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Due to government restriction and the embargo or ban on certain fruits and all vegetables formerly imported from the United States, we will not be able to offer as great a variety as customary at this Festive Season.

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Next week we will let you know what will be available for the Christmas table.

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IN THE MAIL BAG

November 26th, 1947

Georgetown Herald,
Georgetown, Ontario.

Dear Mr. Editor:

Georgetown should consider itself fortunate to have as the editor of the local newspaper one who, like yourself, is always willing to deal frankly with matters pertaining to the public interest.

I wonder if you would care to deal editorially with the matter of sex education in our educational system. In a recent sermon dealing with the increase in sexual crime, and the consequent danger to our women and girls, I suggested that there is a great need for better education of our children in sex matters, both in our schools and in our homes, and that our School Boards should frankly face this need. As you would naturally suppose, one in my position would be the last to minimize the importance of teaching correct morals; but a knowledge of correct morals without a corresponding knowledge of scientific facts is only half knowledge. Indeed it is no morality at all which goes hand in hand with ignorance, or which is maintained by ignorance.

While sexual ignorance is only one cause of divorce, it is a major factor. In 1918 there was one divorce in Canada for every 500 newly registered marriages. In 1944 there was one divorce for every 26.7 newly registered marriages. In 1918 there were 10 divorces in Ontario; in 1944, there were 1,243. The trend is unmistakable. Sexual ignorance undoubtedly plays a part in that which threatens the basis of our national life. The purpose of our educational system is to combat ignorance. I think it would be interesting to have this matter discussed in your columns, and to hear the reasons which may be advanced for not giving our children instruction in the schools in this matter, under proper and qualified instructors. Certainly nothing is truer than that ignorance is one of the greatest enemies of good morality. What some people are afraid would happen if sex education were given in our schools, is undoubtedly happening without it being given.

Yours sincerely,
R. Collin Todd.

November 26th, 1947

Sir:

As everybody knows, the spectre of famine is rearing its ugly head all over the world. Millions of people are either starving or wasting away through under-nourishment. The consequences cannot be but progressively serious for the suffering nations as well as for the more well-to-do ones. In addition to the scarcity of food and feed there is a world wide housing shortage. Its consequences are likewise bad, very bad, and not only for those without a roof over their heads.

We can therefore expect that all possible steps be taken by all nations to cure or to alleviate this situation. In some countries people

are exhorted to eat less. Other countries go in for austerity—voluntary or involuntary. And, oh yes, everywhere farmers are asked and in some cases ordered to produce as much as possible. We can take it for granted that they, the farmers of the world, are trying hard to do just that.

Houses are being built on an unprecedented scale, but all the gigantic building programs seem inadequate and cannot keep up with the normal increase of population.

On the whole the great majority of all people is painfully aware of this situation and is willing to do what is possible to help. But what to think of people who willfully keep farms out of production, keep beautiful farmhouses unoccupied? What to think of laws allowing this? It happens in Ontario in our own backyard and probably in other provinces and countries as well. We can observe it on a fairly big scale only three or four miles out of Georgetown. Here a number of rural properties only a few years ago known as first class farms, good buildings, producing good crops and good cattle, occupied by a great number of people, are lying idle.

They used to be an asset for the community, the county and the world. It was a goodly sight to see, the beautiful fields of grain, clover, potatoes, men and women in the fields, children playing, horses and cows, cattle and sheep dotting the pictures. Instead we now see emptiness, bleakness, deterioration in the fields upon fields of obnoxious weeds. In season, thick clouds of windborne thistle fluff blowing over the surrounding countryside and spoiling the neighbours' crops. No smoke from the chimneys but empty windows looking like dead men's eyes and wondering what it is all about.

The owner of each of these once beautiful farms and dwellings is probably not aware of the damage

he is doing to himself, the neighbours and the world in general. He is, let us hope, unaware that he is anti-social in a high degree by letting his land and buildings rot, by refusing to rent the houses. He is probably just a city man and without any idea of the responsibility landed property entails.

Of course, the man is within his rights—legally, but whether he is morally so, is doubtful. During the war years hundreds of good farms have been bought by city folks for summer homes. Some of these are worked, but many seem to have

been taken out of production. Can it be right when people with money to spare be allowed to buy land and waste it, or refuse to rent their houses? Can nothing be done to stop a situation more serious in total than we can imagine? Are property rights really inviolable?

Here, Mr. Editor, are a few questions that should be answered. You asked for controversial subjects—this looks like one.

A. G. M. BRUYNS.



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