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FROM APRIL 16th TO APRIL 30th

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BY ORDER OF MARKHAM TOWNSHIP COUNCIL.

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Richmond Hill Agricultural Society ANNUAL FIELD CROP COMPETITION

1. Improved Pastures, not less than three acres. All eligible except those who have Government Demonstration Plots.
2. Oat Crops grown from seed registered or certified in 1947 or 1948. Area not less than five acres.
3. Canning Pea Crop.

In both competitions larger areas would be judged.

\$75.00 in Cash Prizes for each competition.

Entries must be made with the Secretary for Improved Pastures by May 1st, for Oat Crops by June 16th.

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With the increase of fire hazards, property owners should review their insurance policies, and due to the increased cost of materials would be well advised to increase the amounts of insurance. Also car owners who think it will never happen to them are caught some time or other without protection. The cost is a minor amount to what it will cost if an accident happens.

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A JUDGE REMEMBERS

Not long ago a distinguished English Judge, Sir Bertrand Watson, in an article entitled: "What Life Has Taught Me," made some arresting comments. For many years he was chief Metropolitan Magistrate in the city of London and came into very close touch with every type of criminal.

Like many others he had once believed that poverty was the chief cause of crime; that if it could be removed or reduced all forms of lawlessness would consequently disappear, but nearly fifty years of experience had caused him to take an opposite point of view. He found that thieving, for instance, had steadily increased while living standards improved; that most of the petty thefts were committed by apparently respectable people who could offer only the feeblest excuses for their dishonesty. There has been, he believes, a loosening of the influence of religion over a large section of the population and as a result, a lowering of moral standards.

Sir Bertrand has other interesting observations. For instance, during a long term on the bench during which he had to mete out many severe sentences involving long terms of imprisonment, he never once was threatened by personal violence; nor did he ever receive a vicious anonymous letter.

He goes on to say that, generally speaking, people receive from their fellows, the treatment they deserve. "If one shows kindness, courtesy and consideration, these are the qualities they receive in return," and in the main life is like looking into a mirror. What we see depends upon ourselves. If we smile we see a smiling face; if we frown we see the reflected frown.

Like many other people I have often wondered what vocation I would choose had I to make such a decision again. One thing I feel sure of — I would not want to be a magistrate, even if I had the qualifications, which I probably haven't. To those who take their responsibilities seriously, as our magistrates do, I can think of no other calling that calls for more strength of mind and heart; more firmness of decision, combined with the milk of human kindness.

I once knew, fairly intimately, a judge who seemed to have all the qualities necessary for his position. But I do know that often he was deeply distressed because a cause did not seem clear, and he was concerned lest he should do an injustice to some prisoner, or otherwise fail to do the right thing. More than once such anxiety made him positively ill.

A famous journalist once wrote an article entitled: "The One Fact More." He elaborated on the idea that when we passed judgment on other people, we were often mistaken because there was one fact we did not know and which, had we known, would have completely changed our verdicts. We often see people doing things which to us are foolish and absurd, but they have their own reasons for what appears to us ridiculous behaviour. There is at least one fact we don't get, probably more than one:

What's done we partly may compute
But know not what's resisted.
Yes, the knowledge of one fact; one glance, might completely alter our conception of a whole situation. There is a good deal of truth in the French proverb: "To know all would be to forgive all." It may not be one hundred per cent correct but, it is so near the truth that we need to remind ourselves repeatedly. A little more knowledge would stay many a barbed arrow and soften a brutal sentence. Max Muller said that when his daughter died she took the spring with her and from then on his delight in life ceased. Yet the public did not know that — at least during his lifetime. There must be many like Muller, who carry a secret sorrow which, if the public knew, would change its attitude.

We have often wondered why a father or mother continued to love children whose conduct had brought disgrace and sorrow on a whole family. Well, they probably knew some facts that others never even guessed. All of which ought to make us tolerant and forgiving. When such a man as Sir Bertrand Watson, after nearly half a century on the bench, still has faith in human nature, we have no right to pessimism and despair.

Our quotation to-day is by Joseph Mazzini: "Our most important duties are positive. It is not enough not to do harm; we must do good to our brothers."

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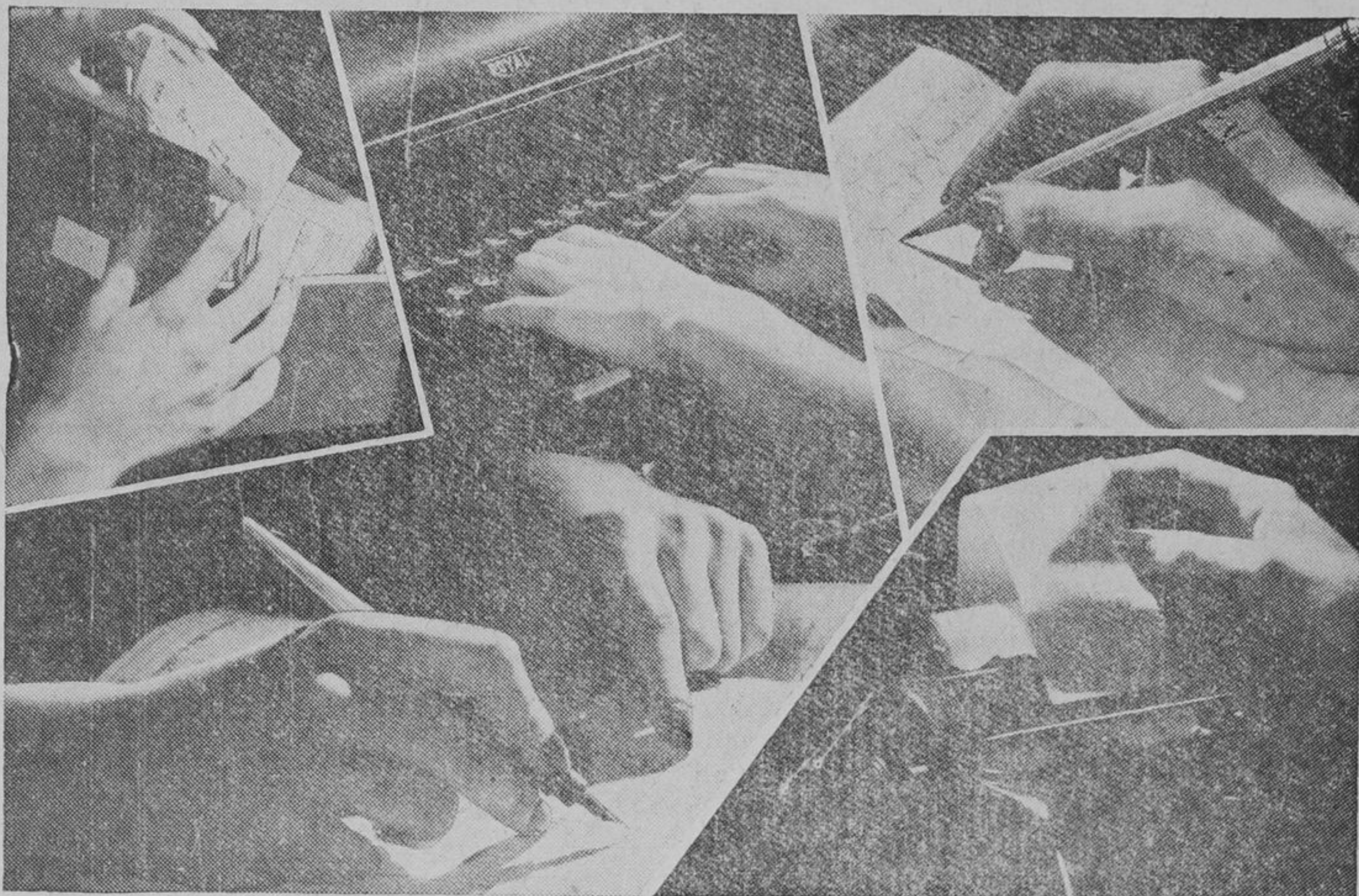
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We should appreciate, then, the co-operative efforts of government, industry and labour in the field of employee training. In schools and in factories our workers, young and old, are given the opportunity to develop new and specific skills in every field of business and industrial activity. For instance, every effort on the part of office workers to become proficient in typing, filing, shorthand and secretarial work, will mean greater business efficiency — will help to make Ontario a finer place in which to live and work.

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Ontario workers know they can earn more, have executive responsibility and enjoy a higher standard of living in direct ratio to the skills they acquire and the way they make use of them. That's always true in a free economy — that's why our competitive system will continue to make Canada great and a great place in which to live.



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