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CANADIAN PLOWMEN ABROAD

By WILL C. BARRIE, Manager
1955
CANADIAN PLOWING TEAM



W. C. Barrie

Editor's Note

W. C. Barrie of Galt, Ont., a past president of the Ontario Plowmen's Association and manager of the Canadian plowing team at the third annual world plowing match in Sweden, has sent home on the spot reports of his trip with team members Joe Tran of Clarendon, Ontario, and Ivan McLaughlin of Stouffville, Ont. Here is his sixth and final report.

Aboard the *Empress of Scotland* the last day of our Swedish visit was the only wet day we had. We were very lucky to see so much of Sweden in fine weather, as we were told that it was unusual to have such a long stretch of good weather so late in the year.

While checking our baggage for the plane, we were told that our bags, which went over all right, were now 160 pounds overweight and we had to pay \$24 extra. We had purchased more souvenirs than we thought.

At London we were met by the 23 representatives and heartily received, and all were pleased that the Golden Plow, having been won by a Northern Irishman, was to stay on British soil for another year. (Ivan McLaughlin of our team came second and our other team member, Joe Tran finished fourth out of 24 plowmen from 12 nations.)

On the following morning Ivan, Mrs. McLaughlin, and Joe Tran accepted an invitation extended by the manager of the British team Willie Dick, to drive by car up to his home in Scotland. Mrs. Barrie and I left by train for Edinburgh so as to have as much time as possible with friends and relatives in the land of the heather.

During the train trip to Edinburgh we saw many large herds of cattle and sheep. Plenty of pasture was to be seen everywhere, and the only evidence of a very dry summer was the small amount of plowing done. The British farmers seem to raise far more livestock than the Swedish farmers. On our trip through Sweden we saw no beef cattle and the herds were confined to the Swedish red and white dairy cattle.

As we drew nearer the border of Scotland there was a decided change in the appearance of the countryside. Instead of well trimmed hedges and red brick houses with red tiled roofs, so familiar to England, we saw grey stone houses and stone walls. More hills and valleys appeared and the flocks of sheep were larger.

Old Castles
As we entered Edinburgh we were most impressed with our view of the long bridges spanning the river, and the narrow streets with grey stone buildings.

On the following morning we went on a conducted tour of the city, and saw a few highlights of that old and historic city: Edinburgh Castle, Princes Street, Scott's Monument, and Holyrood Castle, and St. Giles Cathedral.

We were taken along the Queen's Drive and as we drove up the winding mountain the guide pointed to a village at the far side below us and said it was the most famous watering place in Scotland. Then, with a chuckle, he said it had six breweries!

'Come Awa' Ben'
From Glasgow we went to visit cousins in nearby Barrhead. Although our grandparents had come from Ayrshire 135 years before, we thought we understood the dialect. To be greeted at the door by "Come awa ben the hoose" was worth going a long way to hear. The hospitality we received in Scotland was far beyond anything we had hoped for.

While driving through Ayr to visit Burns' cottage, I stopped at the newspaper office for a paper. I mentioned that we came from near Ayr, Ont. That really started something. The publisher asked for an interview and had several pictures taken. We were shown through the printing office and loaded down with newspapers and booklets referring to the 750th anniversary of the city of Ayr, which was celebrated there three years ago.

To this anniversary the village of Ayr in Canada had flown a bouquet of flowers inscribed "To Ayr by air from Ayr." Ayr is lovely seaport made famous by Burns' cottage, the Burns museum, the Brig-o-Doon, and the monuments to Robbie Burns and William Wallace.

First Rate Farmer
Meanwhile, the rest of our party, Mrs. McLaughlin, Ivan and Joe, were visiting on the farm of Willie Dick. Mr. Dick is a striking example of a successful farmer, and after hearing about his farm operations, we began to think we were living in the wrong country. His wheat yields are from 70 to 80 bushels per acre, and barley from 80 to 100. He has nine tractors and eight balers, and all of this on 300 acres. He keeps just one cow and there are no fences on his farm.

After uneventful journeys to Liver-

pool, our party of five was reunited, and we boarded the *Empress of Scotland*, bound for Montreal.

The previous trip made by the *Empress* was reported to be a very smooth one, but we can't say that about this one. Ever since this voyage began, we have been tossed about and a goodly number are on the sick list, including some of our party.

Tremendous Power
This morning we were fortunate in being shown through the engine room by the chief engineer, and only then realized the amount of power it takes to propel a ship of this size. One hundred and ninety tons of fuel oil are consumed daily and 17 men are required for each of the three shifts. The fuel oil which looks like molasses is loaded in Canada for the round trip. It is amazing to think that it takes a crew of 460 to man this ship, which is carrying only 450 passengers.

This evening Joe mentioned it was his 35th birthday, so the ladies got in touch with the headwaiter, who had the chef bake a large fruit cake covered with thick icing and topped with a model of a tractor and plow. Ivan's silver cup was in the centre of the table and the captain insisted on filling it with champagne. When the pianist played "happy birthday to you," all of the dining room guests joined in the singing and Joe, who was taken completely by surprise, seemed more nervous than he did during the two days of plowing in Sweden!

On the last day aboard ship, the weather was perfect and the upper decks were lined all day with passengers taking in the sights.

We saw a great many impressive things during our wonderful trip abroad, but we found there was nothing to match the thrill of stepping onto Canadian soil and knowing we would soon be home once again.

NORVAL
The fourth annual Christmas Carol service of Norval and Union churches was held on Tuesday evening, December 13th, in the Norval Presbyterian Church.

A fine congregation of some 250 people attended the service to find inspiration and to hear the choral renderings of the joint choir. The church sanctuary was beautifully decorated by Norval church Married Couple's club and by candlelight presented a most inspiring sight. The service was conducted by the minister, Rev. G. L. Royal, who recounted once more for all to hear the old, old story of the Christmas Babe. Miss Betty McClure presided at the organ and the choir was trained by Mrs. J. D. Murray. The choir members were saddened on the very day of the service by the death of Mrs. Murray's father and due to her loss she was unable to be present to see the fruits of her labours.

The processional hymn was the familiar "O Come All Ye Faithful," sung by the choir as they entered at the read of the church and proceeded to the loft with the voices of the congregation joining in. Scriptural sentences were then read from the prophecy of Isaiah followed by the Prayer of Approach. A quiet meditative interlude: "Holy Night, Peaceful Night" was intoned by the choir after they were seated. The Minister then paraphrased the Old Testament Scriptures under the titles "Heralds of the Promise," using passages from the prophecies of Isaiah and Malachi. The choir sang the glorious seasonal anthem "The First Christmas Morning" with its dynamic melodies and soaring themes.

A solo by Miss Marion Shaw of Brampton "Night of Nights" was ably presented following the great Christian anthem. A visiting quartet sang after Miss Shaw's solo the charming paraphrase "O Little Town of Bethlehem." Members of the visiting quartette were: Mrs. Mareta Campbell, Mrs. Marvyn Grimshaw, Mrs. William Mara and Mrs. Gordon Sharp. The choir followed the quartette number with "Awake Dear Nightingale."

Mr. Royal then recounted the story of our Lord's conception as it is recorded in the Gospel according to St. Matthew. A sextette of the Norval and Union members sang "Holy Night" by Johannes Brahms followed by the solo "The Virgin's Slumber Song" sung by Miss Jean Anderson. The congregation was then given an opportunity to sing the carol, "O Little Town of Bethlehem" followed by serenade entitled: "The Christmas Child". Another carol was sung "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" being succeeded by a ladies' chorus with "Come In Dear Angel." Mr. William McKay sang "Angels we have heard on High," followed by two traditional Christmas airs "As I walked in Bethlehem" and

"The Coventry Carol." The minister told the miracle of Jesus Advent from the Gospel according to Saint Luke under the heading "The Birth of Our Saviour." Again the quartet sang this time choosing the number "No Room" and the final triumphant anthem followed: "O Holy Night," with Miss Marion Shaw singing the leading role.

Silent prayers on the part of the congregation were terminated by the repeating of the Lord's Prayers and the Benediction. The recessional hymn was George Frederick Handel's immortal "Joy to the World." After the retirement of the choir and minister the echoing chords of the organ sounded in the fast-emptying sanctuary.

The members of the choir were: Jean Anderson, Dorothy Campbell, Jean Crichton, Marilyn Cunningham, Anne Davis, Marlene Dixon, Shirley Findley, Isabelle McClure, Margaret McClure, Isabel McKay, Isabel Ostrander, Barbara Watson, Wilson Bowers, Sam McClure, William McKay, Victor Ostrander, Ronald Jerry and William Reed. A social hour was enjoyed afterwards at the manse.

—Attend the church of your faith on Christmas day. Christmas is a holy day, as well as a holiday.

JUNIOR CHOIR TO SING
The Junior Boys and Girls will compose the choir at the family service Christmas Sunday in St. George's Anglican Church. The Nativity being primarily a child's festival, the pastor will address the children at this 9:45 a.m. service.

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