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RICHMOND HILL, ONTARIO, THURSDAY, JANUARY 18th, 1945.

No. 29.

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Pastoral Letter Appeals For Appreciation of Real Values To Be Had In Rural Living

Agriculture Has Many Compensations Above And Beyond
Monetary Rewards — Parents And Teachers Urged
To Instill A Love Of Rural Life

"In Ontario there are 179,188 farms, with 270,267 people 14 years of age and over, occupied in Agriculture. The rural population of Ontario living on farms and in neighbouring unincorporated villages is 1,449,022 which is 38.26 per cent of the total population of the province. The contentment and security of so many people and the welfare of the primary industry on which they depend, should be of deep concern to all people," said their Excellencies the Archbishops and Bishops of the Ecclesiastical Provinces of Toronto and Kingston in a Pastoral Letter to all parishes and which was read by Rev. F. McGinn at St. Mary's, Richmond Hill last Sunday.

The Pastoral Letter appeals for an appreciation of the values of rural living and commends all agencies working to make life on our farms more attractive and enjoyable. The Letter continues:

"If we choose to stress the idealism of life on the land, that does not mean that we are forgetful of the trials and disappointments associated with it. We are fully aware of the labors, the sacrifices, and the economic difficulties of the farmer. In these phases of his life, he has the assurance of our sympathetic interest, and of our desire that the disadvantages under which he often lives and works may be, so far as possible, removed. To this end, every sound and worthy movement, which the farmers undertake to improve their own status and condition, deserves our support and encouragement. We welcome the efforts of the Federal and Provincial Governments to remove the disabilities from which farmers suffer and to assist in finding a solution for the problems that confront them.

We find it necessary, however, to remind all that the acknowledged difficulties should not be so magnified as to stifle appreciation of the nobler aspects of farming and the farm home. It is unfortunately true that some, on the plea of being realistic, adopt a limited and one-sided view of rural life. No practical approach to this social problem is possible without taking into consideration the idealism which gives to rural life its real value and attractiveness.

It is hard for this generation, brought up and living in a commercial, industrial era, not to measure values solely in terms of dollars and cents. "Wrong attitudes towards agriculture, and wrong appraisals of what constitutes fundamental values, deeply rooted in the thinking of both rural and urban people, are barriers that have to be surmounted."

There are other values of living besides money-income. The farm and the farm-home are capable of providing a far better living, in the full sense of the word, than that enjoyed by the average wage-earner in the city. It is a general principle that

people are well-off who, having a basically sufficient money-income, are working for themselves, are interested in that work, have a contented home life, live in a desirable community, and enjoy an environment favorable to their spiritual and religious welfare. Where, more than in rural life, are these conditions for satisfaction and contentment realized? It is true that strong character, keen intelligence, good judgment, and persevering work, are necessary for successful rural life, more perhaps than for any other type of life. But there is no life, taking all things into consideration, more satisfying or more stable. A strong, contented rural population is a mighty factor in the building of Christian Democracy, because it safeguards the cherished ideals of freedom and security. "He who owns the land breathes the air of a free man. The corner-stone of freedom is the ownership of productive property . . . He who owns the land he tills is armored with security."

Those who have only a commercialized outlook on farm life will not appreciate these higher values. Life on the land is, of course, an important business undertaking, but it is more. Recognition of that fact, we are convinced, is essential.

The farmer's calling is a sacred calling, because he is a collaborator with Divine Providence in providing mankind with the necessities of life. In the realm of nature, he lives and works with God. He has abundant reasons to thank God for the independence and liberty granted him through the soil he calls his own. He has the right to the genuine respect of others, for without him others cannot live. And he ought to have a high sense of self-respect, based on the nobility of his work, which is so vital to humanity, and which brings him into such close partnership with God.

Living close to nature, rural people do not find it difficult to live close to God, the Author of Nature. Moreover, they are blessed in this, that they are free from so many occasions of sin and temptation, which abound elsewhere. Therefore, the supernatural life should flourish best in rural surroundings. There, men and women can best know, love and serve God, and save their immortal souls.

We urge upon parents the duty of instilling a love of rural life in their sons and daughters. In this duty they should be aided by the rural school, which plays so large a part in determining the future of the community. It is obvious that the primary function of the rural school is to train boys and girls for life on the land. While all cannot be expected to remain on the farm, rural communities should be self-perpetuating. Certainly, the rural school should do nothing to discourage those who have a leaning towards agriculture as a life work. Rather should it have a bias towards rural life. The teacher, who gives the school its outlook, should have a love of rural life, and a consciousness of his or her mission as a rural educator.

Adult education through discussion groups, lectures, and short courses, has amply proven its possibilities for good, and has our unqualified encouragement and support.

The Federal and Provincial Departments of Agriculture are at the service of every rural community, and we urge our rural people to make use of the facilities they offer.

We wish to give our approval to those recreational and social activities which promote community spirit, and which help to make rural life attractive, especially musical and dramatic entertainments, athletic games, community or parish libraries and social gatherings under responsible leadership.

Girls, you may postpone that contemplated trip to the nearest service station to have your aging girdle vulcanized. New girdles are expected shortly, made with neoprene, a synthetic latex.



DOUBLE BILL

John Sturgess, baritone star of "Jolly Miller Time," will appear on the feature production, "A Man for A' That," over CBC's Trans-Canada network, Thursday, January 25th, at 10.30 p.m. EDT. The program is presented in honor of Robert Burns' 186th birth date. The Canadian-born radio singer commutes from Buffalo to Toronto each week to join the "Jolly Miller" company, heard Wednesdays at 8 p.m. EDT, over the Trans-Canada network.

General News & Views

Ever hear anybody talk about the winters we used to have in the good old days?

We don't as a rule make suggestions to the weatherman, but if we did we would say that a January thaw would be in order.

"Whether it rains or whether it pours, there's going to be weather whether or no." That's just another way of saying if you don't like the weather you still can do nothing about it.

Mollie: Aunt Sarah is quite a proper person.

Fibber: I'll say she is proper. She's so proper that she'd rather eat a hamburger plain than be seen spanking the bottom of a ketchup bottle out in public.

A patient in a hospital awoke after an operation and found the blinds of the room drawn.

"Why are those blinds down, doctor?" he asked.

"Well," said the physician, "there's a fire burning across the alley, and I didn't want you to wake up and think the operation had been a failure."

The proposal to form a Township School Area in Vaughan is providing considerable discussion throughout the municipality. The new scheme has many advantages and many rate-payers have expressed themselves in favor of the new plan.

It must be the cold weather. A member of the local Hydro staff drove up to the bank one day this week, and after depositing several thousand walked back to the office and spent the rest of the afternoon looking for the truck. About 5 p.m. a kind friend pointed out the brightly painted vehicle standing in front of the bank, just where he left it to make a deposit early in the afternoon. What did he say? Well, Norm is very even tempered so just said 'm.

Stouffville, in need of a community hall, is seriously considering a proposal to build an auditorium in connection with the High School, which will be available to the public for use as a hall. A similar suggestion has been made in Richmond Hill, and is worth considering.

The cost of a health nursing service for Markham Township schools has been estimated at \$2300 per year. It is suggested one nurse could take care of the Markham Village and Township schools.

Markham and East York Agricultural Society annual meeting was held Wednesday. The Society had a successful year showing a profit on the year's operations of \$1,455.41.

Since the outbreak of war Canada has produced more than 4,200,000 rounds of small arms ammunition — enough to fire two bullets into every person in the world.

Servicemen's Forum Discusses Security

"Servicemen's Forum" will hold the second of its fortnightly broadcast meetings in Barriefield, Kingston, on Thursday, January 25th, at 8.30 p.m., EDT, when the discussion will be heard over the Dominion network of the CBC.

The subject before the forum is "What Do You Mean—Social Security?"

Presented in cooperation with the Wartime Information Board, the series attempts to answer questions that soldiers, sailors and airmen are asking now about their future. Members of the three services participate in the discussions, which are directed by Lt. R. G. Allen, army education officer.

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SKATING

RICHMOND HILL ARENA

MONDAY, JAN. 22nd
OLD TIMERS' NIGHT

WEDNESDAY, Jan. 24
Presbyterian Y.P.S.
Skating Party

SATURDAY, JAN. 27
Skating 7.30-10.30 p.m.



For information re Skating Parties, etc.

See RALPH W. PARIS,
Chairman Arena Committee



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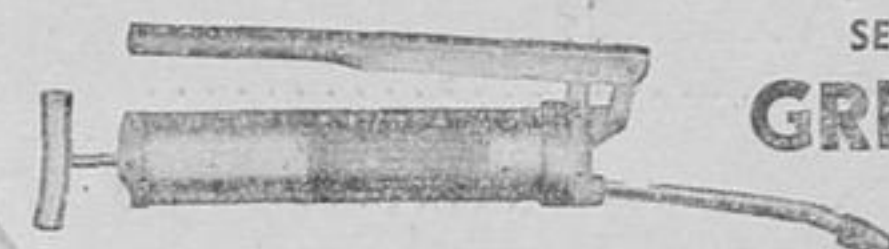
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