

The Editor's Corner

VIEWS OF OTHER EDITORS
STEPHEN LEACOCK

Stephen Leacock died last week. Much has been said and written about this best-known Canadian writer. We note that Margaret Templin mentions his death on the opposite page. On Sunday night, we heard B. K. Sandwell tell about Dr. Leacock in an address by radio. Last week's Orillia Packet and Times devoted about half the paper to stories about Orillia's most noted citizen, a piece of journalistic enterprise to be commended, since the death occurred only the day before.

We saw Stephen Leacock only a few times and probably never knew him, but he was our favorite Canadian author. We didn't care much for some of his books, feeling that the humor was rather forced, but if he had never written anything else besides "Sunshine Sketches of a Little Town," he would still be our favorite.

It was in 1913 that this book was first published, so we suppose younger readers never heard of it, though we saw it in a 29-cent paper covered edition in a local store quite recently. We cannot think of any place where as many laughs could be bought for a similar sum of money.

The "Little Town" was Orillia, thinly disguised. It is said that Orillia people never quite forgave Stephen Leacock for making fun of them, but we don't know why. This story was nothing like "Main Street," where there were no pleasant characters. The fun is good-natured and sympathetic. Everybody in Mariposa was a pleasant character, or made to sound like one.

For those readers familiar with this story, some of the background may be of interest. The Leacock home had been in Orillia about ten or twelve years when this book was written. It appeared first in serial form in Saturday Night and some of the names were very thinly disguised. In the book, a few were changed, but not many. Jefferson Thorpe, the barber who made a lot of money in mining stock and lost it as quickly, was Jeff Short. The hotel-keeper, the real hero of the book, was Josh Smith in fiction and Jim Smith in real life. In the Saturday Night version, the name of the peppery judge was McGaw, but it was changed to Pepperleigh later on. The Orillia papers are the Packet and Times and the News Letter. In the book, they become the News-Packet and the Times-Herald. Editor Hale has his name changed to Hallet. And so it goes.

In recent years, Mr. Leacock spent most of his leisure time in Orillia. He owned a plot of five acres or more of land. When he was retired as a professor at McGill University, before he was ready to "go on the shelf," he went to Orillia. He took up one hobby after another, according to the Packet and Times. First it was gardening, with the emphasis on tomato growing. He had so many tomatoes that Orillia could not eat them all. He raised chickens but not profitably. He tried turkeys one year, but kept them shut in too much and all but ten out of fifty died within a week or two. He had his own private fish ponds, but the boys poached in them. He met one youngster with a string of fish. "Aren't you afraid of the owner of the ponds?" "No," the boy said, "that old codger could never catch me."

—Fergus News-Record.

A BUSY MARKET PLACE

Some folks are feeling deep concern over the number of farm auction sales throughout the country these days and they tell us that city folk are concerned lest so many leave the farms that there may not be sufficient on the markets for their larders. There have been more than the usual auction sales but we see no cause for alarm.

The other day we discussed the question with one of the local auctioneers and went over a list of sales he had booked to see if there was all this cause for alarm. We read the bills that more than filled the regular space on the office walls and he told us why each man was having a sale.

Many of the cases, the vast majority, were men who were getting on in years and could not manage the farm work alone. They could secure no help and it seemed an opportune time for them to sell out and seek lighter employment they were physically able to do, and let younger farmers take their places on the land. Farm prices are now attractive to young men and many who desire some independence and a place of their own were able and willing to take on the onerous farm work.

Under present prices the sale of the land and the stock and implements would give the older man a fair stake for investment, a home in town and he could take life a little easier. In every case reviewed some one else was going on the farm. In no case was the land being abandoned.

The stock and implements were being sold to other farmers. So it all seems to add up that it's just part of this period of changing when some of those on the land are perhaps a bit weary of the toil and remember too vividly the days when prices were not so good and those in other vocations feel they would be more secure tilling the soil instead of looking for jobs that weren't available in these same days of other years.

It's simply a case of young men with ambition and a strong back exchanging places with older men, perhaps very much overtired and lacking the physical ability to keep going and judging the market for their

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"As We See It"

(By J. A. Strang)

THE 1943-44 NATIONAL HOCKEY season is all but over. Spring is just around the corner, the maple syrup season is all but finished, Easter is just over and even house cleaning is about finished. Looking in the opposite direction we find that it is almost Victory Loan time once more. This new loan is the sixth in the series and may be we have been able to dig up enough money to purchase one bond or more in each Loan drive up to date. There is quite a temptation to sit back this time and let some one else go without a new spring outfit and a few other almost necessary things instead of us doing it every time. Or perhaps we figure that all that we could possibly purchase this time would be a One Hundred Dollar Bond and in a Twelve Hundred Million Victory Loan that Hundred Dollars of ours would never be noticed or missed either. On the other hand those small purchases taken collectively amount to a good many millions and it would never do if all the individuals that only have One Hundred Dollars to invest were to sit back this time. Those boys over there still need supplies, clothes, munitions, gas, guns, trucks, planes, jeeps, and food. We wouldn't feel very proud of ourselves if we were to find out that some of those lads had to go without

some of the above mentioned articles just because we hadn't dug down for another Bond during this Victory Loan Drive. Guess we better decide to buy another bond this time again. After the war is all cleaned up we will really be able to enjoy some of those luxuries that we would like awfully well to buy right now instead of buying a war bond to sell those bonds that we bought last time and the time before that, and then take the money that we realize from the sale of those bonds and buy some of this new loan. Don't do it. Of course—it might help to enable our particular locality reach its objective in the bond drive but if that is the only way we can reach our objective, let's not reach it at all. Suppose we all decide to hang on to those other bonds that we have bought in the earlier drives, and also decide to buy just as many as we possibly can this time and hang on to them also. This is 1944. Perhaps you may recall that the war was to be all over this year. Maybe it will be. If it is, perhaps this Sixth Victory Loan Drive is the last one that may be needed. If it should happen that the war isn't finished this year we can at least have the satisfaction of knowing that we lent an arm's cash that we possibly could in every Victory Loan that the Dominion called for. The boys overseas are putting up with a few discomforts and are taking it with a smile. It surely isn't too much for each of us to do without some wanted luxury and invest the money in Bonds instead and we should be able to do it with a smile as well.

investment to be opportune. The result is that the market place (auction sales) is a busy one.
—Acton Free Press.

PROTECTING THE SUCKER

Ontario's new law on slot machines is ambitious. It aims to get at the "higher ups" the men actually in control of the racket. It has still to be tested, of course, but those who appreciate the sinister nature of the business will hope that it will be effective.

It is no secret that the slot machine business is in the hands of "big shot" racketeers. There are the unpleasant gentry who make an ample and easy living out of the nickles and dimes of those who can ill afford them.

They are parasites in the worst sense of the term, and they have too long enjoyed virtual immunity from the law. It is time they were put out of business, and this the new legislation is designed to accomplish. It has the best wishes of the decent citizens.
—Windsor Star.

THOSE ANCESTORS of ours that lived in those Pre-Radio days must have been a hardy lot. They had no one to tell them what to do about Acid-Indigestion, or about Vitamins, or to give them the exact time every little while, or to tell them what the weather was likely to be tomorrow or how low the thermometer would go tonight. We often wonder how they were able to get their clothes so white without the abundance of advice along that line that is broadcast so often these days. Mind you they even had to wait until tomorrow to know how the hockey game came out. It's wonderful the way that they survived, isn't it?

LACROSSE IS ANOTHER War casualty. It is still supposed to be Canada's National Game but it isn't a very healthy one at present. For the first time in a good many years the Annual Lacrosse Convention was not held on Good Friday. In the place of the convention a Lacrosse Re-union is being scheduled for the 20th of April and is to be held at the King

Edward Hotel in Toronto. The convention was held for a good many years at the Broquels Hotel. It is rather difficult to understand why Lacrosse doesn't appeal somewhat, the way hockey has an appeal for almost everybody. The two games are quite similar in many ways although Lacrosse isn't nearly as rough as is hockey. In fact you seldom heard of any bones broken while playing Lacrosse. However the younger generation aren't playing the game and if the young men don't learn to handle a stick they've very little hope of the game ever regaining its popularity. On the other hand those of us that were familiar with the game in our younger days never lose our love for the stirring game.

PREVENT INFLATION

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