

PORA'S PLEA

Get to work

Canadians will have to rediscover the 40-hour work week if they are to get control of the country's economy.

That's the sobering message from Continental Mushroom's Nick Pora to Castor Canadians about to slip into the all-too-comfortable year-end holidays.

And if 40 hours a week isn't enough, we should be prepared to work whatever it takes to keep from going "downhill with the United States."

"We are all getting a bit lazy. We have to work harder and produce more," he said. Mr. Pora knows the meaning of hard work, having developed the Continental farm into a multi-million dollar business since he established it at Metcalfe six years ago. It is now the largest local mushroom producer and one of the largest in the province.

He also knows what it means to

manage a growing business in a country that is subservient to another's economy, resulting in follow-the-leader increases in interest rates. The recent interest rate increased to 15 per cent in Canada as a reaction to a jump in the U.S. rate has stalled Continental's expansion program.

Mr. Pora said the rate will have to drop to at most 14 per cent before the family-owned company will proceed with the addition of eight more growing houses for a total of 32. The expansion would mean an increase in production to four million pounds of mushrooms from three million — and more jobs. The farm now employs 107.

"We had to follow U.S. rates to attract capital here but we also have a duty to compete with the world. To do that we have to start working a lot harder. We have to face the music," he said.



The Adventures of Meg

By M. M. McCallum

SHOPLIFTING SPREE —

"Well," thought Meg, "I am almost finished; a break is just what I need."

Rounding the corner of the slipper aisle, Meg saw Helen just ahead of her at the perfume counter looking from side to side.

Her lips parted to call Helen but she stopped short. Surely she was mistaken in what happened next. Her mind rejected what her eyes saw.

Meg shook her head to clear it. It was true! She had seen Helen take a package of expensive perfume and slip it in her purse.

"Oh," said Meg, "Helen what are you doing? You put that perfume in your purse instead of in your shopping basket."

Tears spurted from Helen's eyes. "Oh, Meg, you just don't know," she blurted. "You have plenty of money for gifts. What else can I do?"

"But Helen, you know that's shoplifting. You could go to jail! Did you take anything else?"

"Yes, lipstick and panties and...and..." Now Helen was crying in earnest.

"Let's put them back, Helen," said Meg.

"I am afraid to try now," said Helen. "Everyone is looking at me crying. Oh! Meg, what am I going to do?"

"Well, let's think about it. There's Janet coming to look for us. Maybe she will have some ideas."

"Do we have to tell her, Meg? I am so ashamed," said Helen, turning her head away.

"Never mind, that's what friends are for. We'll figure something out," answered Meg.

Sitting in the lunch room sipping sodas, the three girls talked over the situation.

"Well," said Meg ruefully. "I have had many adventures and I was able to see a way out, but I'm stumped about what to do now."

"Hey, I'm not stumped," said practical Janet. "Mr. Green is the store manager and Miss Gwen is his assistant. I am sure we could talk to her and tell her what happened. You are sure you want to return the articles Helen?"

"Yes, please," cried Helen. "I wish I had never touched a thing and I never will again."

"Then here we go to find Miss Gwen."

Meg and Janet stayed with their friend as she confessed to her crime. Then Miss Gwen asked them to leave and she talked to Helen in private.

We will never know just what she said to Helen, but when she emerged from the office, she was smiling faintly through her tears.

"She's not going to tell my parents and I am not going to do such a thing again. And you know what? She thinks I am a very lucky girl to have two such friends to stand by me. It's going to be a happy Christmas after all."

"Yes," said Meg, returning the excited hugs of her friends. "Merry Christmas, everyone!!!"

Best Wishes of the Season
to
All the People of Osgoode
and the Castor Area
on behalf of
The Bouwers Family

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John Jr.
Rose
Joann



Albert Bouwers
Osgoode Township Reeve

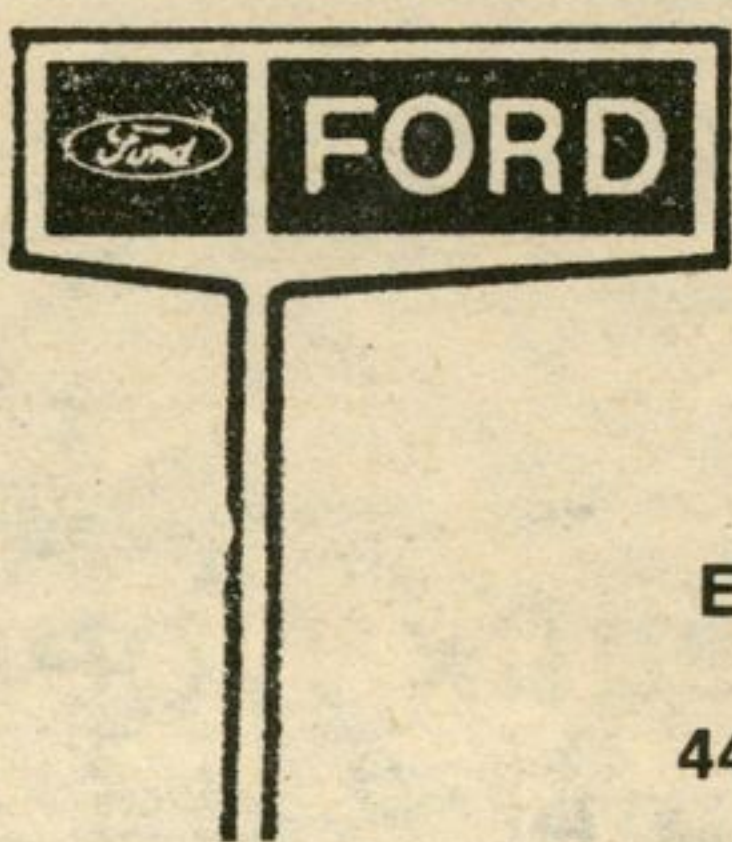


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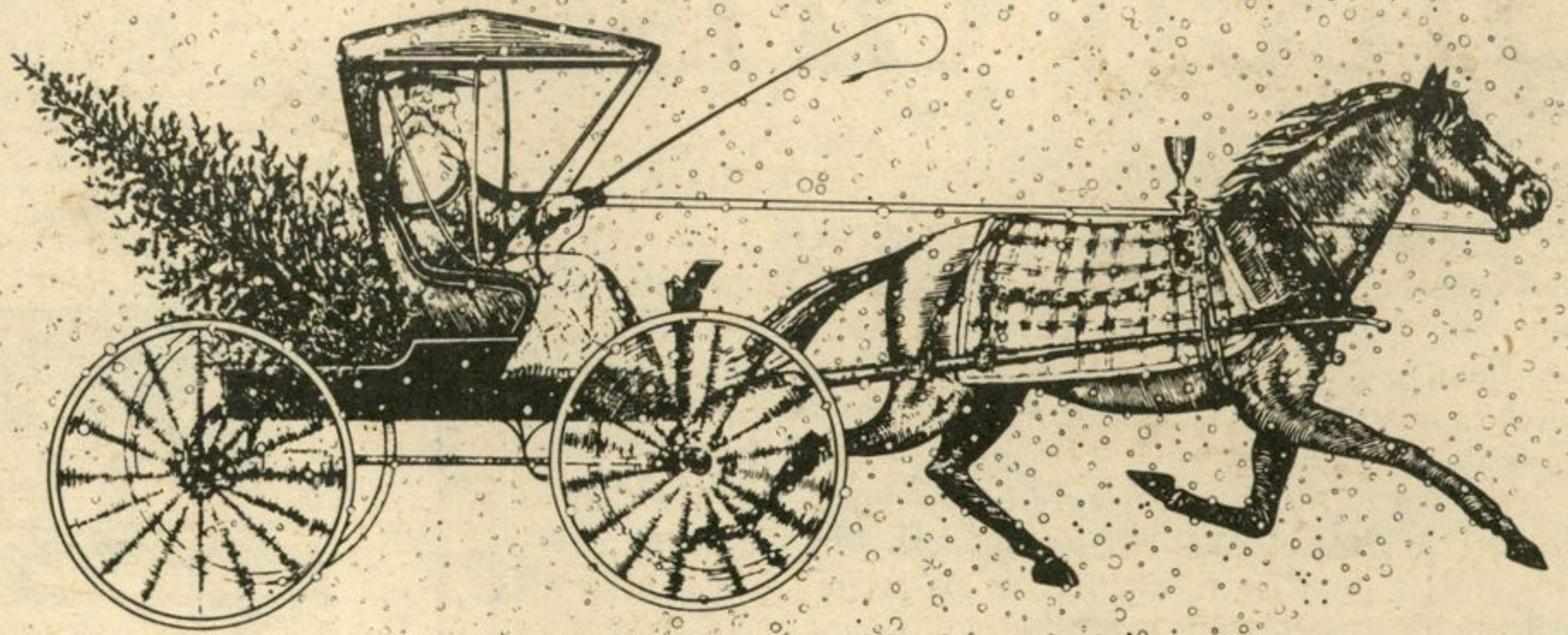
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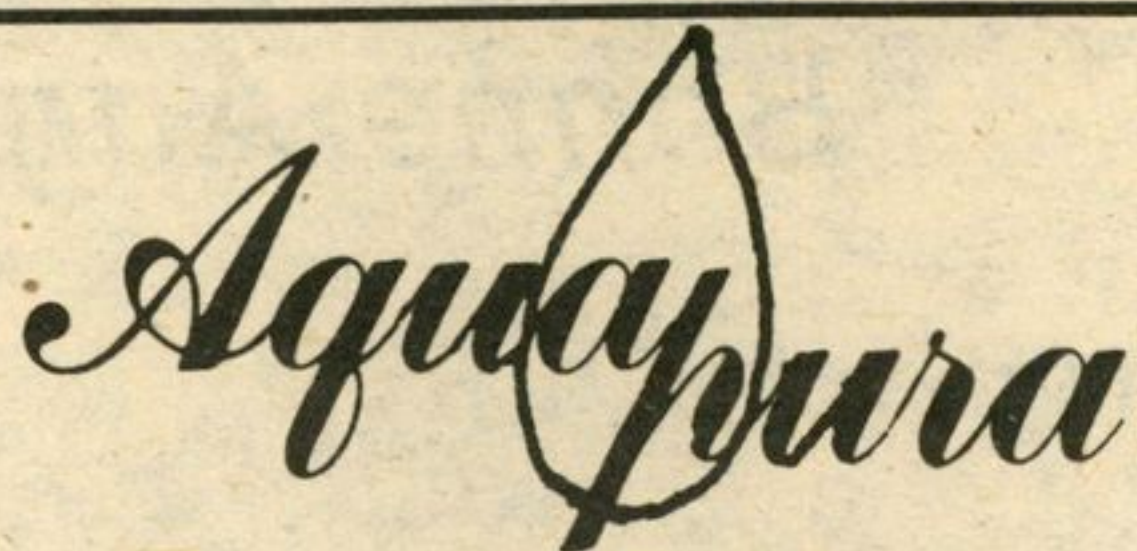


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Merry Christmas

and a

Happy New Year