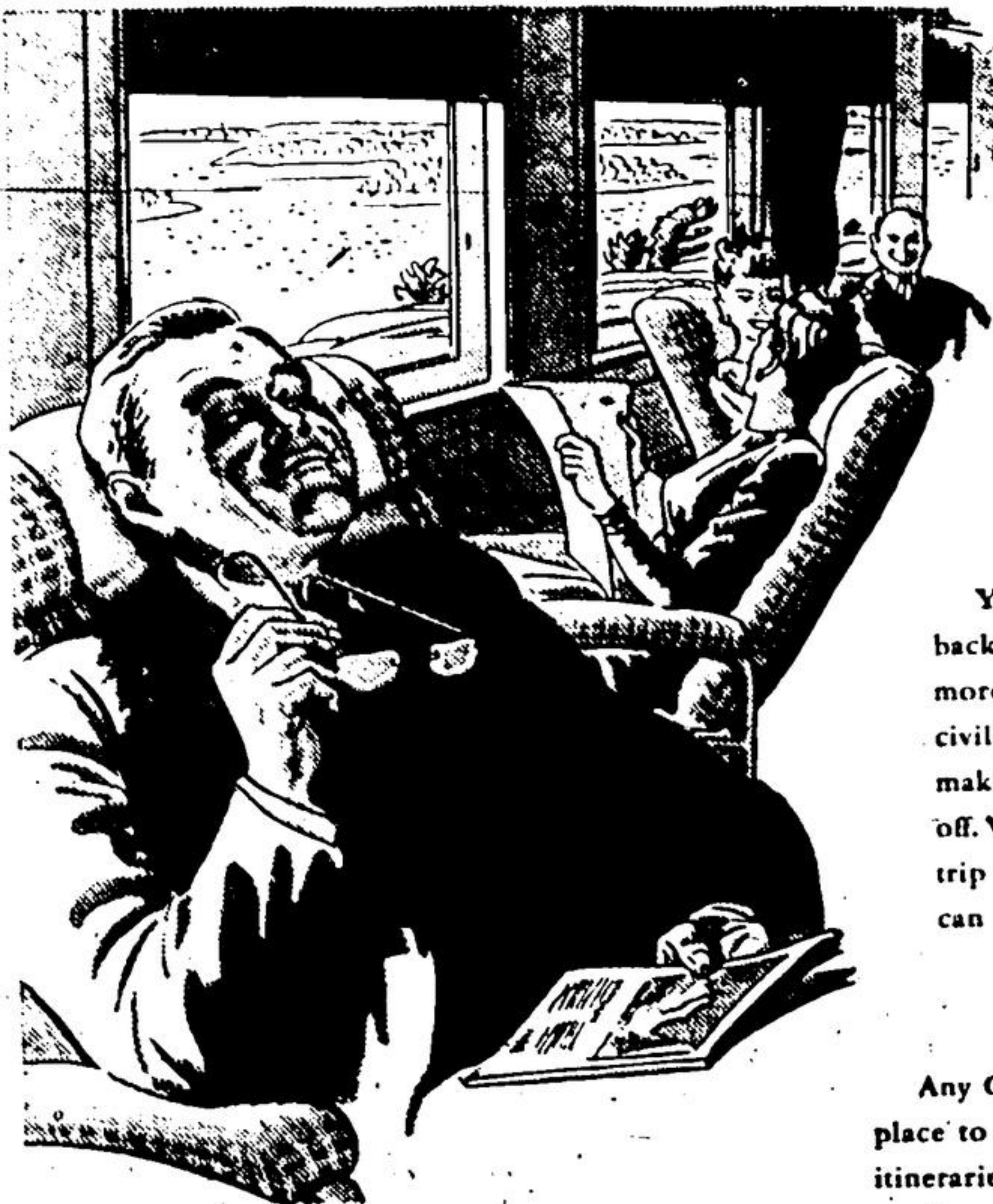
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