

THE GEORGETOWN HERALD

Serving the communities of
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The Editor's Column

THE PURPOSE OF EXERCISE "MUSKOX"

During this war there have been many campaigns in arctic countries or severe winter conditions. Canadian troops have landed in Spitzbergen, Iceland and the Aleutians, and British or American forces have also operated in Greenland, Norway and arctic Russia. The magnificent Russian victories before the gates of Leningrad, Moscow and Stalingrad all took place in the depths of winter. In the air the great development of long range aircraft has directed attention to the great circle routes passing through the north and the arrangements for delivery of airplanes to Europe have entailed considerable construction in the arctic.

When a large scale invasion of Norway was being planned in secret, we Canadians, who live in a northern country, were looked to as experts. The Canadian Army was asked to design, and Canadian industry built, many new armoured snowmobiles and other winter equipment. A battalion of the British Lovat Scouts came to Jasper in secret to train during the winter of 1943-44.

To test this equipment and to train Canadians in its use, three winter exercises were held by the army and the RCAF last winter in British Columbia, Alberta, and north of Churchill, Manitoba. Many other trials of cold weather equipment have been held throughout the war by the services.

From all these sources the Canadian Army and the RCAF have accumulated a wealth of new information concerning especially methods of travel in the north, information which can be adapted to civilian requirements and can materially assist in the development of our vast northland. Before the equipment and the experienced personnel are dispersed the army is providing an experimental demonstration of these methods on Exercise "MUSKOX." In particular it is hoped to demonstrate:

- (a) The new oversnow vehicles developed for invading Norway.
- (b) The technique of large-scale air supply.
- (c) New and improved methods of navigating and surveying near the north magnetic pole where magnetic compasses are useless.
- (d) The latest arctic clothing, made of textiles to prevent the killing of caribou for fur clothes.

From this it will be seen that it is taking place in the very heart of our country, where the lessons learnt can be directly applied to its development.

The exercise is non-tactical, with no troops taking part who are not specialists and no weapons larger than rifles are being carried. The Department of Mines and Resources, the Department of Transport, the RCMP, the National Research Council and the Northwest Territories Council have been of great assistance in planning the exercise. The Dominion Observatory, the Meteorological Service and the Survey Branch are sending observers to cooperate with the forces and assess the scientific aspects of the exercise.

AN EXPENSIVE SYSTEM

The new county assessment system which was voted in by last year's County Council has, like everything else, its advantages and disadvantages. Prominent among the latter is the expense, which is going to be a major item in the budget of every one of the Hutton municipalities.

Councillors from Georgetown, Esquesing and Oakville were apparently the only ones who realized this when the problem was threshed out last year, but were over-ruled by the majority vote and as the saying goes "Now we have it." A County assessor has been appointed and an office rented for him in Milton, and preliminary work is being done towards setting up the new system.

The new system involves a comprehensive survey in each municipality by the local assessor and the compilation of an "assessor's appraisal record" on a special form approved by the Department of Municipal Affairs. This record goes into extensive detail about the property to be assessed — type of building, flooring, heating, plumbing, foundation, etc. Occupants of the house are itemized with such factual information as religion, age and occupation. In rural districts, soil tests of each field are taken and analyzed.

Undoubtedly, when it is all added up, the assessment system will be more exact, but it will be a question whether the expense involved will not far outweigh any equalizing advantages.

Georgetown is inclined to hope that for this year, at least, we can stick to the previous system and not get too involved in intricate statistics. Perhaps when some of the "pluggers" for the plan add up their bills at the end of the year, the system will once more come to a vote and the wisdom of Georgetown and Esquesing will prevail.

A BLOOD REGISTRATION SERVICE

A citizen who has been a blood donor on several occasions at the Red Cross blood donor clinic, has suggested that it would be a good idea to have information on record in town as to the blood types available for transfusions. There are many who are only too willing to go to Toronto when they can be of service to those needing blood, but it is an inconvenience to them and a possible set-back to the patient when it is found that the volunteer's blood is the wrong type and cannot be used.

The suggestion is that the Council, Red Cross, a service club or any interested organization might pay the expenses of a clinic at which all volunteers could be tested and records compiled as to blood type. Then when the call came, a list would be immediately available from which blood donors could be chosen.

STILL IN FAVOUR

A subscriber whose opinion we value has written a letter to the Editor which appears on another page of this issue, in which he questions our thoughts on minor gambling. However, we still are not convinced that there is any inherent wickedness in such harmless forms of gambling as bingos and lucky draws, where there is no chance of people wagering more than they can afford, and where a certain pleasure is derived from the pastime.

Gambling is the expression, inherent in human nature, of man's willingness to take a chance and it is exemplified in our everyday business life. What business man, be he industrialist, shopkeeper or farmer does not gamble on new products, on what goods he handles, on what crops he plants? A nation itself gambles on trade agreements and on subsidies and on stock markets.

BEG YOUR PARDON

Seems that some weeks the gremlins play hob with the proof-reader and last week was a particularly bad one in the Herald office. In our front page story on the three-group meeting to discuss a recreational program for Georgetown, we reported in all seriousness that the "Board of Parks Management and the Board of Parks Management met with the council." In case you are still confused we meant of course, to say that the Board of Parks Management and the Recreational Council were the participating groups. Also we must apologize for our account of Larry MacKenzie's homecoming, when the editor in his write-up, completely forgot about brother Ian making it a four-some of entitlements from the MacKenzie household.

The type-setting department remedied this by adding Ian's name, but things were still confused when we ended by saying "His brothers, Ian, Bruce and Bob are both discharged after serving with the airforce."

And just in case you're wondering, our sister had quite an orthodox wedding and married Mr. John Oswald and not Mrs. Oswald as we reported.

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