



# CANADIAN PLOWMEN ABROAD

by ELLIOT MOSES \* Director  
ONTARIO PLOWMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Editor's Note: This is the third of a series of weekly stories which Elliott Moses, a director of the Ontario Plowmen's Association, is writing about the visit of Canada's champion plowmen to the British Isles.

### Flash—Canadians Win Northern Ireland Event

Belfast, Feb. 9.—Three Canadian plowmen won prizes on Feb. 8th at the International Plowing Match held at Linnavady, near Belfast, Northern Ireland, according to Canadian Press reports. More than 50,000 spectators watched the match.

The winners, Alvin J. Mark of Cameron, near Lindsay, who also won the Visitor's Cup, Robert Timbers of Stouffville, near Toronto, and Rhys Bacher of Hagersville, near Hamilton, placed first, second and third respectively in their class which was one of seven events at the meet. They are three of the five Canadian farmers who were awarded a trip to Britain at the International Plowing Match held at Lindsay, Ont. last October.

In addition to the Northern Ireland Match, the Canadians have been among the prize winners at two other British plowing matches—the West England Champion Plowing Match at Newquay, Cornwall and the Empire Plowing Match at Worthington, England. Alvin Mark and Rhys Bacher came second and third in their respective classes at the West England Match and Alvin Mark and Wilbert McPadden placed first and second respectively in a general purpose horse plowing class at the Empire Plowing Match.

Worthington: Following the West England Plowing Match in Newquay, Cornwall, the boys and I toured the surrounding countryside before leaving for the Empire Plowing Match at Worthington in the north of England. At Worthington for the second time within a few days Canadians were among the prize winners at a British plowing match.

Our travel of the past few days have accordingly given us an opportunity to see and contrast farming conditions in southern and northern England.

### Farming in Cornwall

Adding to the charm and beauty of the Cornish countryside are the well-kept farms with their hedged and fenced-in fields of stone and earth with shrubbery growing along the top. Many of the hedges are said to be four or five hundred years old.

We were impressed with the size of the Cornish farms, which seem to be larger than farms in other parts of England. The average is around three or four hundred acres. Each farm has four or five tractors and men to operate them as well as all the latest types of farm machinery.

The cattle are said to be good beef cattle and produce fair quantities of high testing milk, averaging about 4 per cent. We had our first look at the Northern Devon cow, which is a popular breed in this part of the country. It is a very large animal resembling our short-horn breed only larger.

Stabling and large barns are not necessary in Cornwall due to the uniform mild weather and this of course cut down very much on the cost of operation. In the winter months, cattle are fed in the fields and truck loads of turnips, cabbage, hay and straw are spread over the fields at intervals during the day.

Before leaving for Worthington we were entertained at a farewell dinner by the hospitable residents of Newquay.

The Empire Plowing Match We reached Worthington the following evening after a journey of 600 miles. Needless to say we were pretty tired but after a good night's rest the boys and I were up early and ready to start for the plowing fields.

It was early when we reached the field but even so there were a good number already there. We could see that these English plowmen really take their plowing seriously. Later, we discovered that 65 had entered the competition.

Our boys, using strange horses and tractors and competing against England's best plowmen, were under a serious handicap. Realizing this and in an effort to make the events more competitive, the committee suggested the classes they should enter. This of course was a wise move.

The ground at Worthington is quite different from Cornwall, being hilly rather than flat. So rolling were the fields that our boys in the horse-drawn classes couldn't see from one end of the field to the other. The soil was different too. The night team of the

Cornish earth, the Worthington soil was dark and heavy and full of stones. Three tractors used in the test broke down in the rough ground.

Alvin Mark and Wilbert McPadden, the Salada horse plowmen, were entered in a small general purpose class and both succeeded in winning prizes. Alvin came first and Wilbert fourth. Alvin had difficulty with his team at first for one of the horses had been yoked to a plow only a few days before. However, after cutting his first six furrows, he was complete master of his horses.

The tractor classes were more keenly contested but our plows were so different that Rhys Bacher and Bob Timbers, the Essex champions, were not in the money when the judging was completed.

### Need for Uniformity in Plowing Rules

After watching two British plowing matches and checking on the types of plows used, I am quite convinced that we cannot expect too much of our boys until we either change our plows to conform to the old country type or have the boys come over a week in advance in order to practice with the plows used here. The type of plows used and the method of scoring as compared with ours is so very different that we work under a tremendous disadvantage.

The Empire Plowing Match ended with the annual dinner at which the mayor and townspeople joined the farmers in honouring our Canadian party. The people here have been wonderful to us and I hope we can do as much for the English plowmen when they visit Canada.

### British Plowmen to Visit Canada

So far, owing to currency regulations, English and Scottish plowmen have not been able to compete in Canadian plowing matches. Last fall, a team from Northern Ireland entered the International Match at Lindsay and this was the first time that a team from the British Isles had ever competed in this Canadian event. Now the Empire Plowing Association has started a fund to send their best men to compete in Canadian matches. They have earned us too that they will be out to gain from the excellent plowing I have seen in this area, and I would do well to meet them warmly.

### English School Children Admire Canadian Plowing Costume

On our tour of the Worthington district, we split into two groups. Rhys Bacher, Wilbert McPadden and Bob Timbers visited the city industries while Alvin Mark and I were taken to four of the public schools to show, in Alvin's case, the dress of a Canadian plowman, and in my case, an Indian costume. (Editor's note: Mr. Moses was born at Ohsweken on the Six Nations Reserve near Brantford, Ont. and is a member of the Delaware tribe.)

Our boys are wearing plaid shirts and caps to match and as they are not worn over here, the school children were as much attracted by them as they were by my Indian regalia. In addition to his plaid shirt and cap, Alvin is also wearing his home town (Cameron) hockey sweater with the crest on the front and the figure 13 in a large circle on the back. We were greatly amused to hear an elderly farmer tell his friend that the number showed that Alvin had been a prisoner of war.

The boys who visited the industries were shown through a steel plant and a modern woollen mill. The woollen mill is only partly in operation but when it is completed the people say it will be one of the finest of its kind in the world. Worthington's biggest industry is coal mining. We had hoped to go down into a mine but unfortunately we did not have sufficient time.

### Tour of the Lake District

The day, following the Empire Match, we were taken on a sight-seeing tour of the famed lake district, which in many respects resembles our own northern Ontario country. We followed somewhat the same itinerary as last year's group and like them were privileged to see a demonstration of sheep dogs at work on Helvellyn Mountain. Mr. Clarke described this scene in last year's newsletter so I don't feel I need to say anything more about it except that none of our party had ever witnessed such a sight and we were greatly impressed with the whole performance.

Even though rationing is in effect over here, we have been well-fed all the time. During our tour of the lake district, we had lunch at Keswick, afternoon tea at a fashionable summer resort hotel

### NEWS NOTES FROM NORVAL SCOUTS AND CUBS

The regular weekly meeting of the Norval Scouts and Cubs was held on Wednesday night, February 10th, in St. Paul's Parish Hall.

Due to the absence of the Akela, Miss Mary Coupland, due to illness, the Cubs were guests of the Scouts.

The meeting was called into a horseshoe formation, and after prayers and flag break, an inspection was conducted by the Scoutmaster who complimented both Cubs and Scouts on their neat appearance. Several of the Second Class Scouts were detailed to give a demonstration of signalling procedure, and instruction in the semaphore alphabet to the Cubs. Following this a sing-song was conducted by the Scoutmaster during which new songs were practiced for the forthcoming Father and Son Pageants. During the course of the evening several games were played under the leadership of Aubrey Hudson, Troop Leader.

The Scouts are making preparations for their spring and summer program, and have purchased two new tents. They are planning to hold several week-end camping trips, and in the summer, one camp of more extended duration.

Following the meeting a Group Committee meeting was held, with Mr. Albert Hudson acting as chairman. Arrangements were made for the father and son banquet to be held in the parish hall, on February 23rd. It was decided that Mr. Hudson should act as toast-master for the evening, and a committee was appointed to look after the decorating of the hall. Mr. E. Reid is to be the guest speaker.

### REBEKAHS MAKE HOSPITAL BED AVAILABLE

Some time ago the members of Verduin Rebekah Lodge purchased a hospital bed unit to be available to anyone in Georgetown or district needing this. There is no charge for this, except that the party requiring it pays for the transportation. The local doctors will all be supplied with the forms to be filled in by the person requiring the use of the bed.

### A TREASURE

Long had the attic its treasures kept,  
Lost to the world were they;  
In its cradle the old rag doll had slept,  
No match for the toys of today.

Once, the doll had been fashion's queen  
To a child with flaxen hair,  
It was her idol, matchless, supreme,  
Attended with loving care.

But alas, one day a messenger came  
Out of a sky so fair,  
None know why, but he called a name,  
Her's of the flaxen hair.

On a green hillside a simple cross  
Has stood through the empty years,  
And oft times around it, the clinging moss,  
Has been damp with a mother's tears.

A mother, her treasure, that time so brief,  
With her child, of the flaxen hair  
Does that sweet face smile, on her searing grief  
Through the doll in its cradle there?

Does courage, and hope, come stealing back?  
Does a whisper, from far off say:  
"Nearing the dawn, the skies are black,  
But just beyond is the day?"

—Bill Taylor, Water Street.

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### New Names in the NORTH

THERE'S new activity in Ontario's bushland north of Lake Superior. Marathon and Red Rock, Terrace and Heron Bay; they all tell the same story. New towns have arisen, old ones expanded. Only five years ago on the site of Marathon, for example, there was nothing but bush; today a new community beside a new pulp mill is contributing millions to Canada's export trade.

Such spectacular developments in the north are matched by continuing industrial expansion in the older established communities. Throughout Canada today ever-widening avenues of opportunity await the enterprise of young Canadians.

With newsprint production 50% above pre-war levels, Canada today has an output five times that of any other country, and accounts for three out of every five newspaper pages in the world.

"Canada is a land of opportunity... There is a field for almost anything one can think of, and anyone with a willingness for hard work has a good chance to achieve success", says Donald J. Smith, President of Hornet Industries Limited, Guelph, Ontario.

Hornet Industries Limited, which was founded in 1945, has in this short time achieved remarkable success in the manufacture of chain saws and combustion engines. More than half the production of the plant reaches markets outside Canada. From a staff of only a half dozen men in 1945, Hornet Industries Limited has expanded to three plants in Guelph, employing 296 workers.

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