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THURSDAY, APRIL 18th, 1940.

A GREAT AND A GOOD MAN PASSES

The passing of John D. Patterson this week removed one of York County's most distinguished citizens.

A native son of this community he was known best in recent years as an ardent Agriculturist and his Don Head Farm has been a model and inspiration to all interested in better farming and improved livestock.

As a citizen he was loyal and devoted to his country and community and gave freely of his means in support of every good cause.

His death removes from this community a great and a good man, who made a lasting and worthwhile contribution to his day and generation.

EUROPE'S CHANGING SCENE

One by one the lights are going out in Europe. The small, free, independent nations, which have contributed so much to the cultural, scientific and social life and progress of Western civilization are being swallowed up by merciless Germany, whose only law is might.

It is difficult to use restrained language in describing the action of Germany, or to find adjectives sufficiently strong to condemn the policy of the Reich.

It is becoming clearer as time passes that Western civilization, its culture, its liberty, its regard for human rights and its religious freedom are today at stake.

TREE PLANTING

Spring is here and the planting season is upon us. The Ontario Forestry Branch, at Toronto, supplies trees to rural schools throughout Ontario, and in Lambton County, which would be much improved by tree planting.

A school house that is in attractive surroundings has a beneficial effect upon the children who go there. A few trees and shrubs add greatly to the appearance, and these trees can be obtained and full directions for planting and caring for them afterwards, are given.

In most cases this improvement must be instigated by the teacher and the work done by the pupils. With the co-operation of the parents much can be done at school and it does not need to detract from school work.

The first Friday in May is Arbor Day and the Ontario Department of Education regulations says in part:

"In rural school sections and in villages Arbor Day, the first Friday in May or a school day as near thereto as climatic conditions will permit, shall be devoted to planting shade trees, making flower beds, and otherwise beautifying and improving the school grounds."

SPRING CLOTHES

Easter came so early this year and the spring season has been so long delayed that we think the time opportune to discuss the association of Easter with new spring clothes.

Discussing this question The Printed Word says: "The impulse to buy new clothes and display them in church or on a board-walk is directly connected with spring.

The assumption does no harm in countries where spring pays some attention to the calendar, but in this part of Canada at least, we have no reason to believe that spring is here until, by the calendar, it is about half over.

Or, if we wish to continue the pleasing custom of parading new finery on a given date, why not choose the first of May, which of late has become more associated with dreary labor demonstrations than with the joyous spirit of Merrie England?

BIRDS OF THE SEASON

(By Farley Mowat)

On March 3 the first migratory bird arrived in Richmond Hill. Unsung and unheralded, but quite definitely present. The Horned Lark was the bird and of all the many species who act in unusual ways for their own good the Horned Lark is the most interesting.

Another early nester is the Horned Owl whose young are about ready to hatch by now. The difference between the Owl and the Lark is that it takes only a couple of weeks to raise a family of larks but a full two months are necessary before the owlets leave their parents.

The first robin was back about two weeks ago. In time for the post Easter storm. His enthusiasm was unabated after the storm but for a few days he looked utterly bewildered, not to say worried as he waited nervously for Spring to do something about it.

The song sparrows that are singing their heads off around town this week are not residents. They are a much more northerly race of birds and probably nest several hundred miles farther North.

This year's migration seems to be about two weeks behind the average. If there are any skeptics who claim that this winter was no worse than that of the winter of '34 etc., let them consult the records of ornithologists for the year they are interested in.

There are about 150 species that migrate in any numbers through North York and each week we will print a list of the birds to be expected for the week.

This week the list is small comparatively. If by any chance this column is still running by May 15 the list of birds for the following three days would take up most of the column.

Birds that should arrive back between April 10-17: Bluebird, Flicker, Marsh Hawk, Mourning Dove, Savannah Sparrow, Kingfisher, Tree Swallow, Goldfinch, Wilsons Snipe, Cowbird, Phoebe, Vesper Sparrow, Hermit Thrush, Pied-billed Grebe, Towhee, Pipit, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Winter Wren. Added to these are a number of waterbirds

who will show up wherever there is open water.

During the last month or two I have been gathering up most of the local lists kept in or near Richmond Hill of birds seen in the locality. Next week it will be ready for publication. Something like 180 species have been recorded in this district and they will be listed in this column along with indications as to their rarity and whether they breed here.

Any information that readers can give will be very welcome. Also if you have any questions on birds you would like answered send them with a stamped addressed envelope to this column. Interesting local items will be used in these articles.

Local Notes

Migration was slow last week. The only observers to report new birds have been Harris Hord, John Curzon, Jim Bailie and a large grey cat that caught and killed the first Kinglet of the season.

Birds seen include Cowbirds, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Grackles, Mourning Dove (exceptionally early), Canada Geese, Loggerhead Shrike, Marsh Hawk, Bluebird and believe it or not, a Canary, probably an escaped cage bird.

Dr. Lillian Langstaff reports that a Coopers Hawk has spent the last week in her garden. Dr. Langstaff also has two males and a female Cardinal at her feeding station.

NEWTONBROOK

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Starling have returned home after spending the winter in Florida.

Rev. A. H. Halbert, Mr. A. W. Galbraith and Mr. C. O. Bales attended Toronto Centre Presbytery held in Westminster Church, Toronto, last Tuesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Brown and son Irwin attended the 25th Anniversary of Mrs. Brown's brother at Mining last Friday.

We are glad to hear that Mr. Reid Brumwell is recovering from his recent illness.

Misses Bertha and Irene Smith attended a miscellaneous shower last week in honor of Miss Elizabeth Stephen of Toronto.

The members of the Women's Association met for a sewing meeting last Thursday and completed three quilts for the Red Cross.

North York Horticultural Society held its regular meeting in the Town Hall with a large attendance. A very interesting address on "Table Decorations" was given by Mr. E. C. Prince, illustrated by colored lantern slides. A special feature of the meeting was a competition among several of the members for the best address on "Personal Knowledge of the Garden".

The annual Athletic and Novelty Night of Earl Haig Collegiate Institute will be held on Friday, April 19th at 8 p.m.

The Auxiliary of the W.M.S. met at the home of Mrs. A. W. Galbraith

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last Tuesday afternoon with Mrs. Fred Foreman presiding. Interesting readings were given by Mrs. W. T. Wells and Mrs. W. T. New. The devotional service was conducted by Mrs. Foreman and prayer was offered by Mrs. A. H. Halbert.

The regular monthly meeting of the North York Red Cross Society was held last Friday with an attendance of 140. An immense amount of work was reported done during the month. Since Sept. 1939 the total number of pairs of socks knitted has amounted to 1228.

So that King Township may have enough money to carry on extensive road repairs this summer, some 1,760 acres of fertile marsh land may be put up for sale, members of the council decided at their meeting on Saturday.

He added that council was anxious to improve township roads, but with its budget cut by \$12,000 it was finding it increasingly difficult to provide the necessary moneys.

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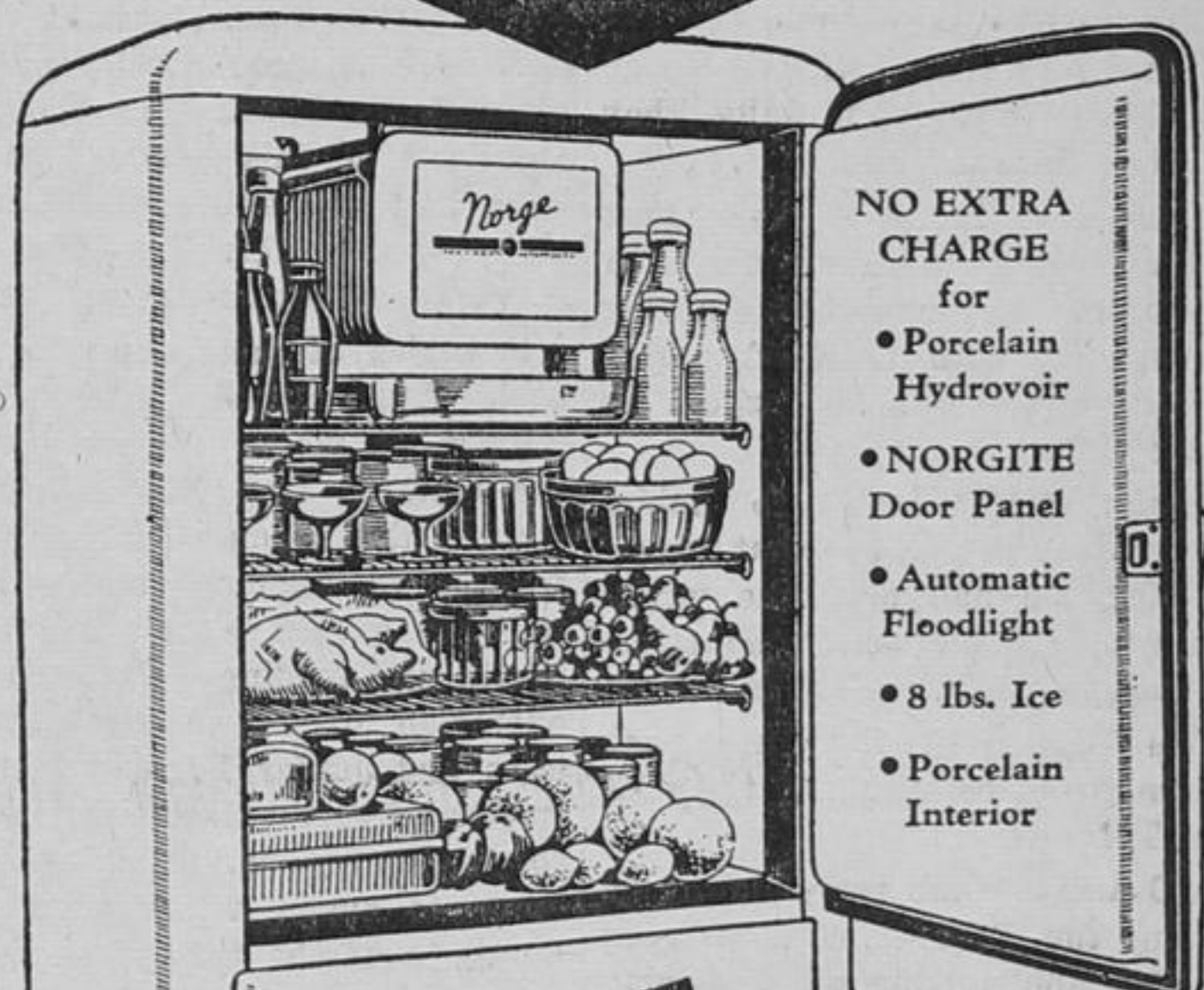
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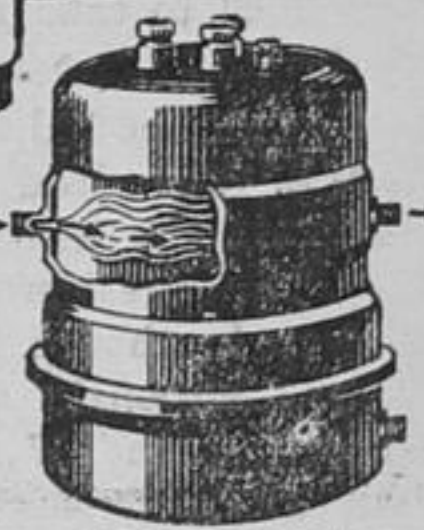


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