

The Stouffville Tribune

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

Editorial Comment

Egg Buyers Face Difficulties

New egg-grading regulations coming into effect March 1, already have forced many rural merchants out of the egg business. Both in Stouffville and the surrounding district, consternation is expressed as to what will come of the new law and the manner in which the farmer will sell his eggs.

No one is deciding to stay in the business, and so far no one in or around Stouffville is prepared to make outlay for the new equipment necessary under the Act or regulations. In explanation one buyer explained the situation thus:

"First, when the eggs are brought to us they would have to be taken directly to a properly refrigerated room before they are graded. This room has to be properly insulated, has to have a hydrometer and thermometer to show that the humidity and temperature is proper. The egg graders have to have government certificates; new egg cases, fillers and flats have to be used, and we have to get a government license with a registered number to be put on every case of eggs.

"We have come to the conclusion that the hen does not need to cackle any more. All she needs to do is strut off the nest and say: 'Boys do your stuff. There's the egg.'

Dawn of a New Era?
(Financial Post)

Thousands of Americans were greatly sobered last week as they watched the inauguration of President Roosevelt break precedents.

From every state people came to watch this historic event—the first third-term inauguration. In the past such festivities usually reached their zenith with the inaugural parade, a typical American show-piece, richly flavored with all manner of political pomp and panoply.

But this parade was different.

Gone were the political marching clubs, the snappy drum-majorettes. In their place were row upon row of grey and khaki clad men of arms. In the rear were tanks and steelsheathed "panzer" units. Overhead were score upon score of Flying Fortresses, twin-engined bombers and Army pursuit planes.

The whole affair created a grim realization that the United States, not actually at war, was far from being at peace.

Earlier in the day, President Roosevelt had made a fervent affirmation of what this inaugural day meant to freedom-loving peoples. As rated by one observer, it was "a pact with free men everywhere."

His words carried welcome inspiration. But to Canadians and an embattled Empire actions must count more than words in this hour of great crisis.

How ready is America to go "all out" for democratic freedom?

There appears to be only one answer to that question in Jan., 1941: Mr. Roosevelt will let nothing interfere with his deep-rooted passion to beat Hitler and the Axis powers. He will not count the cost nor will he hesitate one moment to go into war if he believes it necessary and expedient.

Nor would the American people, by all present indications, hesitate to unite behind such a policy once their leader said the word.

Present focal point in America's democratic defense programme is the passage through Congress of the Lease-Lend Bill. Beyond harmless verbal pyrotechnics there is, I am assured, no real legislative obstacle to the lease-lend plan or to any measure the President feels must be taken in the near future.

To Ration Gasoline?
(Dundalk Herald)

Gasoline-less Sundays in Canada are a probability, not because gasoline is scarce but because the saving would help affect a more favorable trade balance with the United States. Government experts claim that the net saving from a rationing system would mean a reduction of \$10,000,000 a-year in foreign exchange payments, which represents a fifth of present petroleum imports.

Against this saving has to be estimated the dislocation in tourist revenue which rationing would bring, besides the involved step-up required to make the system work. While we believe the average Canadian citizen would be prepared to make sacrifices for the sake of the war effort, it is questionable if the suggested Sunday rationing would be in keeping with the comparatively small advantage to be gained.

We do agree that there is a tremendous amount of gasoline wasted in aimless Sunday driving, but after all a considerable percentage of the citizens obtain their livelihood from the sale of this product and that is the only time which many people have for recreation. Perhaps they would be better off financially and physically for staying at home and resting and attending divine worship, for which purpose one day in seven was set apart. Gasoline rationing in some cases would certainly be a kindness to the individual. As to its effect on the country as a whole, we doubt if the gain would be worth the disruption it would cause.

Overseas Mail

Letter received by Mr. and Mrs. W. Thompson of Newmarket, and former residents of Stouffville, Bristol,

Sunday, Jan. 5, 1941
 Dear Mother and Dad:

Here I am in Bristol on my leave at last and what a grand time I am having too. Left barracks around six o'clock on Thursday evening and after changing trains twice arrived at the station here about four a.m. on Friday morning. As it was too early to go out to the house I sat around the station until six o'clock and then started out and luckily found my way without much trouble in the dark. Got to the house at seven o'clock and after a cup of tea and half an hour's chat popped into bed intending to have a couple of hours rest but when I finally wakened up it was five in the afternoon. What a grand sleep I had in a real honest-to-goodness bed with sheets and a comforter, etc. Did I ever enjoy it. Had a meal of bacon, egg, liver, friend bread, marmalade and tea. Sat and talked until eight o'clock and then we had another meal of fish and chips, bread and butter, jam and tea. My capacity for food is amazing at times. I don't know where I put it all. Another blitz lasted all night but about midnight we all went to bed in spite of the terrific noise of guns, planes and bombs and believe it or not I was sound asleep again in no time, and didn't hear a thing until ten o'clock in the morning. Got up eventually and had breakfast and then went out for a brisk walk for a few hours. Outside of that I did nothing but eat and sleep so far and I feel 100 per cent better already. It's Sunday afternoon now and to-morrow I'll get out and look around and try and see the actual damage caused by the raids. Jerry certainly has dropped lots of incendiary and high explosive bombs here but the loss of life has not been large and the fire services have done a remarkable job of handling the numerous fires that have been started.

At this house at least they have had no difficulty in getting plenty of food, and the meals I've put away have been enormous. I will be staying here until Wednesday and then back to barracks again and work but I'll be in a different frame of mind and feeling all rested up by then. I've had a grand welcome here and a lot of fuss made over me and its something I'll always remember and be thankful for.

I hope there will be mail in from you folks again when I get back, it seems ages since I had a letter of any kind.

Hope everything is well with you both and that you are in good health and enjoying life as much as possible.

Well I must close now and get ready to have dinner, so until later, bye bye.

Gordon Thompson.

Letter received by Mr. R. Hood, Brierbush Hospital, Steephelm Cottage, Old Church Rd., West End, Clevedon, Somerset

January 1, 1941
 Dear Bob:

As you will have heard we have gone through some gas raids in the city. It really was living Hell. It would be impossible to describe it. It was really terrible to see the city burning. It was terrible to see the destruction together with the loss of life. We thank God we have been preserved so far. I am pleased to say the office where I am employed is still standing, but all around is desolation.

I don't like the journey each day, as I have to leave home at 7.15 a.m. and the buses are crowded with people that have been evacuated. Very often I have to stand all the way. However we leave at 4 in the afternoon to enable us to get home before the blackout.

Many of the roads have been blocked with debris. All the rest of

the family are safe and that is a lot to be thankful for. A couple have had to evacuate on account of unexploded bombs. Lil has lost a lot of furniture. Still there are many thousands worse off than us. It is nice to get peaceful nights down here, although we can still hear the guns and the planes as they go on their way to the city. We shall be glad when it is all over.

Hitler will have something to account for some day.

Your sister, Florrie

Friends Did a Worthy Act

A most unusual subscription list was circulated in town last week to provide funds for the funeral of the late Fred Johnson. This unfortunate man had made a request to one of his friends that he hoped his few material assets when sold would provide a decent funeral. However, well wishing friends decided that it would be a nice gesture for everybody to donate a little and thus give him that burial which every man should be accorded.

Johnson did not want the town to bury him, and this being his expressed wish, it was honored. The council, we are assured, were quite prepared to pay the funeral costs, thus it was not at their instigation that the petition was circulated, no one will miss the donation they made, in fact they will probably feel better in the knowledge that they donated something to help out a poor unfortunate chap for whom there is nothing but pity.

UNIONVILLE CLASS LARGEST IN PROVINCE

The 30th annual York County Short Course being held this year at Unionville has proven very popular in that community with an enrolment of 43 boys and 29 girls. This is the largest boys' class being held in the Province according to figures released from the Department of Agriculture.

The class have an average of one guest speaker per week and the boys' class on Tuesday spent the entire day at the plant of Canada Packers where a very fine programme was arranged for them under the direction of Mr. Hugh Murray of the Provision Department, assisted by W. S. McMullen of the Dominion Hog Grading Service. Boys and parents to the number of 45 took in this trip and we understand that similar groups are to be organized in various parts of the County as was done last year by the Agricultural Representative, W. M. Cockburn.

E. A. BONNICK APPOINTED CENSUS COMMISSIONER

E. A. Bonnicks of Oak Ridges has received notification from Hon. J. A. McKinnon, Minister of Trade and Commerce in the Dominion Government that he has been appointed as Census Commissioner for the Federal Electoral District of York North. The census is taken every ten years under the direction of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

PROFITTEERING CHARGED IN BORDEN POTATOES

Alleged profiteering in the sale of potatoes at Camp Borden, charged in an article in last week's Alliston Herald, is denied by Clarence Cumming, Craighurst, the man who does the buying for the potato contractors.

The contract for a month's supply of potatoes is awarded monthly by the Department of National Defense requiring about 5,000 bags for the use of the entire camp. The firm of Sam Hisey and Son, potato dealers Toronto, holds the contract for the month of January, with Clarence Cumming as a sub contractor.

The Alliston Herald reported: "It has been brought to the attention of the leading potato growers of the Alliston district that the prices being paid for No. 1 table stock potatoes by buyers for delivery to Camp Borden are decidedly out of line with the price the contract warrants.

Potatoes are being purchased in this district to fill the contract at 45 cents per bag at the barn, and it is common knowledge, according to our informants, that the contract price exceeds 75 cents, delivered at the Camp.

According to information reaching The Examiner the contract price for January is 76 1/2 cents per bag, but that is denied by the sub contractor who places it at 70 cents.

"It is estimated that, allowing for cost of bags, trucking, etc., these men are realizing between them, a net profit of 22 1/2 cents per bag, which amount to \$33 on each load of 150 bags.

"How long will the farmer stand for this? The remedy is in his own hands. There are organizations ready for him to act through. Meetings are being held quite frequently. It is up to the potato men to push their interests and secure this market for themselves."

Mr. Cumming said that in fact the family are safe and that is a lot to be thankful for. A couple have had to evacuate on account of unexploded bombs. Lil has lost a lot of furniture. Still there are many thousands worse off than us. It is nice to get peaceful nights down here, although we can still hear the guns and the planes as they go on their way to the city. We shall be glad when it is all over.

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Your sister, Florrie

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ness the matter should have further explanation, and dealt with the allegations one by one.

Mr. Cumming stated that Sam Hisey & Son had the contract at Camp Borden for January at 70 cents a bag and that his sub contract called for a price of 67 cents a bag, thus allowing the Hisey firm three cents a bag for financing the venture, the money being tied up for some time.

Mr. Cumming said that during winter weather, one truck load of 150 bags was all that could be trucked to Camp Borden each day. After calls had been made at several places to pick these up. On an occasional day, a second load was possible. A truck and driver were worth about \$15 a day, which made the cost of hauling ten cents a bag, or probably eight cents if deliveries averaged more than one load a day.

The potatoes must be re-bagged by the farmer, and these bags cost four cents each. In turn these bags were shipped by the military authorities to Toronto, and disposed of as salvage, he said.

Mr. Cumming stated that as he was paying 50 cents a bag for potatoes at the present time—although he had previously been paying 45 cents, but nevertheless the gross return to him was 67 cents, less 12 cents, less 50 cents or 55 cents, leaving a net profit of five cents per bag.

He expressed the opinion that five cents was not too much, in view of the fact that he took a chance on the price of potatoes advancing during the month and also that he had to be busy on the road all the time buying potatoes and arranging for delivery of bags for re-bagging our purposes as well as other expenses incidental to carrying on a business of this kind. Prices took a sudden rise in November he recalled.

Potatoes purchased in most instances by Mr. Cumming are bought on the basis of being in bags ready to be picked up by the truck and carted to Camp Borden, Mr. Cumming explained.

"Ontario potatoes are in Camp Borden today, not through the foresight of many who criticize but through the efforts chiefly of myself," Mr. Cumming declared.

He has been purchasing potatoes in Simcoe County for Camp Borden since September 1 last on a sub contract basis.

What the local growers want to know says the Alliston Herald is what has happened to the 6 1/2 cents per bag over and above the 70 cents that Mr. Cumming says Mr. Hisey received. Mr. Hisey or his sub contractor are invited to enlighten growers on this question. It is easy to figure the profit that someone is receiving over and above what the sub contractor gets—5,000 bags at 9 1/2 cents comes to \$475.00 without seeing the potatoes.

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