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Neighbor Nights

(By Arthur Haas)

In this column during the following eight or ten weeks will be found items which should be of interest to all readers, articles on rural problems, cultural and economic, that we hope will hold reader interest.

The title "Neighbor Nights" calls for an explanation. It has been used extensively in the Central States to describe a rural technique, which has had wonderful success, briefly it is this—The family is taken as a unit and eight or ten families meet in one home each week. A social hour or so is spent in games, and singing in an effort to revive the old neighborly spirit, which is rapidly slipping away. One of the number acts as leader, and briefly outlines the community problem they wish discussed. Then the meeting separates into two small groups of not more than seven, each group appointing a leader and secretary.

In these small groups the question is discussed thoroughly without political or religious bias. The meeting reconvenes and a forum is held, where the various secretaries bring in the findings of their groups and out of this most democratic demonstration has grown a strong farm movement in the States, which is possibly doing rural people a greater service, than government aid in the New Deal.

In Ontario the name Neighbor Nights has been applied to an educational programme by the extension department of Pickering College, Newmarket, with splendid response, North York being especially favored in having a brilliant headmaster like Mr. Joe McCulley, sympathetic to ward community improvements.

In Kent County the United Farmers' Co-operative Company last spring carried off a six weeks' intensive educational campaign, which resulted in a fertilizer mixing plant near Chatham.

And so why not Neighbor Nights in Grey County? Is there nothing that groups of intelligent people could do to improve their livelihood, in the way of buying and selling, fertilizer mixing, health insurance, county libraries and community beautification? So let's have "Neighbor Nights" in Grey.

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS FOR COMMUNITY LEADERS

- 1. I will plan a program of work for the year based on the needs of the community.
2. I will have one community service going at all times.
3. I will have every member participating in the year's program.
4. I will plan all programs in advance of meeting time.
5. I will start all meetings on time.
6. I will have fewer and better speeches.

Planning Councils

As a result of the rapid development of our transportation and communication facilities, the changing and expanding educational program and system, the shifting economic and social picture the increased amount of leisure time, in many instances the lagging church program and the interdependence of town and country, agriculture and industry, the currents of influence that enter our homes from the ends of the earth make it imperative that we develop a generation of social and cultural engineers.

An engineer has in mind a purpose whether he plans to span a river, bridge, or chasm. With a clear picture in his mind of what he has set out to accomplish, he makes surveys of the obstacles he has to overcome and the resources and materials at his command.

So the social engineer must have a clear picture in mind of the kind of a society that needs to be developed.

The social engineer needs to have an appreciation of the needs of the whole man and not just a segment of man's life. It must be very clear in his mind that normal happy human beings have, physical, social, mental and spiritual needs and that the lack of meeting any one of these needs is like driving a four cylinder car with one or two or three cylinders out of commission.

tained without planning, any more than a skyscraper can be built without planning? As we focus our minds on our communities, counties, and our State we find that churches, Sunday Schools, Women's Institutes, Junior Farmers, U.F.Y.P.O. Clubs and other institutions and agencies are making an effort to meet the needs of individuals, homes, groups, and communities without any clear cut picture and very little appreciation and a great lack of understanding of what needs the other agencies are attempting to meet.

To meet this growing need in our changing social and economic order we propose planning councils. We have discovered that life in our normal rural communities is influenced and in a large measure determined by these institutions and factors—farms, business, church, school, community spirit, government or citizenship, homes, health, nature, and social and economic cultural and recreational organization of the community.

To bring about cooperative and planned action in community, one or more people are elected to present the different phases of the life in the community such as church, school, farms, business, etc.

WANTED—A Spruce-Up Campaign
Particular interest has been focused on Farm and Home Improvements by the Farmer Magazine. They have sponsored Farm and Home Improvement contests in five centres in Ontario, the first of which was sponsored by the Unifolville Junior Farmers' Association.

Sometime ago, in New York State the citizens of Compkins County organized the Compkins County Development Association which sponsored a spruce-up Campaign.

THE OBJECT—to develop the scenic beauty and home attractiveness of the rural and village areas of Compkins County.

HOW TO ACHIEVE IT—Through voluntary efforts on the part of each citizen of the county; through united efforts of neighborhoods, communities, and organizations.

We submit these two ideas for the improvement of rural life, for we believe that every self-respecting citizen and community should undertake a similar venture.

Something a Wide-Awake Community Could Do

Beautifying highways; do roadside planting; eliminate auto graveyards; remove signs; promote front yard cleanup; promote a flower show; promote school essay contests of improvements; landscape village green or park drain or fill swampy areas; build a lookout parking area; promote demolition of unsightly structures; plant ornamental trees.

COUNTY LIBRARIES

Grey County which has a population of 57,699 has 14 Public Libraries. Five of these are Free Libraries and nine are Association Libraries. Free Libraries are maintained by a grant each year from the Town Council after a bylaw has been passed by a Municipality authorizing the organization of a Free Public Library. This grant may be 50c per capita. No fees may then be charged to residents outside the Municipality. Association Libraries are maintained by fees paid by borrowers and by money raised in the community for the upkeep of the Library. There is no compulsory taxation for funds for the Library. Naturally the Free Library can give better service.

A cut stone monument at Bale Verte, New Brunswick, commemorating the pre-historic Indian portage which connects Bale Verte and Misaghush Rivers. This route from the Gulf of St. Lawrence to the Bay of Fundy was the chief means of communication between Quebec, Isle Royale and Chignecto. A cairn at Fort Alexander, Manitoba, marking the site of Fort Maurepas, one of La Verendrye's trading posts. Both the Hudson's Bay Company and the North West Company located here in 1793. Only Fort Alexander, built by the former company, has survived. The unveiling of this monument formed part of the La Verendrye Bi-Centenary Celebration.

A cairn at Norway House, Manitoba, marking the site of Norway House built on Jack River in 1812—13, by the Hudson's Bay Company. It was rebuilt on this site in 1825 and was a frequent meeting-place of the Council of the Northern Department of Rupert's Land. Here the Rev. James Evans invented the Cree Syllabic System. In 1875, Treaty No. 5 was made here, whereby the Saulteaux and Swampy Cree ceded their rights in about 100,000 square miles in this vicinity.

A cairn at Fort McMurray, Alberta, commemorating the historical events associated with the Methye Portage. The earliest trade route between eastward and northward flowing waters followed the Clearwater River and the Methye Portage. It was discovered by Peter Pond in 1778 and used continuously for more than a century by fur-traders and explorers, including Sir Alexander MacKenzie, Sir John Franklin and George Simpson.

MULOCK

Mr. Carman Hopkins took a load of the B.Y.P.U. Thursday evening of last week to spend an enjoyable evening with Mr. John McLean, who had the misfortune to break his arm recently.

The B.Y.P.U. members are busy practicing for two Valentine plays, to be presented shortly.

Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Adam visited Sunday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jas. Sherman, Lamlash.

Mr. A. C. MacDonald has been ill and under the doctor's care, but we are pleased to say she has improved in health. Miss Lolita Mighon is assisting in the home.

Many friends of Mr. Don. McKechnie will be pleased to know he is doing as well as can be expected, though now in his 87th year, with a broken leg. Mrs. Wilson of Flesherton, is looking after the aged gentleman and daughter, Miss Mary. The doctor and all speak highly of her ability as nurse and housekeeper.

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Locker of Stratfordville, Ont, spent their honeymoon at the home of Mrs. Rev. Saunders, Mrs. Locker being her niece.

MULOCK

We are having a lot of storms and the back roads are not in very good condition for travelling.

Mr. Dick Aitken is holidaying for a few weeks at his home here.

Mr. Lance Rumble of Toronto was a weekend visitor with Mr. and Mrs. Robt. Lawson. Mrs. Rumble who had spent the past week with her parents returned home with him.

Miss Georgie Miller has accepted a position in Owen Sound and will spend sometime there.

Mr. Bill Sheuremann has been busy with his sawing outfit on the line.

The annual meeting in connection with the church here will be held on Thursday afternoon, Feb. 9th at 2 o'clock in the church.

ROCKY SAUGER

(Intended for last week)

To-day, Tuesday is very frosty, probably as cold as any day this winter.

Mrs. Neil McLean spent a day recently with her father in Hamilton.

Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm McKechnie were in attendance at the funeral of a friend, Mrs. McGillivray in Paisley on Saturday.

Mrs. Lance Rumble of Toronto is spending this week with her mother, Robert Lawson who was on the sick list the past week. Pleasied to hear she is much better again.

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon McCrae and family were visitors first of the week with Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Bell and family.

Mrs. Eliza Tiffany, Dornoch, is spending some time at the home of Mr. Tommy Tiffany.

Miss Georgie Miller is spending a few days with friends in Owen Sound.

DORNOCH

Mr. George Ledingham was a recent visitor at his home.

Mrs. McGregor of London is spending sometime with her aunt, Miss Skene.

Mrs. W. H. Smith visited recently with her aunt Mrs. J. A. Ledingham of Durham.

Mr. and Mrs. Patterson of Toronto spent a recent weekend at their summer home.

Mr. and Mrs. A. D. MacIntyre and little son were visitors recently with Mr. and Mrs. SALTER, Williamsford.

Big bundle of old papers, only \$4. at Review Office. Just the thing for lighting fires, saving under carpets.

A poetic genius was born to Scotland during a howling gust of a January wind, 25th inst., 1759 in Robert Burns. If howling gusts are responsible for genius, Canada is due one, for on 25th January, 1939, just such another storm was on here.

Collections

On January 7th 1939, a Toronto client wrote us in part as follows: "I would surely recommend you to anyone I know who has bills to collect, your Company can do it. I am sending you another note here with."

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The one-time Scotch national dish, the Haggis, must be falling from its citadel, when a big department store firm in Toronto received the order to supply same for the Burns' birthday supper in the Presbyterian Church here Thursday night last.

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A FACT A WEEK ABOUT CANADA
HISTORICAL SITES
GLENELG CENTRE B. M. C.
The Glenelg Centre Baptist Mission Circle held their January meeting at the home of Mrs. Neil Macfarlane. The meeting opened with a hymn, bible reading and prayer in unison. After reading of minutes, the roll call was answered with a favorite scripture verse. Mrs. Geo. Whitmore read psalm 47, and it was followed by a short season of prayer. Our president, Mrs. A. Beaton, read a New Year's message from Miss Jennie Pearcy, the president of our Home Missions. A hymn was sung and Mrs. J. T. Priest gave a paper entitled "In the Beginning". Mrs. W. G. Ritchie read the third chapter of "Mary Jones and her bible". Hymn and prayer by Mrs. Priest closed the meeting. A dainty lunch was served. The February meeting will be held at Mrs. Henry Beaton's.

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