

### The Electric Power Set-up in the North

Dear Georgetown Herald:

As I commence to write the weather is still a subject worth mentioning. I keep a weather record in connection with my diary, and having occasion to review it for some incident I had remembered marking down, was rather surprised to note the number of zero days: So went all over it again just to see. During December, 1942, we had 14 days with below zero temperature, three times down to 40 below. Only four days during January were above zero, and we have had ten days during February above. But March has a good start and every day so far it has been from 30 to 40 below at 8 a.m. and never going higher than 10 below during the warmest part of the day. But to compensate for the temperature, it has been very calm, with beautiful bright sunshine all day long. The days are decidedly longer, fair daylight at 7 a.m. and still light at 7:30 p.m. Not having the benefits of electric light or power, we're dependent on Aladdin for house use and oil lanterns outside; so the saving now is quite noticeable. While electric power is highly developed in this country for mining, industrial and urban use, very few farmers so far have the advantage of its use. There is plenty of power available, but the expense of building lines and installing equipment for its use, was almost prohibitive. Then when war came, those who might have availed themselves, were deprived of the advantage for want of material.

Most of the northern part of Temiskaming is supplied by Hydro Electric from Abitibi Canyon and lines run as far south as Kirkland Lake and Noranda. From there on south through all the central and lower part of the district, Northern Ontario and Northern Quebec Power Co. provides the power. The Quebec plant is located on the Quinze River, the outlet of Des Quinze Lake and one of the main tributaries of Lake Temiskaming about 30 miles by road via North Temiskaming from New Lakeard. Northern Ontario plants are located on the Montreal River, an immense waterway draining south from the height of land and on the Mattagami River draining the lake by same name and running north to James Bay.

There are six power plants on the Montreal River. Matachewan plant near the mouth at Lake Temiskaming. Panguit Rapids power plant about midway between the Lake and Cobalt; then Pountain Falls, Rapid Chute and Round Chute, just 3 or 4 miles apart, closer to Cobalt. About midway between Elk Lake and Matachewan, Indian Chute power plant is located on the same Montreal River.

Farther north and west on the Mattagami River, Wawatin power plant is located near the outlet of the lake by same name, and about 12 miles southwest of Timmins. About 10 miles northwest of Timmins Sandy Falls power plant is located, and about 28 miles farther north is the Sturgeon plant. It is at this plant our boy, Harold, is an operator.

Water power development into electric energy has increased at a tremendous pace and is too large a subject for a letter. But I have gained a wealth of information from the study and interest in it since Harold's work took him there. Shipshaw the latest great undertaking is a marvel of engineering and perseverance in the face of tremendous difficulty, both natural and climatic, but which proceeded ahead of schedule.

Most of the power from the nine plants above mentioned is used by the mines, which depend entirely on electricity for drilling, underground motors for hauling ore cars, operating the hoist to raise and lower the cages, running the mill machinery, machine shop and all the lighting equipment, pumps, etc. It is distributed by massive power lines, elevated on steel towers all through the country to wherever needed. Large gangs of men are required to keep these lines in order. The lines run almost entirely through bush country, and require brushing out every third year. Patrol men have beats and walk the lines three times per week each way to make absolutely sure no obstruction interferes with the wires. Telephone lines are installed and portable phones are carried to notify the office from anywhere on the line of any trouble or repairs necessary, so repair men can be despatched to the exact location. Travel is all done during the winter, on other sleds or snowshoes, except where men running close enough to roads which are kept open and patrolling can be done by auto or horse. However this is seldom possible. Along the Elk Lake highway No. 65 for a few miles is about the only place I know of like this, and for a few miles east of Thornhill on the Quinze Line. Access to the plants away back in the bush is difficult too, in winter time. A team of horses on a covered van is used, and during the summer where possible cars and trucks. But some plants have only water routes, and boats with marine engines and lighter ones with outboards are used. Sturgeon and Wawatin plants are so situated, with only a winter road through the bush, or water route in summer.

While the work is not hard it becomes monotonous, being so far from civilization and the source of supplies, entertainment, etc. So during spare periods, recreation has to be self-

### W. H. Porter Addresses Halton Jersey Breeders

At the postponed Annual Meeting of Halton Jersey Cattle Club which was held in the Hornby Orange Hall on Thursday of last week, Watson H. Porter, editor of the Farmers' Advocate was U.S. guest speaker. Mr. Porter was a member of the Bomber Press which spent some weeks in Britain late last summer. The speaker gave a graphic description, first, of his experiences flying in a bomber to and from Britain; second, of agricultural conditions in Britain; third, of his impressions gained visiting our boys in the armed forces including the aid command; and last, his impressions of the British people and also of the damage to British cities by enemy bombing.

Fourteen hours after leaving Montreal the party of Canadian pressmen landed in Britain. The speaker stressed the tremendous possibilities of the aeroplane as a means of transportation in the post war period. Mr. Porter predicted that the day was not far distant when we in Canada, would have huge air liners pulling a string of gliders, the individual units of which would be cut off at various large centres. He even felt plans would be developed by which such air liners would be enabled to pick up additional gliders at various cities enroute, without making landings.

In his intensely interesting description of developments in British Agriculture, Mr. Porter pointed out that in 1942, increased agricultural production in Britain has permitted the release of 5 million tons of shipping space for other commodities. The speaker pointed out that Canadians generally had a conception of Britain as a small country, a place of small holdings, small farms, etc. Consequently it was a surprise therefore, to find in many English counties, that the fields are larger than even in Western Ontario. Furthermore, that their farming is extensively mechanized with one tractor to every 100 acres of cultivated land in Britain. On every side, stated the speaker, there was an amazing amount of cereal crops. In live stock products the dairy cow holds No. 1 priority. It has been found in Britain that on the average, 10 acres in wheat will sustain 20 persons for one year, 10 acres in potatoes will sustain 40 persons for one year, 10 acres devoted to dairying will sustain 4 persons for one year, 10 acres devoted to beef will sustain 1 person for one year.

It is therefore easy to realize, states Mr. Porter, why British Agriculture has been built with the emphasis on production of potatoes, cereals, sugar beets and dairy products. In other words, their agriculture has been developed so that they import only such concentrated products as bacon, eggs, cheese, etc.

Reference was also made by the speaker to the British organization of agriculture with the consequent county committees which have full authority to decide what crop the individual farmer may grow and the respective acreage of each. Farmers are rated into the following three classes—

A—those that are producing 80 per cent or better of the possibilities of the farm. B—those producing 60 to 80 per cent. C—those producing under 60 per cent. The latter two classes are closely supervised and where they do not improve, some of these farmers have been taken off their farms and dispossessed. In Britain, everyone is working for the State and consequently there is regimentation but for the most part, he states, the farmers are well satisfied with the system and would be loath to go back to the old days.

British farmers, said the speaker, are paying a vital part in this terrible drama. In pre-war days, British Agriculture was a tramp industry, but the Government has pledged itself not to allow Agriculture to drift back into a secondary or distressed condition.

Mr. Porter's description of his visits to Army Headquarters, the army in camp, and the army in their manoeuvres, and the Air Forces, was exceptionally inspiring and thrilling. He depicted the Canadian lads in splendid condition, their rations adequate when properly handled, and most of the lads heavier in weight than when they left home. Some of the lads were homesick and fed up with the unpleasant experience of guarding and no action. Mr. Porter also referred to the fact that some of the lads get letters and boxes frequently from home, others do not, and when the latter see the other chaps getting their letters and boxes it gets them down a bit. In short,



"Imagine me helping to make rubber tires!"

"WE horses hauled caissons with the best of 'em back in 1914-1918. And darned if this war—motorized as it is—hasn't backed right up to our stable doors again. Ploughing, planting and harvesting the grain for high-proof alcohol is what they want us for this time... high-proof alcohol to make the rubber Hirohito thought he was doing us out of. And folks, the United Nations are getting that grain, that alcohol, that rubber!"

Synthetic rubber made from high-proof alcohol is jumping out of the test tube and onto the wheels and treads of jeeps, trucks, tanks, and airplane landing gear, outwearing and outfighting the best natural rubber. Unaffected by gasoline and oil, it's going into self-sealing gas tanks, gasoline and fuel oil hose and pipeline connections. It's making rafts, diving suits, oxygen masks and literally thousands of other pieces of war equipment.

Today high-proof alcohol is pouring from our stills in an ever-increasing volume... a vital element of Victory!

### THE HOUSE OF SEAGRAM

Every Seagram plant in Canada and the United States is engaged 100% in the production of ALCOHOL FOR WAR

### MILTON

A large audience at the Princess Theatre, Sunday evening last, saw the showing of the war films "Fighting Inside China," "This is Blitz" and the latest government release, "Fighting Inside Russia." The pictures depicting the conditions on the fighting fronts were shown by Major E. H. Watson, Field Secretary of the Red Cross Society.

Oshawa eliminated Milton in the

first round bantam OMHA when they held the local lads to a five-all tie in their second game here last Friday night. Oshawa won the initial contest 6 to 3.

When the local hockey team went to Penetang last Friday night they were defeated 12 to 7 and the return game here ended 12 to 3 for the locals. Never was the team so crushed or over eleven hundred more enthusiastic to overcome that big-oh so big-lead.

One of the district's esteemed residents, Samuel Crozier, died suddenly on Friday, March 19, at his residence, First Line, Trafalgar township, in his 70th year. He had been a farmer in Durham county for 45 years.

—Champion

For every woman who makes a fool out of a man, there is another woman who makes a man out of a fool.

The price of popularity has made bankrupt many a man's nature.

### Fire in Milan's Industrial Area During an R.A.F. Daylight Attack



In synchronization with the 6th Army's attack on the Axis in Egypt, the R.A.F. carried out a great offensive on the heart of Italy's war industries and communications lying in the Milan, Genoa, Turin triangle. Two devastating day and night blows at Milan followed. Within 4 hours of one another, fires started in the daylight raid lighting up the target for the night attackers. The Italians admitted that great damage was caused.

Picture shows: A well established fire burning in Milan industrial area at the beginning of the daylight attack. View from an R.A.F. attacking bomber at about 4,000 ft.

GLYCERINE

# Save THAT Fat!

HERE'S WHAT TO DO

- 1 You can take your fat drippings, scrap fat and bones to your meat dealer. He will pay you the established price for the dripping and the scrap fat. If you wish, you can turn this money over to your local Voluntary Salvage Committee or Registered Local War Charity, or—
- 2 You can donate your fat dripping, scrap fat and bones to your local Voluntary Salvage Committee if they collect them in your community, or—
- 3 You can continue to place out your Fats and Bones for collection by your Street Cleaning Department where such a system is in effect.

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL WAR SERVICES  
NATIONAL SALVAGE DIVISION

THEY ARE URGENTLY NEEDED FOR EXPLOSIVES

made. At Sturgeon plant they have a billiard table and other inside games which employ some of the time. Plenty of reading and card games are enjoyed at night. If spares are in the daytime they can ski, skate or go hunting. In the spring it's fishing. Sturgeon, pike and pickerel are plentiful. They have a screened pool, and keep a stock of live fish always on hand for use in the cookery whenever needed. One time last year Harold was coming out on long change and brought five or six pounds of lovely fresh fillets of pickerel, taken from the pool, and he said filleted in less than an hour. There was still a plentiful supply left there. They set net lines for sturgeon, and tells of catching fish weighing 25 to 40 pounds each. He says it's no particular fun as they don't fight when caught like game fish do. You just pull them out like a log, skin them like a beef. The flesh is very fat but tastes good after parboiling, then frying, and is something between fish and oysters. Personally, I prefer the gamey kind—pike, pickerel, lake trout or bass—or a good brook trout on a nice slender pole.

Now as this is not yet fishing season, with the temperature just now as I write at 10 below zero and a bright sun, I'll wait till after the 1st of May for the good fish story.

Cordially yours,

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