

THE GEORGETOWN HERALD
 NEWS OF —
 GEORGETOWN, NORVAL, GLEN WILLIAMS, LIMESHOUSE,
 STIKWATKIN, ASHGROVE, BALLINAFAD, TERRA
 COTTA, ACTON, BRAMPTON, MILTON

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The Editor's Corner
 AN HEIRLOOM BROOCH

We had the pleasure of examining an unusual and beautiful brooch the other day which is a highly prized possession of Mrs. Nelson Cook. This lovely bit of jewelry made of "bog oak", inlaid with silver and gold, belonged to Mrs. Cook's great grandmother in England. It has the appearance of mahogany at first glance, but when held up to the light it becomes opalescent and a light reddish brown is revealed as the true color.

"Bog Oak" is probably a new material to you, as it was to us, so consequently we were greatly interested to come across an account of just where and how the original substance is found.

Bog Oak is found in the Fens of East Anglia, England, or the marsh lands. These are lands reclaimed from the sea, and for centuries the people of England have been struggling to keep the water from taking back what the land has gained, for the Fens, like other marsh lands are level, the soil is easily worked, and is very rich indeed, once the drainage problem has been solved.

In the old days windmills supplied the power for the pumps. Later it was the primitive steam engines and paddle wheels of 100 years ago. To-day it is huge, Diesel driven centrifugal pumps.

Before the land can be cultivated, however, tree roots have to be dragged out by powerful tractors, as the trunks are sometimes five feet in diameter. Ancient Bog Oaks, up to 100 feet long which have lain unrotted in the subsoil beneath the peat for as long as 4000 years, have to be blown up and carted away. It was from these Bog Oaks, processed of course, that Mrs. Cook's heirloom brooch was made.

It was in 1681 that the first important attempt to recover the Fens for agriculture was made. The Earl of Bedford with a company of promoters called the Adventurers, started in to drain parts of the Fens. One part that they recovered, but which long since sank back to marsh, is still called the Adventurers' Fen, and is now once more rich farmland, a huge expanse of smooth, rich black soil, like our most level prairies, with the green shoots of the newly sown winter wheat showing evenly with promise of a bumper crop. But unfortunately there is another similarity between these reclaimed Fens and the prairies—the soil tends to blow. When dry, the peaty soil is very fine and has little holding power. It is a problem, because the flat, almost treeless expanse of the Fens is wide open to the winds from the North Sea. But ways are being found to solve it. Among other remedies is the digging up of some of the heavy clay sub-soil, which underlies the peaty surface soil some 3 to 5 feet deep, and spreading it on the surface.

Considering the labor and skill now being lavished on these fenslands by the Agricultural Executive Committees of the Counties concerned it is amusing to read how bitterly the Earl of Bedford's efforts and later ones, were resisted by the men of the Fens themselves. These local people were not farmers, and did not want to be! They were sailors and hunters, for in those days sea-going ships could come right up to Cambridge. They did not want the country drained, and their sea connection destroyed. After the Civil War Cromwell had to send soldiers to prevent the Fenmen from throwing down the dykes which had been raised.

Things look very different to the Fen people today. Apart entirely from the patriotic aspect of the work, which has their whole-hearted approval, a complete new life is being opened to them. They are not the kind of folk who demand all the comforts of city life, but up until now, many of these families have lived lives as isolated as any in England. There are families where the children, now almost adult, cannot read and write. They have not been forgotten by the education authorities, but there was simply no way of getting them to school. For many months in the year their holdings were completely isolated, and if a heavy horse with only half a load could not make its way along the driftways, how could children be expected to struggle five miles to school in the morning and another five miles back at night?

Thus we have the historical background of the origin of a woman's brooch. Bog Oak will doubtless add another chapter to its history if such brooches become popular again after the war, for later generations will tell their children of the worst war the world had ever seen and of how it forced the British people to make use of every scrap of land available for sustenance during the awful struggle.

"ONTARIO HOUSE" AND "ONTARIO CANTEEN"

Premier George Drew has just recently returned from a trip to England, undertaken primarily for the purpose of establishing a place where British merchants and industrialists may procure official first-hand information about business conditions and opportunities in the Province of Ontario.

In Trafalgar Square the building has been chosen for "Ontario House" as it will be called, and close by an "Ontario Canteen" will be established where Ontario soldiers may obtain meals at cost and use its facilities for establishing a closer contact with home. Already necessary construction alterations are under way, and we may expect to see both "Ontario House" and "Ontario Canteen" functioning in the very near future.

The establishment of a place where information may be obtained about our province will be a distinct advantage to the citizens of Ontario. First of all, the mere presence of "Ontario House" will stimulate the interest of British business men in Ontario. Needless to say, its personnel will have to be highly qualified for the job of advertising and explaining opportunities in agriculture and manufacturing in Ontario. This will

increase sales from Ontario to the United Kingdom. Keeping in close touch with the people at home, Ontario House will disseminate information the opposite way too, by telling the people of our province how best to meet current requirements on the British market. Individual communications to the Ontario Government from all persons interested in obtaining British business, will be the life blood of the new scheme which will work towards increased production, sales and prosperity in Ontario both now and in the post war era.

In addition to boosting the morale of our boys now, the Ontario Canteen contemplates an important role during that period, come when it may, when Ontario men are demobilized. It will endeavor to trace personal and family contacts which in some way may have been lost, and assist with all possible information about home, thus making that difficult period easier for every one.

Ontario House and Ontario Canteen are fine examples of working together in closer harmony for the common good. Their establishment was a good stroke of business.

SALVAGE EFFORT IMPORTANT

Waste paper, cardboard boxes, rags, bottles and metal all have definite salvage value, and all are urgently needed to swell a rapidly diminishing supply of materials which have been drained off to meet the enormous demands of a nation at war.

At this particular time, old papers and boxes are desperately needed by the pulp and paper industry, to process the used stock and turn it back into fresh paper once more. The shortage of raw pulp materials is extremely critical due mainly to lack of labour in the bushlands where immense quantities of timber used for pulpwood, are normally cut. Shortage of paper, particularly newsprint is being felt by magazines and papers, large and small. The reigns on the use of newsprint, a commodity already definitely rationed, are being constantly tightened.

The recently organized Boy Scout troop in Georgetown, sponsored by the Lions Club and under the leadership of "Ab" Tost, is making a fine job of salvage collection here. By so doing they are living up to one of the fundamental ideals of Scouting, for teaching young boys how to be of service to their community and country is a firm foundation for building other qualities of good citizenship. The boys have stuck to their job for some time now—it's not just a flash-in-the-pan effort, and they and their leader are to be commended.

Last week the Scouts gathered salvage from the territory east of Main St. This Saturday they will be collecting west of Main St. in the Park area, etc. They will be pleased to receive the same co-operation from householders again this week as they have in the past.

Shortages in all lines are impressed upon us every day in our ordinary routine of life. Help alleviate that condition as much as you can.

Don't throw away your salvage. Save it for the Boy Scouts.

EFFORTS RECOGNIZED

We were glad to see that the efforts of the Fire Brigade, which for the most part go by unsung, have been given prominence of late, and have received recognition in concrete form from the town in the form of an increase in their annual grant, from \$400 to \$500. We are sure the unanimous decision of council in taking this step is a true voice of the people of Georgetown.

Being called from their work or their beds at all hours and in any kind of weather is no easy job. We have in mind particularly the night of the Woolen Mill fire last winter, when they were called in the wee sma' hours to fight the blaze in a raging blizzard. They were on the job for over eight hours, and the tenants of the nearby houses were most grateful to them for preserving the safety of their homes. More recently they did a wonderful job in fighting the fire at the Georgetown Lumber Company mill, and saved that company a good deal by keeping the fire from spreading to their storehouse and office. They have made their gratitude known publicly. Then only a couple of weeks ago the Georgetown Fire Brigade answered a call to aid in fighting a conflagration in Brampton which threatened their whole Main Street. Many complimentary remarks have come back to town on the efficient way in which our Brigade operated. Official appreciation for their good work was expressed through a letter to the town sent by the Brampton council.

These are only the highlights of a year of service. Answering calls for small fires cause just as much inconvenience as the large ones, even though the hours of actual fire-fighting are not as long. We have these in mind as well, when we say, take a bow members of the Fire Brigade—the town appreciates your work.

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COUNTY FEDERATION ENDORSES RESOLUTION RE LIQUOR STORES

At the convention of the Halton County Temperance Federation, which was held in the Sunday School room of the United Church, Milton, Monday, January 16th, the following resolution which had been sent to the County Council was brought before the meeting.

"The executive of the Halton County Temperance Federation deeply regrets the action of the Halton County Council in recommending to the Liquor Control Board that a liquor store be established at Milton, and we heartily disagree with this action and we wish to make protest."

The resolution was accepted by the Convention which moved that it be sent to the Liquor Control Board with a covering letter calling the attention of the Board to the fact that the members of the 1943 County Council in passing their resolution re liquor store in Milton were only expressing their own personal opinions, and not the feeling of the people of Halton County as a whole as this question of

liquor store was not an issue when Council was elected.

The County was well represented at this meeting, and the present situation was thoroughly discussed. Mr. Whittam of the Toronto Office of the Temperance Federation helped in the discussions. At the end of the business, a vote of thanks was given the officials of the church for the use of the Sunday school room, and Rev. J. B. Moore closed the meeting with prayer.

A basic principle in the training of youths of the Royal Canadian Army cadets is to teach the value of good citizenship.



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 Daylight Saving Time
 LEAVE GEORGETOWN

TO TORONTO	
7:04 a.m.	6:44 p.m.
9:24 a.m.	9:24 p.m.
12:24 p.m.	10:09 p.m.
TO LONDON	
y 10:35 a.m.	s 7:15 p.m.
y 1:50 p.m.	b 8:30 p.m.
4:50 p.m.	x b 11:19 p.m.

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 Going East

Passenger	7:01 a.m.
Passenger and Mail	10:10 a.m.
Passenger and Mail	7:03 p.m.
Passenger, Sunday only	8:31 p.m.
Passenger, daily	9:35 p.m.

This train was formerly the flyer but now stops.

Going West

Passenger and Mail	6:47 a.m.
Passenger, Sat. only	2:15 p.m.
Passenger daily except	Saturday and Sunday
Daily except Sunday	7:23 p.m.
Passenger, Sundays only	11:59 p.m.
Daily Except Sunday	12:57 a.m.

Going North

Passenger and Mail	8:50 a.m.
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Going South

Passenger and Mail	7:58 p.m.
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