

CASTOR COMMENT

Weathered Barn

There's something about a weathered barn
Standing tall, slab-dured and alone;
Quiet dignity, endurance, forbearance
Like an old man or woman retired
Silvered with age, earning rest and keep
Because of services rendered, benefits unforget.

Tear it down, the wise ones say;
It's only an old, weathered barn.
Well, in its day it stood a horse stable
For a pair of fast-stepping greys;
Saw men ride off a-courting
And on the road to war;
Saw the good canon drive out
On a Sunday morning
Bearing the Word and Book.

A good barn, well-built,
Solid stalls and shake-lined walls
As good as any house;
Boarded and battened
With fine cedar shingles on the roof

The horses are gone now
And even the old car that took their place;
The swallows nest there
And the old maple casts its grateful shade
Beside the wall.

T. V. D.



Photo by Lorrie

Black Market Milk

We are informed by a responsible newspaper, the Montreal Gazette, that a Black Market exists in fluid milk in the Province of Quebec. To anyone familiar with the manner in which government intervention in milk marketing has created confusion and uncertainty in the dairy business, this will come as no surprise.

Farmers in this area are not permitted to sell milk over quota while at the same time, cheese factories are short of milk and compelled to get it from Quebec.

In Quebec, the situation is as bad, partly as a result of policies set by the Canadian Dairy Commission and administered by the Milk Marketing Board at the provincial level. The Gazette says:

"Across the province, farmers, milk truckers and factories are juggling the figures and exchanging cash under the table - taking milk from farmers who have too much and selling it to factories which have too little."

At the same time, government policy planners maintain that there is a surplus - the farmers have produced too much milk.

Too much milk? Under present conditions of inflation when mothers cannot afford to feed their families, when children go off to school hungry, when old folks can't buy the necessities? Too much milk when millions are starving in Bangla-Desh, when Calcutta every morning has its quota of corpses in the street, dead during the night of starvation! The world can use the fine fluid milk that government planners are asking Canadian farmers to jettison. Canadians can use it, too, at prices they can afford. Surely it is time for the planners to come down out of the clouds and evolve a system for getting the milk to the people who need it most at prices they can pay, while assuring a fair return to the farmer. When that happens there will be no need for confusion and uncertainty, no need for a Black Market in milk.

Correspondence

Dear Mark Van Dusen:

Since coming to the Kenmore and Russell Baptist Churches as their new Pastor, I have been quite interested in your monthly journal. I congratulate you for reflecting a candid, yet vigilant, picture of the views and issues rising from this community. The newspaper media is invaluable even in this age of telex and television.

In my reading of the Castor Review, I sense however one missing ingredient. You mirror our athletic life with a sports column and our corporate life with a neighbor's feature, but our spiritual life goes unexpressed. Possible no one has offered to write a monthly article about man's God-ward life. If not, I offer my services to you. Enclosed with this letter, you will find a sample article of a biblical or a religious theme. I ask if you would consider this submission and allow me to write a monthly religious article for the Castor Review.

Yours sincerely,
Rev. James Paul
Kenmore

Editor's Note

We wholeheartedly welcome Rev. Paul's first submission which appears elsewhere in this issue. We look forward to future instalments with anticipation.

We're with you Wink

What happened to young Steve "Wink" Gorman of Kemptville

last month could happen to any one of our local hockey players. It

was a freak accident. Steve took a tumble into the boards and landed on his neck. He is now paralyzed from the shoulders down and the future looks bleak.

There's a bright spot though. The comradery involved in organized sport is immeasurable. Within a few days of the accident a Steve Gorman Trust Fund was established to cover medical expenses and future education costs. Donations form across the country are pouring in and many local organizations are contributing profits from special events to the trust. Steve's playmates have been visiting him regularly in the hospital and are taking part in the organization of fund-raising events.

All this to say that in the face of adversity Steve has not been forsaken. Each one of us shares the uncertainty and deliberation of the moment. Steve, we commend you for your courage and we compliment all those who have rallied to your support.

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Education Fiasco

We find it hard to understand why some 200 'teen age children in this county should be deprived of English language secondary education to the point where those who haven't dropped out in sheer despair, have got to be bussed about and bounced about between a High School in North Dundas and a High School in Metcalfe.

Surely there are enough taxpayers in this county who want an English language high school to make the position of the county school board dubious not to say untenable. And surely these taxpayers deserve some consideration from the Government collecting those taxes at Queens Park.

The young people of Russell have been used as a football long enough by the school board and the politicians. It is time to get down to cases and provide the educational facilities to which we in this county are entitled.

Trial in both languages

A Federal Government bill to permit an accused person to be tried in either French or English is a step in the direction of official bilingualism which may be one of the important answers to separatism in this country.

Ontario is one of the provinces which permits criminal proceedings in both constitutional languages. Magistrates' courts can be conducted in either French or English in Ottawa-Carleton and Prescott-Russell, as well as Sudbury and Timmins and the province has indicated it will cooperate in the new Federal commitment.

These measures represent the practical approach to bilingualism which may go a long way toward preserving Confederation.

Practical bilingualism does not mean requiring English-language persons to speak French or French-language persons to speak English. It means that those who wish to speak French have a right to do so and those who wish to speak English have the same right.

An approach to bilingualism based on official recognition of a person's right to be heard in either of the two constitutional languages of Confederation, without forcing either language on anyone who doesn't want it, is an approach that makes sense.

About Floods

The Nation went on its usual rampage; the government made its usual promises, going so far as to register a \$15 million Nation River rehabilitation plan. The South Nation River Conservation Authority made helpful noises and the farmers of Brinston and Oak Valley watched the flood waters inundate their fields.

The cause of this annual fiasco seems to lie in a drainage ditch system which dumps surplus water into one place, the Nation. The Castor, a tributary of the Nation fortunately manages to stay within the old river bed, obviously formed at one time by a river considerably larger than the present volume of water.

We do not have any suggestions for ending flooding on the Nation, except the obvious ones. But we would like to see the spring runoff on the Castor contained in a more efficient manner, so that some at least of this heavy volume of water would be available throughout the dry season. This would require raising the level of the Russell Dam, or going ahead with the proposed dam at Embrun. Either or both of these alternatives makes sense. Is it too much to hope that something may be done along these lines?

Time to Retire

An 81-year-old convict escaped from an Ontario prison not long ago. The slight shock occasioned by another prison escape was overshadowed by the very real amazement that there are people detained in Canadian prisons who have reached the four-score mark.

It is difficult to see - unless he is psychopathic or psychotic - how a man of 81 can present a danger to society. It is difficult to see on what grounds he could be refused parole. Apparently, the individual in question who has been in and out of jail all his adult life, doesn't possess a record of crimes of violence.

We suggest that non-violent criminals, like members of the Senate, be allowed to retire at 75 and be returned to society, with reasonable public assistance to avoid the danger of starving to death.