

## The Stouffville Tribune

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## Notes and Comments

### Thinks Term Should not be Shortened

The St. Marys school board has done the unusual to come cracking down on this thing of letting the school youngsters down easily by shortening the school term, allegedly to allow the boys to assist in seeding operations on the farm. Come to think of it, what can such an average youngster do in the way of seeding? Ask any farmer for the answer. Then, as the seeding term lasts for but little over ten days, what is the foot-free youngster to do during the rest of the term? There is still another way to look at this thing. Going to school does not make a scholar. It's the training in the school or the university that does the trick, and such training takes time. We recall the results that ensued during the last war, when some school and college terms were shortened. The youngster "passed" under such circumstances, but in many cases proved utterly incompetent and consequently failed under life's stern test of experience. A shortened term simply had not given him sufficient training. Educators who know their work assure us that education cannot be taken in or obtained hastily, war or no war. There are exceptions, of course, but they are in the class with hen's teeth.

The stand taken by the St. Mary's paper is sound, and while a boy can be of great value during seeding time, as the St. Mary's paper points out, this rush lasts but a few days.

The observation of this paper is that school boys and girls of the age of those attending Stouffville school, is that the term should not be shortened too much, if at all. Judging by the youngsters going about the streets every evening of the week in waves, they are not spending any overtime at home work to make up for a shortened term. Of course, as it has been pointed out before, some parents grouch because their children get too much and some because they get too little home work. The majority of people feel too little is given, which is due, we believe to the divergent opinions of parents.

### When Should Stores Remain Open

Beginning next week, May 1st the stores in Stouffville will revert to their summer time-table of remaining open three nights a week, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday evenings, and of course, remaining closed each Wednesday afternoon which is a year-round half-holiday to reimburse the clerks for the night work.

There is a good deal of doubt about the necessity of remaining open on Tuesday evenings, as the crowd in town is usually small, and advocates of remaining closed are of the opinion that closing at eight o'clock promptly could at least be adhered to. However, this move could only come from the business men of the town.

At best eight o'clock is a nuisance hour for it spoils the evening for the merchant in case he wished to work at home, but it would give the dillitory buyer a chance. The opinion of this paper is that the stores may well remain open every Thursday and Saturday evening during summer months and that they should check carefully the Tuesday business. If not warranted, then close.

It is only the poor co-operation of the merchants to attend their own meetings when called, that prevented an adjustment of this trouble last week.

### Motorists Save Anti-Freeze

With zero and sub-zero weather all over for this season and warmer weather just around the corner, garage and service station men are advising motorists to save the anti-freeze in their radiators. The reason, of course, is that there is an anticipated shortage of this fluid. The advice is timely, for motorists will be changing to clear water shortly. However the conservation plan is not without its complications, if radiator alcohol is the anti-freeze that has been used.

Alcohol is temperamental and presents storage problems, because it is highly volatile and inflammable and for that reason cannot be stored for the summer in any old container that might be handy. The fire risk must be considered.

Unless the motorist has a suitable receptacle he may have difficulty in obtaining an approved container of the required capacity for his alcohol. Storing the inflammable liquid in glass containers is risky. If someone has a solution perhaps he will come forward. The warmer days are fast approaching and the seasons in their regular order do not wait for motorists or approved anti-freeze containers.

### Such Simple Things at Potatoes

We imagine that every farmer is aware of the fact, but to some of the town gardeners of the greener class like the writer it will be a fact worthy of note that potatoes to do their best should be planted in this section of Ontario from early May to mid-June. Of course planting a little later is better than not getting them in at all, we imagine, but this year things should be done just right so that best production may be assured. There are other interesting points too about the potato business.

A farmer can have no assurance of a good marketable crop of high quality potatoes unless he uses good seed, states a bulletin on "Successful Potato Production in Ontario," issued by the Ontario Department of Agriculture, Toronto.

It is only by the use of good seed that Ontario farm-

## Weekly Editors To Convene in Toronto



A way in which weekly newspapers can contribute to the promotion of the war effort will be the theme when Ontario and Quebec weekly newspaper publishers and their wives convene in Toronto on Friday and Saturday, May 8th and 9th. The morning sessions the publishers will devote to business. Friday afternoon

they will visit Manning Pool of the R.C.A.F. and a Bren gun plant. At dinner on Friday evening the guest speaker, Bishop R. J. Renison, Left, will tell of conditions in war-time Britain. At lunch on Saturday, when the group will be guests of The Toronto Daily Star, the well-known Star writer, "Greg" Clark, Right, will carry on with Bishop Renison's theme

and tell of the Red Cross British Bomb Victims' Fund. Mr. Clark will present to one of the publishers, the handsome Joseph T. Clark Memorial Trophy. Centre, won last year by the Dundalk Herald. The Stouffville Tribune was the first paper to win this coveted trophy for best newspaper in Ontario and Quebec of towns 1,500 or less.

## AGRICULTURE GOES ON IN WAR-TIME ENGLAND

This is the 14th in a series of articles on conditions in Wartime Britain and parts of Europe, written for the weekly newspapers of Canada by their own representative, Hugh Templin, of the Ferigus News-Record.

No doubt many readers of Canadian weekly newspapers would like to know something of agriculture in wartime Britain, and how the farmer fares. Travelling with a group of editors of city papers, I had not as much opportunity to study farming conditions as I would have liked, but I was able to pick up a good deal of information in trips outside London.

The farmers in Britain fill just as important a place as the soldiers or the munition workers. One hears that said sometimes of Canadian farmers, but while there may be some doubt in Canada, there is none in England and Scotland.

Before the war more than half the food consumed in Britain was imported, either from Denmark and other European countries, or from Canada and other places across the oceans. Not only that, but some of the fodder for animals was imported and a large part of the chicken and hog feed.

The people of Britain must eat. All imports from Europe have been cut off, except occasional shipments of oranges from Spain and Portugal. All imported food must be brought from Canada or farther away. That costs money and lives. Shipping space is precious. It cannot be used for animal foods or bulky articles such as packaged breakfast cereals. And every ton of extra food that can be produced in Britain is desperately needed. Cost has become a secondary consideration.

**Farmers Told What To Raise.**  
A few months before the war actually started, a bonus of some \$8.00 an acre was offered to farmers for every acre of new land brought under cultivation.

A Canadian, travelling in England for the first time, gets the idea that every acre of land is in use. There are no unsightly fence-corners. For that matter, there are few fences. Evidently wood and fencing materials are scarce and so hedges are used. Most fields are smaller than in this country and the farms all look neat and tidy. But evidently, there was much waste land, not only on large estates but on small farms. Swampy pieces have been drained; meadows that were in grass for hundreds of years have been turned over by the plow and actually millions of acres of extra land are cultivated.

What the farmer grows on his land in wartime is not left to his judgment. Every county has its War Agricultural Committee, and these, in turn, appoint committees in all districts. These committees are not made up of politicians, but of working farmers, land owners and farm workers. The agricultural colleges have been closed, and professors and other experts serve as full-time advisers on these committees.

Every farmer is interviewed every year or oftener. He is told what he must grow. The committee may even go so far as to give him a plan of his fields, telling him what to plant

in each field.

That sounds drastic, and is drastic. Actually, in practice, the system is largely voluntary, because nearly all farmers are willing and anxious to co-operate as a patriotic duty. They pride themselves that they still live in a democratic country and because their own neighbors are on the committees, the plan works largely as a voluntary co-operation. But to an outsider it looks rather different. If a farmer will not co-operate, the committee has power to force him to do so. If he is entirely incompetent to produce more, he may be taken from his farm. A few rugged individuals have even gone to jail.

**Essential Foods Come First.**

"If the British farmer does not produce more, many people will go hungry and some may starve. Therefore, the committees concentrate on the production of those foods which will go farthest toward feeding as many as possible, and they try to cut out waste of all kinds. Wheat and potato production seems to have soared. Oats are largely grown and alfalfa seemed to me to be a favorite crop. The growing season last year was excellent, with a damp summer and a long, sunny autumn. The section crop of hay and alfalfa was excellent.

I saw strange objects in many of the fields, which I took to be stacks of hay or grain wound around with what looked like tar paper and netting. I learned that they were temporary silos. Emphasis is being put on ensilage as the best method of producing the most cattle feed.

There are other makeshifts. A process has been discovered for making a pulpy feed out of straw on farms with sufficient water supply. Straw or chaff is cut up, soaked in caustic soda solution and then washed for a long time in running water. It takes the place of turnips. School children are paid to gather acorns to feed to the pigs.

**Quantity of Farm Stock Improved**

Live stock is controlled by the committees as thoroughly as field crops. For instance, an attempt has been made to weed out inferior cows, lessening the number, while keeping up the milk supply. Sheep are also considered essential. Hogs have been reduced drastically in numbers. They used much imported feed. So did the chickens. Besides, it doesn't take so long to build up their numbers again. As a result, pork and eggs are very scarce. All owners of poultry flocks with more than 50 birds must sell their eggs to the Government. They get a certain wheat ration in return. Those with less than 50 hens can dispose of the eggs as they like. Many town and village families keep a few hens, or even a pig, feeding them the scraps. Or a pig may be kept by a "club," with several neighbors providing scraps and having a share in the hog.

The number of tractors in use in England surprised me. Many of them were made in Canada. In a country where gasoline and fuel oil are decidedly scarce, I did not expect to see so many tractors, but this was another evidence of the desperate need of food. Private cars have almost disappeared from the road but tractors are kept going long hours.

There is one handicap which those farmers close to airports or along the main roads suffer, which might not be thought of by one who had not seen their countryside. These fields

ers can hope to regain market prestige in this province, officials state. There should be no waste of food products during wartime, they point out, and diseased seed potatoes will produce a poor crop with resultant waste.

Farmers who have not purchased their seed potatoes would do well to immediately consult their agricultural representative as to sources of supply in their own or nearby counties.

Late planting is one of the chief causes of reduced yields. According to experiments conducted at the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, over a period of years, each day's delay in planting from early May to mid-June resulted in approximately one and a half bushels reduction in yield per acre, per day.

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