

SLATS' DIARY
(By Oliver N. Warren)

Sunday: Had to go to Sunday skool witch wassent so bad if it didnt make me think of slavery. In this land of the brave & home of the free I becum a slave tomorro. It is not a free country no more.

Monday: Got even with Jane. She is to be operated on for removal of her tonselatas & ast me how long after wood she no sum thing. I replide Well dont xpect so much from 1 opperashen. But I dout if she seen the point.

Tuesday: Pa was a goen away to a press asosahen meeting & told Ma if she needed sum munney to go to the bank & Ma sed what time does the bank close this p. m. Pa sed may be he hadnt beter go to the asosahen. I dont no why.

Wednesday: Pa pulled a nother boneh in the paper yesterday when he sed Banker Reddykash has got a week hart & went to a hospittel in Minnie Soty to have it stopt. The editur kicked but I xpect Pa diddnt relley mean what he sed.

Thursday: Jane got a come back on I when I sed skool is a goen to be a battel of branes. She sed. Ide beter take a machen gun. She thinks shese smart but I dont. Not by a hole lot.

Friday: Us kids was a swimmen in the municepal poole. It aint deep but Elsej slung up her hands & yelled help help Ime goen down the 3d time & Jake yelled well if you dont find bottom this trip lle help you. Jake is hartless but he aint esey to xcite. Not when fizzlec exercise is envolved.

Saturday: Ma sed to Pa she thot shede ask the famly next door to Sunday dinner & when Pa sed why she sed the butcher shop brot us there drest chickens & she wanted to do what was rite.

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Ottawa Spotlight

By Wilfrid Eggleston

Ottawa, Sept. 8.—External markets for Canadian products is a matter about which the present government is giving a great deal of time and attention.

One of its first acts was to conclude the trade agreement with the United States. A second was to exchange notes with Japan, bringing a tariff war to an end. Later there were agreements with Haiti, Brazil, Poland, New Zealand, Uraquay.

This summer Canada had "three travelling salesmen" overseas on a similar mission. Now they are back, and the government is discussing the deals they made while they were away, which must, of course, be ratified before they take effect.

Messrs. Dunning and Gardiner were exploring the British market, which always ranks first or second (sometimes one, sometimes the other) among Canada's external markets.

(Ottawa Agreement May Continue)

The Ottawa agreements, which gave Canada free entry plus tariff preferences for many products, were signed in August 1932, and were for five years certain. But they do not automatically terminate in August, 1937. There is a provision that if either country gives six months notice they terminate after five years. But if neither country denounces them in this way they continue indefinitely, until six months after a notice is given.

Of course there is no likelihood of Canada serving notice next February that she wants the agreements terminated in August. It is true there were features of the agreements which the Liberals denounced. But now it is pretty clear that the Ottawa pact gave Canada a good deal more from Britain than she gave Britain.

Britain is much more likely to give notice next February that she terminates the agreement with Canada. But there is no certainty about this. So far she has not intimated whether she will or not. Canada took the precaution to send Hon. Charles Dunning over to London months before any action was pending, so that if any adjustment Canada can make will prevent the repudiation of the agreement, this can be done in time to keep the agreement alive.

These things are secrets of state. But my own guess is that Canada will be prepared to make fairly extensive concessions to Britain to retain the present free market she enjoys for her major products.

This does not necessarily mean that Britain will maintain her high duties against Canada's competitors. The present government is more inclined to be satisfied with free entry for Canadian goods. So that, by mutual consent, it is possible that the agreements will be varied to allow the Argentine and Denmark to escape some of the present duties against their goods. Britain is concluding a new agreement with the Argentine, and it is quite likely that it will be negotiated with this possibility in mind.

(Longer Breathing Space)
If Britain does denounce the agreement, the betting here is that she won't give notice until after the coronation in May. That would give Canada a little longer breathing space in which to come to terms with Britain.

In every budget since the Ottawa conference Canada has lowered duties against Britain. That she will again do so in the 1937 budget is virtually assured. It may be that by giving signs that she is willing to pay a little more for a continuation of the agreement, than she was to get it in the first place, she may be able to retain the benefits of a free market in Britain. This, with a rising tide of agricultural nationalism in Britain, would be a major achievement.

Whatever the explanation, whether it be improving business, increased prices or what, Canada's external trade is showing a great 'come-back'. The value of July exports was the best since 1929, and ran at the rate of nearly a billion dollars a year. In fact, in the past twelve months Canada's total trade has been in the neighborhood of \$1,500,000,000. That's a big improvement.

New trade agreements with Germany, Russia, Holland and Switzerland, such as Hon. W. D. Euler is said to have tentatively negotiated, are bound to add a little to this rising trend of Canada's external trade. There are those who belittle the importance of such commerce, but internal prosperity has always coincided pretty closely with a healthy volume of international trade so far.

(Manitoba's Drought)
Manitoba has a drought problem too, though not so extensive. It is meeting with the attention of the federal government also.

HEALTH

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HEALTH AND THE SCHOOL

Can a school do harm? Of course it can, and of course it does. The artificial confinement of children in schools for the best third of their waking hours, under compulsion of the law and the truant officer may be necessary—I cannot say—but even if necessary it is an evil. It is a necessary evil, that may some day, if we are open-minded, evolve into a necessary good, without the evil.

What can we do to keep the good and cut out the evil? What can we report, school by school, about general cleanness, cleanness of walls and floors, cleanness of toilets and water supplies and places to wash? What about infections and disinfections? What about lighting and ventilation? What about those fetters of the squirming little bodies, the desks? Are they as elastic as possible? Are the standards of the school in cleanliness and conveniences and sanitation the standards of good homes, or of not very good homes, or are they the standards of very poor homes? Is the school levelling housing standards up, or levelling them down?

What about fatigue? I would like to have it enacted that each school trustee when he assumes office should put in a day at school. In the country he might start off some time after seven-thirty with the school van, and get back near five-thirty, with a few chores and homework to do. I'm sure he would slope the homework and go to bed. Work is good, but over-work is not. Play is good, but over-play is not. Fatigue kills health.

Well, then, the first principle is to do no harm, to send out the child at least without injury and without much disadvantage. For this little child who comes to us trailing its clouds of Glory from God who is its home, the School must first of all be made safe—sanitary, clean, decent—safe.

So far we have presumed that the child comes to school a good physical animal, well fed and clothed and cared for. What if this is not the case? What if he comes half-starved, or half choked by tonsils and adenoids, or with neglected teeth troubling him now, and laying up diseases that cripple and kill in later years? Do you know that conscription showed just one-third of young Canadians fit to be soldiers, and two-thirds unfit, with defects and disability that could have been mostly prevented by thought and care in childhood?

But I hear you protesting, Mr. Trustee, Mr. Principal, and Miss Teacher, that such things as these are up to the parents. Of course they are—if the parents are doing their job, or can do it. But what if they are ignorant, or careless, or penniless, or all three? Must the children to the third generation suffer for the sins of the parents? Or the misfortunes of the parents? Or the wrongs of the school system the parents suffer under? The School is a state factory to make child-raw-material into citizens. If the raw material is faulty, must the manager, the teacher, the trustee, simply say nothing, but go on hopelessly with routine forms and useless processes? Has the school not a duty to see that the raw material is suitable or is made suitable? The School is much more than a factory. It is the second parent of the child and should step in when real parents fall down on their job.

The School is Trustee for the child, Trustee to the parents, to the State, to the Future. England and Wales learned long ago the wastefulness of trying to teach spelling or geography to children who had had no breakfast. Last year School Boards provided nearly seventy millions of meals to more than four hundred thousand English children.

So we who are superintendents or trustees or teachers must first of all see that children are not harmed, not harmed much, by the school and secondly, we must watch and care that children are not neglected in their homes, but have a decent break.

But these two duties, doing no harm, and patching up defects, are both negative, and do not glimpse the fine vision of body and mind developing in harmony. To think of health as a mere absence of illness or defect or crippling or starvation is a very poor conception. Health should be a positive, radiant, physical glory. What are we doing for the boys and girls who are not handicapped? What are we doing for all boys and girls as normal average boys and girls?

Cornwall's Tented City To be Largest in History

Exhibitors' Demands For Space Necessitate Expanding Area

'GASOLINE Paddock'

Further definite indications that the 24th annual International Plowing Match and Farm Machinery Demonstration to be held at Cornwall, Ont., from Oct. 6 to 9 was to be "the biggest and best ever" were received this week by J. A. Carroll, Secretary-Manager of the Ontario Plowmen's Association, in the form of an unprecedented number of applications for exhibition space in the concession area.

"This year's 'Tented City,' as the area is always known," stated Mr. Carroll, "will house the largest and most complete exhibition of farm implements and equipment that has ever been assembled in Canada."

He said that the committee had found it necessary to revise the ground plan for the 'Tented City' so that it could readily be expanded to accommodate the many exhibitors who were applying for space. More than 30 industrial and agricultural organizations had been granted concessions, Mr. Carroll stated, as well as a great many to concessionaires whose chief concern would be to see that the vast throng of 100,000 persons who will attend the match are well-fed.

Of the many new features being introduced at this year's match which are expected to attract wide interest and attention, Mr. Carroll remarked, are the demonstrations to be given by ex-champion plowmen and Dr. E. S. Hopkins, chief of field husbandry for the Dominion Department of Agriculture.

The plow demonstrations by experienced match plowmen and capable demonstrators, will be conducted each day near the match headquarters. Differences between types of plows will be explained and plow settings will be discussed and actually demonstrated. This year will be the first time this feature has been included on the program of the International Match, Mr. Carroll pointed out.

Definite plans are still to be announced, he said, for the scientific agricultural work which will be carried on at the match by Dr. Hopkins, but demonstrations have been arranged for each day on land near the headquarters which will show the results of tillage investigations

which have been carried out by the Central Experimental Farm at Ottawa and tests will be made to determine the varying amounts of horsepower required for implements of different types set in a variety of ways.

Land will be provided at a convenient location on which manufacturers will demonstrate agricultural implements of every description and the "exercise paddock" for high-spirited but controllable tractors will again be a feature of interest.

Multiple-hitch demonstrations, consisting of three to five horses working in one team, properly hitched and driven, will be given each afternoon and the different operations exhibited by competent experts.

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