

Farmers, City Folk Not Understanding

Of the 344 Ontario Farm Forum groups discussing the topic, "The Farmer and the Public" on Monday evening, February 2, 45 per cent said there was poor understanding between the farmers and the people of their neighboring towns and villages 30 per cent said the understanding was fair and 25 per cent agreed it was good.

Beaton Junction of Simcoe county spoke for the groups in these words: "We think the understanding is quite good between farmers and people of small towns and villages but the larger the town the less understanding exists."

In their discussion, Farm Centre forum of Wellington stated "We feel the understanding between

farmers and the local townspeople and villagers is very good but are inclined to feel that existing relations between farmers and city dwellers could stand considerable adjusting."

In discussing methods that would help to improve understanding in their area, the forums placed the regular contact by farm organizations with their local newspapers and radio station in first position. Other methods suggested in order of preference were exchange of speakers between farm and urban organizations, joint committee of farm and townspeople through existing organizations, farm women becoming active members of the Canadian Association of Consumers and public relations committee for each farm organization unit. Many groups thought that the costs of the farmer should receive as much publicity as his profits.

Chronicles of Ginger Farm

Written Specially for the Acton Free Press by Gwendoline P. Clarke

As I was finishing this column last week news was just coming in of the disastrous floods in East Anglia. At the time I did not quite realize the location of the floods, then, as more details were broadcast I found it was East Anglia they were talking about the district in which Partner and I both lived before coming to Canada.

Yarmouth where I spent many a summer holiday with Aunt Lottie Clifton, Felixstowe popular seaside resort for all East Anglians and all well fortified with seawalls and breakwaters. Partner and I remember very rough seas to all these places but never flooding to any serious extent. The location doesn't make the disaster any better or worse but it always seems worse when one knows the places that are spoken of.

Along the east coast the sea has been encroaching for years, cliffs have crumbled into the sea, houses have had to be demolished or moved back for safety; now this tidal wave will weaken still further the seawall defences of many a coastal town.

Someone said to me—"Well, I don't suppose people who have lived in those places will ever want to go back again." Oh, but they will. In time, when all the debris has been removed, and the immediate danger has passed, the people of East Anglia will return and build their homes anew. Inconveniences to English country folk, are always regarded as of a temporary nature. Near our home, on banks of the River Stour, there were many cottages. Every spring the Stour would overflow its banks. Every spring these cottages would be flooded and people rescued by boat from the bedrooms. And every spring as soon as the floods had subsided, these people would return to their river-washed homes. Yes, the English are a stubborn race.

Happily, all news last week was not depressing. I wonder how many people thrilled with delight as the Captain, without the aid of tugs, docked the mighty Queen Mary at New York harbour. That would have been wonderful to see. I expect the people on deck were far too excited to even think of being nervous.

Of course our Canadian weather is also in the news again. Today "it might as well be spring." But we hate to think what this changeable weather is doing to the wheat and clover. However, time will tell—and no amount of worrying will affect the result.

Of greater concern at the moment are the changes taking place in U.S. governmental policy, which can affect us to a greater extent than most of us probably realize. It is rather like an occasion when two great doctors disagree. One says "operate"; the other says "don't operate". Meanwhile friends of the patient are bewildered, not knowing which doctor is right.

But we don't need to cross the Border—or the Atlantic—in search of problems. We do have a few of our own—what with the weather, labour trouble, decline in farm prices and controversial government reports. Even nearby cities have their troubles, more than the country if we did but know it. At any rate we don't expect to be compelled to drink fluorinated water. Come on out to the country, folks, where we have fresh, spring water. Fine, until the well gives out. At such times we are ready to accept any kind of water, fluorinated or otherwise.

And now that I be forgiven if I touch on a more personal matter. February 6 is a date for us to remember. On that date, a year ago, King George VI died. Two years ago our sister-in-law passed away while here on a visit. Eight years ago it was the wedding day for two friends of ours. Thirty-five years ago Partner and I were married. And this year we lost a very close friend who lived in Guelph. So you see we have plenty of reason to remember February 6.

It could hardly be said that Partner and I celebrated our thirty-fifth wedding anniversary—we don't go in for celebrations very much—but we did have cards, letters, phone calls and some beautiful red carnations—flowers which have a special significance for us. We also experienced a great feeling of thankfulness. A married couple who are able to observe their 35th wedding anniversary TOGETHER have a very real cause for rejoicing don't you think? So many have far less—more's the pity.

Congratulations, Mrs. Somerville and Mrs. Kennedy and all the Dublin ladies for your success at the Hobby Show. And thank you, Mrs. E. R. for your letter and your kindness.

RECORDING SECRETARY SUBMITS '52 REPORT AT ANNUAL I.O.D.E. MEETING

The following is the Thirty-sixth annual report of the Duke of Devonshire Chapter Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire, submitted by Mrs. M. S. MacArthur, Recording Secretary at the annual meeting.

Ten monthly meetings and three executive meetings were held in homes of members. There are 63 members and six new members have joined. One member passed away. The average attendance for the year was 30. Seven talks were given by members on Empire and World Affairs and requirements of Canadian Citizenship.

Delegates attended the Provincial Annual meeting in Hamilton, the semi-annual meetings at Niagara Falls and Kitchener and brought back valuable information and inspiration. We were honored by our Standard bearers being asked to carry the Standard in the procession at the meeting at Kitchener.

Mr. Corning presented a travelogue with colored slides on Labrador and Gaspe. Two films were shown by Mr. Hansen entitled "Paradise Valley" and "Newfoundland."

We were saddened by the death of our beloved King George VI. The Chapter members attended the Memorial Service held on the day of the funeral. At the March meeting a new oath of allegiance was taken to our gracious Queen Elizabeth II.

Books were presented to Public School pupils in each grade as prizes for essays in the Empire Day contests. A scholarship was presented at the High School Commencement to the student with the highest standing. I.O.D.E. calendars were purchased and distributed to "Agricultural Schools" and neighboring rural schools.

The Chapter donated a Flag and Standard which was placed in the new auditorium of the Acton Public School.

The Chapter sponsored a Tag Day for the Canadian Institute for the Blind. The Chapter conducted Tag Days at Acton Fall Fair, the proceeds being used for the purchase of food parcels for British Soldiers and Pensioners.

During the year a quilt was made, nursery bags filled, diapers made and sent to Headquarters as our contribution to the Services at Home and Abroad. Used clothing was collected for Halton Manor, the Halton County home for the aged.

The funds to enable the Chapter to carry on the yearly program were raised by a Bazaar in October. We were privileged to have Mrs. Leckie, Provincial Convenor of Services at Home and Abroad, speak to us of the work of the committee. Mrs. Skuce was the special speaker at another meeting.

We have a representative on the Acton War Service League. Members of the Chapter worked on committees arranging for the District T. B. Survey and the two days of the Clinic. Remembrance Day was observed by our Chapter and a wreath was placed on the Cenotaph.

Contributions were given to the Halton County Musical Festival, St. John's Ambulance Society, Acton Boy Scouts, Halton Manor Christmas Party, Halton Manor toward furnishings.

Appeals of the National and Provincial Funds of the Order were responded to as follows: Lucy Morrison Memorial, Wilhelmina Gordon Trust Fund Commonwealth and Empire, National Film Board, Special Representative Fund, Peace Garden.

From the Flower and Gift Fund which is contributed to at each meeting, gifts in remembrance and appreciation were given and flowers and cards were sent to sick and

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If you find it inconvenient to get into town during banking hours, write or call Orme Hunt, accountant of Acton's B of M, telephone number 18. He will gladly provide you with full details about banking by mail. Otherwise, you might drop into the B of M next time you're in town and pick up a copy of the bank's leaflet about this useful, time-saving service.

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M. Bridgman, B.A. At Plant Opening

Melvin H. Bridgman, B.A., a graduate chemist of the Coca Cola Co. at Montreal, was one of the staff to attend the opening of the new plant of the Coca Cola Co. at Bellville from Monday, January 23 until Wednesday night, January 26.

He also was a guest at his brother Harold's home at the Trenton R.C.A.F. air base, while in the Bellville area.

Mr. Bridgman was a former Rockwood boy, a student of Guelph Collegiate and a graduate of McMaster University in chemistry. He has been with the Coca Cola Co. for the past 12 years.

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