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OTTAWA LETTER
by
"Jack" Smith, M.P.
North York



After more than eighty years of
hesitation, Newfoundland, the last
and oldest of the British colonies in
North America has joined in Cana-
dian Confederation. It was a histo-
ric and thrilling moment here on
capitol hill last Friday when fitting
and impressive ceremonies marked
the realization of that dream of con-
federation from sea to sea. The
people of Canada's tenth province are
wholeheartedly welcomed and I am
sure in the days to come they will
make a worthwhile contribution to
the building of this great country.

Atlantic Pact
With refreshing and encouraging
spirit of non-partisanship the House
this week endorsed the North Atlan-
tic pact with only two dissenting
votes. The dissenters were two iso-
lationist Bloc Populaire Members
from Quebec province. Prime Min-
ister St. Laurent and leaders of all
opposition members delivered mem-
orable addresses which were on a
very high plane. All agreed that
the purpose of the North Atlantic
pact is peace and security. It sets
up administrative machinery for de-
fence, for co-operation and consulta-
tion. The unanimous reception of
the pact by Parliament emphasized
our national unity on a fundamental
question of international policy. It
showed that no matter how vigorous-
ly parties may differ on domestic
matters, as we should in a healthy
democracy, in Parliament and in the
country we share as a united people
the problems of peace and collective
security.

Television
I think the great majority of Cana-
dians will support the government
decision to place television in Canada
under public control. The government
is asking Parliament to vote 4 mil-

**CANADIAN
PLOWMEN
ABROAD**
by ELLIOT MOSES ★ Director
ONTARIO
PLOWMEN'S ASSOCIATION



This is the final letter in the 1949
Canadian Plowmen series. Our trip
is over and we are back in Canada
with a new knowledge of conditions
in the old land.

We have also gained a still greater
appreciation of our own country and
the standard of living we enjoy here.
Perhaps this is because more than
once during our stay in Britain, we
heard the opinion expressed that the
people's lives are becoming nation-
alized to such an extent that they
are gradually losing some of their
rights as democratic citizens.

Whether this is true or not, we
are not in a position to judge. Our
general impression of conditions in
Britain are, on the whole, quite fa-
vourable. It is true that they are
passing through strenuous and un-
certain times and that the currency
situation is bad. But on the other
hand, despite privations, they remain
cheerful and calm and seem to feel
that their present difficulties are
only temporary. We didn't find the
same worrying about the future and
about the possibility of war as there
is in this country and certainly not
nearly as much as in the United
States.

British Farms Highly Mechanized
The farms we visited were not only
mechanized but employed the most
modern and efficient methods and had
higher crop yields than Ontario
farms. We were quite amazed at the
advanced stage of mechanization of
farms in Britain. The stables were
spotless and the milk was handled so
carefully that it was not exposed to
the air before it reached the consumer.

During our travels we came in
contact with the farmer, the indus-
trialist and the ordinary business
man. Strange to say, no one ap-
peared to be in accord with the pre-
sent labour government, yet all seem
to feel that their program is the
right one to pull the country to-
gether. Most of the people we talked
to expressed the opinion that in the
event of an election the government
would be re-elected because its policy
has been to improve conditions for
the labour class which holds the bal-
ance of power. It is quite evident
that the average citizen feels that
the Labour Government has come to
stay, for a while at least. If this is
true, I believe one can expect to see

the old governmental policies that
have been adhered to for generations,
greatly revolutionized.

We were interested to learn the
average Britisher's reaction to the
cancellation of the government's food
contract with Canada. Everyone we
met, particularly the farmers, seem-
ed to regret and even resent the gov-
ernment's decision in this matter.
The people expressed sympathy for
Canada and said the action was a
poor return for the part Canada had
played in the war and postwar years
in providing men, money and supplies
to help them through. However, they
did feel that it was probably the only
course open to the government in
view of the country's critical dollar
position.

While we were anxious to learn all
we could about conditions in Britain,
the British people appeared eager for
information about Canada. Wherever
we went we were besieged with ques-
tions. Some of course, were quite
impossible to answer, like the man
who asked if we knew his cousin in
Saskatchewan.

When spokesman at social func-
tions, I emphasized that in Canada
there is a fine spirit of cooperation
between the agricultural industry and
business. As an example I cited the
fact that Canadian firms have been
most generous in donating prizes for
our county and international matches
and that the expenses of our trip
were paid jointly by two companies.

Need International Plowing Rules
This is the third year that Cana-
dian plowmen have visited Britain
and I believe it has been profitable
both for us and for the British far-
mers. However, there is an urgent
need for greater uniformity in reg-
ulations, type of plows used and
standards of judging at the matches.
As things stand, the Canadians are
at a disadvantage when competing
in Britain and the same thing applies
when the British compete in Canada.

British plowmen are anxious to
participate in Canadian matches and
plans are under way to make this
possible. It is hoped that the Eng-
lish teams will be able to get spon-
sors who will take care of their ex-
penses on the same basis as the firms
who sponsored us. A trust fund has
been established for this purpose and
Mr. L. A. Greene of Port Arthur,
Ontario is trying to interest Cana-
dian business men in subscribing to
this fund. Mr. Greene came from
Workington, England, and is a vice-
president and Canadian representa-
tive of the Workington Agricultural
Society. I sincerely hope Mr. Greene's
efforts will be successful because
these exchange visits are helpful in
promoting understanding and co-op-
eration between our two countries.

The boys and I have returned to
Canada with a great admiration for
the British people. With courage and
a steadfast determination they are
going about the task of building up
their country.

All the people we met did every-
thing possible to make our stay en-
joyable and we shall always remem-
ber the kindness and hospitality. Our
trip was well-planned from start to
finish and we are indeed grateful to
our sponsors, the Salada Tea Com-
pany of Canada Ltd. and Imperial
Oil Ltd. We are also indebted to the
plowing associations of Workington,
Newquay and Northern Ireland; of-
ficials of Ontario House and Canada
House and to the representatives of
Anglo-American Company and other
industrial firms.

In closing, the boys and I have a
special message for our fellow plow-
men. We want them to know that
the trip overseas is really worth-
while, so let's see as many entries as
possible in next year's International
Plowing Match at Brantford, Ont.

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