

Letters From the People

February 5, 1927.

the year. It isn't hard to fix the pitch holes just after a storm when the snow is soft and paying attention at the right time would save a lot of trouble, accidents and broken harness. A SUFFERER.



ARMAND LAVERGNE of Quebec, Conservative member of Parliament, who has been chosen to sit on the committee which meets at Ottawa about the third week in February to thresh out the leadership of the Conservative party.

Dear Editor:—
I have been highly entertained and a trifle amused by the lively discussion about the milk question. What began the row anyway? Was there any kind of sickness in town which could be traced to the milk supply or was it just because there wasn't an election on hand to fight about? As we keep a cow of our own we are not directly interested in the controversy, but I will say that when we have occasionally bought milk from the Richmond Hill dairy we found it quite as good as that from any Toronto dairy.

Yours truly,
INNOCENT BYSTANDER

R. R. 1, Richmond Hill,
February 5, 1927

Editor,
The Liberal,

The question of bad roads seems to be with us winter and summer. Now when we haven't the dust and the ruts to complain about we certainly have pitch holes that would make a faint swear. This is one argument in favor of statute labor instead of road taxes, the farmers feel responsible for their own piece of road and keep it in good condition at all times of

THE BENEFIT OF A SMALL FAIR TO A COMMUNITY

Interesting Address Given By W. H. Legge, Richmond Hill, at the Annual Convention of the Ontario Fair Association.

I feel quite sure there are many delegates present in this very representative gathering who could speak on this important subject in a more convincing manner than I am able to do, but when our genial Superintendent, who always has the interest of our Association at heart, asked me to speak to you, I felt probably that the little knowledge I had gained from past experience might be of some value and so I consented.

The greatest problem in the minds of our outstanding public men and leading agriculturists to-day, is to advocate some method that will be more attractive to our young people of the present age and encourage them to remain on the farm—because after all Agriculture is our foremost industry.

At our last Convention a year ago, I listened with a great deal of interest to the discussion as to whether or not the rural fair was an asset to the community and should be supported and maintained and I would like to say that I firmly believe, that in the rural fair we have one of the greatest sources of promoting agricultural competition and efficiency, because rural fairs are the stepping stones to the larger ones. For example, take our own County of York, where we hold ten or eleven fairs—to eliminate all but one would deprive many of our young men and boys from competing and taking the keen interest in the improvement of stock that is being manifested to-day, taking a concrete example—a farmer near Richmond Hill has what he believes a particularly good animal. When Richmond Hill holds its rural fair the same farmer takes his exhibit (it costs him little as it is only one or two miles from home). He meets his competitors, he probably carries off first prize. He goes back home pleased with the honor and satisfied that his judgement of the animal's qualities had been confirmed. When the Toronto Exhibition comes in the Fall, he thinks he might as well take a chance in showing his animal, since it has proved its worth at the home fair, and thus with many similar cases the big fair grows because of the encouragement at the smaller one.

Another point of view in favor of the Rural Fair is the fact that it has encouraged seed fairs and Field Competitions which have become very popular in many parts of the Province. Last year we got into communication with the Superintendent of the Department and secured several good men to judge our seed and lecture on the best methods of growing good grain and the most profitable fodder to grow, such as sweet Clover, Alsike and Alfalfa. As a result our 1926 meeting was a decided success with the largest Hall in the town packed with farmers, who had driven for miles eager to hear these men speak on the best improved methods to produce crops.

Again there is considerable diversity of opinion as to the advisability of amalgamating the two fairs, viz, the Agricultural and the school fair. I find that the majority of farmers while favoring the School Fair complain of losing too much time in the busiest season of the year, in having to attend to both. Why not combine them and get away from that objection? For instance, what would be more conducive to attract adults to the Fall Fair than the fact of the children being exhibitors. Why not give some inducement to the school boards to join us? Say, free admission or reduced rates to the scholars. I believe with a little time and thought this scheme could be worked out with the greatest benefit to all concerned. Furthermore, I understand that our Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Jno. S. Martin, is in favor of the scheme and has already adopted that method in his own County of Norfolk.

In every way I respect and have the highest regard for the man who invests his capital to employ labor and promote other industries. But let us remember that no factory wheel has ever yet turned that can supply you and me with the luxur-

ies which spring from the bosom of the earth. I believe that the day is not far distant when our Universities will be conferring degrees, not only on the students of Medicine and Arts, but also on soil and farm machinery experts and many others who will make farm production greater and farm life more desirable. Of what use would our Universities be if it were not for the kindergarten, public and High schools—they would soon languish and die, were it not for the continuous inflow from the farm, village counter and blacksmith's forge.

Agriculture is the basic industry of this province and it largely depends on the members of this Association to keep it so. Is there any other way, method or means whereby we can better accomplish that, than through the small fair? At a recent convention a speaker announced that the fairs of this province were bankrupt. In the words of a famous farmer, "I deny the allegation and defy the allegator." If we are on the way to bankruptcy there's a long, long trail a-winding that we have followed for 150 years and we are still successfully doing business at the Old Fair Grounds.

I appeal to you collectively and individually to nourish and protect your small Township Fairs, because they are the surest foundations and best propagators for better farming and also for our Canadian National Exhibition and Royal Show for which Ontario is famous.

Thornhill Public School Report

For The Month of January.

Names marked with an asterisk (*) obtained honors. The names are arranged in order of merit.

Senior IV.—Esther Johns*, Eveline Ellacott*, Victor Stephenson*, Philip Jones, Ethel Davies, John Gill, Allan Sumner, Cecil Mabley, Hugh McDonald, Robert Eaton, Raymond Walker, Kathleen Nisbet, Fred Shelley, Margaret Lefroy, Wm. Saunders, Gordon Watson, Kenneth Brillinger.

Junior IV.—Leeta Riddell*, Dorothy Stokes, Ada Sibbick, Stephen Foord, Kenneth McKay, Arthur Hambleton, Oliver Timson, Nelson Findlay, Walter Saunders, Jack Donald, Madge Watts, Lloyd Donald.

Senior III.—Lucile Dean, Wilkie Hooper, Mary Jones, Gordon Walker, Lois Adams, Percy Gill, Billie Fisher, Margaret Watson, Herbert Lefroy, Jno. Mabley, Gertrude Guppy, Gussie Giles.

R. T. Irwin, Principal.
Junior III.—*Robert Bennett, *Lorraine Davidson, Donald Smellie, Clayton Scott, May Delaney, Marie Gillies, Doris Farr, John Ellacott.

Senior II.—*Mildred Sumner, Allan Morning, *Loretta Dean, *Vivian Clement, *Frank Brown, *Catharine Davies, *Arthur Hemingway, Georgina Watts, Philip Nuttall.

Junior II a.—*Betty Sumner, *Connie Brown *John Rowswell, George Rowswell, Dorothy Parkinson, Lorraine Giles, Lela Morning, Kenneth Wice, Borden Mabley.

Junior II b.—*Howie Walker, *Bruce Eaton, Donald Gillies, Bill Findlay, Bud Shelley, Kenneth Riddell, Miss H. Morris, Teacher.

Senior I.—*Elizabeth Smellie, *Ethel Ivison, *Romaine Giles, *Viola Lefroy, *Murial McCart, Harold Copeland, Gladys Hambleton, Gordon Hook Annie Bennett, Ernest Lefroy.

Junior I.—*Eva Findlay, *Charlie Ellacott Dorothy Wice, Delbert Lee, Bruce Findlay, Alice Morning (absent).

Primer—*Jim Farr, *John Pickett, *Alan Wooley, George Palmer, Thelma Riddell, Bruce Hooper.

B.—*John Watson, *Billy Giles, Gordon Wooley, Lloyd Hemingway, C.—John Clements, Annie McLeod, Margaret Palmer, Norman Mabley, Doris Lee, Freda Copeland, Marion Oke, Angus Brown, Teddy Eaton, Josephine McCart, Hugh McDonald, Ola Findlay, Margery McCart, Campbell McCart, Isobel Shields, Richard Shields, Miss E. Bird, Teacher

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