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**CANADIAN PLOWMEN ABROAD**

by V. C. PORTEOUS \* Director ONTARIO PLOWMEN'S ASSOCIATION

**Editor's Note:** This is the fifth of a series of weekly stories which V. C. Porteous, a director of the Ontario Plowmen's Association, is writing about the visit of Canada's champion plowmen to the British Isles, Belgium, Denmark and the Netherlands.



London, England; By now you have probably heard that Herb Jarvis of Agincourt, the champion Canadian horse plowman, was the winner of two trophies at the West of England Championship Plowing Match in Cornwall. They were for the best overseas competitor and the best land in his class and naturally we are thrilled about it. It was a good day for plowing — some said it was the best match weather in years — and the soil cut like cheese. I would say most of the competitors were "artists" in the art of plowing. But unlike Canadian plowmen they used every conceivable device to dress up their work. After the match we inspected the field and it was a beautiful sight to behold.

In the evening there was a banquet at which Herb was presented with the silver trophies he had won while Hugh Leslie, the champion Canadian tractor plowman, and I received books dealing with the history of Cornwall. In addition we received plaques bearing Cornwall's coat-of-arms. They will always remind us of an occasion when we were entertained royally and treated lavishly.

But the variety of plowing methods that I observed at the Cornwall match only confirmed my opinion that what we need is a set of standard rules for international matches. When I was called upon to speak, I urged the adoption of some such rules and as this was reported in the press I may hear from others here who share my ideas.



Hugh Leslie permits a detailed account of our travels. But I'll try to fill you in since the last letter which I remember rightly was written in Holland on the day we were leaving for Belgium.

That day we drove to Arnhem, scene of one of the bloodiest engagements of the last war. It was here in September, 1944, that the British First Airborne Division, which included many Canadians, fought with great valour for nearly a week against great odds. Only 1800 of these hard pressed paratroopers managed to fight their way out of the trap. But in April of the following year, as you know, the British forces of the first Canadian army took Arnhem and then pressed on to the "big kill."

All of that took place about six years ago but there still is extensive shell and bomb damage to be seen although we were told, and could see, that a great deal of rebuilding and repair work has taken place since the end of the war.

While there we visited what to us is a rather unusual business institution. It is concerned mainly with structural estimates. This firm estimates and prepares bids on contracts for structural undertakings from a house to a huge engineering project. In order to do this they maintain research and experimental laboratories; huge drafting rooms; record libraries and just about everything pertaining to engineer's estimates. It is the largest firm of its kind in the world, privately-owned, and has been in business for 60 years.

From Arnhem we drove across the Netherland-Belgium border to Antwerp and then to Brussels, two great Belgium cities that are so well known to the lads who served here in the two world wars.

We visited the Belgium Agricultural Academy and Experimental Station. This institution is much like our Ontario Agricultural College at Guelph but it is not engaged in field crop experimental work to the same extent as is O.A.C. Later we had dinner in Brussels with representatives of the Belgium Agricultural Council, the Department of Agriculture and the Esso Company in Belgium, who were our hosts. During the meal we learned a lot about agricultural conditions in Belgium and the country generally.

The following day was Sunday but we were able to do some shopping for most of the stores were open. Later we visited the site of the Battle of Waterloo, about 12 miles from Brussels. In my mind insofar as British history is concerned it is one of the most important places in the world. The monument there is an earth mound 120 feet high which we were told, was built by women entirely. On top of it there is a sort of pavilion from which one can see for miles in any direction. It houses a panoramic painting, the best I have ever seen, of the battle.

We did not see as much of Belgium as we wanted, because to be in Cornwall on schedule we had to take the plane for London that night.

To sum up our impressions of the continent the thing that stands out is the seeming indifference of the people to prospects of another war. It would almost appear that generations now living here are so used to the idea of war that its inevitability is taken for granted. To me it's like living at the foot of a volcano, safe now, but for how long no one knows.

The peoples of Denmark, Holland and Belgium differ from one another in many respects but all of them are alike in their love of their country. It's my personal belief that the only solution to the problems of western Europe is union under one government but I doubt, in the light of this nationalism, if it can be accomplished, in the immediate future. The sad part is that these countries by themselves are comparatively weak and represent easy prey for any aggressor, yet if they united they would be a tower of strength. They all have a sincere desire to protect themselves but they seem to be helpless under present conditions. At least, this is how it appears to me.

But enough for now as we must get ready to leave for Northern England and then to Scotland.

**Miss Ellen Kirkwood Erin Township Native**

A sister of the late William Kirkwood of Georgetown, Miss Ellen Kirkwood died on February 6th at the home of her brother John, Erin Township. A life long resident of Lot 4, concession 11, she was in her 88th year.

Born in Erin Township, she was the elder daughter of the late Robert Kirkwood and Martha Ann McEnery. Surviving are her brothers, Robert and John. She was predeceased by a sister, Sarah and brother, William.

The funeral took place at the home of her brother, where Rev. R. H. Somerville conducted the service. Pallbearers were her nephews, Oliver, William, Kenneth, R. B., Wilfred and Harvey Kirkwood. The floral tributes were borne by her nephews, James, Donald and Gordon Kirkwood and Clarence Hurren.

Interment was made in Melville (White Church) Cemetery.

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- DEL MAIZ CORN CREAM STYLE 2 15-OZ. TINS 33c

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- DANDEE TEA 1/2-LB. PKG. 38c, 75c
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- Tender King PEAS LIBBY'S 15-OZ. TIN 17c
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**FRY'S COCOA TIN 29c, 49c**

- PICKLES VICTORY SWEET MEKED 24-OZ. 33c
- PANCAKE SYRUP McLAUREN'S 16-OZ. JG 33c
- GLO COAT SELF POLISHING JOHNSON'S—Pt. Tin 59c

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