

Partners - Man and Soil

Many Ontario citizens have had no more than a formal introduction to soil. You may have become better acquainted with it in your Victory Garden. Perhaps you have only felt its texture on a bathing beach. But even the most confirmed city dweller feels at times the welling up of a basic urge for the possession of land, for a love of the soil is a fundamental characteristic of man. This feeling is most strongly developed in a young country where pioneers are the first who hope to make a home for themselves in a new land.

As time goes on their descendants lose the keen feelings of their parents for the soil and seek what appears to them to be an easier living in the towns and cities. Usually a desire arises for a return to the land and another migration develops—a back to the land movement.

Regardless of the extent of industrialization in this age of progress, farms and forests remain the foundation of our life, and the life blood of the industries themselves. Green plants change part of the energy of the sun to meet the needs of man; and life, as we know it, would cease without them. They can supply most of our needs in food, clothing and shelter, through an almost endless variety of products, and they are restorable if used wisely.

The hopes of the future are built on the plans we may make today; plans which envision full and wise use of our soil to the benefit of all. As second front invasion presages the return of our boys it is our duty to prepare for them their peace-time occupations, including that of tilling the soil in a land that offers a bountiful life.

We cannot paint a very bright picture on the canvass of our experience in our use of the land of Ontario during the last twenty years. It must be admitted that the land settlement and colonization schemes have not been overly successful. Even the early set-

tlements of Southern Ontario were not all completely successful, as has been brought to light by the recently completed Ganaraska survey in Durham County. For example, the population in that area decreased by one-half in the eighty-year period between 1861 and 1941.

Such conditions must be avoided in the future. This may be accomplished only by the employment of a definite planning program, based on a careful study of soil productivity, cost of development, pressure of population, proximity of economical, educational and other social services, and markets. There must be an integration between farming and forestry in some localities in Northern Ontario to ensure full-time remunerative employment. Disregard of these factors will undoubtedly result in wasted lives in many instances.

In addition to the need of surveys to determine the material chances of success, a careful system of selection of prospective farmers is required, and training as well.

The answer to urban unemployment is not found on the land. There is no assurance whatever that a man recruited from a bread-line will become a successful farmer. He is more likely to become a public charge, after a period of hopeless experimentation. The Public Lands Regulations of Ontario, revised in 1941, specify that, "Before opening any public lands for sale for agricultural purposes, such lands shall be inspected by competent persons appointed by the Minister for that purpose who shall report as to the kinds and quantities of timber thereon, the possible existence of valuable minerals, and the proportion of the lands suitable for cultivation." This is statutory starting point for sounder placement practice. Before this may become effective, however, land inspectors must be trained in each District to the desired degree of competence, and they must be furnished first with land classification maps.

The Ontario Department of Lands and Forests will undertake a soil survey in the Thunder Bay Region this summer, which will form the basis of a land use policy for that region. The purpose of any soil survey is essentially to establish an inventory of the soil resources. The soils are studied, classified, mapped and described by men who are specially trained in soil science. They are examined in depth as well as on the surface, and such factors as texture, stoniness, colour, structure, organic matter, etc., are examined and noted. The topography and drainage, native vegetation, crops grown and amount of erosion are also noted and correlated.

The Department has employed Mr. G. A. Hills, Soil Expert, to conduct the Thunder Bay survey. Mr. Hills' survey will provide land class maps on scale which will give a general picture of land conditions in the region, but will not supply sufficient detail to eliminate the necessity of inspection of individual lots. Mr. Hills will be provided with a technical assistant for this season's work, who may be ap-

BUTTER RATION CUT

With butter stocks in Canada Sept. 1, at 11,600,000 pounds below the total at the same date last year, it has been necessary to postpone the valid dates of two more pairs of butter coupons, the Wartime Prices and Trade Board has announced.

Coupons 80 and 81, which ordinarily would have become valid Oct. 5, will not be good for butter purchases until Oct. 12, and the valid dates of coupons 88 and 89 are postponed to Dec. 14.

Early announcement of the coupon postponement was made so consumers can plan to make their butter purchases last longer. Butter bought on Sept. 21 with coupons 78 and 79 must do the consumer for three weeks, until Oct. 12. Butter bought on Nov. 23 with coupons 84 and 87 also must last for three weeks.

"The butter situation is tighter now than it was when we postponed the last set of coupons," said K. H. Olive, administrator of dairy products. It is imperative that we take steps to allocate available supplies as equitably as possible throughout the year to avoid serious shortages during the winter months of restricted production.

Figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics on Monday show Canadian butter production from the first of the year to Aug. 31 down about 12 million pounds, compared with figures for the corresponding period in 1943. Summer drought conditions in the chief dairying areas of Eastern Canada have contributed to this decline in production.

Mr. Olive said the Board is watching the situation closely and is taking every action possible to safeguard butter supplies. The recent order limiting sales of cream by distributors in 80 principal markets to the amount sold by such distributors in June is expected to prevent further inroads into butter production.

In 1871, Canada's rural inhabitants outnumbered the urban dwellers by more than 2,000,000.

pointed to the District staff to train land inspectors who will complete the details of land classification.

Mapping will be carried out by a combination of inspection from aircraft and on the ground. All soils in the mapped area will be classified, both forest and agricultural. Special attention will, however, be given to areas of promising agricultural potential. Where possible, a form line map, prepared from aerial photos, will be used as a base for the final land class map. The report and maps of the 1944 season's work are scheduled for completion early in 1945.

When the troops come marching home, those of them who have a desire to take up farming in the Thunder Bay Region may be assured that they will not be dumped in the bush to fend for themselves on land which will not give them a standard of living that they are entitled to earn. For them the bright promise of the World of To-morrow must be fulfilled.

Private First Class

By MILDRED KELSO
McClure Syndicate—WNU Features.

THE boy stowed just inside the door of the crowded coach and looked anxiously up and down the aisle. In his left hand he held a paper suitcase. His right arm was in a sling.

"Why in blazes doesn't somebody help the kid find a seat?" Joe Murphy fumed. The train swung around a curve and the boy and his bag banged against the wall. Joe saw him wince. That arm, of course. He jumped to his feet and strode forward. "Here, kid," he said. "Gimme that suitcase. And you come and sit with me." He scooped at the other passengers as he piloted the boy toward the back.

"Gee, thanks!" the boy said gratefully. "Guess us civilians shouldn't be riding around," he apologized, "but Mollie wrote me to come home on the train. She thought it would take too much gas to drive the truck up to Plainsville."

"Been in Plainsville long?" Joe asked, just to be polite.

"I've been in the hospital. I broke my arm cranking the truck," he said. "I had to have X-rays and things. Right now," he said bitterly, "when we're busy with the spring planting!"

"You live on a farm?" This time Joe's voice was eager and interested.

The boy nodded. "A little ways out of Galata," he said. "It ain't much of a town."

They sat in companionable silence for a while, then the boy leaned over and shyly touched the stripe on Joe's sleeve. "I guess you have to be pretty good to get one of those," he ventured.

"Aw, not so good," Joe answered gruffly. For the first time he was a little ashamed of that single stripe. There might have been more, he knew, if he had worked a little harder. But what the heck did it matter? There wasn't anyone to be proud of him, even if he wore eagles on his shoulders.

The train began to slow down. "Here," Joe said, "I'll carry your suitcase." On an impulse he dragged his own bag from the shelf.

"Are you getting off here too?" the boy asked.

"Might as well," Joe muttered.

A girl with wind-blown curls and laughing mouth seized the boy. "Oh, Davey!" she cried. "It's good to have you home." Then she looked up at the tall figure behind the boy.

"This is a soldier I met on the train," Davey explained. "He got me a seat and carried my suitcase."

The girl held out a friendly hand. "Thank you, soldier," she said.

Joe felt his ears getting red. "That's all right," he mumbled. Then he remembered. "My name is Murphy. Joe Murphy."

"Private First Class," the girl supplied. "Davey can hardly take his eyes off that stripe. I'm Mollie Evans," she added. "Davey's sister."

Joe walked with them to the truck. "You'll have to crank it," Davey told him.

"Is anyone meeting you?" the girl asked.

"No, ma'am," Joe said. "I just got off with the kid. I figured to go on by the next train."

"Then you're coming home with us for supper," the girl said firmly. "No excuses. Chicken and dumplings in honor of Davey's return."

Dimples flashed in her cheeks, and Joe couldn't take his eyes off them.

"All right," he said at last. "Maybe I can help your father fix that starter. Happens I know a little about trucks. My folks live on a farm, too."

But there wasn't any father. Or any mother either. There was only Granny. "Both killed in an automobile accident," Granny told him when they were alone. "We don't talk much about it on account of Davey's being so nervous."

Mollie drove him to the depot after supper. Joe groped for the words he knew he must say. "I lied to you today," he blurted at last. "When I told you my folks lived on a farm. I've told it in camp so many times I kind of got to believing it. I haven't any folks, and I was never on a farm in my life until today."

"Do you want to tell me about it, Joe?"

"There isn't much to tell," he said. "I was raised in an orphanage in Brooklyn, and when I grew up I got a job driving a truck. In camp the fellows were always telling about their folks and the kind of homes they had, and so I told 'em my folks lived on a farm in Iowa. Then when the furloughs came all the fellows had places to go but me. I didn't want them feeling sorry for me," he said defensively, "so I went down to Des Moines and hung around. I expect we'll be shipping out pretty soon."

"I see." There was something in her voice that made Joe feel a little dizzy. "And when you got back," she said, "maybe you will come and help Granny and Davey and me run the farm. We need you, Joe," she said simply.

The train whistled a brief stop and then was on its way. With eager step and shining eyes he strode down the aisle. Joe Murphy, Private First Class, whose folks lived on a farm.

Mrs. W. F. Smith Heads Retailers on Board of Trade

Danforth Business Men Present at Meeting Last Wednesday—Retail Committee Chosen—Closing Bye-Law, 48 Hour Week Discussed.

It was Retail Merchants Night at the Board of Trade meeting last Wednesday evening in the Municipal Building. The primary purpose of the meeting was to select a retail committee to represent merchants of the Georgetown district, on the newly formed Board of Trade. The committee chosen is comprised of Mrs. W. F. Smith, Eld Silver, Jos. Gibbons, C. J. Buck, R. W. Robb, A. W. Benton, and Allan Norton. Mrs. W. F. Smith is chairman of the committee and will represent retailers on the Board of Trade.

President A. R. Speight and Secretary W. E. Dowdell were present to welcome the guests for the evening who were three members of the highly successful Danforth Business Men's Association. In his opening remarks, Mr. Speight briefly traced the growth of the local Board of Trade, indicating that there were over 100 paid-up memberships to date. At present copy for a County advertising booklet is being prepared and when this booklet is completed it will have wide circulation and should do much to popularize the county both in Canada and abroad. The Board has also made plans in connection with Rehabilitation and town planning and has under discussion such problems as sewage, the opening of new streets and a survey map of the town. Mr. Speight then introduced Mr. O. J. Wyckoff who spoke

at some length of the growth of the Danforth Business Men's Association and gave some helpful hints on how Georgetown merchants could emulate the success of this fine organization. He particularly stressed the fostering of good fellowship between farmers and townsmen, the organizing of trade days and the encouragement of tourist traffic to drive through the downtown district on their way through town.

Mr. W. H. Somerville pointed out that merchants must cooperate with the local newspaper and support it with their advertising in return for the "buy at home" boosting which every merchant expects. The third visitor, Mr. Jack Fraser discussed closing hours and the 48 hour week and gave as his opinion that small town stores should be open at least two nights a week. A general discussion on this subject followed, after which Rev. W. G. O. Thompson thanked the visitors for coming to the meeting and giving the gathering the benefit of their experience and advice.

Following the appointment of the Retail Committee, that body held a short meeting for the purpose of choosing a chairman and discussing plans for the future.

DON'T LAUGH, MEN

Woman: "I want some nice, big apples for my sick husband. Do you know whether they have been sprayed with poison?"

Clerk: "No, Ma'am, you'll have to ask that at the drug store."

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PEAS 2 20-oz. Tins 23c
SPECIAL — Silver Star Pastry
FLOUR 24-Lb. Bag 69c
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GRAPEFRUIT 16-Oz. Jar 33c
Palmolive, Cashmere Bouquet or
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WHEAT 9-oz. pkg. 17c
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Kill Insects
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Our Dandee
TEA 1/2-lb. pkg. 32c
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