

EDITORIAL COMMENT

Revolution on the Farm...

Farmers who heard a speaker predict a farm revolution at a cattle breakfast meeting in Maple last week were not hearing anything they didn't already know. The change in farming techniques in the last quarter century have completely altered farm life already. And the next ten or twenty years will intensify this. A farmer today does not have to be very old to have lived through a period of automation similar to what has been happening in other industries. As late as the early forties, it was not uncommon for a farmer to prosper with relatively little in the way of mechanized machinery. Hay and oats could still be harvested in the old way. — Hay was first cut, then stacked by hand, later forked onto a horse-drawn wagon and drawn to the barn where it was deposited in the mow by a sling. Milking machines were used only on the largest farms. Cattle breeding was mainly by natural means, and a farmer took his chances on the quality of the stock he would be raising. The sweat of a man's brow was much more important than that it is today. He worked to the utmost of his physical capacity from sun-up to sundown. The hired man, if he had one, was single and worked for his board and a bit of extra cash. A hundred acre farm was considered large, certainly large enough for the average farmer to operate. As it affects all parts of the economy, a world war helped to speed changes which were slowly evolving. There was a manpower shortage, and hired men became the exception. The machinery companies developed a number of labour saving devices. Crops were instantly harvested. Tractors replaced horses. The better farmers began operating two or three farms. Artificial breeding improved cattle stock. Today a farmer is a big-time businessman — or he isn't a farmer too long. Besides the many skills which were always necessary — an economist, a weather predictor, a machinist, a veterinarian, a do-it-yourself repairman — he now must be a capitalist, for operating a modern farm is a big business. He has more money invested in machinery than many a small industry. One wrong move can cost him thousands of dollars. And he must continually be striving for more productivity from his land, better stock, faster harvesting. The grandsons of men who politely laughed at the fancy frills of an education in an agricultural college, are attending these same colleges. Farmers who said nothing would replace the horse are working at other jobs. A herd of milk cattle has become as valuable as a whole farm thirty years ago.

Another Word of Thanks...

As father of one of those hundreds of Saturday morning early birds, we once again express a word of thanks to those men who make it all possible. Many a morning we have tumbled out of bed, whirled our way down to the arena to watch a game, to be met by a cheery group of coaches, referees, timekeepers, already on the job. They give their time willingly, collecting and handing out sweaters, coaching, encouraging the timid ones, giving a break to every player, whether he's an all-star candidate or a kid who may never learn to stand up straight on his skates. They take their game seriously, but sportsmanship is the key. Every boy gets his chance on the ice. Losers congratulate winners. There is keen competition, but once the game is over there are seldom regrets. Many young lads have benefited from participation in Kid Hockey. Most of them aren't headed for the big time. Many won't even don skates again. But the fun they have had, the sportsmanship, the healthy exercise won't soon be forgotten. We hope other fathers, like us, will remember to say thanks to those who make this all possible.

Why Tax the Sick?...

Canadians who get steamed up about high drug prices frequently overlook one significant fact, says a recent item in the Financial Post. This is the 11% federal sales tax on prescription drugs. It adds almost \$11 million a year to the costs of drugs in Canada. A Toronto medical journal advocates abolishing the tax. The writers may be biased, because they work for a drug manufacturing firm. But they come out with this telling comment: "The Government of Canada makes more money through its sales tax on prescription drug sales than the pharmaceutical industry makes in net profit. For example, during the year ending January, 1962, our company remitted on behalf of patients \$431,000 in federal sales tax alone. Our profit, after tax, for the year amounted to \$330,000. A similar picture would relate to all companies engaged in the pharmaceutical industry." They also raise another point which merits contemplation. It is this: Why is Canada just about the only country to tax the sick for prescription medication?



THEY SAY THE THING TO DO IS GO RIGHT. UP AGAIN

NEWS DESK EXTRAS

Questions Nobody Asks

Since we've overstocked in opinions of all sorts of trivia about this time of year, and since the market for our personal views on picaresque controversies seems limited, we're using this space to spring clean the cranium and make room for new concepts. (Lack of storage space does compound the problem. So if you'll excuse us while we bid ourselves a few answers by asking a few questions. Q. What do you know about Pop Art? A. We know Father Arthur demands more respect than you give him. Q. We sighted a robin in our garden April 3rd. Are we the first to do so? A. No. Brooks Parsforth reported and identified the first robin back in February of 1877. Q. Did you enter the Esao Jingle contest they're plugging during the playoff telecasts, and if so how did you complete the last two lines? A. De-da. De-da. De-da-da. Q. Do you think the exist-

Accumulated Funds

Accumulated funds which are surplus to the requirements of payment of benefits and administration costs will be allocated for investment in securities of the Province in amounts which are related to the proportion the funds from residents of each Province bears to the total of all contributions. Thus financing will be available for the growing capital needs of the Provinces for education, highways, power and industrial development. The transfer of savings to those receiving pensions will have the effect of providing a floor to the constant spending of retired people, adding significantly to the demand for consumer goods which is desirable in a growing economy.

Person Rights and Portability

A further reason for the complexity of the Bill of that it establishes a nation wide pension system while allowing for the operation of Provincial legislation if a Province so chooses. The Bill is unique in that it provides for complete co-ordination of Federal and Provincial Legislation and administration, so that the rights and benefits of individuals will be assured. There will be a 100 per cent portability of pensions. That is to say a contributor's pension rights will not be reduced in any way if he changes his job or if he moves his home. A basic principle of the Bill is that a pension right once earned is never lost. For example, a woman who stops earning while she marries, or who has a job for only part of her married life, will be entitled when she reaches age 65 to a pension based on her earnings average over the whole period and calculated on exactly the principles as the pension of anyone who has had continuous earnings.

Weekly Bible Thought

For thou art my lamp, O Lord: and the Lord will lighten my darkness. 3 Samuel 22:29 The safest way out of the dark is with a light. Jesus said, "I am the light of the world, he that followeth after me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Grid of business advertisements including: CHIROPRACTOR DONALD A. GAY, D.C.; G. Y. WALKER, O.C., D.O.S.C.; Dale, Bennett, Latimer & Baines; Frederick A. Helson; Wm. C. Milligan, O.B.; MONUMENTS; T. Van Sicker, B.A.; WALLACE THOMPSON; BARRAGER'S Cleaners-Shirt Launderers.

NEWS ECHOES

10 YEARS AGO
First serious robbery downtown since a smash and grab thief stole several watches from Barber's Gift Shop occurred last night. The victim this time was Simpson's Order Office, almost directly across the street from the police station. A safe containing an estimated \$500 was taken.
20 YEARS
A Georgetown man has been honoured in the King's Birthday Honours list of commendations. Under the heading of King's Commendation for Valuable Service in the Air is listed the name of S/L Charles W. Stockford, Georgetown, of the RCAF. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Stockford.

HARLEY TO HALTON WEEKLY OBSERVATIONS BY DR. HARRY HARLEY, M.P. FOR HALTON

In this second column dealing with the Canada Pension Plan I will discuss the benefits under the plan, the use of the pension fund which will be built up, and the portability of the Plan across all of Canada. There are five benefits under the Canada Pension Plan. 1. RETIREMENT PENSION The amount of retirement pension after the first ten years of contributions will be 25 per cent of the average earnings upon which a person has contributed. Proportionately lesser amounts will be payable after five years of contributions. The amount of the pension, as well as that of other benefits under the Plan will be adjusted in accordance with a formula which takes into account the rise in the cost of living and increases in average wages and salaries in Canada. Through the use of these indexes, pensions will be in step with improvements in productivity and rising rates during the life of a person. 2. DISABILITY PENSIONS To be eligible for a disability benefit, a person must have made contributions for at least five of the last ten years before the benefit is claimed, and for a total of 10 years or one-third of the total number of years possible for the contributor. He must also satisfy the requirements of being unable to carry on in gainful employment in the foreseeable future. The Disability Pension consists of two parts: a flat rate benefit of \$25.00 per month, plus an amount equal to 75 per cent of the Retirement Pension he might have claimed had he reached the age of 65. 3. WIDOWS PENSIONS Regarding Widows' Pensions, to receive a survivor's pension or death benefit, contributions must have been made for at least two years and one month, as well as for one-third of the total number of years possible for the contributor. A widow of 65 or over will be entitled to a pension of 60 per cent of her late husband's retirement pension. She will also have available to her the Old Age Security benefit from age 65. For a widow under 65 years, there will be a basic flat rate component of \$25.00 per month and an earnings-related component of 37 1/2 per cent of her husband's retirement pension. There are also variations in the amount of the pension which are related to the age of the widow and whether she has dependent children or is herself disabled. 4. ORPHANS BENEFITS The Orphans benefits will be paid to all dependent surviving children up to age 18 and age 25 if they are continuing full time education. The amount of these benefits will be \$25.00 per month for each child but the total amount paid to all surviving children cannot exceed the maximum retirement pension which at the beginning of the Plan will be \$104. 5. DEATH BENEFITS The amount of the Death Benefit is an amount of six times the monthly retirement