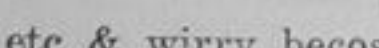


**SLATS' DIARY**  
(By Oliver N. Warren)

Sunday: The preacher sed he was a goin to preach a Thanx giving sirmint & then he went & tawked for over a nour & never menshened turkey or dresen or cranberries or nothng tutchng the subec.  
Monday: Back to skool, but I xpect I can stand it bettern ushelly becoss its for a 3 day stretch onley.  
Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday: Then give Thanx they aint no more skool this wk. and etc & wirry becoss theys no ice that will hold up.  
Tuesday: Mister Gillem was over to are house this evning & sed to Pa sed he that he started life with-out a penney in his pocket. Pa repide & sed he started with out no pkt. even. I bleeve Pa has made the mostest suxsess.  
Wednesday: Ma wanted to send 1 of Pas old soots of cloes to the rumidge sale to be sold for Thanx giving chairrety but Pa sed no. It are the 1 he wares when he goes before the bord of tacks equalisers.  
Thursday: I am riteing this in the p. m. evning. I wish they aint no Thanx giving. Becoss I got a offle pane in the stummick and etc. Xpect it was some thing I et or some thing.  
Friday: At the Thanx giving party Jake told Ely he cood live on kissing her for ever. Ely sed that are centimelnt. But befor she marrys him she wants to no what are she a going to live on. I reckon thats biness.  
Saturday: I seen in the noosepaer it sed the people had set the stamp of aproval on Prest. Roosenfelt & ast Pa what are that & he sed jist the oposet of when yore Ma stamps her ft.



**Ottawa Spotlight**  
By Wilfrid Eggleston

Ottawa, Dec. 1.—Canada enters the winter with a number of grave problems still unsolved, but there are more encouraging patches in the chequered map of the Dominion than we have had for years. Things would have been much better if the west had not been again visited with the most severe drought since 1919, and it is really remarkable the way business generally has been able to absorb that appalling shock and still struggle up to higher levels.  
There are four aspects of the picture that are still very bad. The first of course is the condition of a large part of the wheat-growing prairies, where conditions cannot possibly be much better until the next harvest is sold. The second is the national and some of the provincial budgets, which are still running behind. Third is the construction industry, still extremely sluggish. Fourth, which is to some extent the expression of the first and third, is the total number of persons unemployed and on relief.  
(Drought Costing Millions)  
The drought is costing millions of dollars, and the expenditure will have to go on until next harvest. Nobody knows exactly what it will cost the federal treasury. My own guess would be between 20 and 25 million dollars. Then there are the loans advanced to the drought areas of the past. They have been carried on the Dominion's books as active assets, but it is obvious that a large slice of them will have to be written off as bad debts.  
This, in turn, affects the Dominion balance sheet. On May 1st the Minister of Finance predicted that the deficit next year would be about 100 million dollars. Business and tax collections picked up so much that it seemed possible this would be substantially reduced by the end of the fiscal year. But the drought will largely if not wholly offset that gain, and it will be surprising if the final showing is much better than was forecast.

The construction industry is still running along at a rate about half of normal, with the result that tens of thousands of construction workers and tens of thousands of those engaged in trades which supply the building trade, are out of work. It is possible that the housing acts now contemplated will revive things, combined with a general upturn in business. The number of employed continues to rise, but not in any spectacular way. The gain over 1935 appears to be six or seven per cent; while the registered unemployed, according to the census of the National Employment commission, showed in September a decrease of 6.41 per cent from the same month of 1935 and 9.79 per cent below that for 1934.  
(Wheat Problem Solved?)  
The wheat situation, about which so much had to be written a few months ago, is temporarily solved. All our stocks will now move out it would seem, by the end of the crop year; and so far the price has been the most satisfactory in several years. Whether the long-range problem is not still very serious, calls for mature consideration. The return of the United States to an export basis next year—as it might—coupled with good harvests elsewhere, could rapidly make things worse again. But it does seem reasonable to suppose that the western farmer will next year again get a pretty fair return for his harvest.  
Many lines of activity are definitely better. It is said that the tourist trade was as much as 35% above last year's figures. The tourist business brings more money to Canada than any single export, except wheat, and some years it exceeds wheat. Retail trade is reported to be running about 10% better than last year. Mining, both in base metals and gold, is booming. The lumber trades are quite optimistic. There is a higher level of coal mining. Manufacturing has absorbed a larger number of persons each consecutive month in the year 1936.  
(Relative Burden of Taxation)  
As the level of business rises, the relative burden of taxation falls. This can easily be illustrated. When the national income is 2½ billion dollars a year and the Dominion collects 400 millions in taxation, it gets 16 dollars out of every 100 dollars the average man gets in wages. When the national income rises to 4 billion dollars a year, only 10 dollars out of every 100 goes to Ottawa. The same principle is true of other taxation. When times were worst one dollar in every three was going in some form of taxation, leaving the other two for all family needs. As the national income rises, this percentage falls, and more is left for the needs of the family.  
Jealousy bears a lot of fruit that is preserved in family jars.

**NEWTONBROOK**

The annual business meeting of the W.M.S. will be held next Tuesday, Dec. 8th at 2.30 p.m. at the Parsonage. Every member is requested to attend. A Christmas worship service will precede the election of officers.  
The Girls' Mission Circle will hold their December meeting on Thursday, Dec. 10th at 8 p.m. at the Parsonage with election of officers.  
The Woman's Association is holding their annual Christmas Bazaar this (Thursday) afternoon in the S. S. Hall of the United Church. There will be a supper meeting for the W.A. members at 5.30 p.m. after which the election of officers will be held and reports received from the various departments.  
The S. S. anniversary of the United Church and White Gift Service will be held on Sunday, Dec. 13 with services at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. The S. S. choir will render Christmas anthems and the Sunday School will attend in a body at the morning worship service.  
It is possible the date of the United Church S. S. Christmas concert may have to be changed owing to other entertainments held in the public schools on that date also the closing exercises of Earl Haig Collegiate Institute. Further announcements will be made next week.  
The Young People's Union met last Monday evening with a fine attendance. Miss Mary Douglas, convener of Christian Fellowship, presided. Two sacred vocal duets were given by Jack VanLuven and Douglas Lowry to their own accompaniments on the guitar. Mr. J. Rooney, who is a fellow employee with Mr. W. T. New on the General Post Office Staff in Toronto conducted the devotional worship service and gave an inspirational talk. This was followed by a duet by Mrs. Harold Moore and Mrs. Glen Shaw. The president, Mr. W. T. New, made several important announcements regarding the Y.P.U. activities. It was decided to hold the election of officers after the New Year, on January 4th.  
The Newtonbrook United Church shipped a large bale of warm winter clothing this week to Dr. George Dorey, Regina, who distributes it to the needy parts of Saskatchewan.  
Mrs. Hawkins of Toronto visited with Mrs. Thomas Street last weekend and attended services at the United Church last Sunday. Mrs. Hawkins attended Sunday School here when a little girl. She missed many old friends who attended here many years ago.  
Among those who attended the Provincial S. S. Convention which was held in Yorkminster Baptist Church, Toronto, last week were: Mrs. Frank Summers, Mrs. Grisdale, Misses Irene Smith, Doris VanLuven, Emma McPhail, Gwendolyn Barber, Rev. and Mrs. Halbert and Mr. A. W. Galbraith.  
Mr. E. J. Brett, Mr. Harry Smith, Mr. Harold Duggan, Mr. and Mrs. Grisdale and Rev. and Mrs. Halbert attended a meeting of Toronto Centre Presbytery in the interests of the Missionary and Maintenance in Bloor St. United Church last Friday evening.  
The next regular meeting of North York Red Cross Society will be held at the home of Mrs. W. H. Dudley, 4155 Yonge St. on Friday, Dec. 4th at 2.30 p.m. The members are asked to bring hard candy wrapped in cellophane bags as a contribution for the Christmas boxes, which will be sent to families in Northern Ontario.  
The Golden Rule Mission Band met in the S. S. Hall last Saturday at 2.30 for their regular meeting with an attendance of thirty. The president, Ann Wells, presided. Miss Annie Lever assisted in the devotional worship service. The band members in unison repeated the Scripture memory verses. Jackie Cosburn recited. Mrs. Alexander, Mission Band Secretary of Toronto Centre Presbytery, who was to be guest speaker on this occasion was unable to attend owing to illness. In her absence Mrs. Halbert gave an address. At the conclusion of the meeting Miss E. Hope conducted the election of officers which resulted as follows: President, Ann Wells; 1st Vice-Pres., Eunice Smith; 2nd Vice-Pres., Margaret Grisdale; Secretary, Muriel Cosburn; Assistant Secretary, Isabel Henderson; Treasurer, Mrs. W. T. Wells; Assistant Treasurer, Ethel Cameron; Book Stewards, Bruce Stephenson and Jackie Cosburn.  
A Christmas party followed, sponsored by the Leaders as this was the last meeting until the New Year. A long table was set, decorated with a miniature Christmas Tree for a centre, red candles and Santa Claus decorations and all the members enjoyed a happy Christmas party. After supper, games were played under the supervision of Miss Lever and Mrs. W. E. Hick.  
Rev. A. H. Halbert and Mr. A. W. Galbraith attended the supper meeting of the M. & M. of Toronto Centre Presbytery which was held in the

tea room of Eaton's College St. store last Friday evening. Dr. T. H. Sun of China and Dr. J. C. Cochrane, Supt. of Missions, were the guest speakers. Rev. Peter Bryce, D.D., the moderator, presided. Over 700 were in attendance.  
While returning home from Young People's choir practise at the United Church late last Sunday afternoon Miss Denora McCammon was struck on Yonge St. by a motor car driven by Mr. H. Moore and received severe head injuries. She was rushed to the Wellesley Hospital, Toronto, by ambulance. Dr. D. G. McAtteer of Lansing gave medical attention. Her condition is reported as fair.  
The Sunday School Executive will hold its monthly meeting in the S. S. Hall of the United Church this (Thursday) evening at 8 o'clock. A report will be given of the Provincial S. S. Convention held in Toronto last week. Plans will also be made for the coming S. S. Anniversary and Christmas entertainment.  
Rev. Dr. G. Spurling of China will address the Y.P.U. at their meeting next Monday evening and will be well worth hearing. Miss Gladys Sutterby, missionary convener, will be in charge.

from this locality attended. Dr. Reynolds, Mr. Wilmot and the solicitor for the Association, Mr. Thompson, were the speakers. Elwood Robb of Edgeley was again elected as a director.  
The Women's Association met at the home of Mrs. Wes. Clarkson on November 25th. Rev. Davis gave an interesting address on Missions. The W.A. generously contributed a quilt to the Drapers who suffered the loss of their home by fire.  
Miss Mary Hart, Mr. Lightboddy, were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Piercey on Sunday.

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**TESTON**

Old man winter seems to have fooled the weather prophets. Santa Claus must have brought these weather changes from the North Pole.  
There was a good attendance at Young People's Union last Sunday evening. It was the fifth Sunday in the month and Jean Hadwin was in charge. The guest speaker, Miss Farr, Vellore, spoke on the parable of the man who hired laborers at a penny, paying the last hired as much as the first. Sadie Windas read the lesson and Rutherford Brothers contributed two fine duets. This was an interesting meeting.  
Monday evening the Teston Y.P.U. were guests of the King Society. The young people from here gave the program after which there was a social time enjoyed by all.  
A meeting of the Milk Producers of District No. 9 was held at Woodbridge on November 27th when many

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