



## CANADIAN PLOWMEN ABROAD

By ALEX MCKINNEY & Staff  
ONTARIO PLOWMEN'S ASSOCIATION

**Editor's Note:**

This is the third of a series of weekly stories which Alex McKinney Jr., a director of the Ontario Plowmen's Association, is writing about the visit of Canada's champion plowmen to the British Isles, West Germany, Denmark and the Netherlands.

**COPENHAGEN:** Here we are in Denmark, the home (if you remember back to your school days) of Shakespeare's Hamlet. But if there is "something rotten in the State of Denmark" we haven't discovered it. In fact everything we have seen and heard has impressed us greatly.

It was only a matter of a few hours to fly from the United Kingdom to this country. We landed at Copenhagen's modern airport where we were met by Otto Rosen of the Danish Agricultural Council, which corresponds to our Federation of Agriculture, and Knud Petersen of Det Danske Petroleumsk Aktieselskab, which is the Danish Esso Company. These two gentlemen accompanied us on a three-day tour of the land of the Vikings.

Before I launch into an account of our experiences here, perhaps you will be interested in some background information. Denmark is an agricultural country of some 4,000,000 people of whom about a million live in this fine city of Copenhagen. Incidentally, there seem to be as many bicycles in this city as there are people. Just about everybody rides a bicycle and the cyclists have the right of way over motor cars. At busy hours it is quite a sight to see the streams of bicycles running through the heart of the city.

But to get back to the country. Its economy is based on farming, whose products accounted for 75 per cent of the country's exports last year. This year they hope farm products will account for 80 per cent of exports which was the pre-war figure. Agricultural products pay for oil, coal and other goods purchased abroad, for Denmark has few natural resources besides her soil. It is easy to understand why everyone, townspeople and farmers alike, appreciate the importance of maintaining prosperity and are interested in farming and farmers.

This probably explains why six journalists (that's the name over here for newspaper reporters) interviewed us on our arrival. Three Copenhagen dailies carried stories about Canadian farming the next day. The newspapers were concerned about competition in the British market. They wanted to know what we thought of the new contracts.

The "journalists" plied us with questions about our home markets, our commodity organizations, our plowing matches and how they are run. They wished to know how the Danes who have come to Canada are doing. They are definitely interested in increasing migration to Canada. From what I have seen of Danish farming I would say the more Danes that come to Canada the better it will be for us.

Well so much for being in the news, except that as English is spoken and understood by everybody here we did not have any difficulty with the interview.

Our hosts took us on a 150-mile tour by car through the province of North Zealand during which we visited farms and observed farming methods. We noticed that most of the farm buildings are grouped around three, and sometimes four sides of a courtyard with the house on one side and stable and feed barns forming the other two or three sides. The houses are always close to the barn and often are part of one building. About 90 per cent of the buildings, both houses and barns are painted and have red tile roofs. Many of the barns are made of brick and are about one-and-a-half stories high.

I don't know when I have seen such tidy farms. About 50 per cent of the land is sod, the balance is well plowed and there is no evidence of weeds anywhere.

During our motor trip we only saw two or three pieces of machinery outside. Of course, labour is cheaper and more plentiful than at home; the average farm worker does not receive more than half the amount paid in Canada. The farms here are smaller than our own and except for tractors and some milking machines they are not as highly mechanized and so require more men. In fact we only saw one tiller carrier either in Britain or Denmark and stable conveniences such as we have are scarce.

However, I must say the farms are prosperous looking. They look as though they have been prosper-

ous for some time and many of the buildings are less than 50 years old. The farmers won't admit they are making money!

The cattle we saw were mostly Red Danish—a purebred that is peculiar to Denmark. They are nearly as large as Holsteins, but somewhat thicker in conformation and very uniform in type. They test about four per cent higher than Holsteins but produce less milk. The best herd in Denmark is probably on the farm of A. Reimann who is milking 80 cows three times a day and last year he had two cows that produced over 1000 lbs. of butter fat. The average of Reimann's herd would be equal to the best of our Canadian herds. We also saw several herds that had an average of over 400 lbs. of fat for 25 cows on 2X.

We were interested in the farm organizations over here. Almost all the bacon and butter and most of the poultry are processed and marketed through producer cooperatives. These are well organized and it is said that a side of bacon sold on the British market can be traced back to the farmer who fed the hog. The Danes are very conscious of quality which is probably why they do so well in the export market.

As I mentioned earlier in my letter the Danish Agricultural Council is the number one organization of its kind here. It negotiates prices and largely determines the agricultural policy of Denmark. Mr. Arne Hogboro Holm, who has been secretary of the council for many years, is very well informed on agricultural matters. Many of you will probably remember having met him at Guelph last summer when he attended the annual meeting of the International Federation of Agricultural Producers. We spent a most enjoyable and interesting afternoon with him and he asked after many friends he met in Canada. Well I think I have written enough about Denmark in this letter. I'll just say in closing that Denmark is an old country—remember the Vikings?—it is famous for its good farmers and I feel we should welcome all of her sons she can spare to take up farming in Canada.

**ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH**

Regular Sunday morning worship was conducted in St. John's United Church on Sunday morning by the minister, Rev. J. M. Smith. The lesson was read from Matthew 25: 14-30 and the text from 1 Kings 20:37-40. The sermon subject was "The Servant Was Busy" and was centred on the thought of obedience to trust and the fulfillment of first things first as stated in the words of Jesus "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you." The choir under the direction of Mr. Norman Laird sang the anthem "God is a Spirit" and the solo: "He Smiled on Me" was sung by Mrs. G. Kidney.

The evening worship was based on some of the familiar hymns of the Church. Stories and remarks telling of the writer, conditions and motives of writing and adaptation of the hymns were told before the reading and singing of each hymn. The hymns sung and read were: "Beneath the Cross of Jesus,"—Elizabeth Clephane; "O Worship the Lord in Beauty of Holiness"—John Mansell; "When I Survey The Wondrous Cross"—Isaac Watts; "The Ninety and Nine"—Elizabeth Clephane; "I Would Be True"—Howard Arnold Walter; "Lead On, O King Eternal," E. W. Shurtleff; "What a Friend We Have in Jesus"—Joseph Scriven; and "Abide With Me"—Henry Francis Lyte.

It was announced that the Victoria College Fellowship Quartette consisting of four young men, candidates for the ministry would sing at the morning and evening services, and the after-worship Fireside next Sunday.

The Paris house where Duc de Saint-Simon, 18th century French writer, once lived, now is a woman's reformatory.

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A euchre party, sponsored by Oton Lodge was held in the Oddfellows Hall last Friday evening with sixteen tables playing. High score prizes went to Mrs. Blake Leslie, Mrs. Norman Snyder, Mrs. Clare Wilson and Ross Hill. Mr. Herb Harlow won the prize for lone hands.

Every Dominion election thousands of Canadians who have the right to vote don't even bother to do so.

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

In the Estate of John Feddon Chisholm, late of the Town of Georgetown, in the County of Halton, Gentleman, deceased.  
All persons having claims against the estate of John Feddon Chisholm, late of the Town of Georgetown, in the County of Halton, Gentleman, deceased, who died on or about the 27th day of January, A.D. 1950, at the said Town of Georgetown, are hereby notified to send in to the undersigned on or before the 15th day of March, A.D. 1950, full particulars of their claims. Immediately after the said date, the assets of the said deceased will be distributed having regard only to claims of which notice shall have then been received.  
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