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Editorial Comment

Not The Last Session

The Ontario legislature will convene on January 10. Much of the time and consideration will be given over to Ontario's effort. There will be no redistribution bill brought down at this session Premier Hepburn has announced.

A Place for Everybody

The man with big feet and plenty of weight on top of them is always welcome guest on the day the silo is to be filled and the filling needs to be tramped. Yes, there's really a place for everybody in this old world, but it's often hard to find that place.

A Town Is Judged By Its Citizens

What impression does the visitor to Stouffville carry away with him? Is it one of pleasure caused by the courtesy extended to him, or does he vow we are a churlish lot? Does he admire our streets, houses, public buildings and methods of trade or does his experience leave something to be desired?

Every corporation is wishful to leave a good impression. Hence it behooves us to take stock of ourselves, or as the immortal Bobby Burns said: "See oursel's as ithers see us." We should turn the searchlight of introspective candor upon ourselves and learn the truth.

Protests Still Continue

Complaints continue to pile up against the two year election term to be imposed over Ontario by the Legislature when it meets next January the tenth. So far we have not read a single weekly in support of the change. A paper with a strong editorial leaning, the Durham Chronicle in a lengthy article sums up the matter thus: "No sir, we resent this governmental interference with our municipal rights. If we people in the country don't want an election, we won't have one; if we do, well, now we can't have one, and all because of a bad pipe-dream somebody had down in Toronto, where they usually do it wrong, judged from a rural point of view. Let the Ontario Government give us our elections. Let us have something. They have taken nearly everything from us now as it is. Country people don't like it."

Annual Breach of Etiquette

The other evening we were the guest of the village reeve at the annual Warden's Banquet held in the City of Toronto. About 700 sat down, and as is the custom everybody is seated long before the honored guest of the evening, the warden, and his head table associates enter the dining hall. The first thing is to call for the "Blessing," and then the first course already on the table is partaken of. But, what generally transpires is that half the people who take their places at the tables to await the honored guests of the evening, sit down and dispose of the first course, which later completely throws them out of gear, and they must feel a bit foolish when they hear the "Blessing" pronounced as the proper signal given to commence eating. Experience does not teach some of the guests for they make the same mistake year after year.

Of course there is another side to the peculiar, though not serious breach of etiquette. The banquet is called for 6.30 p.m., and the honored guests do not enter the room until 7 p.m., which perhaps is just as bad manners as those shown by the other guests. With so large a gathering it is difficult to run exactly on schedule, yet something approaching it should be aimed at. Half an hour is rather a long time to wait, and as is the case, many people refuse to wait, and just put their manners in their pocket for the time being.

Don't Blame The Cook

There's an old saying which says to "blame it on the cook," and so recently when the editor of the Financial Post had turnip for dinner which tasted better than usual, he was moved to write about, which gives us the idea he blames strong bitter tasting turnips on the Cook. Here are his exact words: "One day last week we had turnips—army turnips—for dinner. As a rule we have no liking for this homely vegetable, no more presumably than the average soldier. But these turnips were sweet, well prepared, tasty. They were the sort of turnips any soldier could have—and enjoy—if the army took a little more trouble to train its cooks."

Probably the editor of The Post does not know his turnips, and that all the professional cooks alive could not make a water core turnip palatable. It is one of the things which agricultural science has not yet been able to successfully cope with, the water core turnip, which is the cause of general grief on the farm at marketing time each fall simply because rutabages with water core is something the farmer cannot do anything about. There is no known way to dispose of water core, although many things are being tried. Unfortunately one cannot detect it in the vegetable until it is cut open, and as water core turnips are usually bitter or strong despite anything the cook can do, often half farmer's crop is rejected at the shipping point because of its presence. If a given number of turnips cut open show water core, the load is rejected entirely, and goes back to the farm for stable feeding.

MARRIAGES IN CANADA JUMP

Cupid and his bow and arrows did a land office business during the first month of the war the Dominion Bureau of Statistics disclosed. The first month of war quite evidently plunged many Canadian young people into the sea of matrimony in advance of their original intentions," said the bureau. "During September the number of marriages throughout Canada was 7,966 which was 68 1/2 p.c. more than the September total a year ago.

Vivian City Forest Will Be Enlarged

Plans to enlarge the reforestation program in York County was outlined to York County Council last week by its reforestation committee. It is proposed to plant approximately 100,000 to 150,000 new trees in 1940. Since 123,000 new trees were planted this year, reforestation in the county is now considered on a major scale.

A year ago a large tract of trees in the Vivian Reforestation District was destroyed by fire. This section has been cleared and replanted with trees.

"You would never know a fire had taken place," declared Reeve Rennie, chairman of the committee. "Thousands and thousands of trees were destroyed in the fire, yet you can't find a charred tree in that neighborhood now."

Through the efforts of the National Forestry Program Camp some 25 acres of the county forest has been pruned. A small dam and bridge has also been built on the creek to supply water in case of a fire and prevent a 1938 recurrence.

Professor E. G. Runke of the Ontario Agricultural College reports that the soil survey of county farms is well under way and that 2,600 samples of earth have been collected for analyzing. The survey is being conducted with a view to improving the crops of county farmers.

MAIL FOR OVERSEAS AT ONCE

Christmas parcels and cards intended for relatives and friends in the old land and on the continent of Europe should be mailed at once. From the post office department word is received that no dates of sailings for the old land will be announced and that any mail is subject to wartime conditions. In view of these circumstances,

REPORT BIG HARVEST BY HOUSE OF REFUGE

A silo full of corn, 50 tons of hay, 15 barrels of apples and 4,130 bushels of grain and garden produce have been harvested at the York County House of Refuge this year. This was the report of the home commissioners adopted this session by the county council.

There are 57 men and 24 women in the institution, the report revealed. Since January, there were 11 admissions 10 discharges and seven deaths.

LICENSE MARKERS

ON SALE JANUARY 1st
Toronto, Ont.—Numerals an inch longer than those used in the past and a colour scheme rated by scientists as that affording the highest possible visibility will be features of Ontario's 1940 automobile license plates it was learned recently at Queen's Park.

Bright yellow in colour, with black numerals and letters, they are expected to be visible at greater distances and under far less favourable light conditions than those of the current year.

The East York market has operated at a profit of \$515 so far this year, the market committee reported. The West York market was sold to York Township in March, it was added, after operating at a loss of \$145 in the first two months of the year.

TWICE AS MANY RATS AS HUMAN BEINGS

(By John W. S. McCullough,)
The population of Canada is under 12 millions of people. The rat population is estimated to reach 25 millions.

The rat is man's most intelligent and dangerous foe. He is filthy, destructive and disease-carrying; a menace society. At a most conservative estimate the rat population of Canada consumes food of a value of 50 millions year. If this were his only fault the rat's continued existence might be tolerated.

It is not as a destroyer of property or as a consumer of food but as a health menace that the rat does the greatest harm. Because his body is infested with fleas, lice and mites the rat distributes what are known as

it is advisable to get all mail intended for Christmas delivery overseas into the postoffice at once. The sooner the mail is received at the office, the better chance there is for delivery. Customary dates will prevail in Canada, it is expected, though it is always a wise precaution to mail early.

Nurses Wear New Uniforms



The new-style recreation uniform for nursing sisters was seen when the Lieutenant-Governor and Mrs. Albert Matthews of Ontario received officers, their wives and nurses, who will go overseas with the first Canadian division. Lieut. D. E. Birkett is pictured wearing the Dutch blue, two-piece costume with starched white collar and cuffs and navy blue felt hat. It is compulsory at all social events.

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Cars Crash Near Markham Village

Wreckage was strewn over No. 7 highway for more than 200 yards late Thursday night when two cars collided. Two passengers were injured.

James O'Dell, of Adelaide St., was driver of the westbound car, which proceeded for about 200 yards and then turned on its side on the highway. No one in it was injured. The eastbound car was driven by Douglas Calligan, R.R. 1, Beaverton.

Mrs. Calligan received a serious cut on the leg, which required several stitches. Margaret Calligan, 11, suffered facial cuts. Dr. M. Hastings, of Markham, attended the injured. Provincial Officer Howard Jackman, assisted by Constable Art Daniels, of Markham, is investigating.

NEW BOOKS

- New Fiction Books
I Face the Stars G. Moss
Heartbroken Melody K. Norris
Sunburst Berta Ruck
Masks Off at Midnight
Valentine Williams
Shadows on the Rock
Willa Cather
The Purple Ball F.L. Packard
Women Must Work
Richard Aldington
Storm Drift Ethel M. Dell
Man Hunters of Scotland Yard
Arthur Fowler Neil
Valiant Is the Word for Carrie
Barry Benefield
Chances Hamilton Gibbs
They Seek a Country
Francis Brett Young
Secret Sentence Vicki Baum
Helena Sylvia Thompson
Breakfast in Bed S. Thompson
Seven Gothic Tales I. Dinesen
And Quiet Flows the Don
Mikhail Sholokhov
The Narrow Corner Maugham
Whiteoak Harvest Roche
The Portcullis Room Williams
The Street of the Fishing Cat
Jolan Folders
Mystery in Kensington Gore
Martin Porlock
The Beachcomber McFee
Ann Vickers Sinclair Lewis
Jenny Rorke Muriel Hine
First Night Lorna Rea
All Men are Enemies, Aldington
Feud of Cattle Kings
Robert Ames Bennet
Class Books
Present Indicative, Noel Coward
The Canada Year Book 1939

mechanical carriers of disease. Investigation has shown that a single rat carries on the average 15 fleas, and these fleas in many instances, are known to carry disease.

Rats, as well as mice and squirrels, furnish an important chapter in preventive medicine. A rat bite may cause fever (rat bite fever) and other infections but the real danger from rats is because of the disease-carrying insects living on them. The rat is the chief reservoir and source of human plague. The plague is the "black death" which in the years 1664, 1665 killed 70,000 of the half million population of London.

The suppression of the rat is probably a biological impossibility. The animal is usually intelligent, keen and cautious. Millions have been killed in the endeavor to control the plague epidemics in India, Japan and in coast cities such as San Francisco, without causing an appreciable reduction of the stock.

Rat-proofing of buildings, starving, the use of traps, poisons and fumigation have all been tried with more or less success. The natural enemies of the rat are hawks, snakes, skunks, weasels, the mongoose, minks, dogs, cats and ferrets.

The rate cannot live without food and he will quickly migrate if food supplies are denied him, just as he will congregate where food is plentiful. All available forces must be arrayed against him in order to limit this source of disease-carrying parasites.

TO PREVENT SPLIT BARK

One of the greatest problems facing the fruit industry of Canada to-day is the heavy loss of trees due to bark splitting and crotch injury as a result of frequent severe frosts. The Horticultural Division, Dominion Experimental Farms, among its many activities, such as the breeding of apples, the hybridization of pears, plums, strawberries and raspberries, the testing, breeding and selection of vegetable varieties suitable to the various parts of Canada, fertilizer and cultural work on orchards, the commercial application of certain crops grown in greenhouses, and many other studies, is making a thorough study of the possibility of overcoming much of this tree damage by the employment of very hardy root stalks and hardy frameworks to be top-worked to the desired sorts.

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