



Jim's Jottings

by jim dills

* When there's an accident on Highway 401 it is usually pretty serious but when the Minister of Transport announced plans to increase the speed limit on 400 and 401 it was interesting to note the accident experience. The accident rate is actually lower on four lane divided highways. These roads have a rate of 1.6 accidents per million miles of vehicle travel compared with 5.8 per million miles on all other types of roads in the province. On November 15, as signs on the 560 miles of limited access highways are changed, the speed limit for passenger cars and motorcycles will be 70 miles per hour.

* Noticed last week that meetings are being held with the school teachers in the county to assure the taxpayer that his interests will be safeguarded, as will those of the administrators and teachers. Possibly that will have to be the second step when the candidates for Board positions face the voters in December. I notice every municipality but Milton seems to have contenders for the positions on the Board.

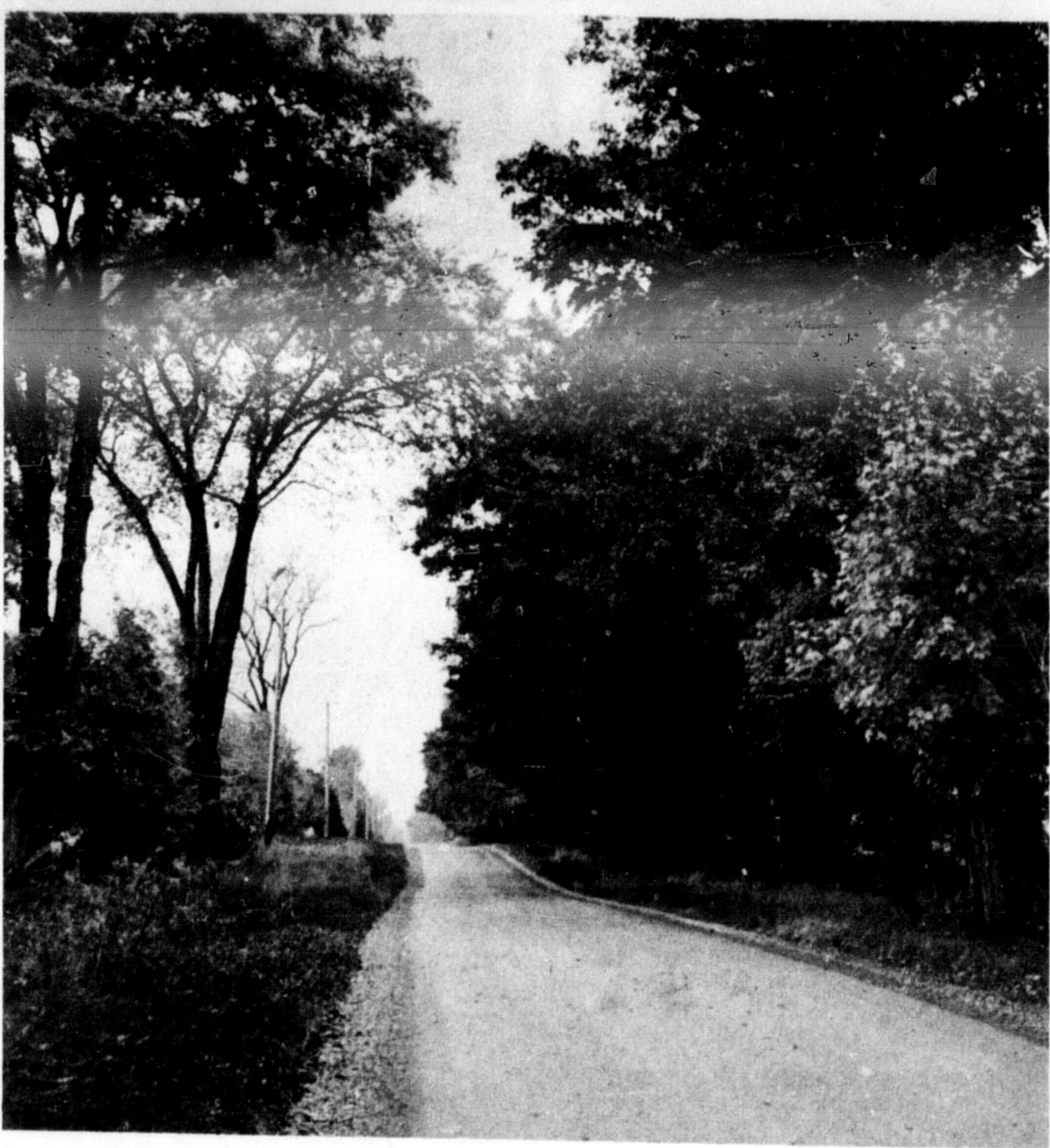
* You hear about the declining birth rate and there are statistics to prove it. For instance newborn admissions in hospitals were 26 per 1,000 population in 1961. In 1967 the rate was 18 per 1,000 of population.

* I may have lost track somewhere along the line but it seems to me there was discussion early this year of reviving the practise of honoring a local citizen of the

year in Milton again. The pattern was started several years ago but fell by the wayside after two or three years. I seem to recall a committee of service club representatives was looking into its revival. Just wondered whatever happened to that very worthwhile idea? It was one way to encourage and honor those who contribute through voluntary service or achievement of distinction in a broad field.

* You can't say drinkers and smokers don't contribute a hefty portion to the maintenance of government. Federal tax revenue in 1967 from the sale of tobacco products was \$461,266,414.93. The drinkers dipped up \$296,574,613 in taxes on their brew. It adds up to about \$35 per man, woman and child in Canada. And still the government estimates that the premature deaths of 15,000 to 18,000 Canadians every year are from smoking-aggravated diseases. This combined with the working time lost because of illness from such diseases, costs the economy an estimated \$500,000,000.

* Some figures drawn to my attention recently indicate France must be a pretty healthy spot. There 12.1 per cent of the total population is 65 years of age and over compared with Canada's 7.6 per cent or the United States' 9.2. At the bottom of the scale is Ghana with 3.2 per cent. Closer to home, the comparable figure for Halton is 5.4 per cent compared with Victoria County's 13.6.



A TREE-LINED ROAD on the Nassagaweya Town Line displays the colors of Autumn. Soon all the pretty leaves will be down. (Staff Photo)

Sugar and Spice

by bill smiley



Every so often I get myself into such a bind that a razor blade and a tub of hot water seem the only honorable way out. The sole reason I am still with you is that either my wife has just ruined my last blade shaving her legs, or everybody in the house has just had a bath and there's no hot water left.

I'm in one of these now. Bind, that is, not bath. First of all, the Slovaks are after me. In a recent column about the Czechs, I used, not inadvertently, the phrase "those lousy Slovaks."

Six of my 12 Slovakian readers took exception, reading it out of context, as people always do when they want to take exception.

No less a person than Louis Gorek, secretary of the Slovak Benefit Society, read my article "by chance." By chance my foot. It was obviously sent to him by some lousy Czech. He wrote a letter to the editor, which ends with the intriguing expression, "Whoever is going to seed a hate will find himself in a hatred."

Another letter to the editor, signed by six Slovak veterans, suggested that I was not only IGNORANT, but a member of some Nazi (sic) organization. Well, I'd rather be lousy than both ignorant and a Nazi. (I am ignorant, was lousy when I was a P.O.W. and have not been, nor ever expect to be a Nazi.) Curiously, this letter too contains the expression "If you are going to seed a hatred, you will find yourself in a hatred." Collusion, what?

Well, good Slovaks, and your ladies I apologize. If our educational system was any good, you'd have known what I meant. The original said, "Here you are, a good honest Bohemian (Czech). After World War I you are thrown in with those lousy Slovaks and told you are now a Czecho-Slovakian."

Let's change that. Make it read, "Here you are, a good, honest Slovak. After World War I, you are thrown in with those lousy Bohemians and told you are now a Czecho-Slovakian."

And that's about what they think of each other. Divide and conquer. I always

say. But now I'll have the Czechs after me. The next Balkan war may be fought right here in Canada, with yours truly slap in the middle. The only way out that I can see is to buy two tickets to the next ball sponsored by the Slovak Benefit Society.

But even the vision of slaving Slovaks and choking Czechs seeking my blood doesn't bother me nearly as much as the next ordeal in my current bind. I'd rather face 100 of them, bare-handed, than go through with it.

I have to make a speech to the Women's Institute. I would rather walk barefoot over a glowing bed of red-hot go-go girls than make the speech. However, it's my own fault.

Their secretary wrote me last June, asking me to speak. I ignored the letter, hoping it would go away, or that I'd die. Then came the mail strike. Thought I was safe. Not so. Early September she wrote again, sharply reminding me.

Still I stalled, but no use. It wasn't my sense of honor that made me accept. It was the fact that the secretary's daughter was in my home form. Every day she sat and looked at me with huge, reproachful eyes. Finally, I broke and blurted, "All right, Marsha, all right! Tell your Mom I'll do it." She beamed. Her teach hadn't let her down.

What in the holy old red-eyed world does one say to a group of first-class women who have already heard a speaker on every possible topic?

Well, I have my opening paragraph ready. It goes like this: "The Women's Institute should be wiped out, with fire and sword, if necessary. Speaking as a man, I would like to see every branch smashed, all records put to the flames, and any executive members who might be caught sent to Canada's tundra to spend the rest of their lives making motions and resolutions and phoney Eskimo carvings and not asking people to speak to them."

On second thought, maybe I'd better take on the entire Czech-Slovak population of Canada, and get it over with quickly.

Champion Editorial Page

Time is running out...

The frustrations of politicians at the local level are building into a tremendous pressure as the province still tries to contain the need for larger units of government. The term regional government has gone largely undefined and has thus taken on, in the minds of many, the feeling it is the ultimate answer to a host of problems.

But time is running out for the province to take steps to define regional government and implement it on some logical basis. That time is running out, is evident in several developments.

* Burlington Council has approved an application to the Ontario Municipal Board to obtain city status. Despite the advice it will cost \$160,000 more to operate as a city rather than a town, the municipal officials are opting for the city title.

* Oakville councillors, hearing Burlington was considering city status, proposed an amalgamation of Oakville and Burlington and designation of the whole area as a city. Burlington chose to go it alone.

* Education will be placed at the county level at the beginning of 1969 and all school boards and Boards of Education in Halton will be merged.

* Peel County council has proposed to the province that legislation be adopted to form the Regional Municipality of Peel. Municipal Affairs Minister Darcy McKeough reportedly promised a reply to the brief within a month.

* Halton County has a committee, patterned after the Peel group and, including the same expert as Peel used, to draft a somewhat similar proposal for this county.

If the province is to wait until all the appropriate reports are received it will have to keep the lid on a number of different proposals. Presumably the Burlington application for city status could be jostled hither and yon as was Milton's application for annexation. After all, Burlington is still a party to the Steele Commission that is reviewing local government in the Hamilton area. Action on anything there can be swept under the rug until a report is received.

The Plunkett Report on local government has been duly interred, despite the high hopes local legislators held for it to provide the final word on everyone's interpretation of regional government.

The Smith Report on Taxation has been received with its endorsement of larger forms of local government and the Select committee has reported on that report. It too called for early action on regional government noting particularly that people were more ready for it than government action would indicate.

The only other outstanding report on the area seems to be, of all things, a report titled the Metropolitan Toronto and Region Transportation Study. It's the report for which a group of officials set out to consider transportation and ended up setting several possible development patterns for a vast area of the province.

Municipalities have been given to the end of the year to comment on this report, which would indicate little action on it may be evident before mid-1969. The Steele Study, in which Burlington is involved, will hardly report much before that either.

Time is running out though, unless the province is prepared to retain the status quo on such things as Burlington's application for city status, Peel's proposal for that county as a regional government, and Halton's plan for a similar move.

Milton knows from bitter experience that things can be delayed. It's growth of 57 people over last year is an indication of how tightly the noose was drawn around its neck by delayed annexation proceedings and the "goodwill" of its southern neighbor. One wonders if the province can be as strong in restraining the larger communities.



Down[s] in this Corner

with roy downs

Now I've heard everything department: They tell us timber wolves are a major tourist attraction in Algonquin provincial park. Hundreds of people attend wolf howling excursions, no less.

Hallowe'en nowadays is an evening of fun for the little ones, of dressing up in costumes, going to parties, and begging goodies door-to-door. Did you ever wonder how it all began?

Hallowe'en once was a time of terror—and the costumes children wear on Hallowe'en night reflect that far-off time.

The Druids, an order of priests in ancient Gaul and Britain, believed that on Hallowe'en ghosts, spirits, fairies, witches and elves came out to harm people. They thought the cat was sacred, and believed that cats once had been human beings but were changed as a punishment for evil deeds.

From these druidic beliefs, come the present-day use of witches, ghosts, and cats in Hallowe'en festivities.

The Druids had an autumn festival called Samhain (pronounced SAH win), or summer's end. It was an occasion for feasting on all the foods which had been grown during the summer, and for this reason the custom of using leaves, pumpkins, and cornstalks as Hallowe'en decorations also comes from the Druids.

The Roman Catholic Church named Nov. 1 as All Saints' Day, and the evening before it was called Hallowe'en, which means hallowed or holy evening. The Christian feast day and the old pagan customs were combined into the Hallowe'en festival.

People in Milton, especially those who live near the fair grounds around Steam-Era time each year, probably won't believe this. But in Acton practically everybody got up in arms last week because the Beardmore Tannery officials decided to quit (repeat, quit) blowing the tannery's steam whistle at regular intervals through the day.

"Keep the tannery whistle blowing" was the resounding message the tannery officials got when they announced their plan to quit blowing the familiar whistle. A grade eight girl got up a petition signed by 245 schoolmates, a housewife rounded up a second petition bearing 41 names, and nostalgia spread through the town when the news spread.

One old-timer was heard to say "150 of us pensioners haven't anything to do all day but set our watches by the tannery whistle. We don't want it to stop."

From an outsider's viewpoint, it seems a bit silly the whole town is in an uproar over a whistle. But the good folks in Acton are serious about missing the friendly, punctual toot of the whistle by which they organized their day, sent their children off to school, or prepared their evening meals.

That's the stuff small towns are made of!

PEEKING INTO MILTON'S PAST



JOHN CONWAY'S STORE was a busy place in Milton around 1925 when this photo was taken. Like the modern supermarket, Mr. Conway's emporium stocked everything. Ledwith's now stands on the same site.

Pages of the Past

from champion files

20 years ago 100 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Canadian Champion October 21, 1948. Taken from the issue of The Canadian Champion, Milton, October 22, 1868.

At the meeting of North Halton District High School Board in Milton on Monday evening, the Board met all the members of the staff of the Milton School and discussed informally some of the school problems. The Board also gave approval to purchase commercial equipment for the Acton School which included 18 typewriters, desks, etc. A new refrigerator was purchased for the domestic science course at Milton. Several applications for transfer of pupils to other districts were dealt with. It was decided to engage another teacher for the Milton staff. A teacher for the Acton staff did not have the approval of the inspector and actions on this were deferred. Transportation problems were referred to the committee and accounts for salaries, supplies, etc., were passed.

Prize winners were announced for the poster contest sponsored by Milton Fire Department in connection with Fire Prevention Week. Prizes were presented for the two best essays in each grade of the public school.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Canadian Champion, October 24, 1918.

On Monday evening a Ford car ran into a deep rut at the G.T.R. crossing east of Bronte station. In it were a couple of passengers who had hired it from Hillmer Bros. of Oakville, and a driver employed by that firm. The car nearly upset, was turned aside off the railway and partly over the rails. The driver was unable to right it in time to save it from being hit by a fast passenger train. It was completely demolished but the passengers and driver had got out of it. A claim may be made against the G.T.R.

A man cannot serve on a jury if he is a post office or customs official, a sheriff, a coroner, a jailer, a constable, a clergyman, a barrister or solicitor, a physician or surgeon, and peculiar to say, all officers non-coms, and men of volunteer corps; a registrar, treasurer, clerk, collector and assessor, a teacher, editor, reporter or printer of any public newspaper or journal, railway employee, telegraph operator, miller or fireman.

The Daylight Saving period will end next Sunday morning. People are advised not to risk injury to their clocks by turning them back, but rather to move the hands forward eleven hours or stop them for an hour.

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

Published by DILLS PRINTING AND PUBLISHING CO. LTD. 191 Main Street East Phone 878-2341 Milton, Ontario

James A. Dills, Managing Editor
Roy E. Downs, News Editor
Hyde Parker, Advertising Manager

Published every Wednesday at 191 Main St., Milton, Ontario. Member of the Canadian Weekly Newspapers Association and the Ontario Weekly Newspapers Association. Subscription rates payable in advance. \$4.00 in Canada. Carrier Delivery in Milton, \$5.00 per year, \$7.00 in all countries other than Canada.

Advertising is accepted on the condition that, in the event of a typographical error, that portion of the advertising space occupied by the erroneous item, together with reasonable allowance for signature, will not be charged for, but the balance of the advertisement will be paid for at the applicable rate.

In the event of a typographical error advertising goods or services at a wrong price, goods or services may not be sold. Advertising is merely an offer to sell and may be withdrawn at any time.

Authorized as Second Class Mail by the Post Office Department, Ottawa.