

March 8

Hard Struggle Ahead, Padre Tells Legislature

Back on leave from Italy, where he served as chaplain with the Canadian Army, Capt. the Rev. A. W. Downer (P.C., Dufferin-Simcoe), told the Legislature yesterday that those who believed the war would be over in a couple of months were engaged in "wishful thinking." He warned the House that the Germans were still strong, still determined, and while it was hoped they might crack suddenly, "it doesn't look like that."

Capt. Downer was welcomed to the Legislature by Premier George Drew before the orders of the day, and Speaker Stewart called upon the chaplain to give the members some of his impressions gained on the fighting front in Italy.

"I have just come back from Italy and I bring not only verbal greetings from the Canadian fighting men, but literally hundreds of greetings from them to the citizens of Ontario," said Capt. Downer. "Our boys are doing an excellent job and they are proud that back home men and women are doing a good job in providing them with the tools of war. The Canadian boys are interested in what is going on at home, not only on what is happening now, but in what is likely to happen in the future. They want to know what plans are being made, particularly the plans for rehabilitation."

Ontario has sent almost one-third of the men and women in the Canadian forces overseas, Capt. Downer declared. Easily 250,000 men and women from Ontario are in the armed forces. They wanted to know what the future held for them when they returned, he said.

"I say with all the emphasis at my command that every one here should be vitally interested in making this Province a fit land for heroes to live in," he said amid applause.

Mountainous country and mud and cold had slowed the Allied advance in Italy, continued Capt. Downer, and the Germans were asking no quarter and giving none. The Canadians were their equal and also were asking and giving no quarter in the grim struggle.

"Their spirits are high and they are waiting for the day when the weather improves, and when it does we shall hear good things from Italy," declared Capt. Downer.

Capt. Downer paid tribute to the Canadian Red Cross and the Evening Telegram War Victims' Fund. The latter had spread the name of Toronto and Ontario throughout the British Isles, he declared.

Speaking of England, Capt. Downer said the Motherland bore her scars proudly, "scars she bears for you and for me." The spirit of the British people never had been higher, he said.



Capt. Downer.

Plan Frozen-Food Units For Farmers After War

Ontario farmers after the war may be able, through "quick-freezing" units at low cost, to enjoy in midwinter the berries and vegetables they produce in summer. As soon as the war ends, Ontario Hydro proposes to send out mechanized units to display to the farmer and his wife latest electrical machinery and "gadgets" available. The plan was disclosed in the Legislature yesterday by Hydro Commissioner G. H. Challies.

Mr. Challies spoke to the second reading of the bill to reduce or remove rural Hydro service charges. He said the "quick-freezing" unit was not a dream but had been worked on for months in Hydro laboratories to sell at a very low cubic-foot cost. Hydro was not merchandising but would provide cheap power to bring modern equipment within the reach of every farm home.

He knew, he said, of one unit already in operation which could hold 60 dozen ears of corn, six crates of strawberries, six crates of raspberries as well as poultry and meat.

Through their use farmers could enjoy in winter their summer surplus.

Mr. Challies said he could not think of anything better this Government could do than make it possible for waterworks to be established in every farm house. Electric pumps will make this possible, he added.

The change in the service charge setup, Mr. Challies said, will permit rural power users to enjoy a reduction of \$527,500 in charges, to be covered by the consolidated revenue fund. Since total revenue from rural Hydro in 1942 was \$5,454,000, this represented a saving to farmers of about 10 per cent, and 97 per cent of farmers would receive a "varying benefit" from reduced rates, though 3 per cent would have a varying increase. Some reductions would be about \$1.50 a month. The service charge legislation, Mr. Challies said, was "a courageous move by a courageous Government to help rural areas" and the deficit in revenue entailed now would soon be wiped out through increased power use.