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CANADIAN PLOWMEN ABROAD
 by ALEX McCONNIE, Jr., Director
ONTARIO PLOWMEN'S ASSOCIATION

ENGLAND. Here we are in the Mother Country. Since I last wrote we've put the Atlantic Ocean behind us, we've seen quite a bit of England and the two champion plowmen, Jim Eccles and Ron Marquis, have won prizes at the Newquay plowing match. They did themselves proud.

As far as our sea voyage is concerned, we didn't run down any whales or get tangled up in any field of icebergs, so you might call it uneventful. But I must say we found "life on the rolling deep" aboard the Queen Mary quite pleasant. We can recommend it to all our friends.

Within fifteen minutes after the ship docked at Southampton officials of the Canadian and Ontario governments—over here and a representative of Anglo-American Oil Co. came on board and welcomed us to England. It was a warm welcome—in fact everywhere we have gone since our arrival overseas we have been warmly greeted. One still sees evidence of the hardships these people have suffered and the shortages and controls under which they still live. But despite all this they are the most hospitable people you would want to meet.

One of the highlights of our week in England was the plowing match at Newquay I mentioned earlier. There were 67 entries in plowing and 25 others in hedging and thatching. Our boys used Canadian plows and plowed the two straightest lands in the field. Jim Eccles came third in the tractor class and Ron Marquis was fifth in the horse-drawn plow class.

The boys did remarkably well when you consider they were competing against match plows equipped with wheel presses, floats and just about every other conceivable device. Another thing I noticed was that nearly all the plowmen were older men who had been competing in these matches for years. I only saw two boys who looked as if they were under 20 years of age. When the judge suggested the boys were using their brawn instead of their brains I felt like saying that one result of using stock plows in Ontario matches was that the average age of the plowmen at Burford last year was in the twenties.

Since the match we've had a good look at conditions over here. As far as the weather goes it is much as it was when we left home. It has been a very open winter with scarcely any frost at all. The fields are still green, grass is growing and in southern England the cattle are nearly all in the fields. We've been told by the farmers we've met that the stock hasn't required as much supplementary feeding this winter as in other years.

The farm fields in Great Britain are much smaller than ours. They are irregular in shape and surrounded by hedges of various kinds. In the Midlands we noticed that some of the farmers are removing their hedges to make their fields larger and more suitable for power machinery.

I might mention here that there are more tractors per acre in Britain than in Ontario and there are very few horses in the better farming areas.

Some of the things we learned about agriculture in Great Britain made us realize that every country has its own way of doing things. For instance, the average farmer in Britain keeps as much livestock but uses more labour on 100 acres than we do on a 200-acre farm in Ontario. J. M. Woodley, of Newquay is a good example. He farms 100 acres of land which he leases from the King. On that farm he keeps 60 head of purebred Devon including 15 cows, milking; 60 breeding ewes; a flock of 150 hens; and last year he marketed 50 hogs.

Beside this livestock Mr. Woodley grows five acres of early potatoes which he will plant this month (February) and harvest in early July. After that he will use the same land for broccoli or Brussels sprouts. He operates the farm with the help of three men, two small tractors and two horses. He hires extra labour in harvest time.

Mr. Woodley's farm buildings are stone and one storey high, maybe 150 years old. They are grouped around his house which is older still. Farms such as this rent for four or five pounds per acre (about \$13 to \$16 at the present rate of exchange).

Restrictions and controls are the chief cause of complaint here. Colored gasoline in what seems to be sufficient quantities can be obtained for tractors, but only eight gallons a month are allowed for cars and as a result there are few on

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UNITED CHURCH PRESBYTERY OPPOSES SUNDAY SPORTS

Halton Presbytery of the United Church will urge, through Halton's member of the provincial parliament that nothing be done to legalize commercial sports. A resolution to this effect was passed at the presbytery meeting last week at Appleby. Members maintained that the whole province should not drop its standards because of the pressure of commercial interests in one city.

Alarm was expressed at the vast increase in gambling during the past ten years and it is recognized that today's young people come under temptation to spend drinking money of this kind in "littered Church homes and an effort would be made to reduce this.

Rev. C. R. Albright presided at the meeting and worship was conducted by Rev. Wray Davidson, Dept. Nelson. The executive of the W.M.S. met in joint session. Rev. Dr. John Mutch of Hamilton, president of Hamilton Conference, outlined preparations for the 25th anniversary of the church. Rev. Dr. R. T. Richards of London was also a speaker, giving a dynamic message on lifting up Christ as a greater power than military might.

A happy feature of the day was the presence of Elwood Morden and Gordon Hume, two of the four theological students from the presbytery who are completing their course this year at Emmanuel College. Their talks at the dinner hour as well as their conduct of the afternoon worship showed their ability as future ministers. A fund sponsored by the laymen is being established to aid deserving students for the ministry.

Regret was expressed that while much valuable week-day religious education is being carried on in the public and normal schools, the situation in high schools cries for attention. Rev. James Blair, Milton, and Rev. Ross Hare, Millgrove, reported on a conveners' conference in Toronto designed to make evangelism the keynote of the 25th anniversary celebration throughout Canada.

IN THE MAIL BAG

February 13th, 1950
TRANSIENTS
 Are we coming into the experiences of the early thirties? One night last week, two young men called to enquire if there was any place where they could get a meal and a place to sleep. After spending an hour and a half telephoning and making arrangements I was able to get a meal for them, but there was no place for them to sleep. There seemed to be nothing else to do but buy them a ticket and send them on to another town, which I was told had prepared for such unfortunate.

It does seem that some preparation should be made for these men. Some, one will say: It is their own fault, let them suffer the consequences. In the majority of cases the cause of their penniless condition can be traced to drink and gambling. If the breweries and distilleries want to do a humanitarian act, let them provide meals and beds for these men who are the product of their trade.

Unless there is a change in man's thinking and living, these conditions will continue to get worse.
 Chas. R. Gower.

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