

**Neighbor Nights**  
(By Arthur Haas)

**WHY FARMERS SHOULD ORGANIZE**

Why should farmers organize? Various answers could be given to this question, but the reason most farmers join a farm organization is that they hope to derive some benefit from doing so. In this day and age when other groups of people are organized to protect or further their interests, it is well-nigh imperative that farmers should be organized. If they are not it is inevitable that other groups will take advantage of them either consciously or unconsciously, and our great basic industry will be worse off than it would be if farmers were organized into a body by means of which they could study their problems, and combat other organized groups, when the latter want things that are not in the interest of agriculture and harmful to Canada as a whole.

We have a very great need in this country for such an organization. At the present time we have separate and distinct farm organizations, which cover almost the whole field of agriculture. Cheese factory patrons, whole milk shippers, beef cattle men, sheepmen, hog producers, poultrymen, grain growers, fruit and vegetable growers all have organizations. We have a large number of groups which are engaged in co-operative buying and selling. All these organizations are beneficial up to a certain point, but their scope is limited and if we are to make real progress in solving the problems of agriculture we need an organization to deal with the farm problem as a whole.

One or two illustrations will show why this is necessary. Quite a number of cheese factory patrons think that the Dominion Gov. should fix the price of cheese at 18 cents per pound. From the immediate interest of the cheese factory patron such a thing would of course be desirable. We are not, however, going to solve the problems of cheese factory patrons by such a policy. If the price of cheese was fixed at such a figure, men who are shipping cream to the creamery would soon start shipping milk to the cheese factory instead. Farmers who are not engaged in dairying at the present time and who are getting low prices for their products would then branch out into dairying and in a few years there would be a tremendous increase in the production of cheese, other things being equal. This increase in cheese production would mean that the government would have to sustain an increasingly heavy loss each year on the cheese it bought from the cheese producers, and to limit these losses the production of cheese would have to be controlled. This naturally would cause dissatisfaction among dairymen because it would mean that only certain privileged ones among them could continue to send their milk to the cheese factory. Certain other complications would develop if this policy were adopted which we need not discuss here.

Then consider the case of fruit and vegetable growers. They want tariff protection on fruit and vegetables, but they want the supplies they buy to be admitted into this country free of duty. Such a policy can afford to pay, then we have hard times in the country and unemployment in the city. This fundamental fact was recognized 160 years ago by that great economist Adam Smith, who in his book the "Wealth of Nations" said:

The greatest and most important branch of commerce of every nation is that which is carried on between the inhabitants of the town and the country. The inhabitants of the town draw from the country the rude produce which

constitutes both the material of their work and the fund of the subsistence; and they pay for this rude produce by sending back to the country a certain portion of it manufactured and prepared for immediate use. The trade which is carried on between those two different sets of people, consists ultimately in a certain quantity of rude produce exchanged for a certain quantity of manufactured produce. The dealer in the latter, therefore, the cheaper, the farmer and whatever tends in any country to raise the price of manufactured produce, tends to lower that of the rude produce of the land, and thereby to discourage agriculture.

Unfortunately this simple and elementary principle has been ignored. If it had been recognized, and if there had been any serious attempt to assist agriculture and cope with the problem of unemployment, the rate of wages received by city people would have been reduced when farm prices fell in 1929 and 1930. Politicians, government employees, school teachers in towns and cities and organized labor did not receive any appreciable reduction in their wages when farm prices fell, and, as a result while farmers are worse off now than they were in 1929, very large numbers of city people are a good deal better off than they were then.

In this regard, the following table showing the index number of the purchasing power of the price of farm products and the index number of wages paid in the most important urban industries in this country is of interest. In each case 1926 has been taken as the base year.

**PURCHASING POWER**

1926	100	100
1927	101	103
1928	99	104
1929	97	105
1930	83	107
1931	63	114
1932	57	117
1933	64	117
1934	74	117
1935	79	118

If we had had a strong farm organization in Canada during the past few years, and if its leaders had been acquainted with the simple elementary and fundamental facts which govern trade and commerce, agriculture would be in a much better position than it is today.

There was a time when the major problem of agriculture was production. Nowadays it is marketing and the relationship which exists between farmers and other groups of producers. Farmers may depend upon it that urban workers—those who are lucky enough to have jobs—will continue to exploit them, unless they join together and fight for their rights.

**SAUGEEN TRAIL RANGERS**

The regular weekly meeting of the Saugeen Trail Rangers was held in the Knox church on March 16th. After the devotional period, the mentor, gave an instructive talk on badge work, describing how each badge could be won. At the conclusion of the meeting, the Mentor, Mr. Douglas, gave a knot tying demonstration.

Last week, March 9th about 10 new members were initiated following a short meeting, which increased the membership to about 30. After the initiation crokinole was enjoyed for a few hours.

**VICKERS**

March is wearing on and still there seems no sign of Spring as we write. The back roads are almost blocked and still the snow keeps falling and blowing.

IN the midst of life we are in death. The community was shocked to learn of the death of Mr. Seth Trafford on Saturday evening last. Very few people knew he had been ailing. Seth was always of a cheerful disposition, and will be greatly missed by all who made his acquaintance. We join in extending heartfelt sympathy to Mrs Trafford and son Clarence and daughter Joy in the loss of a loving husband and father.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Wells of Markdale spent the weekend with the latter's parents, Mr and Mrs Ben Coult. Mrs Wells remained a few days.

**DORNOCH**

Miss Marjorie Doyle of Owen Sound was a weekend guest with Mr and Mrs A. D. Macintyre.

Mrs Aldred of Durham is visiting with her daughter, Mrs A. Livingstone.

Miss Reta Muldoon has returned to Hamilton.

Weekend guests with Mr and Mrs W. H. Smith were Miss M. C. and P. McQuarrie of Aberdeen.

Miss M. B. Morrison of Peterborough also Mrs W. J. Elliott and two children of Williamsford were weekend visitors with their parents. Mr and Mrs D. Morrison.

Miss S. Macintosh spent a few days recently with Owen Sound friends.

**MILLOCK**

The B.Y.P.U. members had a successful crokinole social at the Baptist parsonage Tuesday evening of last week, with a large number present. Earl Anderson won the men's prize and Mrs Geo. Terry the ladies'. Consolation prizes were won by Geo Porter and Lois Mighon. A delicious lunch was served afterwards.

Messrs. James and C. Stinson of Crawford visited Sunday at the home of Mr and Mrs Clifford Adlam and Mr and Mrs George Mighon.

The cast has been removed from little Noreen Hopkins' leg, after being bedfast six weeks. She has been very cheerful through it all, and is now able to sit up and move her knee somewhat.

The community extends sympathy to Mrs Seth Trafford and family in their bereavement. Seth was one of our Millock boys who served overseas, and his sudden passing is mourned by all.

**ABERDEEN W. I.**

The Aberdeen W. I. held their March meeting at the home of Mrs. Donald Stewart with a good attendance of members. The president, Mrs. Geo. Twamley opened the meeting with the Ode, followed by the Lord's prayer in unison. Mrs. Lamb read 107th Psalm. Mrs. Hallett read a portion of the handbook, the roll call was answered with the members signing up for another year. Mrs Twamley had the current events.

Mrs Lamb had a very interesting contest "The Menu for Every Day." Miss Annie Smith, receiving a lovely guest towel. Miss Vera Stewart rendered a delightful solo, "There is No Disappointment in Heaven." This was followed by a Sing Song. Miss McCormick read a very interesting paper, "History of Aberdeen, school, teachers and surrounding country." Grace was then sung, and Mrs. Stewart and assistants served a dainty lunch.

# The Proposed Increase of 33 1/3% in GASOLINE TAXATION

IT IS proposed by the Government of the Province of Ontario to increase the tax on gasoline from six cents to eight cents per gallon. This increase, if made effective, means that the average motorist, driving 10,000 miles in a year and getting 18 miles to the gallon out of his car will pay over \$10 additional to the gasoline tax of \$33.33 which he is now paying. Figure it out for yourself. From six cents to eight cents a gallon means this:

	Taxes Now (excluding license)	Proposed Taxes After Apr. 1, 1939	Proposed Increase 33 1/3%	Gas Tax per Week per Car
10,000 miles* per year.....	\$33.33	\$44.44	\$11.11	\$ .85
15,000 miles* per year.....	49.98	66.66	16.66	1.28
20,000 miles* per year.....	66.66	88.88	22.22	1.70

\* (18 miles per gallon)

The average car owner is not a rich man. He does not drive a new car. Out of 582,212 passenger car registrations in Ontario in 1938 but 48,561 were new cars. Yet the automobile owner is the most heavily taxed man in the community. In 1936 he was already contributing 30% of the provincial revenue. Here are the figures for 1936 and 1937, the latest official figures from the Government.

	1936	1937	1938
The Provincial Revenue was.....	\$90,321,896	\$99,838,595	
The Provincial Taxation on gasoline....	\$16,049,857	\$17,644,164	*\$18,318,171

\* This figure is based upon the percentage increase in gasoline consumption, which percentage figure was obtained from government sources.  
† Coupled with license fees in 1936, this TAX represents 30% of the Provincial Revenue.

Since the motorist already bears 30% of the taxation burden of the Province, it is manifestly unfair to increase the burden.

Provincial Revenue from the taxation of Motor Vehicles, Ontario, 1936:		
Paid by the public in Gasoline Taxation.....	\$16,049,857	
Paid by the public in Licenses, etc.....	11,144,956	
<b>Spent by the Government in Highway Construction and Maintenance:</b>		\$27,194,813
(All Provincial Expenditures).....	\$ 9,419,509	
Interest and Sinking Fund.....	13,630,543	
		\$23,050,052
<b>Diverted.....</b>		\$ 4,144,761

In 1936 money collected for highway maintenance was being diverted from this purpose to the extent of \$4,000,000.

There is not available from official Government sources Expenditure on Roads, Interest and Sinking Fund charges, etc. subsequent to 1936.

It is now proposed to secure an additional \$6,000,000 from the motorists of the Province through an increase in the gasoline tax from six to eight cents per gallon. While the motorist, as a citizen, has been willing to assist the Government in problems of administration, a limit must be set to the burden imposed upon him.

If you, as a car owner, are content to assume the added burden represented by a 2-cent increase in the gasoline tax, there is nothing you need do. Your silence will be interpreted as consent.

If you are not content, and wish to place yourself on record to that effect in the only quarter where your objection will carry weight, call at your regular service station, whether it be a B-A station or any other, and ask for a card which has been distributed for your convenience.

Just sign it, fill in your address, and leave it with the station attendant.

Issued as a service to the Motorists of Ontario  
by the  
**British American Oil Company Limited**

**CANADA CALLS YOU**

With the purpose of stimulating the tourist industry, the Canada Travel Bureau, at Ottawa, has issued recently probably the most enterprising government publication to make its appearance in this country. If quality counts, it should certainly succeed in influencing travellers to visit the Dominion, as it is not only attractively printed, but, from the red-coated mountie striding across a backdrop of lake and mountain, on the front cover, to the kaleidoscope of typical farm and industrial scenes on the back it also contains a selection of photographs that should exercise a strong appeal.

The book is divided into sections covering each of the nine provinces and their attractions as holiday lands, the national parks, and the various transportation facilities. The two hundred or more photographs which have been included have been chosen carefully to show the different phases of Canadian life and the pursuits in which the vacationer may engage. There is an introductory message by the Governor-General, Lord Tweedsmuir, in which he says: "I set down my convictions that Canada is not only the natural playground of North America, but also the best playground in the world," and this, coming from a veteran traveller, is high praise indeed.

The Travel Bureau, a branch of the Dept. of Transportation is to be congratulated upon its excellent effort.

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**ROCKY SAUGEEN**

We still have lots of winter with the weather as cold as any time during the winter.

The heartfelt sympathy of the whole community is extended to Mr and Mrs Ewen Ritchie in the death of their darling baby, who passed away on Saturday after suffering a severe accident in a car collision on Friday.

Mr and Mrs Etie Sweeney and family have moved into the house occupied by the Young family and will be employed by the Lawson family for sometime.

Mr Malcolm McKechnie has been quite ill and under the Doctor's care the past few days, but is now on the road to recovery.

Mr Harold McKechnie was in attendance at the funeral of the late Rev. Dr. Farguharson in Toronto.

Miss George Miller of Owen Sound was a weekend visitor at her home here.

Mr George McKechnie of Listowel spent a week end recently with relatives here.

**FARM FOR SALE**—200 acres, good buildings, spring creek. Bureau to close estate. Apply Jennie Calder, at Review office. Just the thing for R.R. No. 1, Holston.

Big bundle of old papers, only 5c. Fighting Bros. laying carpets, etc.