

The Stouffville Tribune

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Notes and Comments

"Plow on Way Out"

If we are to believe the words of Prof. G. N. Ruhnke of the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, the plow as a farm implement is on its way out. "There is no doubt about its disappearance or near disappearance," says Prof. Ruhnke.

This is startling news to us and will be to the farmer, for the Professor was commenting on one of the most revolutionary ideas of modern times, in agricultural history at least. Since he is one of Canada's foremost soil experts, his words bear weight. He says farmers as a class will be slow about changing to till the soil by substitute methods that have been experimented on at the Colleges in Canada and the States. The disc harrows will do the trick, says our informant.

Prof. Ruhnke referred to the experiments of an Ohio farmer, who, believing that plowing was responsible for erosion and most other ills of the soil, tested his theory by using a cultivation method of his own. Instead of plowing he disc-harrowed the soil and planted crops in the chopped up surface stubble.

"This Ohio farmer claimed that crop roots should be fed and protected by decaying plants on the surface of the soil, a well-known agricultural fact. Plowing buries this organic material beyond the reach of most roots and the buried vegetation forms a blotter that soaks up moisture from above and below, drawing it away from the surface where it is needed. Disc-harrowing is fine for the distribution of this organic matter into the soil surface, where it is immediately available to the roots of crops."

New Way Cost More

The town of Orillia will vote shortly or at the December elections to determine whether or not they will cut down the size of their council from seven to five. The Orillia paper points out that the day is past and gone when the councillors are expected to help lay the sewers, mend the sidewalks, and do odd jobs that is all done today by paid help. It is the duty of the council to lay down policy and guide the destinies of the municipality.

If what the Orillia paper says is correct, Stouffville council works somewhat on the old plan of supervising whatever work is to be done. In an effort to keep down expense the corporation never engaged a man who would be "boss" of all work, receiving his direction from the council on what is wanted, but using his own discretion on how to do it. The longer a municipality can keep away from the new plan the better, but asking councillors to superintend and help with public works is not fair to the councillors.

Columbus Did Not Know About Newspapers

It is only a matter of hours now after our airmen or soldiers do something big that the whole world is advised of it. The present generation accepts this service as a mere fact, but if we had lived in the time that Columbus discovered America one couldn't read all about it. There were no newspapers in 1492. Newspapers did not appear until 150 years later. In fact when Columbus came over printing was only in its early infancy, and was being used to produce scholarly works. An exhibition of the uses of printing

at the local Museum contains a single copy of the Toronto Globe of 1877.

How far has printing advanced, with its development of a great and speedy news service is worth pondering over.

Fence-Corner Churchill

The farmer was getting old, but he had to work hard because in this war year there was no one else to do the work. "I've been thinking about Churchill," he said, leaning against a fence post and sharpening his hoe. "It's been puzzling me how he can keep up such a pace and still look spry. Now I've maybe found the answer. Churchill is used to these strains and excitements. He's been in the midst of them all his life. In a lot of ways he is like me. You see, I can still hoe more in a day than any of these city men that have come out to help us. They are willing enough, but they aren't used to the work. They don't get the most out of the hoe with the least effort. They don't save themselves with little tricks that a man learns when he's hoeing year after year. But Churchill and I—we're used to it. That's how we manage to keep going full tilt and even have time to smile."

A Good Start

It might not be long ere we see fit to criticise the newly formed Drew government, and in fairness let us commend them when something worthy of commendation is done. First of all the new government appears to have lost no time in organizing for action in Ontario, and the first act was a good one after taking office.

Millions of dollars in timber lease holdings were cancelled with one stroke of the pen, holdings given wealthy timber concerns who were required to commence operations within a given period on the forests. They neglected to start and thus broke the contract.

It was apparent that the leases were obtained only for the purpose of holding properties for higher money without doing any work on them. The provincial-government was quite within their rights in cancelling the leases under these circumstances as apparently there was no idea of developing the properties.

Insurance or Tax? (The Printed Word)

From a small Ontario town comes the story of one phase of unemployment insurance. An elderly man, retired some years ago, has been induced to help out the labor shortage by taking a job in a local shop. Inspectors of the Unemployment Insurance Commission have insisted that he take out an insurance book and make his contributions weekly. His intention is to return to retirement as soon as he can be spared, so that he will not be eligible for insurance benefit, even if he makes a sufficient number of contributions to qualify for it.

The incident illustrates one fallacy of the unemployment insurance plan. With fire or life insurance every individual is free to choose whether he wishes to be insured or not and to fit his insurance program to his own needs. Insurance agents are loath to admit that anyone is ever carrying enough insurance, but they would be equally loathe to work for a company which had one form of policy only, even though every citizen had to buy one.

In the case cited, the weekly premium paid by the elderly employee is nothing but a tax on his right to work. The compulsory payments made by many other employees fall in the same class. Married women who have taken war jobs, stenographers who plan to get married as soon as they manage it, will probably never receive any benefit from their premiums. The beneficiaries will be the men who are earning good wages at war work, and are or should be putting something aside to tide them over possible unemployment when their jobs come to an end.

The tax may be necessary, since the appetite of the Department of National Revenue is insatiable, but calling it insurance does not make it more attractive to those who have to pay it.

sented on the women's regional advisory committee to the Consumers Branch, Wartime Prices and Trade Board? Ladies' groups should have a definite period for discussion of wartime civilian regulations and your liaison officer, who represents you on the advisory committee will have up-to-the-minute information on new regulations. Make sure your local corresponding members know the name of your officer. At present there are 12,000 active officers giving leadership to the women of Canada in the fight against inflation.

Farmers of Eastern Canada are again urged to buy oats from the west now and take advantage of existing transportation facilities and the subsidy which is on for buying feed grains for shortage. There may have been a little difficulty lately in getting western barley because offerings to date have not always been equal to the demand. What is desired is a continuous flow of feed grains to eastern Canada. Talking barley the 1943 carry-over is an all time record, placed at 62,253,707 bushels compared with 10,908,001 in 1942.

It would make excess reading for me to enlarge at length on the things weekly readers have already heard or read of President Roosevelt's visit to Ottawa. A few personal impressions might be more appropriate even at this date. After a close-up view during his address under the Peace Tower, I am willing to "string along with Roosevelt" as I am with Churchill. He is the typical Happy Warrior; he simply radiates greatness, leadership, inspires confidence. You can see his face for hours afterwards. Here is a man in whom one feels one can trust our destiny, and

that of our children. You should have seen his face when making that statement about being "everlasting angry" at those who "think the Four Freedoms of the Atlantic Charter are unattainable. And his broad shoulders seemed to reach up into his tanned, healthy face and jutting jaw line when he said, "We are going to get rid of these outlaws this time".

You felt ready to kick off the national sidewalk any selfish political individuals or interests when he declared the good old days were not that in every sense and he rather believed "we can achieve new and better days." After seeing him I believe the saying that men make history, not history makes men. The

Because statistics show increased butter production in Canada, there are some who complain about the ration allowance. Quite appropriately this week one of the local papers dealt editorially with this matter pointing out "overseas needs" is the answer. One item, for instance, the food parcels going to our prisoners of war—100,000 of them weekly—each includes a pound of butter pound of dried whole milk, quarter pound of cheese. That's only a part of the overseas requirements from Canada.

The 6th Compulsory Employment Transfer Order issued by National Selective Service embraces men who have reached their 16th birthday, and have not passed their 41st. Ex-service men must register, but are not compelled to accept other jobs. After Sept. 8 employers in the named list of occupations who retain men in the categories without N.S.S.

permit are breaking the law. Among the exempted occupations in the wholesale line are included farm products, food products, fuel, ice, gas, oil, grease, lumber, building materials, machinery and allied equipment. Employers would do well to see that they familiarize themselves with the order, which goes into detail.

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WARTIME PRICES BOARD BOSS OVER LOCAL BOARDS

Chairmen of local ration boards have no authority to override orders of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board. This was admitted by both sides in Toronto court recently, when the Kingshott Creamery of Orangeville was fined a total of \$150 and costs on three charges of operating a commercial vehicle beyond the 35-mile limit without a permit.

Fred Kingshott, defendant, told the court he had letters from Mayor Richard McCulloch, chairman of the Orangeville Local Ration Board, purporting to authorize the use of his truck for trips to Toronto, a distance of 40 to 50 miles. N. L. Mathews, special Crown prosecutor, said Kingshott's application for a permit had been refused and that he had continued to operate his truck illegally in spite of three letters of warnings from the Board.

"It looks as though accused has been misled by the bad advice he chose to accept", Mr. Mathews said. "Mayor McCulloch, as chairman of the Local Ration Board had no authority to authorize the use of the truck for any purpose."

A barber in Whitehorse, Yukon territory, was fined \$400 for charging more for a hair cut than the basic price obtaining between Sept. 15 and October 11, 1941. That's a big fine, but of course everything is higher in the Yukon.

Business Directory

DENTAL

E. S. BARKER, L.D.S., D.D.S.
Honor Graduate of Royal College of Dental Surgeons and of the University of Toronto.
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Markham every Tuesday
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A WEEKLY EDITOR LOOKS AT Ottawa

Written specially for the weekly newspapers of Canada
By Jim Greenblatt

Here's a 64 dollar question. Is there any place in the British Empire where the flag is never lowered, flies constantly? Only one, at Lucknow in India. Has flown ever since the Siege of Lucknow by Royal decree, I am told.

After 40 years of experience in growing trees on the Prairies, Norman Ross, former superintendent of the Forest Nursery Station at Indian Head, Sask., gives out that in his opinion grass growing in shelter-beds has killed more trees than drought itself. He sees the time coming to make greater use of longer lived trees than poplar and Manitoba maple.

Summer holidays are on the wane and 't'wont be long before Ladies' Aids, Church Associations, etc., get down to the serious business of organizing autumn and winter programs. Is your organization repre-