

CANADIAN PLOWMEN ABROAD

by WILL C. BARRIE, Manager
1955.
CANADIAN PLOWING TEAM



W. C. Barrie

W. C. Barrie of Galt, Ont., a past president of the Ontario Plowmen's Association and manager of the Canadian plowing team at the third annual World Plowing Match in Sweden, has sent home on-the-spot reports of his trip with team members Joe Tran of Claremont, Ont. and Ivan McLaughlin of Stratford, Ont. Here is the second of his reports.

LONDON—Our party, consisting of Joe Tran, the 1954 Canadian plowing champion, Ivan McLaughlin, runner-up, Mrs. McLaughlin, Mrs. Barrie and myself, as team manager, left the Empress of Scotland at her Liverpool dock at seven a.m. and boarded the train for London. After we had convinced the customs officers that we weren't carrying any contraband, we settled down in a first class coach.

During the 194 miles between Liverpool and London, we must have passed through 12 or 14 tunnels, some of them quite long, but others only long enough for honk-ers to pick-up before they would be out in the daylight again. The English fields are much smaller than those in Canada and every acre seemed to be producing crops of some kind. Water appeared to be plentiful with lively streams and canals traversing the countryside. A great many artificial farm ponds were sighted, indicating that the English farmers, like the Canadian farmers, realize the importance of water conservation.

Luxuriant Farms

We saw many fine herds of beef and dairy cattle and large flocks of sheep on every side. This was not surprising, since there seemed to be no scarcity of luxuriant grass on every farm. The rolling countryside had appearance of a well-kept golf course. Our train, carrying only the passengers who had disembarked from the Empress of Scotland, was scheduled to make no stops on the way to London, not even to get a supply of water for the engine. The water lay in troughs between the rails and was scooped up by the locomotive as it sped along.

We passed through the large town of Rugby, the place where rugby football originated. Nearer London, we saw the school at Harrow which many of England's famous men have attended, among them Sir Winston Churchill. We passed through Coventry, the city that was so nearly wiped out by Hitler's bombers early in the last war.

'At Home' in London

When we got off at London's Euston station, a young man from Esso Petroleum, which is one of the donors of the Esso Golden Plow, emblematic of world plowing supremacy, stepped up to me and said, "Are you Will Barrie from Canada?" He took us by car to our hotel, The Kenilworth, on Great Russell St., and placed himself at our service. This very friendly greeting made us feel right at home in this great city.

After getting settled in our rooms and resting for a short while, we all stepped out to see a few of the sights of London. The scars left by Hitler's airmen—in the Battle of Britain are slowly being covered up but it will be many years before the city is completely restored. The newer stores are very modern and it was a difficult task to keep from buying things we couldn't carry with us. It was rather amusing to see the members of our party, after making a purchase, take out a handful of English coins and say, "help yourself!"

Fellow Travelers

Next day we decided to go on a motor coach tour and shortly after we started, the guide asked the passengers to identify themselves. We learned that over 80 per cent were Canadians. Among them was a group returning to Vancouver from a Youth Congress in Moscow, and when they learned we were going to Sweden, they suggested that we should visit Moscow too. When they left the bus, they went to a news stand and bought copies of the Daily Worker. We all enjoyed the tour, which took in Buckingham Palace, Westminster Abbey, the Houses of Parliament, London Bridge, the Tower of London and several other famous places. Seeing the burial place of so many of the most prominent men in English history was a thrill we shall never forget. To view the inscriptions on the burial places of men such as Oliver Cromwell, David Livingstone, General Wolfe and Lord Tennyson in Westminster Abbey was something to make one stop and think. Later we were most fortunate in arriving at Buck-

ingham Palace in time to see the colorful Changing of the Guard. That evening we were guests at a musical show, "Water Gypsies" at the Winter Gardens, and then had dinner at an Italian restaurant, the Generos. This proved a grand finale to a busy and most interesting day.

On the following morning we drove to a typical English farm at Eastbourne in Sussex overlooking the English Channel. The 60-mile drive over the winding roads and the picturesque towns and villages through which we passed were sights we had hardly dared to expect. The farm, consisting of 1,000 acres, was worked by Col. J. N. Davies, who once farmed for 12 years in the Okanagan Valley, B.C. He has 500 Suffolk Down breeding ewes and 75 Polled Angus cows.

He employs three men—a shepherd, a tractor man and a handy man. With good markets for beef, lamb and wool close at hand, he has little fear of surpluses or poor prices. His present prices compare favorably with ours in Canada but his taxes are much higher than ours. His animals were grazing in knee-high grass, which assures him of plentiful feed for the winter.

Place with a Past
On this farm were several miles of stone fences five feet high, built during the depression years after the Crimean War and gun emplacements used by Canadian artillery units during the last war.

It was here that Hitler's invasion was expected and every preparation had been made to hold him off. At the entrance to the farm lane were six reinforced concrete pillars four feet high, three feet square and about six feet apart. These were built to keep the German tanks from reaching the level country if they should happen to make a landing.

In the evening, the British, Iron-ite we visited the British Museum. It is a massive building and it would take days for a person to see everything. That evening at the St. Ermine Hotel, a press reception was held for the visiting plowmen. This was to be our last social event in London as we were leaving the city the next afternoon.

Next week: We fly the North Sea.

BANNED IN AMERICA

No Christmas is complete without a luscious chocolate coated popcorn ball. Here's a sure-to-please recipe from home economists. Mix 1 cup sugar, half cup water, half cup white corn syrup, 3 tbsps. butter and 3 square chocolate. Cook to hard ball stage (254 deg. F.). Pour over 4 quarts fresh popped corn and mix quickly. Butter hands and shape into balls. Then store in freezer 'till needed.

DINNER FOR ONE

Old records tell that, at Christmas, 1770, Sir Henry Grey, an English nobleman, ordered a pie containing two bushels of flour, 20 pounds of butter, four geese, two turkeys, two rabbits, four ducks, two woodcocks, six snipes, four partridges, seven blackbirds and six pigeons.

TAKE THAT, and THAT!



Before a new telescope-type stretcher, made of nylon and aluminum, was adopted by the Canadian Armed Forces, it got the works. They jumped on it, dropped rocks on it, tossed it out of aircraft and army lorries, froze it in ice, buried it in mud and sand. They finally gave up—and placed the order. Its lightness and compactness makes this rugged stretcher a natural for everything from northern air-rescue work to the needs of hospital, police, Civil Defence and other authorities. Another job for Canada's Aluminacium and the men who work wonders with it. ALUMINUM COMPANY OF CANADA, LTD. (ALCAN)



(Photo from Canadian Government Travel Bureau) THIS IS HEATHER LODGE in Mount Revelstoke National Park, British Columbia. Scenes such as this one are reflections of the splendid snow scenery that is Canada's in the wintertime.

One Forum Feels Government Should Begin At County Level

With nomination and election time so near, National Farm Radio Forum discussed local government and its effectiveness.

With the exception of one group, all Halton forums reporting that local government in rural areas was serving a useful purpose. The one group decided local government should start at county level, thus avoiding duplication of services. They suggested that in rapidly developing industrial areas, a local on-the-spot governing body might do a better planning job.

However, the majority of the groups considered local government groups better understood existing problems and conditions and were better qualified to take care of them.

The average density of population in Canada is less than four persons per square mile.

The day December 25 was assigned for the celebration of the birth of Christ by the church in Rome about the year 320.

Spices Mentioned In Both Testaments

With Christmas almost here, thoughts turn back to Bible times when spices were precious and often had a religious significance.

The first mention of spices in the Bible is in the Book of Genesis, chapter 37, in connection with the story of Joseph.

"And they lifted up their eyes and looked and behold, a company of Ishmaelites came from Gilead with their camels bearing spicery and balm and myrrh, going into Egypt."

Later, after Joseph had been sold into Egypt, and had become a power there, Jacob sent his sons to Egypt for corn to keep his people from starving. And Jacob said to his sons: "Carry down the man a present, a little balm, a little honey, spices and myrrh, nuts and almonds."

In the book of Exodus, spices are mentioned in the story of the wandering of the children of Israel.

Solomon derived a part of his wealth from spices.

Spices are not mentioned as frequently in the New Testament. When Jesus was speaking to the Scribes and Pharisees, he said, according to Matthew 23: 23: "Ye pay tithes of mint and anise and cummin and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgement, mercy and faith."

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Robt. R. Hamilton Fred A. Hoffman

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