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(By The Watchman)

There are compensations in all things and politics sometimes, often too rarely, provides humorous episodes that brighten up dull and uninteresting debates. Members of the Legislature Press Gallery are not so fortunate as members of the House. The latter can quietly slip out of the chamber when proceedings take on a flat complexion, but the press reporters have to stay in their seats and listen to orators and would-be orators trying to earn their sessional indemnities.

So it is for this reason that the press, and members as well, appreciate those lighter moments when flashes of pure wit sparkle on the floor of the House and chuckles of laughter run across from member to member. Statistics and figures are not appetising fare at the best of times, though undoubtedly necessary, and when it is possible to leaven the political food with a little of the source of humor, it is all to the good.

This session there have been many bright episodes and some not so bright. There hasn't been anything yet to approach that classic of William Duckworth's last session when he was speaking on the budget. The Conservative member for Dovercourt convulsed the House when he stated that the Liberal Party was in the "valley of illumination." This was unconscious humor at its best. But there have been some bright moments in otherwise drab debates and a silent but heartfelt vote of thanks goes out to those members of the Ontario Legislature who, innocently or otherwise, unite both sides of the House in the jolly comradeship of a hearty laugh.

There is the flashing wit of Premier Hepburn whose liking of a good joke, whether on himself or somebody else, is well known. Then there is Provincial Sec. Harry Nixon who darts in with a sly remark and then retreats with a smile to await the comeback of his adversary. This darting in and darting out habit has caused Mr. Nixon to be known as "Negus Nixon" with apologies to the Emperor of Ethiopia, whose soldiers dart in, kill, and then retreat to fight another day. Messrs. Faulkner, McQuesten, Marshall and Leduc sometimes display a sense of humor, but not often. Hon. David Croll, Welfare Minister and "baby" of the cabinet, has a habit of popping up with a funny quip that sets both sides roaring.

On the other side of the House there is the ponderous but effective humor of Opposition Leader George S. Henry. There is sometimes a tinge of acidity in Mr. Henry's humor, particularly when the Prime Minister is involved. Then there is Arthur Ellis, Conservative member for South Ottawa. No one on the government side has anything but the keenest respect for the calibre of this member who has the faculty of combining his attacks on the administration with delicate sarcasm. A quick thinker, he is at his best when clashing with one or more members of the government. Hollis Acres, Conservative member for Carleton, is a humorist without intending to be one. His "bill the bull to me" remark from speaking about the $15,000 bull purchased from Scotland for O.A.C. was a gem. He was successful in getting under the skin of the Minister of Agriculture and the arguments between these two "men of the soil" was productive of many hearty laughs.

There are back-benchers on both sides who sometimes contribute a sparkling joke. There is another kind of humorist who considers it funny to interrupt a speaker with numerous remarks made sotto voice. Several Toronto members indulge in this practice but most members of the Legislature fail to see the humor in it.

"Laugh and grow fat" and "laugh and the world laughs with you, weep and you weep alone," are two old proverbs that might well be taken to heart by those legislators who fail to appreciate the lighter side of life. Humor knows no boundary line; it is beyond party and class. When tempers are strained to bursting point and tongues are ready to flay with bitter accusations, a laugh will go a long way towards cooling the fires of passion and making men realize that, after all, life is too short for constant bickering, and that, whether a man be a Conservative or a Liberal, he is a human being just the same.

We suppose there is a time in each woman's life when she thinks her husband doesn't love her anymore because he wishes to read the afternoon paper without being disturbed.

NEWS AND INFORMATION FOR THE BUSY FARMER

Starting Chicks

Supply water with chill taken off in suitable vessels, charcoal, shell and grit or river sand. Feed the youngsters immediately on their entry to brooding quarters. A good starting mash consists of: middlings, ground yellow corn, ground oat groats, each one part; shorts, alfalfa leaf meal and animal feed mixture, each 1-2 part; bone meal 2 per cent.; cod liver oil 1 to 2 per cent.; and salt 1-2 per cent.

Marketing Eggs

A County Egg and Marketing Association has been organized in Renfrew County and started operations this month. Graded eggs are being shipped daily to city markets. Grade A large will net the farmers about 14c per dozen more than the prices which were being paid by local stores when the Association started to operate. Average prices on all grades would be about 10c a doz. higher than the local store prices were.

Getting Ready For the Lambing Season

Lambing is the shepherd's harvest, and it is also his most exciting time. Everything must, therefore, be in readiness for the coming of the new crop.

Ewes heavy in lamb require more pen and feeding space, if overcrowding and losses are to be avoided. Two feet of feeding space is the minimum required.

Large flocks should be divided by putting the ewes expected to lamb first in the warmest and most comfortable pen.

Have the floor level, dry, clean and well bedded. If possible provide equipment for making individual lambing pens. Folding hurdles are very handy for that purpose. The ewe is much quieter if kept alone.

Need Green Feed in Winter

The average farm poultry flock of 35 hens requires approximately one-half acre of greens if the proper amount of green feed during the winter months is provided. As soon as moisture is available to germinate rye, oats or wheat, the planting of either one or all three of these grains to furnish greens for the laying flock during the fall and winter months is advisable.

Green feed is high in vitamins, minerals and proteins, three essential nutrients of a poultry ration, and it serves a conditioner, as well as being high in nutrients. No other one thing will pay as large dividends for the amount of money invested as an adequate acreage of green feed for the poultry flock.

Care of the New Pigs

The nursing sow and litter require care and good feeding in order that the pigs will be strong and healthy, and the sow will be in fit condition to produce a second litter this year. Supply a milk-producing ration. It should consist of oats, middlings and skim-milk. Encourage the pigs to start eating at an early age by placing some feed in a low trough. As soon as weather permits, let them run outdoors in a fresh paddock.

The Spring Seed Requirements

Farmers who desire to assure their seed supply at minimum cost are already taking stock of their spring requirements. Those who have seed of their own will be taking steps to have it properly cleaned and graded before the spring rush. Others, less fortunate, will be well advised this year particularly, to secure what they require as soon as possible, making sure that they are getting varieties which are most highly recommended for conditions such as theirs.

Current Farm Reports

Grey County auctioneers report that proceeds of auction sales this year are about 25% better than a year ago. Cash payments by purchasers are also higher. There is a keen demand for livestock there and good horses are bringing attractive prices. Huron reports that feeders of market cattle are disappointed with present prices and some are holding back their shipments. North Simcoe, in common with many other districts has been heavily snowbound, a fact which enhances prospects for wheat and clover. A shortage of experienced farm help is anticipated there, a condition which seems quite general. Work horses are in demand in Lambton county, prices ranging from $90 to $150. In Middlesex there have been complaints of serious injury to orchards by mice and rabbits. It is not anticipated that there will be more than a small percentage of fruit buds and peaches winter killed in Lincoln. Seed cleaning plants are busy in Oxford, but the general quality of grain is below that of 1935. Northumberland expects that the tomato acreage will be doubled and that devoted to canning peas and corn increased.

Repair of Machinery

Careful repairing of tillage machinery each winter or early spring with replacement of doubtful or worn parts has been proven to pay large dividends by preventing major costly repairs. Tillage implements generally receive less care and more hard knocks than any other class of farm machinery.

The value of any implement can only be measured by its usefulness in acres covered, quality of work done and freedom from the necessity of costly repairs and delays. Delays due to breakdowns during the rush tillage season of spring and summer are costly and easily prevented if the farmer, with a few tools and a little time, will check over carefully every working or wearing part long before he is going to use the machine.

Check over every machine carefully for loose, worn or stripped bolts; replace broken spring washers and check all loose or slack parts. Wheel and power lift bearings, disk boxings and all moving parts should be adjusted for wear. Clean all working parts of old grease, oil, dirt and steel particles with kerosene and replace with plenty of fresh lubricants.

An Evergreen Windbreak For Farm Buildings

(By I. C. Marritt)

Most farmers would be pleased if there was an evergreen windbreak near their buildings as it improves living conditions by breaking the high cold winds of winter and by reducing snow drifting around buildings and along roads. It improves the landscape as it gives a setting to the building and screens undesirable views.

Many farmers have fine windbreaks that have been planted 30-50 years and others have started windbreaks within the past fifteen years with the trees that have been distributed free by the Forestry Branch. But there are at least 75% of the farms where no start has been made. Why don't more farmers plant windbreaks? The principal reason is that a windbreak cannot be secured in a short period as it takes 10-30 years to grow one. Many farmers will be on the same farm fifteen years hence and there will not be a windbreak then if it is not started soon.

The windbreak may be one row or several rows. The one of several rows is a much better windbreak and should be planted if possible. Many have planted a single row with the mistaken idea that two rows require double the area. This is not correct because seven rows six feet apart only take up double the width of a single row as a single row of spruce 30-40 years old has a spread of 30-40 feet.

CAN YOU TELL A BIGGER ONE?

(Durham Chronicle)

"A story comes out of Petersfield, Manitoba, that they had to call off a hockey game there last week because of the cold. It was 40 below zero, and two pucks were broken by the frost. The teams decided it was cheaper to wait for warmer weather.

This is a good story to come out of Manitoba, where the air is so dry you never feel the cold, but it has nothing on the East when it comes to freak weather. Some years ago Durham was playing one of their home games in the rink here. It had been a very cold week, with the mercury somewhere around 30 below. With the temperature low, and the humidity very high, something was bound to happen.

It did. It was in the second period. The Durham forwards were bearing in on their opponents' goal. The right winger had the puck and took his shot. Imagine the surprise of the players and spectators when the puck left the ice, travelled toward the goal, and suddenly stopped hanging in mid-air. The frost, working in the wet atmosphere, had frozen the puck solid, and despite the players hammering at it with sticks, it stayed there.

And this was not all! The next day it became mild. The puck continued on its way as if nothing had happened, and landed in the centre of the net—the most peculiar goal ever scored on Durham ice.

Mrs. Perkinson—"Old Tom's going to marry Miss Flighty. She can ride, swim, dance, sing, drive a racing car, and pilot an airplane. Real all-rounder.

Mr. Perkinson—"They ought to get on fine, Old Tom's quite a good cook.

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