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Ottawa Week by Week

By Dean Wilson

DRAMATIC KEYNOTE OF NEW WAR SESSION

Despite the grave, bitter and uncompromising attitude of silence in authenticated sources in the nerve center of Canada, Ottawa, on the basic reasons for certain vital actions affecting the present and future existence of every man, woman and child in this country as revealed in the Government's programme in the first regular wartime session of Parliament, this strictly impartial and veteran observer along Parliament Hill can detect through political contacts of long experience behind the scenes in the lobbies and elsewhere the crucial reasons for this drama excitement and suspense such as the ancient capital of Canada has not witnessed in many years, with the hint that much history-making news and sensational surprises will result from the Government's forceful and dynamic programme of war not only against the Germanic allies but of war against economic depression. In fact, the Government's domestic programme, as Parliament Hill understands it, will rival in interest for the man in the street the foreign or military issues of the present time.

The representatives of the people of Canada realize that this country had entered this war with an economic structure which had been badly weakened by years and years of war against depression, failing to bring business recovery or to banish unemployment after a vigorous drive on the four inter-related fronts of low cost housing, self-liquidating public works, non-revenue producing projects and cheap loans to municipalities. They realize that modern war means clearly and distinctly a contest of economic values. They realize that Canada's economic life depends on her ability to retain her place as the world's fifth largest trading nation and the fourth largest exporting country, ranking behind only Great Britain, United States and Germany, on the basis of the amount of exports and imports which last year were \$970,000,000 and \$710,000,000 respectively, leaving a favourable balance of trade of \$260,000,000 but the steadily darkening foreign trade picture implies for Canada a grave economic reversal in 1940 on account of recent international developments, of the narrowing of foreign trade markets due to the disastrous breaks in trade routes, and of Britain's and the rest of the Commonwealth's drastic economies and "pay-as-you-go" policy in this war. Still, they realize that Canada must pay in the first year of this war \$1,000,000 a day in addition to \$500,000,000 a year for usual operating expenses, though the last or most costly year of the World War of 1914-1918 involved expenditures of only \$576,000,000, being \$248,000,000 in 1915, \$329,000,000 in 1916, and \$498,000,000 in 1917.

Therefore, under these admittedly serious conditions, how do the legislators in Ottawa propose to prosecute this war?

According to extremely well-informed sources, the Government's programme will involve seven cardinal points. First, the programme will avoid the bad mistakes made in the last World War when no one in Canada had the slightest conception in 1914 of the calls that would be made on Canadian manpower, industry and finance, with the result that there was a failure to realize that the financial methods of peacetime were totally unsuitable or inadequate for the peculiar economic problems of war-time. Second, all projects will be singularly free from the taint of the pork-barrel and no employment or favouritism will go to the politically faithful in this life-and-death struggle, using public monies only for essential works, such as those of an engineering necessity to combat the drought, for self-liquidating projects, tourists purposes, harbour improvements, repairs of old buildings instead of constructing new structures, grade crossings, etc. Third, money will be spent before it is borrowed in the sense of the British economist, Dr. J. M. Keynes,

based on the theory that if such a policy is followed, it will raise the national income and savings without increased taxation, there may be a supplementary system of compulsory loans which will apply to all classes on a sliding scale, creating deferred purchasing power for the post-war period when Canada's economic system will need badly such a stimulus. Fifth, Canada will carry on this war on a "pay-as-you-go" policy, aided by the Foreign Exchange Control Board to prevent the exportation of capital or dissipation of foreign exchange and by the Wartime Prices and Trade Board to prevent any unnecessary increases in commodity prices. Sixth, the authorities will regulate industry by gradual stages, though they will proceed slowly in regimentation methods so that there will be no radical interference with normal activities. Seventh, the new Parliament will be asked to scrutinize all war outlays, probably through the Public Accounts Committee, likely following the British Parliamentary method at Westminster where it is an active body usually headed by an Opposition member, though in Canada this Committee is constituted each year without doing anything, making one enquiry during the past 10 years, namely, the investigation of the Bren Gun order.

In other words, whatever is done now will be carried out with the object of avoiding the vicious inflationary spiral of continually increasing wages and prices, sizes of war debts, levels of taxation, rates of interest, etc., all of which characterized the last World War and all of which were the main causes of the post-war economic dislocations or the decade or more of relative industrial depression experienced in Canada. These are the real "inside" motives for the actions on Parliament Hill now where the authorities are determined to discover more effective and less disruptive methods of financing this war and yet at the same time they are shunning as far as possible any suggestions of totalitarian methods.

AMMUNITION PRODUCTION RISING RAPIDLY

Though the small arms ammunition plants owned by the Canadian Government were only able to turn out less than 3,000,000 rounds a year just a short time ago, it has been learned on Parliament Hill that today they have a production capacity of 450,000,000 rounds a year or they are capable to produce in two weeks what required a year before this war started.

DIVORCE CAUSES MAY BE REVISED

It appears in legislative circles in Ottawa that another attempt may be made soon to revise and widen the grounds for a Canadian divorce which now can only be obtained for infidelity. In the last Parliament the McMeans Bill proposed that a divorce should be granted for cruelty, desertion, insanity and certain criminal convictions as well as infidelity, but this Bill was defeated. It is alleged that demands for divorce are continually increasing. In 1914 there were only 70 divorces in all Canada, but right after the World War it started to rise rapidly, being no less than 1,000 in 1934 and reaching the record figure of 2,022 last year. Under the present laws, it is charged that many divorces are stimulated or obtained by collusion.

CANADIAN CENSUS IN 1941

In face of all reports to the contrary, reliable quarters in the capital believe that the Canadian census will be taken in 1941 as usual and the war will not interfere with the Census Branch.

SHIP PROGRAMME TO BE EXTENDED

Taking into account all kinds of ships, naval and merchant, authorities hold that Canadian shipping yards will receive orders of at least \$50,000,000 since the ruthless German war at sea is expected to cause regular losses of tonnage and the British ship-building yards are already working to their fullest capacity.

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Rev. G. O. Lightbourn, rector of Trinity Anglican church, Aurora, announced during last Sunday's services that he was leaving this week to take over his new duties as chaplain to the Toronto R.C.A.F.

Mr. Lightbourn served as an observer in the Royal Air Force during the last war and had been on the reserve officers' list. He has been rector of Trinity church for the past 10 years. Besides his church work, he has taken a keen interest in community affairs. He is vice-president of the York County Musical Festival and a member of the Co-operative society.

Sunday Storm Causes Damage In the District

A severe electrical storm accompanied by wind and rain visited the district Sunday evening about 6 o'clock. Most damage was done by wind which proved a "twister" such as old timers talk about. Extensive damage was done over a large area with some small sections being hardest hit. An area about a mile wide in the neighbourhood of the King-Vaughan townline was particularly heavy hit. The steel roof of Clayton Beynon's barn on the townline was completely torn off, and barns on the farms of Miss Ethel Sheppard, D. Goulding and T. Gamble were badly damaged. Trees were uprooted, signs torn off, and poles toppled over by the fury of the storm and one of the great 200 foot masts of CFRB was crumpled to the ground a twisted mass of steel. Other damage included the roof of Nelson Thompson's 60 foot hog pen, the roof of George Thompson's barn, silos down at Morris Beynon's and Joseph Levison's, the silo at De La Salle farms, and a windmill at Lorne Clubine's. Stories are told of heavy animals being lifted completely off the ground and carried several feet. Throughout Markham Township several barns were damaged or blown down and east in the Myrtle district severe damage was done to buildings of all kinds. It was one of the worst storms experienced in the district in some years and Hydro and telephone crews had a busy time repairing the damage.

Not Necessary to Rush Season in Your Garden

Fortunately in Canada we have long hours of sunlight in spring and summer. Because we are so blessed, and the further north we live the more daylight we get at this season of the year, it really does not matter if our garden goes in late. Once growth really starts it quickly overcomes any delayed start. Beginners in this recreation of gardening are advised to have patience. There is no need for rushing in fact there are very good reasons against such a course.

Real growth with most flowers and vegetables does not get under way until the weather and soil begin to warm. There are some exceptions of course. Lettuce, spinach, peas both sweet and garden, nursery stock, such as shrubbery, fruit trees, etc., all these cool weather things should be planted just as soon as the soil can be worked safely, and safely in this case, means when it will crumble not pack into a ball and is no longer muddy. To dig it before this stage is reached is dangerous and useless.

For the medium hardy type of plant however there is no advantage whatever in sowing too soon. There is little growth in any case until the soil really turns warm.

MAKE THESE SOWINGS
Gardeners are advised to divide their seed into at least three parts sowing a third as soon as weather permits, a third a little later and the balance at the very tail-end of the planting season. In this way if frost does cut down the first batch there will be more plants coming on and the season will be lengthened by the last part of the garden sown.

LAWN HINTS

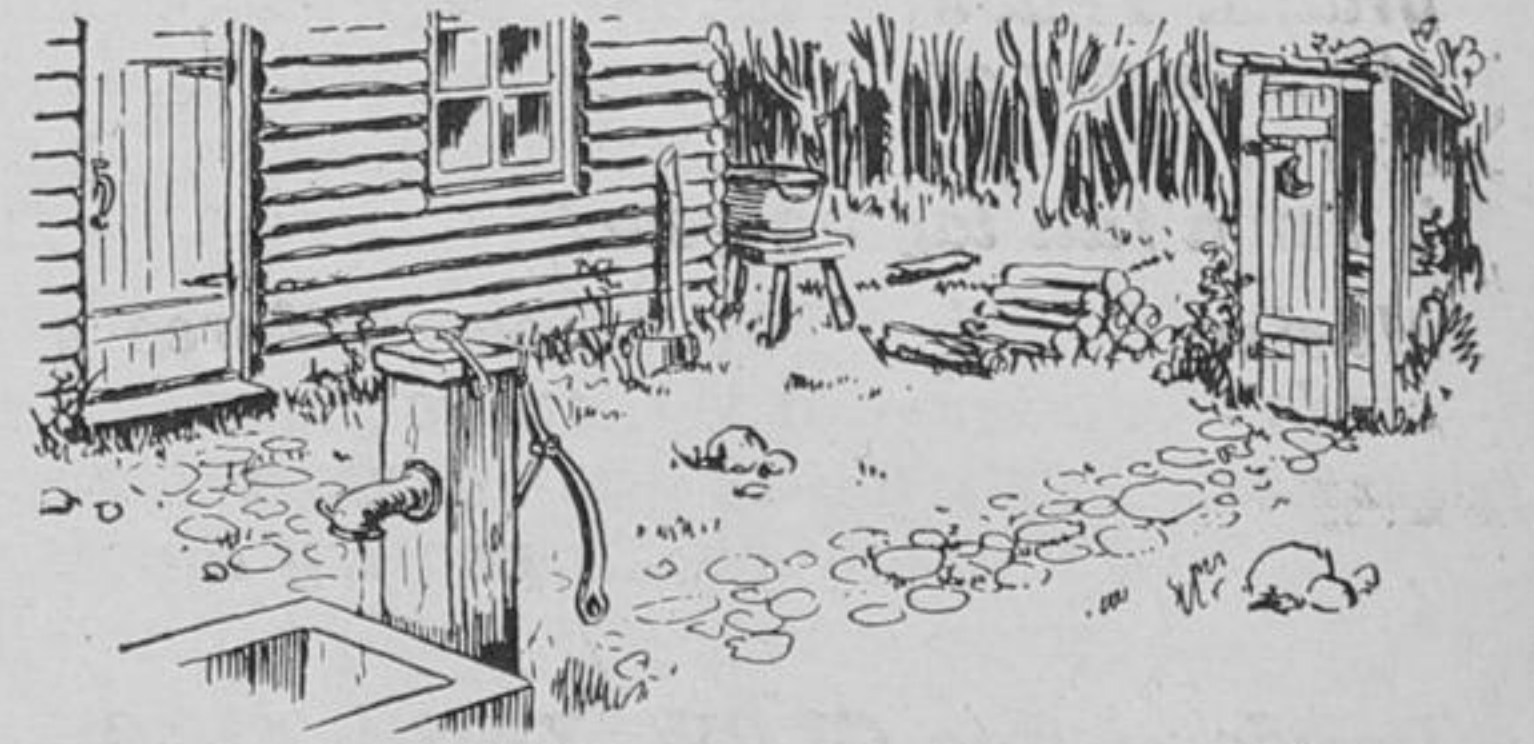
Sometimes tree roots work up towards the surface of the lawn simply because there is water there and none beneath. Heavy watering of lawns once a week rather than light daily sprinkles will prevent this danger and will also be best for the lawn itself.

Frequent watering plus regular applications of good lawn fertilizer will keep grass, a rich dark green and growing fast enough to crowd out the weeds. Patches of the latter in old lawns are usually a sure sign that soil is wearing out and needs fertilizing. In hot weather grass should not be cut as short nor as often as in the spring and fall.

FOR PERMANENCE
Perennial flowers add a feeling of permanence to any garden. Coming year after year they maintain interest throughout the dormant months and because of their quick start they usually bloom ahead of annuals. While solid perennial beds are very popular another satisfactory plan is to have a few of these plants scattered about the garden for early bloom and to fill in be-

tween the annuals.
Selection will depend upon in what part of Canada the reader lives. Throughout most of the country however the following brief list will prove reasonable hardy: delphinium, peony, oriental poppy, phlox, English primrose, English daisy, and violas.

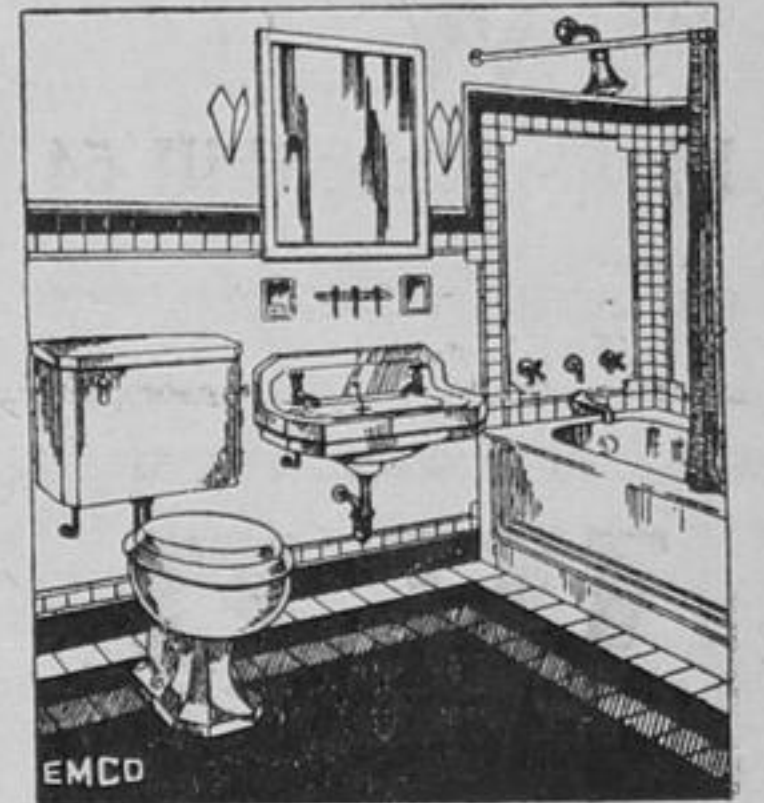
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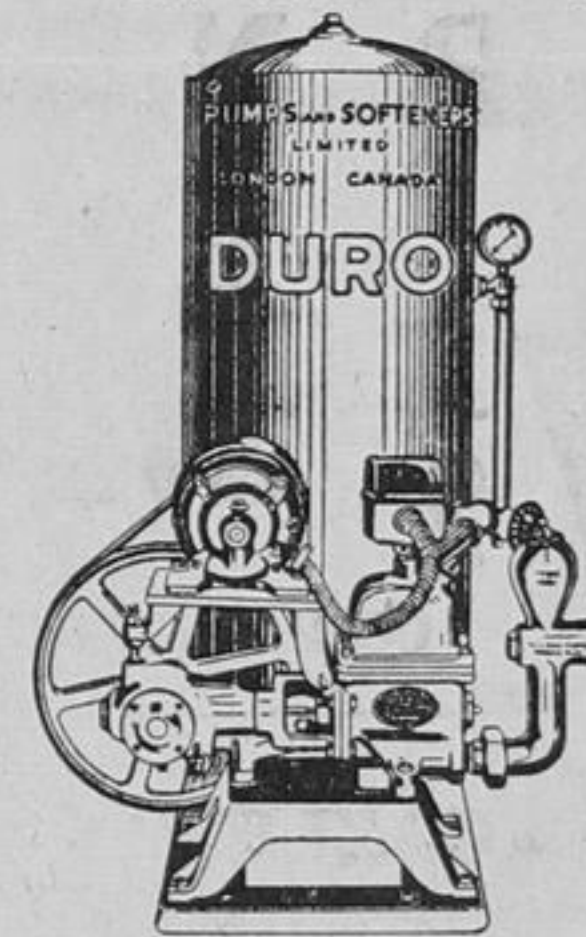
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