

THE GEORGETOWN HERALD

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The Editor's Corner

ANOTHER GUEST COLUMN

The sick-bed having again caught up with the Editor, it again falls to our lot to see that all you faithful readers of the Herald, get your weekly copy. We were about to say on time—but as you know, our staff changes and extra commercial work, have left the Herald in a rather belated state, although we did manage last week to get back in the old routine. We are glad to report that Editor Biehn is well on the way to recovery from his recent attack of pleurisy—or was it a "hang-over" from a long hockey season. All we can say, it is lucky it was not last week-end, as we had our "hang-over" then—only it was of short duration. Nevertheless, we know, you readers will wish him a speedy recovery and return to the office.

THE EASTER WEATHER

The weather over the Easter week-end was perfect for an early Easter. Old man sunshine did his best to make the holidays as pleasant as possible, and on Good Friday, Saturday and Easter Sunday, gave us full days of bright warm sunshine. No doubt the weather was a blessing for the faithful, and the Good Friday services and Easter services in the churches were greeted by capacity congregations and many enjoyed the spiritual uplift of the Easter season. In a world torn by war and its effects, to be able to practise one's own religion in a democratic way, is something which many church-goers are still thankful for. Even if people are not adherents of the christian religion, they would probably admit that Jesus Christ led a wonderful life of human service, and that putting him to death on the cross was an act of atrocious outrage. He was a man who went about doing good with no selfish motives, but the rulers of His time had Him put to death because they were afraid He might interfere with their own selfish actions. It was a dark day for the world in those ancient times—on the first Good Friday—even as it was a dark Friday in 1942, when the enemies of the christian religion would do their best to persecute those who would follow the risen Christ. But as in those ancient times, Easter Day held a great significance, giving new hope to a war-torn world assuring humanity that the enemies of the Church will be dealt their reward, and the peoples of christendom will experience a lasting peace.

GASOLINE RATIONING

After a week of gasoline rationing, we fail to see where the system is causing any great hardships at present. No doubt, however, as time goes on and the war continues, the tire situation will become acute, and it will be then when the family car will have to be laid away for post-war days. According to the number of cars on No.7 Highway during the week-end, it would seem that instead of trying to save gasoline for the war effort, motorists were trying to use up their quota so that none should be left in case the unit be cut from five gallons to a lower amount. Or, on the other hand, maybe they had "filled 'er up" prior to April 1st and just had to "burn up the gas" by going away for a holiday jaunt.

The forty-mile an hour speed limit will go a long way in saving gasoline and tires if adhered to, and we believe it will be strictly enforced.

SPRING AND HOUSE-CLEANING

With the coming of Spring—comes house-cleaning time, when the women-folk take it upon themselves to give the entire house a renovating from top to bottom—after the long winter months. But it is different than in other years—it will be different this year, because in the process of cleaning and discarding old and worn-out articles, instead of burning them, or of sending them to the town dump, they will probably have some salvage value. There is hardly an item that cannot be salvaged for some purpose or another; so when you are giving the house the spring cleaning remember not to destroy anything without first offering it for salvage purposes. The Lions' salvage truck will soon be on the rounds again, and if you just telephone 71, it will gladly call for anything you may have. Spring cleaning does something else though—it makes home a better place to live in. It gives one a brighter outlook on life. It does something that is aptly expressed in these lines:—

We wash the windows in the Spring, That we must clean and make things new and fair,
When looking out, more perfectly In some small way with nature to compare,
The lovely blossoms and the budding trees, Even though the task may fill us with despair,
And what we see all nature dressed in green, Then when all things are clean and fresh and new,
The lovely new apparel on every hand, And dust and dirt has vanished like the dew,
Upon our souls it lays a strong demand, We'll enjoy the flowers and the blue-birds, too.

Agriculture Carries on Bravely in Wartime Britain Under Difficulties

This is the 14th in a series of articles on conditions in Wartime Britain and parts of Europe, written for the weekly newspapers of Canada by their own representative, Hugh Tompkins, of the Progress News-Record.

No doubt many readers of Canadian weekly newspapers would like to know something of agriculture in wartime Britain, and how the farmer fares. Travelling with a group of editors of city papers, I had not as much opportunity to study farming conditions as I would have liked, but I was able to pick up a good deal of information in trips outside London.

The farmers in Britain fill just as important a place as the soldiers of the munition workers. One hears that some of the Canadian farmers but while there may be some doubt in Canada there is none in England and Scotland.

Before the war, more than half the food consumed in Britain was imported—either from Denmark and other European countries or from Canada and other places across the oceans. Not only that, but some of the fodder for animals was imported and a large part of the chicken and hog feed.

The people of Britain must eat. All imports from Europe have been cut off, except occasional shipments of oranges from Spain and Portugal. All imported food must be brought from Canada or far away. That calls money and lives shipping space is precious. It cannot be used for animal foods or bulky articles such as packaged breakfast cereals. And every ton of extra food that can be produced in Britain is desperately needed. Coal has become a secondary consideration.

Farmers Told What to Raise

A few months before the war actually started, a bonus of some \$300 an acre was offered to farmers for every acre of new land brought under cultivation.

A Canadian travelling in England for the first time gets the idea that every acre of land is in use. There are no unoccupied fence-corner. For that matter, there are few fences. Fences are scarce and so hedges are used. Most fields are smaller than in this country and the farms all look neat and tidy. But evidently, there was much waste land not only on large estates, but on small farms. Swampy places have been drained, meadows that were in grass for hundreds of years have been turned over by the plow and actually millions of acres of extra land are cultivated.

What the farmer grows on his land is wartime is not left to his judgment. Every county has its War Agricultural Committee and these in turn appoint committees in all districts. These committees are not made up of politicians, but of working farmers, land owners and farm workers. The agricultural colleges have been closed, and professors and other experts serve on these committees.

Every farmer is interviewed every year or oftener. He is told what he must grow. The committee may even go so far as to give him a plan of his fields, telling him what to plant in each field.

That sounds drastic, and is drastic. Actually, in practice, the system is largely voluntary, because nearly all farmers are willing and anxious to cooperate as a patriotic duty. They pride themselves that they still live in a democratic country and because their own neighbors are on the committees, the plan works largely as a voluntary co-operation. But to an outsider it looks rather different. If a farmer will not co-operate, the committee has power to force him to do so. If he is entirely incompetent to produce more, he may be taken from his farm. A few rugged individuals have even gone to jail.

Essential Foods Come First

If the British farmer does not produce more, many people will go hungry and some may starve. Therefore, the committees concentrate on the production of those foods which will go farthest toward feeding as many as possible, and they try to cut out waste of all kinds. Wheat and potato production seems to have soared. Oats are largely grown and alfalfa seemed to me to be a favorite crop. The growing season last year was excellent, with a damp summer and a long, sunny autumn. The second crop of hay and alfalfa was excellent.

I saw strange objects in many of the fields, which I took to be stacks of hay or grain wound around with what looked like tar paper and netting. I learned that they were temporary silos. Emphasis is being put on ensilage as the best method of producing the most cattle feed.

There are other makeshifts. A process has been discovered for making a pulpy food out of straw on farms with sufficient water supply. Straw or chaff is cut up, soaked in caustic soda solution and then washed for a long time in running water. It takes the place of turnips. School children are paid to gather acorns to feed to the pigs.

Quality of Farm Stock Improved

Live stock is controlled by the committees as thoroughly as field crops. For instance, an attempt has been made to weed out inferior cows, lessening the number, while keeping up the milk supply. Sheep are also considered essential. Hogs have been reduced drastically in numbers. They used much imported feed. So did the chickens. Besides, it doesn't take so long to build up their numbers again. As a result, pork and eggs are very scarce. All owners of poultry stocks with more than 50 birds must sell their eggs to the Government. They

get a certain wheat ration in return. Those with less than 50 hens can dispose of the eggs as they like. Many town and village families keep a few hens, or even a pig, feeding them the scraps. Or a pig may be kept by a club with several neighbors providing scraps and having a share in the hog.

The number of tractors in use in England surprised me. Many of them were made in Canada in a country where gasoline and fuel oil are desperately scarce. I did not expect to see so many tractors, but this was another evidence of the desperate need of food. Private cars have almost disappeared from the road but tractors are kept going long hours.

There is one handicap which those farmers close to airports or along the main roads suffer, which might not be thought of by one who had not seen their countryside. These fields are full of traps for planes and some time for tanks as well. There are of several types, but all take up space and it must take time and trouble driving around them in seeding, tilling and harvesting operations.

Farmers observe the same black-out regulations as people in towns and cities. I am not sure that this is compulsory, but it is the wise thing to do. There are many instances in earlier months where hostile pilots have seen a gleam of light from a farm and have dropped a bomb on the chance that it might be a factory. There have also been some instances where farmers were attacked in daylight raids and their stock machine-gunned from the air.

Farmers Are Given Protection

In many ways, the British farmer is probably better off than ever before. His hired man is in the same position. Prices of all kinds of farm produce are set by the Government high enough to ensure a profit. And wages of farm laborers are also set. When I was in England in October, the time was approaching when the minimum farm wages would be set for 1942. The hired men were asking for 80 shillings weekly, and seemed likely to get about 55 shillings, or about \$1300.

Farmers, some, if not entirely exempted from conscription, enjoy the same standing as munition workers. Farm help is scarce, of course. During the harvest months last fall, many experienced farmers, now with the Canadian Army in England, went to farms near their camps to help out. They did a good job. One farmer reports that they were far better than any hired help he could get in his own country, working far longer hours ungrudgingly.

One of the Women's Auxiliary units in Britain is the Women's Land Army. It is not as popular as some of the other branches of the service, possibly because the khaki uniform does not look as well as the Air Force or the Women's Royal Naval Services. Their jobs may lack some of the glamour, too. But there is no doubt about their usefulness. I suppose that in some cases they take the place of hired men, but those I saw seemed to be working in thrashing gangs, going from farm to farm in groups.

There is some grumbling and complaining, of course. We heard one poultry farmer say that he was almost out of business, in spite of the



HON. W. P. MULOCK
Postmaster General



HON. T. A. CRENNAR
Minister of Mines and Resources

scarcity of eggs. He could not get enough feed for his rather large flock. And he didn't think the distribution of eggs was well carried out, some of them going bad. In other cases, the county committees evidently guess wrong. As so often happens with farm produce, an article that is scarce one day will be overgrown the next. In the spring of 1941, onions were sold to be had at any price. Last fall there were too many onions and a danger that some would rot.

Vegetables were plentiful and they helped fill out many a meal in Britain in the past few months. Literally millions of persons were growing vegetables in their private gardens or "allotments." They had sacrificed many of their fessers, though nearly every garden still has roses, and the

blossoms in September and even in October must have cheered many English eyes, as they did those of a Canadian visitor.

About the time I left England, Prime Minister Churchill wrote to a mass meeting of farmers and farm workers:

Never before have farmers and farm workers carried such a heavy responsibility as you do in this struggle. Never before have you responded to the country's call as you have done in the last two years. It is due in no small measure to the efforts you have made, in spite of many difficulties, that we find ourselves today in a better position on the food front than at any previous time since the war started.

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11:30 a.m. 9:00 p.m.
2:30 p.m.
Westbound to London
8:50 a.m. 7:00 p.m.
12:00 p.m. 8:30 p.m.
2:30 p.m. 6:15 p.m.
4:45 p.m. 6:15 a.m.
d—Except Sun. and Hol.
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e—Sat., Sun. and Hol.
f—Daily except Sun.
x—To Kitchener
y—To Stratford
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C. N. R.
TIME TABLE
Daylight Saving Time
Going East
Passenger 6:55 a.m.
Passenger and Mail ... 10:55 a.m.
Passenger and Mail ... 6:45 p.m.
Passenger, Sunday only 8:15 p.m.
Passenger, daily 9:25 p.m.
Toronto and beyond
Going West
Passenger and Mail ... 6:55 a.m.
Passenger Saturday only 8:15 p.m.
Passenger daily except
Saturday and Sunday 6:15 p.m.
Passenger and Mail ... 6:45 p.m.
Passenger, Sundays
only 11:30 p.m.
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Passenger and Mail ... 6:45 a.m.
Going South
Passenger and Mail ... 6:55 p.m.
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