

Another Letter From the North

To, The Georgetown Herald:

In my last letter I mentioned the two terrible fires the North Country suffered, and how the Forestry Dept. came to be established. In subsequent articles I hope to go into more detail re Forestry. It is a large subject, and I have become personally attached to the Northern division, which deals principally with lumber and bush cruising, the opening and supervision of water routes, measurement and scaling of pulpwood, fire wood and dimension timber, and largest of all, fire prevention. It is now over 30 years since the last big fire and is almost forgotten again. Scores and scores of properties have changed hands and new people have come to take up idle land, that one time pioneers became discouraged on. Tremendous development took place the year following the fire. Whole quarter sections and in some instances whole sections that were connected and owned jointly by one family, were entirely cleared up. Tractors and plows were put to work, and eventually new barns and houses went up, replacing the make shift buildings, and farming was undertaken in earnest. Farming section is known as the clay belt, and is a strip of land bounded on the South by Cobalt, on the West by Montreal River, and on the East by Blanche River and the Quebec border. It runs north as far as people have settled and have the stuff it takes to stick it out and make a home. Many of the farms north of Englehart are still in the rustic stages of development and the settlers are still pioneers, but of a more modern type than those who had to pack sack all their supplies in or have it hauled on a jumper made of birch crooks, and hauled through a bush trail with an old horse or oxen. That was our experience thirty nine years ago. And many a time the mud on the trail was so deep in some of the mud holes that the soupy slush flowed right up over the load, which would be flour, sugar, rolled oats and possibly a few small groceries packed in a box, with a bag of oats and bale of hay for the horse. Now we have a good railway and a good highway, so pioneers are modern, they have cars and trucks or teams and wagons to take in their supplies. The water routes too have all been cleaned out, and are navigable for small boats and scows.

Good herds have been established comprising the best breeds. Tubercular testing was done for 3 consecutive years, and the whole area made restricted. A great many of the best farmers are not even satisfied with this, and employ a local veterinary each year to perform the test on the herds, assure themselves there are still no re-acters. All the whole milk is produced locally, and in addition numbers of Creameries do a thriving business and surplus is available for export.

At different times during the past 30 years, cheese factories started up in different places, but for some reason did not continue to run. But 3 years ago one was built and equipped in Thornloe and has been enlarged since and proved a decided success. The cheese made there is an excellent quality for which I can vouch, as we bought and have used a whole cheese this winter. Patrons are given a special price. Then another price is set to wholesalers by the whole cheese, or if

purchased in small quantity the factory charges the same retail price as if purchased at the local store where this brand of cheese was always available.

On account of there being so many towns that were composed principally of mines and built in places, where gardens, or food production of any kind was absolutely impossible, there have always been good markets for every available bit of produce. Cobalt was first to reap the benefit of a public competitive market, and for years since then farmers have gone every Saturday and supplied the needs of customers with fresh farm produce. Georgetown mines were spread over such a large area, that peddling was the medium of marketing these. Matachewan was the same, but a really successful market is established in Kirkland Lake, Morand-Rouyn and in Timmins and attended each week by all those who feel they can make a success of public marketing. For a number of years we engaged in market gardening and attended Kirkland Lake market regularly each Saturday, winter and summer and occasionally Cobalt market, and were very successful. Then came the big strike and the war, and trade there was so curtailed that all those who were going were finding it more difficult each week to sell out, and anything less than that wasn't considered worth while, as the distance is so great, over 60 miles one way, and fixed expenses added made it impossible for a lot to go. Then too we had lost a lot of our help. Three had left our home for positions where they felt they could do better and be of more service, and we at home found it impossible to continue, so revised our system. Since then we've specialized in dual purpose Durham cattle having purchased 3 pure bred registered young cows, and a sire and have increased them some since, and produced beef and cream for sale, besides supplying our own needs. The surplus skim milk and butter milk makes valuable pig and chicken feed. We have our own meat the year round. Fresh in the winter, and preserved or cured in summer.

fairly large scale, nearly 2 acres last year. But we store it in fall and dispose of the surplus in a wholesale way. We have proven through a number of years' experience that a root house is superior to a cellar for vegetable storage. Keeping quality and flavor is much superior. The one in use here for the past 35 years, needs renewing. It was built of cedar logs which are fast decaying, so plans are in progress to enlarge its size and we'll put in a rock and plaster wall this time with joists below and floored above, and will put a building above for some other purpose, so one roof will cover both buildings and ventilators will run up through the upper storey.

While our land is no better than that to be found in many other places throughout the clay belt we're in a particularly favored location. We're in a depression bounded on 3 sides by an out-cropping of rock. In times when frost kills tender plants in most other localities, ours escape. This has been the case year after year. The only solution I can offer is that heated air currents from these rocks settle down into the depression, and overcome the frost. The season is very short, but growth very rapid. Year after year we have chosen the shortest season producing varieties of both garden and



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BARBED WIRE and enemy guards "do not a prison make" for Canadian soldiers captured by the enemy. Their thoughts, winging across the sea, meet Red Cross parcels on their way to them. Last year, the enemy said "pass" to 2,000,000 such parcels. They were packed with 22,000,000 pounds of food and comforts welcomed by men to whom the barest necessities have become luxuries.

But, most of all, to each prisoner every Red Cross parcel is a message from home—a definite assurance that he is not forgotten, a reminder that no captured Canadian soldier is ever marked "off strength" by the Red Cross.

Thirty percent of the money you gave to the Red Cross last year was used to provide parcels for prisoners of war. The money you give now will help to keep up and increase this flow of good cheer and hope to these lonely men.

Consult your heart... Obey its dictates... Give liberally

Georgetown District Headquarters — Phone 19

CANADIAN RED CROSS

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field seeds and have never had a crop failure. We grow corn, cucumbers, tomatoes, peppers, Chinese celery, and an abundance of tender flowers, beside all the hardier varieties, such as peas, beans, carrots, beets, etc. Before coming here we had become interested in flowers, first for beauty, but also as a hobby. We brought a great variety of Glads, Tulips, Narcissus, paper whites, peonies and some perennials, and having lots of land more easily worked than by hand, the original quantity has increased till now Glads number up in the thousands and they with so many other kinds make a beautiful display for weeks during the summer. We take some pains to plant in perfectly straight long rows, so the arrangement is artistic, besides giving both pleasure and profit. Wife tends the flowers and any revenue derived is set aside for her personal use.

The help the children give during weeding time, transplanting and thinning and then during harvest is very valuable, and they are each given holidays and some spending money to enjoy.

Now as I write, a perfect blizzard is blowing. The subject I have been writing don't seem reasonable when I glance out of the window. But a glance at the calendar tells us spring is approaching, and our Faith is strong in God's great promises, so we keep looking ahead with hope when life will spring up in the earth, and change the view from white to green.

Cordially yours,

R. W. JOHNSON,
R. R. No. 1, Thornloe, Ont.

MORE AND BETTER POTATOES WANTED

With the war demand for more good potatoes in 1943 comes the need for planning and action by potato growers. Time, labour, machinery, fertilizer and spray materials must now be conserved as never before to avoid lost motion and waste of chemicals, says John Tucker, Manager, Seed Potato Section, Special Products Board. Eleven per cent more potatoes is the goal in 1943, and this can be readily attained with approximately the same amount of labour and materials as was required for the 1942 crop, if proven sound practices are more generally followed.

All good potato growers will agree that the average yield in 1942 of 140 bushels per acre is not good enough. Many growers average more than double this yield, which means that many other growers are producing far below average yields. The most frequent cause of low yields is poor seed. Next is low fertility and poor methods of pest control. It is fundamental to start off a crop with good seed. Otherwise the fertilizers and spraying materials used are wasted. The country simply cannot now afford to waste any materials, time and labour on fields planted with cull seed, especially when good certified seed has been made available in quantity to the country for the express purpose of aiding the industry in that respect.

A survey has shown that in some provinces less than ten per cent of the seed planted would qualify to certification standards, and that many fields are planted with a quality of seed which could not possibly produce a good crop, no matter how much fertilizer was used. If every grower planted certified seed, either the crop could be doubled, or the present quantity produced annually could be harvested from about half the present acreage.

This gives food for thought, says Mr. Tucker, especially when it is realized that most of the certified seed produced in Canada has to be exported to find a market, and that another million bushels are sold annually as high grade table potatoes, because of the lack of home demand for high quality seed. Countries, thousands of miles away are paying high transportation charges to obtain Canadian certified seed by the shipload every year. About two million bushels are sold in Canada each year as seed. Much of the acreage at present is planted with inferior seed, the bulk of which might better be used for starch purposes or fed to stock.

Table stock growers are urged to insist on certified seed. It is readily obtainable through reliable potato dealers and established seed houses, or may be purchased from the seed growers direct. Lists of growers are obtainable from the Plant Protection Division, Dominion Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, or from the local District Seed Potato Inspectors located at Charlottetown, P.E.I., Kentville, N.S., Fredericton, N.B., St. Anne de la Pocatiere, Que., Guelph, Ont., Winnipeg Man., Edmonton, Alta., and Vancouver, B. C.



Typical of thousands of other Red Cross workrooms across Canada, above are volunteers packing comforts to be sent overseas to bombed-out Britons. In addition to the more than 20,000,000 articles already shipped overseas for the armed forces and suffering civilians, this organization's Civilian Relief Department in Britain still distributes some 70,000 articles each month. Other workroom activities include clothing for shipwrecked survivors and medical supplies.

SUN POWER BROUGHT NEARER



Dr. Charles Abbott, of the Smithsonian Institute, demonstrates the solar power machine, at the convention of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. This newest sun-harvester—the fifth in the line of solar engines constructed by Dr. Abbott—eliminates most of the serious defects of the earlier models and brings closer the era when man will be able to harness the vast energy of the sun to do his work. (Smith Photo)

NATIONAL SELECTIVE SERVICE

SERVICE

MOBILIZATION OF SINGLE MEN

ARMED Proclamation. Issued by His Excellency the Governor General in Council, provides that certain single men must register immediately for the Military Call-up under National Selective Service Mobilization Regulations.

Single Men who must now register are those who were born in any year from 1908 to

1943 inclusive, and who did not previously undergo medical examination under the Military Call-up.

Men actually in the Armed Services are exempt under this order, but men discharged from the Services, not previously medically examined under the Military Call-up, must now register.

"Single Men," referred to, now required to register include any man—

Born in any one of the years mentioned, who has not previously been medically examined for the military call-up, and described as follows:—*who was on the 15th day of July, 1940, unmarried or a widower without child or children or has since the said day been divorced or judicially separated or becomes a widower without child or children.*

It is pointed out that any man unmarried at July 15th, 1940, even if married since that date, is still classed as a "single man."

Registration is to be made on forms available with Postmasters, National Selective Service Offices, or Registrars of Mobilisation Boards.

Penalties are provided for failure to register

DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR

Minister of Labour

A. MacNAMARA, Director, National Selective Service