

The Stouffville Tribune

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A. V. Nolan, J.P., Editor and Publisher

Editorial Comment

Let's Congratulate Ourselves

The council and ratepayers of Stouffville are to be congratulated on the ability of the council to hold our tax rate at 36 mills, when so many villages find it necessary to strike a rate around 40 and 42 mills which seems to be the average for places of our size. In addition to our low tax rate, the charges for domestic water in this village are probably the lowest in the province. \$4 per year for a home equipped with bath, laundry tubs and lawn tap is hard to beat, and at that the system in Stouffville shows an annual surplus. This is due to the fact that we have a gravity system, and no debenture debt.

In 1947 the big debenture on the high school amounting to probably five mills will be paid off, leaving only two small debentures, so that the future holds excellent prospects for retaining a low tax rate. It should be possible soon to spend more money on overhauling sidewalks, and an effort should be made to improve some of the main roads in the village. It has been suggested that O'Brien Avenue and Church Street should have tarvia top roads, and we believe this idea might well be investigated as to the probable cost and the willingness of the ratepayers on those streets to bear a share of the cost, as they do on Main Street. In the long run tarvia on these streets would not only be cheaper but would give a service such as we cannot obtain from the present effort in maintaining gravel tops on these streets.

Clean Pavement Pleases the Visitor

A member of the Georgetown Herald staff cruised through many of the towns and villages heading toward Port Elgin from his home town and is willing to hand the cake to the village of Tara for the best kept Main street, from the standpoint of cleanliness. Before the trip was made the writer thought that Georgetown could not be equalled for keeping a well cleaned pavement, but he now bows to the village of Tara.

We mention this fact merely to remind our council and readers that visitors do take notice of a well kept pavement which leaves an impression on them. Perhaps the next time the Herald writer takes a jaunt he will call this way, and may he find a street in Stouffville just as clean as he leaves behind in Georgetown.

Canada and U. S. Sign Agreement Mutual Defence

Ottawa—The good neighbour policy, characteristic of relations between Canada and the United States for long years, was placed on a concrete base on August 18 last, when Prime Minister Mackenzie King and President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed an agreement at Ogdensburg, N.Y., for the mutual defence of both countries.

Exactly two years ago, on that date, President Roosevelt had stated in Toronto; "I give you assurance that the people of the United States will not stand idly by if domination of Canadian soil is threatened by any other Empire." The practical means for carrying that assurance out were sealed in the agreement reached by the leaders of the two countries forming the northern half of the western hemisphere.

Those Glaring Lights

Newspapers are again campaigning for a clean-up of the situation in regard to glaring automobile headlights. Articles as bright as the headlights complained of are appearing in editorial columns, but so far as we have been able to notice automobiles continue to carry glaring and improperly focussed lights, and not much is done about it, except an occasional burst of profanity from a temporarily blinded driver.

The regulations are clear enough. They make it an offence for a motorist to drive with glaring lights, but somehow or other offenders against that section of the act rarely appear in police court. It is difficult for motorcycle officers to get the goods on the guilty parties, apparently, and in case of accidents it is probably the case that the ownership of the car whose badly focussed lights caused all the trouble is rarely detected. He is gone like a ship that passes in the night, and by the time the investigating officer arrives on the scene there is little chance of the culprit being brought to justice. Seems to us that the real remedy will be in the hands of the Manufacturer. Science could develop a head light that will not glare, if and when the demand is serious enough.

Chain Letters Are Illegal

During the past few weeks we have received no less than a dozen chain letters advising that the recipient purchase a War Savings Stamp and send five copies of the letter to as many friends with similar instructions. The latter says that the recipient will receive some hundreds in War Savings Stamps but does not say when. There was a time we entered into the spirit of the chain letter idea but someone somewhere broke the chain, as we never received the promised amounts and we do not know anyone who did. It may surprise some people to know that the sending of chain letters is illegal and if caught, the sender is liable to be deprived of the privilege of receiving mail from the post office.

CANADA PACKERS NET PROFIT UP 34 p.c.

According to information published in the financial Post the Canada Packers Ltd., made a net profit 34 per cent for the year just closed over the preceding year. Chief factor in the improvement is attributed by Mr. McLean to the increased industrial activity. Improvement was also due to the increased shipments to Great Britain of bacon, cheese and eggs.

Speaking of cattle and hogs Mr. McLean gives the following interesting information to farmers:

Cattle prices have been firm, due to two causes quite independent of the war, the president points out. These factors include the high price level in the United States, especially for choice grades, and the comparatively light marketings in Canada.

Hog prices since September last on the average have not been higher than in the corresponding period a year earlier. However, the president continues, had it not been for the war, hog prices would have been lower. Prices of hides and skins, wool, butter and cheese and vegetable oils, however, advanced rapidly and resulted in an inventory profit of \$579,000. This sum has been set aside as a "wartime inventory reserve" to guard against possible inventory losses at some later date.

Anxiety is caused the company by the possibility of an embarrassing surplus of pig products. Mr. McLean points out that a surplus of wheat can be stored, but hogs must be marketed when ready.

In the case of bacon, Canada shipped so much to Britain in the past months of the war that sufficient was not left for domestic requirements and the deficiency was made up of imports from the United States. In January, however, Britain was finding stocks becoming embarrassing and restricted shipments to the contract quantity of 50,000 cwt. weekly. Since February this limit has been strictly enforced. Large quantities of American supplies contracted for proved somewhat embarrassing, but the problem was worked out in such a way that imports from that country have rapidly declined.

No Increase

The stoppage of supplies from Scandinavia and Holland and the cutting of British herds to one third, has not meant an increase of Canadian shipments to Britain. "If heavier shipments are not taken," warns Mr. McLean, "Canadian hog producers this fall will find themselves in a most embarrassing position."

Production of hogs in Canada has been stepped up in anticipation of British needs, and present forecasts indicate hog marketing of six million in the year ended Sept. 30, 1941, compared with the estimate of 4.8 million for year ending Sept. 30, next. If this forecast is realized, the surplus available for export will be about 75,000 cwt. weekly.

Mr. McLean expresses the hope the British Ministry of Food will lay plans to take all of it and this, the president believes, the Ministry can do. Even with shipments of 75,000 cwt. weekly from Canada to Britain, he estimates, total supplies will be barely more than one half normal consumption, and will not exceed the total involved in the present ration.

In the Editor's Mail

King City, Ontario.
August 22nd, 1940.The Tribune,
Stouffville, Ontario.To the Editor:
Dear Sir:

We wish to pay tribute to the splendid co-operation received from the numerous patriotic citizens whose efforts have contributed to make the undertaking of National Registration in York North a success.

The task given to us was one which no one person or group of persons alone could accomplish, therefore it is with pride and gratitude that we acknowledge the help rendered us by every organization and individual concerned, of whatever character or relationship, without which we should, have failed in the job committed to us.

Whatever mistakes or oversights may have occurred, we trust shall be attributed to our zeal, rather than to any other cause or interest. You have rendered Canada and the Empire a great service and we humbly say to all—Thank You.

Capt. Frank Mesley,
J. Bruce MacKinnon,
Registrars for York North.

tion, and will not exceed the total involved in the present ration.

Post-War Outlook

Looking to the post-war period, Mr. McLean outlines the opportunity available for Canada to capture and hold the British bacon market. In the war, he points out, the Dominion won but did not hold it, due to the better quality of Danish bacon. "If, at the end of the present war," continues the president, "Canadian Bacon were again pushed off the British market, the disaster to producers would be one of first magnitude." The only safeguard, he suggests, is for Canada to produce exactly the type of bacon the British consumer wishes, so that, again to quote Mr. McLean, "the British consumer will demand Canadian bacon instead of refusing to eat it."

In the last 10 years, he reports, substantial progress has been made in improving the quality of Canadian hogs, largely through the establishment of testing stations in which the best strains are given a "record of production" rating.

Final Step

One final step still remains to be taken by Canada if it is to compete successfully. The British market demands Wiltshire sides of lean type weighing 55 to 65 lb., and at present only about 55 p.c. of the bacon shipped from the Dominion falls within this range. This compares with 95 p.c. of continental bacon.

Mr. McLean also suggests a change in trade practice which, he believes, would contribute to holding the British market: that all Canadian hogs should be marketed on a dressed weight basis. This would make possible accurate grading, he points out, both in respect of quality and sizeability; and would permit accurate apportionment of premiums for select hogs and penalties for undesirable types. The adoption of universal rail grading, he adds, is a step which can be carried out only by the Dominion Department of Agriculture.

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CANADA'S WAR EFFORT

A Weekly Review of Developments on the home front:

1. Col. J. L. Ralston announced that 30,000 single men of around 21 will be called early in October for thirty days military training.

2. Thirty-nine military training centres are being prepared across the Dominion.

3. A total of 300,000 men will be trained during the ensuing year as part of the non-permanent active militia units.

4. Construction cost of the camps will be about \$9,000,000.

5. Orders in Council passed amplifying the powers of David C. Dick, wool administrator.

6. J. S. Duncan, deputy minister of National Defence for Air announced that by the end of the present year, the British Commonwealth Air Training plan, so far as construction of buildings and airdromes is concerned, will have reached the objective originally set for the end of 1941.

7. The Canadian Government is to spend close to \$1,000,000 to strengthen Newfoundland's land and sea airplane bases at Gander Lake and Botwood, announced Hon. C. G. Power, Minister of National Defence for Air. These bases have been guarded by Canadian troops since the beginning of the war.

8. Contracts awarded by the Department of Munitions and Supply during the past week number 1753 and total \$8,067,620.

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