



—Staff Photo

MRS. DELBERT DOWNS of Hornby was top competitor at the Milton and District Horticultural Society's annual spring flower show, held Wednesday afternoon and evening of last week, and received the T. Eaton silver flower vase for amassing a total of 25 points. Above, she chats with guest speaker Edwin Harrop, who showed slides of his recent trip to South America, and Horticultural Society President Addison Woodley. There were many colorful arrangements and exhibits at the show, held at the Agricultural Hall.

— Our Readers Write —

PEARSON'S FLAG AFFRONT TO CROSS

Dear Sir:
Some interesting points have been made concerning the flag issue by Rev. Frank Crubb of St. Stephen's United Church, Edmonton, Alberta. I think they are important enough to repeat. He says:
"That leafy flag repudiates the Cross."
He continues as follows:
It would be hard to conceive of a greater affront to us as a Christian nation than that of being informed arbitrarily that the cross must be removed from our flag.

If it symbolizes anything, the flag represents what the nation stands for. Has the idea of sacrificing for the good of others now become so unpalatable to us as a people that the cross must come out of our flag?
If so, the prospects for our future as a nation have reached an all time low.

From the time of ancient Ecclesiastes down to the present day, society has always had its share of "blind mouths" whose only concept of greatness was the great parasitic demand they have made on their fellow men throughout their lifetime.
"Every man for himself," is their cry; "Eat, drink and be merry," their practice; and "Get everything you can for yourself—don't think about what you could give," their creed.
But against the sky, our crosses have waved as an ever-present reminder that human greatness is in defeating, but in utterly destroying their captives.

Do you wonder that our veterans love the Red Ensign? After all, they are the ones who learned the hard way what sacrifice and suffering on behalf of others really means. Extract this idea from the armed forces and you extract their strength, their pride, their glory and their effectiveness. But Mr. Pearson says this must go.

The flag issue is brought sharply into focus by the observations of a British ex-soldier, Ernest Gordon, near the end of his book, *Through the Valley of the Kwai*.

Captured early in the war by the Japanese, Mr. Gordon was forced, along with some 16,000 other British prisoners, to construct a supply railroad through the jungles in the valley of the Kwai River in Burma.

Working and living conditions were unbelievable. Through starvation, disease and various forms of abuse, about 28 out of every 100 prisoners working on the project died.

Those who were left alive were driven to animal-like existence. Starvation was so acute that when buckets of swill were thrown out from the camp kitchens, the prisoners actually fought each other for scraps of anything remotely resembling food.

When a prisoner died, they fought each other for possession of anything of value that he had owned, since this could be bartered outside the camp for the occasional duck egg to augment their hopelessly inadequate rations. The few in the camp who remained above this animal level acknowledged (with no satisfaction) that their enemies had indeed succeeded, not only defeating, but in utterly destroying their captives.

Then a strange thing began to happen.

The idea of sacrificing for the good of others began to find its way back into the camp. At first, it was "Dusty" Miller, a fellow Argyle, saving Ernest Gordon's life by tender nursing care after everyone had given him up for dead.

Then it was another Argyle

giving his whole food ration to help a sick friend recover and devoting his scant energy reserves to caring for him. The sick man recovered, but his benefactor collapsed and died from malnutrition.

The impact of that sacrifice hit the whole camp.

Then a work party came in one evening and when a count was taken of the tools, one shovel was missing. The Japanese guard, suspecting that one of the group had hidden the shovel, planning to barter it later for a bit of food, demanded that the guilty one step forward.

No one moved.

Screaming that they would all die, the guard cocked his weapon and levelled it to fire. At this, one soldier stepped forward and confessed to the crime. The guard clubbed him over the head and killed him. When the remaining prisoners were marched to the tool house and the shovels counted again, it was found there had been an error. None was missing.

The impact of self-sacrifice like this transformed the whole camp.

Men who had fought each other to see what they could get for themselves, now began competing with each other to see what they could do for someone else. Teams of volunteers banded together to help the sick recuperate. Artificial limbs were manufactured.

A symphony orchestra was formed, with the members making their own instruments.

But the real miracle was that men who had been reduced to living as animals now rose again to manhood, dignity and honor. The ingredient that produced the miracle was self-sacrifice for the good of others.

V-J Day finally arrived and a British soldier unstitched his blanket to reveal a flag he had successfully hidden throughout his years of captivity.

As Ernest Gordon saw the Union Jack catch the breeze, it suddenly struck him that here were the symbols of the sacrifice that had so miraculously transformed the men in his camp: the three crosses of the Commonwealth, England's Cross of St. George, Scotland's St. Andrew's Cross and Ireland's Cross of St. Patrick waved their message high over the camp.

We Canadians had preserved this rich heritage in the corner of the Red Ensign, the flag adopted by the Canadian government and people in 1945.

Now Mr. Pearson says it must go.

He seems to believe that three leaves off an Eastern Canadian tree are more than adequate as a substitute for the three great Crosses on our flag.

Along with the Crosses must go the Coat of Arms we requested from His Majesty King George V a scant 43 years ago.

What a tribute to infidelity and fickleness.

Certainly it is time for Canada to take on individuality and responsibility as a nation, but must a child disown its parents in order to achieve healthy maturity?

I should think that the opposite is the case.

The Canadian Coat of Arms on the Red Ensign traces our heritage back to 1,100 years before the birth of Christ. A Canadian worth his salt should be able to feel a bit of a thrill as he sees outlined against the sky, these symbols of the glory from which he has sprung.

When someone pretending to "lead" the people of Canada suggests that we repudiate the Cross and reject our heritage, when all he can offer in return is a handful of leaves, the time is ripe, not merely for dissent, but for revolution.

Mr. Editor, may I add a further remark to that of Rev. Chubb.

The imposition at this time of a new flag—ignoring our history and cutting our roots—can only further divide Canadians.

What we need is not another flag, but an opportunity and a resolve to examine the values and principles which founded this nation and secured our rights—all so beautifully symbolized and expressed in our Canadian Red Ensign.

Thanking you in advance for space in your paper, I am,
Yours truly,
Bruce Dingman,
Box 160, Milton.

HUNGRY GATOR

Two ragged beatniks were sitting on a small pier in the Florida Everglades, dangling their feet in the stagnant water. Suddenly, an alligator swam up and snapped a leg off one of them.

"Hey, man," the unfortunate fellow said to his buddy, "like, an alligator just bit off my leg."

"Which one?" asked the cool friend.

"I dunno," said the first cat.

"You see one alligator, you've seen 'em all."



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with SATISFACTION GUARANTEED

IT'S SCHNEIDER'S WEEK AT SUPER \$AVE

CHICKENS . . . 33^C lb
SCHNEIDER'S CHOICE PLUMP GRADE "A" 2½ to 3½ lb. Average

COTTAGE ROLLS . . . 69^C lb
SCHNEIDER'S FAMOUS - VAC PACKED - SMOKED

Skinless WIENERS 49^C lb
SCHNEIDER'S MILD SEASONED "RED HOTS" SCHNEIDER'S KENT BRAND

Lean Rindless BACON 65^C lb
SCHNEIDER'S - 4 VARIETIES

Luncheon Meats 2^F 45^C FOR
SCHNEIDER'S - VAC PACK

Cooked HAM 6-oz. Vac Pack 49^C

SCHNEIDER'S SWEET PICKLED 6-oz. PKG.

BACON 49^C
BACK 12-oz. BOWLS

Headcheese 39^C
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COMPARE AT 37c - HEINZ FANCY 48-oz. TINS
TOMATO JUICE 3^F 99^C FOR

Compare at \$1.49 12-oz. Bomb
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Compare at 2 for 63c - Scotties 400's
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COMPARE AT \$1.69 - ESSEX 1½-lb. TIN
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APPLE SAUCE 2^F 35^C FOR

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—Staff Photo

ADA MALMSTROM, 8, of Lowville, was one of the young competitors in the children's class at the Horticultural Society flower show last week. She's shown with an arrangement that won her a ribbon. Judy Saunders won the most points in the children's class.

LEDWITH'S SUPER \$AVE MARKET