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Notes and Comments

Plenty of Material for Public Office

Stouffville didn't have any municipal election this year, but there was not a position on the council or on the school board that went begging, excepting, perhaps, there was no rush for the important position of that held by the reeve. On the school board extra men had offered to serve, and when A. V. Nolan resigned there were two to take his place. The same was the case on the council, men had offered to fill the position of any councillor who did not want to go back for another term. This shows a quickening interest in municipal affairs.

A Fine Lady Gone

The death of Mrs. Robert J. Corson at Markham village removes a lady from the life of that community whom all will remember as the essence of kindness. Wife of a veteran newspaper man who for long years directed the business of the Markham Economist and Sun, Mrs. Corson was widely known to members of the craft throughout Canada. She was beloved by all who knew her, and will be mourned by many far beyond the confines of her immediate family.

One Less Paper For Ontario County

An important change in the newspaper chain in OntarioCounty is announced to be effective at once, whereby the Whitby Gazette and Chronicle has been amalgamated with the Oshawa-Times, and the new publication, to be issued twice a week, will be known as the Times-Gazette. The paper will be published at Oshawa but the Whitby office will remain open, with the same working staff. Under the new set-up the paper hopes to better serve the County of Ontario, and in their endeavour we bespeak for the proprietors and editors every success. The Whitby paper has been among the outstanding weeklies for some years now. The change is along the ever increasing trent of the weekly field whereby fewer and better papers are making their debut.

Compulsory Military Service

The Globe and Mail came out last week with a full page statement showing that compulsory selective service was favored by 72 rural newspapers, six were doubtful, and three opposed. The Tribune answered the Globe's telegram protesting that it was more or less a "trick" question in our opinion, because of its wording thus: "If Dominion government decides compulsory selective service without limitations is necessary to maintain our fighting forces at adequate strength, do you think the people of your district would oppose it, provided adequate provisions is made for farm labor requirements and essential war industries?"

Our answer after protesting the wording of the question, intimated that it appeared to be so worded as to draw the answer the Globe desired. Further, we stated that if the government decided compulsory service necessary, the people of this district would on the whole support it. Likewise, if the government maintains its present attitude the people of this district would also support the Government. That, in our opinion, is the way we feel the pulse of the people. Many other papers, we since learn, took a similar stand. Compulsory service would likely result in smaller output of mechanized equipment. It is for the government to inform us which is needed most men or . material.

Asks Agriculturalists To Organize Committees in **Every Ontario County**

Believing that community, township and county organizations composed of farmers would be of material assistance in furthering the enormous war effort Ontario agriculturalists will have to make in 1942, Hon. P.M.Dewan, Ontario Minister of Agriculture has asked Agricultural Representatives in the various counties to take the lead in organizing committees for war purposes only.

"When such organization is completed, any committees that are formed will be in a position to advise and act regarding local conditions particularly, and also advise upon provincial and national problems as required," said Mr. Dewan: "Through their local contact they will be able to cooperate with any and all groups and departments interested in the production of food products."

"The Agricultural Representative will become the active government agency in this work an it will have precedence over all other activities in the calls upon his time. The Department is convinced that the urgency of the situation demands this and appeals for the co-operation of all farmers throughout the province," Mr. Dewan declared.

War conditions have made imperative gigantic Canadian agricultural production in 1942, with a call for export of 600,000,000 pounds of bacon; 125,000,000 pounds of cheese (mostly from Untario); one million cases of eggs and large quantities of processed milk.

Under normal farm labor conditions, Canadian farmers would not find too much difficulty in filling even these huge contracts, but an acute shortage means that all farm mechanized equipment must be put to maximun use as well as proper organization of all available labor.

WHY CHURCHES BOMBED, FACTORIES ESCAPE

This is the fifth of a series of articles about conditions in Great Britain and other countries visited by a group of Canadian newspaper editors. It was written for the weekly newspapers of Canada by their special representative on the delegation, Hugh Templin, of the Fergus News-Record.

In a previous story, I told something about the bomb damage in London. The subject of bombing and its results on the people of England is too large to dismiss in a few sentences. It is, or has been, the most important feature of the war since Dunkirk.

London has been seriously bomb ed. The raids on the city began mor than a year ago and continued unt April or May, 1941. When daytime bombing became too costly for, the Germans, the enemy turned to nigh bombing, which cannot be so effective in hitting particular targets Since early summer, the night raids on London have stopped. Hitler no longer has the planes to spare; the R.A.F. has command of the air ove Britain and around the coasts; in land defences are. more numerou and better organized. Air raids con tinue, but they are mostly along the eastern and southern coasts.

was little houses by the score that horsey smell. had suffered, which seemed to me worse than old office buildings because there must have been so kings lie in state workmen were re- er from Mrs. Churchili. much loss of life: as for the houses pairing a broad hole in the roof The buildings in the heart of Covsome of them are better gone and where a bomb came through. Big entry are literally wiped out, in two the buildings that replace them will Ben has almost escaped. One corner great raids, one in November, 1940, improve these districts. Why Churches Are Burned

I have been asked hundreds of goes. questions about bomb damage. Perhaps other readers would like know a few of the answers.

escape ?

Canadian in England that it seems touched.

In London and other badly bombbombs. They are small and light. falls. Dropped from a height of 10,- the time in the square in front of again at full speed. 000 feet or so,-an incendiary . bomb the cathedral. will penetrate through a slate roof If Westminster Abbey was hit, the visit a bomber station, a dainty young or the fender of a car, leaving a damage must have been repaired, lady served tea to a dozen editors. I small hole. It will not go through a although one portion was closed on asked if she lived in Coventry durbrick, wall. The bomb signites two the Sunday afternoon I visited it. ing the raids. She did. She wasn't minutes after it strikes and develops | Fleet street, with most of the daily in a shelter either. It was her turn a flame said to have a temperature newspaper offices grouped together, that night to be on Air Raid Patrol. of about 5,000 degrees. A large suffered much, yet not one daily pap- She travelled through those streets bomber might carry thousands of er ever missed a single edition. The with flames and death all around and incendiaries and drop them, out editor of one of Lord Beaverbrook's the sky full of enemies. She was literally by the ton.

to fight the incendiary bomb. Volun- owns in that area. I saw the results. teer fire watchers are always on the The record of the newspapers is re lookout for bombs. They have the markable, but no more amazing than simple 'equipment to render bombs the attitude of the people at large. harmless before they can develop It is said that it was a great help to heat.

safe. The beautiful old buildings, de- and found both the daily paper and your trading area. Be wise and signed by Christopher Wren and the bottle of milk on the doorstep. other great architects, have slate At Buckingham Palace, only one roofs. Inside the building is another small building has been hit, but the false roof, often of lead. The in- iron fence is being removed to be cendiary goes through the slate, but used to make munitions. Many stores hasn't force enough to penetrate the on Oxford and Regent streets have second roof. Before it can be reached, suffered. Tenants in rich apartments it has exploded and started a fire. in the West End have lost everything Sometimes, there was an oak ceiling they owned just as thoroughly as the as well. No matter how faithful the poor in the dock areas, though not watchers at the churces might be, it such a large proportion, perhaps. was impossible to rip off the slates . It surprised me to find many Lonand the lead in time to reach the doners still sleeping in air raid shelbombs.

liberately attacked. Everything was attacked. It was simply'a matter of Circus twice during my stay. Some the way the churches were built. Factories Have Really Escaped

production of war materials is some- out of their own homes and preferrthing else again. It is literally true ed the semi-independence of this that many of the important ones have life rather than being billeted with never been bombed. I saw a great strangers. aero engine factory in the Midlands, Coventry Has Suffered Most built since the war started. It was undoubtedly the finest factory I ever that I realized how bad a concentratsaw. It was built by a large automo-jed bombing can be. Coventry was bile company solely for the product- (and is) an industrial city about the tion of radial engines of 1,500 h.p. size of Hamilton, Ontario. Twice the or so. It is several miles from the Germans concentrated the full might nearest city. Every precaution has of their air force on Coventry in an been taken to see that a bomb drop- attempt to demonstrate just what ping nearby won't affect the people they could do. To some extent, they inside. If one makes a direct hit, a succeeded: but they did not stop proseries of blast walls will minimize duction to such an .extent as they the damage. But there has never had hoped, and they did not terrify the people. They did not even kill as been a direct hit.

Twice I passed the original Hurri- many as one would expect. cane factory. This is an older one and We drove from London to Covenstill makes the famous fighting try one fine September morning. planes which the R.C.A.F. uses. It The British Council supplied us with was pointed out to me by a ferry cars that had Canadian ensigns on pilot, who was going to the factory the radiators. I admired the beautiful to take a new plane to'a fighter English countryside and wondered at station. Above the factory floated a the patience of the British farmers,

Market a plant of the con-

group of barrage balloons, an un-cutting their second crop of hay in usual' sight away from the large fields dotted with plane traps. cities. I would have known it was Coventry's city hall remains alan important factory. Yet the pilot most untouched on the border of told me that the Germans had never acres of ruins. The car in which found it.

is simple. The cartoonists love to women with market baskets, had show a man or a building so camou- gathered. As I stepped out, I heard flaged that it looks ludicrous. That is someone ask: . "Who are they?" actually what happens. At night, answered: "Canadians." The nearest these factories literally cannot be woman with a basket over her arm

that I visited the East Coast. As I estimation of Coventry. said before, all the bridges over the A few minutes later, I stood amid Thames escaped damage.

the editors were conducted through Hyde and on the other, Captain S. A. the Houses of Parliament by two in- Hector, Chief of , Police. Both, I teresting and humorous guides, Lord learned later are members of the Snell, representing the House of Order of the British Empire because Lords, and Sir Patrick Hamon, from of heroic services performed. the House of Commons. They took Major Christie, of St. John, N.B. us even into the basement rooms moved through the rubble with the I think London looked much as I where Guy Fawkes stored the gun- Provost of the Cathedral and laid on had expected to find it. I did not ex- powder to blow up Parliament cen- an improvised altar a wreath which pect to see such a large area east of turies ago, and into the underground the editors had brought from Lon-St. Paul's Cathedral so thoroughly chapels where Cromwell stabled his don. My eyes were moist and laid waste. In two other areas, both horses to show his contempt for the thought the Chief wiped away a tear. south of the river, the damage struck institution of parliament. The chap- Two days later, Prime Minister me as terrible. In both these cases, it els are lovely. There is no longer any Churchill visited Coventry and asked

> of the clock tower and one face and the other in April 74,000 houses were damaged but the clock still out of total of 91,000 in Coventry

to of Commons chamber itself. It simp- "the most beautiful I think I ever ly does not exist any longer. There saw in my life." Is it true, for instance, that is no roof, and only a small pile of | A visit to Covetry now is depreschurches are almost invariably de- rubble and twisted girders marks the sing. Here, it would seem, the Gerstroyed and important factories spot where many a great debate has man Luftwaffe really succeeded. taken place. Yet, strangely enough, It is true. It is so obvious to a the rooms around it are almost un- sent over 600 planes to bomb for 11

uncanny until one knows the reasons. St. Paul's and Westminster Abbey ed cities, it is obvious that most of Cathedral should have survived when the damage was done by, incendiary all the area behind it is bare and I dreary. I visited the cathedral and brought parts of one home with me. found only one large hole in the roof, It is cylindrical, not over two inches made by a high explosive bomb that business section are gone, and so are in diameter and about a foot long-shattered the altar beneath. Again many of the houses. The hospital and something like a fat Roman candle. it was explained that the roof struc- the Cathedral and the Roman Cath-The head is flat, not pointed like the ture supplied the answer. The in- olic church are but shells. But amaztip of a high explosive bomb. That cendiaries bounced off the great ingly enough, only 1246 persons were is the heavy end. The tail has fins on dome and the arched roof. Fire en- | killed in both raids, and I saw with it to keep the bomb upright as it gines and fire fighters are massed all, my own eyes the war factories going

papers told me that £75,000 had been terrified, she admitted, but she never Nowadays, the British know how spent to protect the two buildings he thought of taking shelter. Anyway, morale, when a householder came to copies of The Tribune this week. But even yet, the churches are not his front door after a night of terror

ters after four months of immunity It wasn't that churches were de- from bombing. I visited the great "Underground" station at Piccadilly 300 people were still sleeping there, but they seemed to-be mostly men The story of the factories and the and women who had been bombed

It wasn't until I visited Coventry

was riding was the last to drive up It sounds mystifying. Actually, it to the door. A curious crowd, mostly responded.

It is impossible to mention many Later, I understood, Mayor Mosley of the buildings that have been dam- welcomed us in a room which had a aged, but I might list'a few. By this model tank and a large vegetable time, the streets have all been re- marrow on the table, symbols of paired, railways are in full operation greater production. Mrs. Pearl Hyde, and there is little or no sign of head of the Women's Voluntary Serbomb damage in the railway stations. vices, . told me that many of the The docks, which much have suffer- people of Coventry were clothed in ed, are in operation again. Barges, Canadian garments, and they bad drawn by tugs, are continually going been fed for days from fleets of moup and down the Thames at West- bile canteens, donated to cities minster. I saw a convoy going out around by various Canadian war the mouth of the Thames one day funds. Canada ranks high in the

the rubble in the ruins of Coventry On one of our first days in London, Cathedral. On one side stood Mrs.

about the wreath. He thought it a Here and there, I saw the damage splendid idea and the next day, two done by bombs. In the great West- more arrived to place beside our own, ancient landmarks. That was simply minster Hall, where the bodies of the one from Winston Churchill, the oth-

> were damaged. "It was a beautiful The worst damage is in the House moonlight night,"said Mayor Mosley,

But they didn't even though they hours in the moonnight, and even though they had immense luck, for It seems impossible that St. Paul's the large water main was broken by high explosives and three lucky Office Phone shots hit the canal bank and drained away the secondary water supply.

The buildings which made up the

That afternoon, before we left to she had no home to go to that night: one of the first bombs got it You can't defeat people like that

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