

A Feature Page

A COUNTRY EDITOR SEES

Ottawa

WRITTEN SPECIALLY FOR THE WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS OF CANADA BY JIM GREENBLAT, Editor of the SWO SWIFT CURRENT, SASKATCHEWAN



RATIONING

We who think in terms of 50 chickens and four cows can hardly conceive the magnitude of the task in planning and distributing the millions of Number 2 Ration Books, which you may or may not yet have when you read this. This rationing is something which affects about 12 million people 24 hours in every day.



L. B. UNWIN

It sounds a little Horatio Alger. At 51, Mr. Unwin is vice-president in charge of finance for the Canadian Pacific, and president of their growing Airlines. He came out from Kent, England, at sixteen and in 27 years reached his present job. He was a railway clerk at Chapleau in 1908. He won the Military Cross for bravery in the first Great War, starting out as a buck private, ending as a Major. He now serves without coat to his country. Tall, unobtrusive, balding, astronomical figures, big jobs, he takes in stride.

Local Boards in National Set-up
You wondered why your Local Ration Board was set up, with its for-a-time inactivity. Now you probably know. It was all part of a nationwide scheme to do a tremendous job with the least disturbance and at a minimum of cost to the taxpayer. There were wheels revolving within wheels policies to be determined before Mr. Unwin's crew got going. Then there had to be directives to those who would do the actual work in cities and towns from Sydney, N.S. to Victoria, B. C.

Just imagine the confusion—not to even think of your own feelings, if you had come in from the farm on a blustery day and some inefficient, if patriotic, volunteer worker got your card all balled up. But all this had been taken care of while you sat out the winter around the pot-bellied stove. The Distributing Chief appointed by your own Local Ration Board had definite instructions on every tiny phase of the operation, and so did the other volunteer workers who are doing, or did, something which is their contribution to the war effort. Just think of it: all these folks working without remuneration. That's the home front for you. It means a big saving to the taxpayer, too.

Mr. Unwin told of the different sets of conditions which had to be provided for in distribution for urban and rural centres. That was worked out beforehand, with leeway given the local distributing chief because he knew local conditions better than the fellows in Ottawa or Montreal.

The Story Behind Ration Books
Do you know that the King's Printer started delivering ration books to the administration between January 30th and 26th at the rate of a million a day, with the distribution, Dominion-wide, set for Feb. 10th to March 1st? You know yourself what was in each book. They were in cartons of 1,500 books each, banded in 50's. There had

to be provision, I was told, for additional sheets in regulative quantity, of course, for underground soft coal miners and diabetics. Just imagine the detail involved, and still in this act of Montreal offices with its clatter of typewriters and ringing of phones they were radiating all over Canada, with decision and clarity of purpose but an absence of any bedlam, a distribution of ration cards so vast as to stultify the imagination unless one was on the scene.

As you know the No. 2 book was not mailed out, but you folks had to "come and get it". Some of us just hate to put ourselves out and the administration realized that. They realized also that Canadians do not have to be Geopoid into anything, and are amenable to reason. And why shouldn't they be, with a war on? If we want to play rummy in the back of John Black's real estate office, the government doesn't move John's premises to your doorstep. So, Mr. Unwin's outfit wasn't a bit disturbed about Canadian consumers' reaction to this decision.

Distribution is Complex
They had to be sure that every town of 500 people had at least one distributing centre; that cities of 100,000 or more had offices located strategically to accommodate busy people, to avoid bottle-necks, even going so far as to issue instructions that doors in the place decided on were conveniently located to avoid congestion. We wouldn't think of things like that out our way. Do you know I was even shown how instructions were sent out on how the tables were to be arranged to handle people quickly.

The administration, for instance, had to figure out such things as return of cards from ration book No. 1 which were handed in before you got a new one; and the green sheets for tea and coffee which were jerked out from children's books. Each and every book, card or sheet has to be accounted for to avoid letting any unscrupulous person get their hands on them.

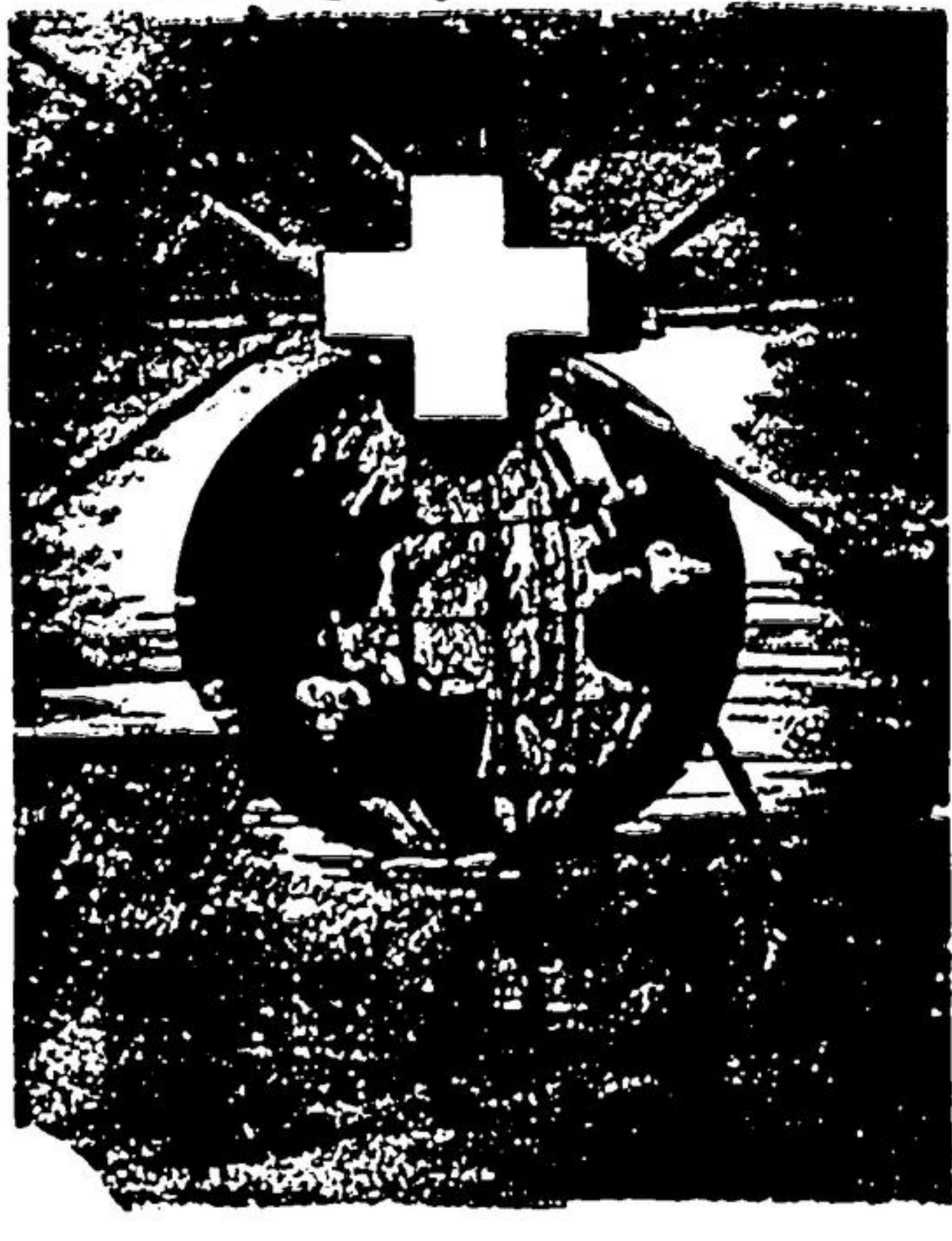
Volunteer Workers Dollar Savers
Mr. Unwin told of the vast number of volunteer workers necessary to put the job over. Reports coming to his office, analyzed and bird's-eye-viewed for his benefit, show that Canadians responded and saved thenation millions of dollars which can be converted to tanks, planes, guns and other instruments of war. "The success of the whole scheme will depend," he said, "upon the resourcefulness and on the hard work which everyone contributes." They rely on that, here in this Montreal headquarters of consumer rationing.

As an outsider looking in, I felt they had evolved a system which aimed at simplicity combined with effective control.

I didn't think I had to bother these people with questions on the why and wherefore of rationing. The necessity is plain logic and doesn't take any undue reasoning.

In previous and following articles the picture of Canada's wartime personal and collective economy is pointed out just as factually as I can make it from on the spot. If you or I want to criticize methods, that's a democratic privilege. So hop to it if you feel the urge. But at least you are getting a little of the background, I hope.

One Bright Spot in the World



Our Northern Contributor Still Pens His Column Although Temperature is 52 Below

Dear Georgetown Herald:

Since last writing, bitter winds have come down from the north and west, with frigid temperatures that sent the thermometer coasting down to 52 below zero here early one morning. During the following day it never rose above 40 below with a bitter wind blowing continually. It was some job keeping the frost outside. But we were fortunate in having a good wood pile handy and had taken advantage of milder weather a few days previous to clean all the stove pipes, chimneys and stoves, so fired to capacity day and night and survived comfortably.

From an issue of the Toronto Daily Star, I see that whole districts which included Georgetown also experienced the extreme cold. A great deal of suffering and loss also resulted from fires due to over-heated pipes, etc. The same was the case in this country. We have made it a practice for a number of years to clean stoves, pipes and chimneys once a month all winter to protect against this terrible hazard, because once on fire there's seldom a thing anyone can do and everything a person values is lost.

Farmers are commencing to prepare seed. Very few in this country have private fanning mills for cleaning. Big power driven cleaning plants are established in the chopping mills where an excellent job is done on both grain and grass seed. A grader is part of the machine and makes almost a perfect job of separating the different varieties. The work is done very cheaply and refuse such as small and light grain can be chopped or rolled right there and brought home for feed with just one trip. The chop is made by the hammer mill method and can be made fine just like flour if desired. Bones for meal and alfalfa meal can also be made with the same machine, and is used extensively by poultry keepers. The mill which we patronize also has a mixer for poultry feeds and concentrates and will mix any farmer's individual recipe. They deal in all the cereal products, flour and all sorts of feeds, and will exchange any kind for grain at the standard market price, which is now \$1.35 per hundredweight for mixed grain. This simplifies the purchase of necessities such as flour, rolled oats, bran, middlings, chick feeds, growing mash, egg producer and concentrates, as it can be acquired by the barter or exchange system. One plant in our village handles Orlives brand and the other Pioneer—so we have a good choice.

A number of farmers in different locations have tried the fall sown crops, such as wheat and rye, but with little success. First, the fall frosts seem too severe. Then a heavy coating of snow lies close to the ground and during the spring thaws it freezes so often that smothering is the result before new growth is established. All spring sown crops, though, are a real success, and almost every variety and kind is used. The Temiskaming Farm Producers Association says the 1942 seed samples now being cleaned at their plant in New Liskeard are the best that have ever been handled since the plant was established.

While I make a practice of keen ob-

ervation of the many varieties used, I am no authority on the best kind to use. In our immediate locality nearly everyone prefers the earliest maturing and personally, that is the kind we prefer, and after seven years' trial, find a thorough mixture gives us the best yield in grain crop. It also gives the best mixture for either cattle, hogs or poultry. For the horses we have it cleaned and the oats graded out to feed, and the balance ground. The mixture we use is made up of two bushels oats, one bushel barley, 1-3 bushel wheat, 1-3 bushel buckwheat, 1-3 bushel peas and 1-4 bushel flax. This mixture all ripens together, stands up well, and we have never had a failure. Garden seeds too are chosen for their early maturing qualities. I have kept records year after year of planting and harvesting dates so that each succeeding year I could make a selection. With corn, tomatoes and cucumbers, particularly, these records have been valuable, and we have never had a failure with these tender tasty vegetables in spite of the shortness of our season. We have had an abundance for fresh use and preserving in the many ways available. The land is all a heavy clay. Some not burned too badly has some top loam, but all requires thorough cultivation and fall plowing. Spring plowing is seldom a real success. Some crop of course is produced. But not anywhere near the yield as on fall plowed land. And I never think anything but the maximum is worthwhile considering the labor involved.

Any surplus crop has always found a ready sale right in the North. Some for use by those who had a larger stock than available home grown feed, but principally for use in lumber and mining camps where large numbers of horses are kept. Hay is all baled, and grain put up in 100 pound bags. At the present time hay is worth \$10.00 per ton, either P.O.B. railway car or in a pile close to an open highway; grain \$1.35 per hundredweight, bags not supplied, or \$1.50 bags supplied. We never figure on selling either hay, straw or grain. We consider it is better to feed it to stock and derive the income from surplus stock.

In addition to farming, a great many farmers are interested financially, in both mining and lumbering which is still being carried on in the timbered areas. Different methods, however, are now employed since the days of pioneering. The comfortable camps are established and well-equipped with reading matter provided. A comfortable dining hall adjoining the cooking-springs, a wash-room, and often a bar, where the very best of meals are served. The work of course is much the same as it ever was. The cutting and skidding particularly, but the rolling or canting as it's called is an easier method, and all done with horses and a cable and pulleys. Then when hauling time comes, usually right after Christmas holidays, the main road is plowed out to the ground, then a tank filled with water with a sprinkler attachment is hauled back and forth over it till a coating of ice about six inches thick forms. Then a tractor or truck hauls a weighted set of heavy timber sleds with

Bomb Traps and Other Things

Another in a series of articles written by W. R. Legge and C. V. Charters, who represented the Canadian Weekly Newspapers Association in a recent tour overseas.

By Walter R. Legge

The day spent with the Royal Canadian Engineers was a day taken up with study of a wide range of subjects, one of which was a practical demonstration of "Booby Traps."

There is probably no other arm of the service with so many ramifications as the Engineers, and in a technical war such as this, their work becomes of paramount importance. Every one knows of them as bridge builders, and the demonstration of this branch of their activities was described in the eighth article in the series.

We were visiting the No. 1 Canadian Engineer Reinforcement Unit commanded by Col. G. H. Whyte, M. C. V. D. of Vancouver. Other officers were Lt. Col. V. B. Thompson, of Hamilton, Lt. Col. C. N. Mitchell, of Montreal, Major P. A. Crick, of Seaford, Ont., and Major M. A. Buel, of Brockville.

Course of Training

Men arriving at this unit are documented, medically inspected, and interviewed by the Tests of Elementary Training staff, so that an idea may be formed of their capabilities, and then they are posted to various training companies.

This training comprises, Military Duties, Drill, Weapon Training, Gas, First Aid, Air Defence, Map Reading, Military Law, Physical Culture, Field Engineering, Knots and Lashings, Use of Spans, Field Defences and Obstacles, Field Craft and Battle Drill, Demolitions and Booby Traps. In addition there are special courses for officers, NCOs and Sappers, which include, Regimental Instruction, Administration and Tactics, Field Engineering and Demolitions, Bridging, Maintenance and Driving, Sappers, Junior Officers, etc.

Booby Traps Demonstrated

After visiting classes at work on these courses, we went to the area which had been fitted up for the Booby Trap demonstration.

Just where the expression Booby Traps came from is not clear, but as there are still some people who do not know just what they are, it might be explained that they are innocent looking articles which when touched or disturbed explode with tragic results to anyone in the vicinity. They follow no set pattern or plan, and there is no limit to the variations they may take. A favorite stunt of retreating Italians is to leave some article such as a fountain pen which appears to be equipment lost or thrown away, but which explodes when touched.

This booby trap area was chosen because of the natural safety offered, and the object of the course is to teach the class how to set mechanism. The explosive charges were all set under water and when exploded a jet of water and mud was thrown up into the air.

We were therefore all attired in oilskins and metal helmets to protect us. It was the picture taken at this time of the two representatives of the Canadian Weekly press, looking as if they

a set of steel gauges fastened to the nose of the runners to cut a groove, and brushes sweep the waste to one or both sides. The road is then ready for use, and is only for one way traffic with the load. A come back road is also maintained. The sleighs in use are tremendous and weigh more than three or four sets in ordinary use. Runners are about eleven feet long, shod with six inch steel and set six feet apart. Benches are made of about twelve inch squares and bunks twelve feet long, and all heavily ironed. Four sets of sleighs are loaded with a contrivance called a jammer. This is two poles set up in a triangle fashion and morticed to a bottom sill. A brace pole supports it and the whole thing is guyed with cables and blocks. A cable with chain and logs worked with a team moves the logs. Peak loads are put on and this is a one truck hauling load. They travel at from 20 to 25 miles per hour. Harold, our boy, who lives 28 miles north of Timmins, told of the Abitibi Pulp Co. hauling loads of this kind and when he came out January 28th they were still hauling old logs which had been in the bush since the year before, due to an early break up. They had been at it nearly 2 months then. Over 60,000 cords of logs is their usual winter's cut, and must all go over the power Co. dam where Harold is an operator. He says it's a great sight and causes lots of excitement some times. In some places, trucks can be used for hauling where the cut is convenient enough to the Highway, such as Temagami. The mill there runs the year round.

Cordially yours,

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

were going to a fancy dress ball, which was printed with such glue by so many weekly publishers.

The course was laid through a swampy patch of brush, and as we stepped on various bits of wood, or pushed aside branches of the bushes, certain of them set off the hidden mines in the water.

Actually we did not learn much about distinguishing booby traps, for we never did know just what traps bits of wood were responsible for setting off the mines.

At this booby trap demonstration the section officer was Lieut. Brewster, of Cobourg, Ont., and the instructor was Lieut. N. O. Gilles, of Brantford, Ont.

Grenade Throwing

From this we went on to a Grenade range to watch a section undergoing instruction in the handling and throwing of grenades, and our instructions read "Normal range precautions must be carried out, and gentlemen will please wear steel helmets provided and take cover behind the breastworks." The section officer was Lieut. J. B. Donald, of Kimberley, and the instructor was Lieut. W. E. Steves, Ottawa. In addition to the grenades here, we studied some special types of incendiaries.

Then we went to an artificial lake where demonstrations in improvised setting were carried out, and we watched a 5 cent. Jeep ferried across on special floats. We also watched pontooning being taught to a bridging class.

At Canadian General Reinforcement Unit

We had spent the morning of that day with Brigadier H. Lefebvre and Brigadier A. E. Nash at the Canadian General Reinforcement Unit. Brig. Lefebvre was in charge of Military District No. 5 at Quebec before going overseas, and enquired especially after the Hon. Henri Heneault M.L.A. who is publisher of the Beauveille "L'Express."

We saw many unusual field gadgets, for use of troops in the field, such as easily constructed, but efficient, sewage systems, shower baths, sleeves for heating water and cooking, made out of discarded oilcans, and burning old oil, disinfecting of blankets, etc. in the field; disposal of garbage and sewage by burning, and many other items which are problems for troops in actual warfare.

Incidentally, we were told that the Canadian Soldier is the cleanest of all troops in the world.

An extra activity of this Reinforcement unit is the use of waste corners of their grounds for growing vegetables. They proudly showed us a prize winning display of potatoes, tomatoes, carrots, onions, beans, beets and turnips all grown in their camp. Last year 30 tons of potatoes were grown in these grounds of the camp.

Going over to the CASCRU, we met Major Alex Gagnon, of Quebec who called our attention to a company which was just returning from a ten mile hike carried out in a little less than two hours. One of the men in this company was Pte. St. Cyr, of Shawinigan Falls, Que., Major Gagnon asked me to impress on the people of Canada that they are a real part of the show, and that their lads are being well taken care of.

Here we were shown student cooks being trained in their work.

The day was brought to a delightful conclusion with dinner at the Officers' Mess of the Royal Canadian Engineers. It was a fine meal served in a building that must have been a pretentious mansion before the war, and their very excellent band was playing outside on the grounds during the meal, which added to the enjoyment of the evening.



ETTORE MAZZOLENI

Ettore Mazzoleni, well-known conductor and musical authority of Toronto, conducts the Conservatory String Quartet in the sixth programme of "Music for Young Folk" who was heard over CBO's Southern Ontario Network on Wednesday, February 24, at 3:00 p.m. EDT. Associate Conductor of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Lecturer in English at Upper Canada College, he is also known as the composer of many songs, and orchestral and piano music.



THE SWEETEST FORM IN WHICH YOUR LIPS CAN BE MILD.



BACH NEWS BREAKS

On Sunday, March 14th at 10.15 p.m. the world radio premiere of a concerto by Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach will be performed in the Concert Studio of the CBC, at Toronto. Wanda Landowska, the world's leading harp-

chord virtuoso, will be the soloist for this outstanding musical event. Adolph Kolodofsky, Canadian violinist, is telling William Hogg, something about the circumstances which led to this performance.