

Editorial Page

Planners' Problems

Twenty-five years ago in Canada one farm worker produced on the average enough food for himself and nine other persons; today he produces enough for himself and 22 other persons. Considering that record it is startling to note the opinion of qualified observers that in Russia, total agricultural production today is no greater than it was in pre-revolutionary times, now nearly 50 years ago.

No communist could admit it, of course, but the obvious truth is that no body of bureaucratic planners is going to get production from the land to equal that achieved by the good farmer who knows what his soil can best produce, and what the market will buy, and who is free to seek the greatest possible gain for himself.

In Russia, not surprisingly, the plan can't be wrong despite the record. In Khrushchev's book all that is needed is greater compulsion. The Soviet press has reported his speech to a recent agricultural conference. "You may

say we were wrong in abolishing the compulsory delivery quotas for farmers two years ago," said the Soviet premier. "You are right. We admit our mistake. We overestimated your Communist dedication to the party. We shall correct our mistake. The government has increased the purchase plan for wheat for the year. Next year it will be higher still. This way we shall force you to work in such a way that our production of grain and other farm products goes up year after year."

The Moscow press went on to report that when this self criticism was received in silence, Khrushchev exploded. "Why don't you applaud? I am old enough not to care about applause myself, but I demand that you show your agreement with my criticism."

Silence is probably the only way Khrushchev's audience could question their top planner's judgment. Under the planned economy the plan can't be wrong. And those who must try to carry out the plan, apparently, can never be right.

From Whence You Came?

Come this June and you'll be faced with a decision and perhaps some research. You'll be asked by one of thousands of census takers: "To what ethnic or cultural group did you or your ancestor (on the male side) belong on coming to this continent?" You'll have a choice of 31 possibilities that are listed and there's room for another if you can't find the one you choose.

Now if you are one of those thousands of immigrants that have come only recently to Canada that question shouldn't prove any hardship, but if you're like us and haven't much idea, no recollection, and haven't a family historian, you may be in for trouble or a wild guess.

The question isn't a new one: The problem is that every time we're faced with it we can't remember the answer we gave the last time and we can only imagine there are others who have similar difficulties. It isn't enough to be a third or fourth generation Canadian, you have to be something else besides.

Of course this question was not included

Who Promotes It?

A lady asked us the other day why we have daylight saving time and who establishes the period of its duration. Frankly we didn't know then and we don't know now. But after a weekend of trying to get the younger generation and ourselves converted to the time difference, we're wondering more seriously.

Seems to us the idea started during the war when there was some need to conserve electricity. The situation has changed of course, with the hydro and commissions anxious to sell all the electricity possible. That pretty well rules that group out as the continuing need for daylight saving time.

We doubt if it's the farmers who want daylight saving time because we doubt if they enjoy rolling out of bed in the dark any more than we do. Besides if changing a young household over to daylight saving time is a problem, imagine the difficulties involved in a herd of dairy cattle.

Daylight saving time is by no means province-wide. There are areas we know of down around Windsor and Detroit that don't adopt

It's NOW

The report received this week from R. V. Anderson and Associates on the structural soundness of the present arena building is an encouraging and most necessary item of the Community Centre project. The report indicates that the present steel work of the building is structurally sound. This once again confirms the campaign slogan it's NOW or Never. At the present time the steel work is sound and warrants an expenditure to improve the service facilities through a new addition and the installation of artificial ice. If the campaign is not successful NOW it conceivably could be that the steel work will deteriorate to such a degree that in future years we could lose what we have in the building and an arena project would require a complete new building.

Fortunately this is not the case and the present sound building will accommodate the

on the census sheets without some problems. It was originally omitted and we think correctly so, but someone in Quebec thought the French weren't getting a fair deal and would be lost under the inclusive term "Canadian." The result was that thousands of already-printed forms were scrapped, the Queen's Printer wound up his presses at Hull and churned out a whole new batch so we could puzzle over our "ethnic or cultural" background. "Canadian" just won't answer the question. You can be Austrian, Danish, Finnish, Greek, Irish, Lithuanian, Norwegian, Russian, Swedish, Yugoslav, Belgian, English, French, Hungarian, Italian, Negro, Polish, Scottish, Ukrainian, Native Indian, Band member, Non-band, Czech, Estonian, German, Icelandic, Jewish, Netherlands, Roumanian, Slovak, Welsh or anything else you can think of but Canadian.

If you're as much in the dark as we are about the origin you'd better get ready for the census taker now by digging out the family Bible or contacting your oldest relative - or taking a guess.

Who Promotes It?

the advanced hour and we can only imagine the confusion that kind of resistance leads to. It's not too many years ago there was considerable confusion in this area about proclaiming daylight saving time and some of the smaller communities were not quite up on the metropolitan plans until it was too late. The confusion that men playing with time can produce was quite evident then.

We have a sneaking suspicion that the railways have something to do with the encouragement of daylight saving time. A long time ago we recall an organization with the word railway in its title urging the adoption of the new time. The fact that makes it stick out in our memory is the irony of the situation when we learned that the railways would continue to operate on standard time.

It seems about time whoever is promoting the adoption of daylight saving time, and prolonging it into October, should come out with some reasons, facts, and figures on its advantages.

We would like to hear from the promoters, whoever they are.

or Never

Another sound feature of the Community Centre project is the decision to have an addition architecturally designed. By having proper plans for the building all fire and safety precautions will be incorporated before the building is constructed. Another advantage will be the architect's experience in crowd control which will make it possible to use the building to its utmost efficiency.

The campaign itself is proceeding according to schedule and beginning May 11 canvassers will be telephoning for appointments with subscribers and will then make their house visits during the week of May 14th. Canvassers are going back to school this week for their canvass instructions and will be prepared to assist you in preparing your pledge. The canvassers have a big job to do and any help you can give them in arranging an early appointment will assist greatly.

"Go Away"



—Photo by Father Taylor

Sugar and Spice...

BY BILL SMILEY

who have been out of work for simply weeks and will, any day now, cease to draw unemployment insurance.

No, nothing exciting like that ever happened to Granddad. Oh, a little while after he lost his arm, while the remains were still in bandages, he was thrown out of a cutter and broke the thumb on his good hand. But he passed a pretty uneventful winter, running the farm with four fingers. And a couple of years later, while he was up a ladder putting on storm windows, he fell and smashed the bones in his amputated arm, or what was left of it. He said it "was pretty sore for a while." But it wasn't very exciting. He had an iron hook fitted to his stump, and it was a useful thing, though uncomfortable. One day, he was watering a rather jumpy horse. His hook was thrust through a link in a long chain attached to the horse's lead-rope.

Something startled the animal. My mother-in-law looked out the kitchen window and saw the beast go by at full gallop, with her husband, completely helpless, being dragged at the end of the chain. This gave him a bad shoulder for years. Another day, he was

raking hay, with a team, when he slipped off the seat and fell between horses and rake. None of the lines penetrated his body but he was picked up by the rake and rolled along with the hay until he yelled "Whoa!" and the horses, by some miracle, obeyed. He drove a rural mail route, with his one arm, in the days when the mailman started out in the "sleigh" in the morning, went through what ever fortunes the winter day had for him, and got home after dark.

On more than one occasion, the sleigh overturned, the horses ran, and he had to walk home to a wife frantic with worry because the team had galloped into the yard with the sleigh long before him. Today, at an age when most men are tiptoeing cautiously toward retirement, my kids' granddad is tough as penumica; looks 10 years younger than he is, and does more work in a day than most men of half his years. I have yet to hear him complain about anything. He has an integrity that is whole. He is generous and gentle. For these reasons, I'm very glad that part of him is in my children. Even if he has led a quiet, uneventful life.

G.A.D. About

Nearly Now

For the past few weeks, I have been rambling around in the past history of rinks in Acton and now I realize I am almost up to the NOW time as far as arenas are concerned here. I am glad that the plan presently put before us has been adopted for several reasons.

In the first place, it gives us all a chance to share in the community project. I realize fully that I will never be able to participate actively in the new facilities, but I had much enjoyment in days of other years.

As I recollect how the Band has been moved about town over the years, I am pleased that at last they are to have a permanent home. I could write another article on the band homes over the years in Acton. It is remarkable that for over 90 years, it has survived and served the community so well.

The community project is entirely different from any of the former efforts. There will be no charges for interest through the years and all the funds will be available before the work is started. It is quite unique in anything ever done in this town or any other town that we know of. Schools, water, sewer, arenas of the past and even sidewalks have all been built first and paid for later. This venture makes a new precedent in community progress and one which might well establish a new pattern.

The ratemakers are not concerned, but the citizens are all concerned in the success or failure of the program. Acton and the district is really on trial in this venture. I do not get about as much as I used to, but I haven't heard adverse criticism of Acton

having an artificial ice arena. When the present structure was built 30 years or more ago, the funds available were not sufficient to build all that was desirable. Cedar posts had to be used for the foundation under the front section, rather than a more permanent type of material. It lasted as long as was anticipated so that a complete new building is required at the present time.

I will watch with more than passing interest the results of the NOW campaign, which is designed to start in the town and district. I am ready and willing to make my contribution when the canvassers call at our home. I am quite free any time to do the roadside superintendence that may be given but not necessarily required. The Bell Telephone project is well underway and the new service station on Young St. is getting along. Next week, I will tackle a new subject, but I promise my readers I will not touch the Congo or Cuba or Russia or the race into space or out of it.

Meet at Ballinlad

Segregation was the topic under discussion when about 20 Acton United Church Young People met with Ballinlad Young People at Ballinlad Sunday evening. Lunch was served.

Blame Pigeons?

The magazine "Feather Fancier" is carrying a series of articles which outline the progress of the pigeon and whether they spread disease to humans or not.

THE GOOD OLD DAYS

BACK IN 1941

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, May 6, 1941.

During a special meeting of council Monday evening, Messrs. V. B. Rumley, George Musselle and H. R. Force were appointed to the Cemetery Board. Council for A. Mason expressed appreciation on behalf of council to the men for the interest in coming forward to fill the gap caused by recent resignations. Council agreed to cooperate with the new members and present them with all past records.

Miss Emma Robinson presided for the monthly meeting of the Lakeside Chapter I.O.O.F. Tuesday evening when 14 new members were installed. After the transaction of business, the members heard a very interesting and entertaining number of vocal selections by a group of boys and girls under the direction of Miss Muriel Ricklets. The highlight of the evening was a talk by Miss M. E. Anderson on her mission work among the Koreans in Japan. The guest speaker was presented with a beautiful bouquet of spring flowers by the president.

Rev. Vincent J. Morgan, who comes to St. Joseph's Church, Acton, will commence his pastorate here next Sunday. He has just concluded 19 years pastoral service in Linwood.

Mr. Wilmer Watkins won the Marshall mattress and Betty Bauer the Congoleum rug in the interesting contests at Johnstone and Rumley's store during the week.

The Limehouse Women's Institute held a successful bingo in the Legion Hall in Georgetown last week and raised a total of \$49 for war work. A good sized crowd attended the affair and expressed their appreciation of the interest the ladies are taking in raising finances for this cause.

Citizens who were on the street about 4 p.m. Tuesday afternoon gathered some small idea of what any army of the present mechanized type is like when on the move. The 12th Field Battery of the 97th Canadian Field Artillery was on a jaunt covering 1,500 miles and passed through Acton.

BACK IN 1911

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, May 4, 1941.

Mr. Gordon Beardmore, who rode his father's polo ponies at the horse show in Toronto last week, was successful in winning five prizes. Mr. Beardmore is an ardent and experienced horse man.

The fall in temperature from Tuesday to Saturday to 30 in Tuesday was a severe check on the progress of vegetation. Many of the flower lovers were busy attempting to cover up plants and other flowers.

Mr. George Barber is awaiting a barn at the rear of his property on Mill St. and is contemplating further alterations to the house.

During the council meeting Monday evening, the members dealt with two petitions signed by ratepayers requesting sidewalk walks in their area. One was for a walk on Knox Ave. on the south side from Main St. to the park, and the other was on the west side of Willow St. from Church to Agnes St.

Another petition has been in council's hands for a couple of years, requesting a sidewalk on the north side of Agnes St. between Elgin and Frederick Sts. Council accepted the petitions and requested the clerk to make arrangements with the engineer in charge to take the level in order that work might proceed at once.

On Thursday afternoon of last week about five o'clock, the house belonging to Mr. James McMillan above Crewson's Corners was destroyed by fire. The house had been vacant for the past few weeks and Mr. Constave of Acton had just moved in that day. A fire had been started in the stove and it is believed sparks from the chimney set fire to the roof. Neighbors gathered and attempted to put out the flames, but owing to a shortage of water, it was soon deemed impossible to save the house, but all of the furniture was saved.

Many of the farmers are almost through with their spring seeding and up to this time, the weather has been in their favor.

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TRAVELLERS' GUIDE

GRAY COACH LINES

COACHES LEAVE ACTON
Daylight Saving Time
Eastbound
8:33 a.m. Daily except Sun and
Holidays
8:38 a.m. 11:33 a.m. 2:08
p.m. 5:08 p.m. 6:03 p.m.
8:33 p.m. 10:08 p.m. (Sun and
Holidays)
Westbound
10:27 a.m. 12:57 p.m. 2:57
p.m. 5:27 p.m. 7:27 p.m.
9:12 p.m. 11:32 p.m. 12 a.m.
11:12 a.m. (Fri., Sat., Sun and
Holidays)

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

Daylight Saving Time
Eastbound
6:44 a.m. to Toronto Daily except
Sunday, 10:33 a.m. to Toronto; 8:07
p.m. to Toronto, 9:01 p.m. to To-
ronto Sunday Only
Westbound
9:30 a.m. to Stratford; 6:36 p.m.
to Stratford; 8:07 p.m. to Stratford;
1:20 a.m. to Stratford 7 days a
week; 2:22 p.m. to Stratford Sat-
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