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Notes and Comments

Many Travellers During Weekends

In spite of the numerous requests and warnings issued by transportation and military authorities asking civilians to refrain from travelling during weekends, thus giving up the buses and trains to the soldiers, it has more or less gone unheeded. Especially in districts like Stouffville where we are so close to Toronto, has a cold shoulder been shown to the idea. When you live 30 miles from a city, it is a great temptation to go home, since it is just as cheap to pay travelling expenses as to stay in the city. Consequently trains going to and from the city are crowded and busses continue to do a lively business during the rush weekends.

An instance of the patronage accorded the C.N.R. can be seen any Sunday evening. Despite the demand for space, the railway has done well to provide accommodation, and it is rarely that seating space cannot be found.

All in all, the good spirit shown by the crowds goes a long way in helping out. One sees only smiling faces, hears only jocular remarks, and thus any inconvenience is scarcely noticed and soon forgotten when met in this spirit. Train crews, too, handle the crowds without growing grouchy and peevish over the added business that has come their way.

Slot Machines Still a Headache

Because of certain aspects surrounding the seizure of slot machines in Whitchurch Township by the local police, the Municipal Council considered it advisable last week to confer with the Attorney General's Department respecting the disposition of the machines in custody, and if reports are reliable the Department did not entirely solve the matter for the council.

It seems to be the custom that when slot machines are seized and a conviction registered, the presiding magistrate issues an order for the demolition of the machines by the constable or constables making the seizure. In this case the court at Newmarket did not make any such order, and there is a hint that the county police are endeavoring to get hold of the machines seized in Whitchurch. When demolished these machines might contain a dollar or \$100 and this is supposed to be turned over to the Crown.

In view of this fact the machines ought to be opened in the presence of several official parties. If such a course was required by the Attorney General's Dept. there would be no scramble about who did the opening.

A little more publicity on the slot machine game in York County would be wholesome. It is needed, otherwise it would not be necessary for a municipal council to take up the fight on behalf of its township constables who claim they are not getting the whole-hearted support of the Newmarket Court.

Mail Christmas Parcels Overseas by November 1

Christmas boxes will have a much longer distance to travel, entailing more handling and reshipment to reach many members of Canada's Fighting Services this year. To enable all the Dominion's men and women overseas to receive their gifts from home in time for Christmas Day, the Postmaster General, Hon. William P. Mulock, calls on the public to Mail Early for Christmas Overseas, not later than November 1.

The date is 10 days earlier than last year's closing



A WEEKLY EDITOR LOOKS AT Ottawa

Written specially for the weekly newspapers of Canada

With the tag end of summer vacations, the Prime Minister on the move between Quebec, Washington and Ottawa, these have been hot days for news in Ottawa, although it's business as usual with government and departmental and bureau activities continue apace. There was even a little flurry of excitement over the Prices Board decision to cut out the hot dog "roll"; it was even press-rumoured that public indignation was causing the Board to change its decision, but that was promptly denied by the Board—one of the few times it has come out publicly to bother denying vague rumours.

Among the vast, sprawling temporary buildings which the war has brought to Ottawa one finds that Munitions and Supply occupies a considerable part with thousands busily engaged in this important activity. M and S as it is known here sounds hum-drum, unimportant, but it has

a tremendous job. Take just the purchase of food for the armed forces alone—one item. I am told that for the first five months of 1943 this department negotiated the purchase of 22,000 tons of meat; 41,000 tons vegetables; 16,000 tons bread; 3200 tons butter; 7,250,000 dozen eggs; 800 tons coffee and tea; 4,000 tons evaporated milk. See how it's growing, compare the 22,000 tons of meat for 5 months as against the total of 32,500 for all of the year 1941.

Mr. Churchill's reference to Russia in his recent Canadian radio talk prompts me to gather a few items of interest. Of the billion dollar gift to Britain last year, supplies to the value of 61 million dollars were transferred to Russia. Canada has also sent Russia more than 1400 Canadian tanks, 2,000 Universal Carriers, naval guns, Bren guns, anti-tank guns, small arms, machine tools, clothing, etc., to a tremendous figure; also a ten million dollar credit for wheat and flour, and the people contributed millions to the Red Cross fund for Russian Relief. Our friendship for Russia has been translated into deeds.

Fall Fairs will have a new kind of exhibit this year, a wartime feature as educative as colorful they tell me at the Wartime Prices & Trade Bd. information office here. Arranged by the Consumers Branch, the display will be dominated by a color chart showing comparative prices in this war and World War I. An enlarged Gulliver poster portrays the part the women are playing in price control. Rationing and conservation will be described pictorially in a table display. Wherever a Prices Board booth there will be an officer of the Consumer Branch from that community

time, but with many of our men serving in the Mediterranean areas, etc., the "deadline" has been advanced to meet the rapidly changing conditions.

Drive Away the Shadows

We have made reference in this column before about the inadequate lighting in front of some store premises. When the order came out cutting off window display, some merchants went out of their way to darken their premises until their places of business would give you the "blues."

The fact is every merchant is entitled to have his store well lighted, and to place sufficient light outside to show people where a step or a rise might be, thus preventing accidents. Some stores have steps that might cause an accident if persons failed to see them, and this might involve the merchant in some action.

A small light that will properly show your customers the steps as well as the door handle will be appreciated, and is due the patrons.

The Western Harvest

One of our citizens Mr. Isaac Barkey has just returned from an extended trip through Western Canada. Being interested in farming and an observant traveller, Mr. Barkey could tell many things about what he saw through that great country.

His observations coincide with other reports on the Western situation. Ideal weather for maturing the crop, and for harvesting and threshing has prevailed in the prairie area the past few weeks. Where the crop has been ready to cut harvest work is well advanced. Elsewhere grain seems to be filling well, and prospects appear to be better than formerly expected. On the whole, most observers put the total of grain production higher than they would have done a short time ago. At one time 275 million bus. was regarded as rather a high estimate for total wheat production on the small acreage of less than 17 million acres which is put into wheat. Now, although they will not allow themselves to be quoted some cautious observers admit that the crop may yield over 300 million bushels.

Where cutting has been done farmers have been getting ahead with their work. The weather has done more to relieve labor shortage than all the combined plans for supplying extra harvest help. Uninterrupted work for a week by all the farmers of the West, with their machinery going at capacity, could not be equalled in many weeks by all the extra labor that might be brought to do the task. Moreover, the total amount of work to be done is greatly lightened by favorable weather.

Two-Pant Suits Have a Joker

Two-pant suits are out for the duration under Order A-207 of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board; but only if the extra trousers are made wholly or partly of wool. This ruling was made in Hamilton court when a W.P.T.B. case against Tip Top Tailors was thrown out because the Board failed to prove the extra pants contained wool.

Six witnesses testified they had purchased suits at the Hamilton store of the firm and that they had gone back a few days later and ordered an extra pair of pants of the same material. Three of them swore they had no intention of buying extra pants until it was suggested to them by the clerk in charge. In each case the suit with the extra pair of pants was delivered at the same time.

Defence counsel Arthur Slaght pointed out that the firm was not charged with "selling extra pants", but with cutting cloth made of wool or partly of wool for the purpose of making a suit with more than one pair of pants."

Magistrate Burbidge ruled that the Crown must prove the cloth was made wholly or partly of wool.

"Wartime controls are necessary for the protection of those who make the sacrifices", said the magistrate. But in this case the Crown has tied its own hands by inserting the clause "made of wool or partly of wool."

Anyone knows that Tip Top would be the first to dispute that their cloth contained no wool, yet on this assumption the case against them was dismissed, something of a joker, the general public will realize.

prepared to answer questions.

House members on the War Expenditures Committee will be back in Ottawa to start work on Sept. 13. The spade work is done by sub-committees and in the past two years has already turned in some searching reports on many phases of the war effort. I talked with the Chairman recently, Hughes Cleaver (Liberal, Halton) and he feels the committee has a tremendously important function, and he likes the way members of all political affiliations get together around the committee table and dig into a job. He is a devotee of canoeing, lots of sunshine and his tanned, brick red face shows he's stored up lots of energy for the work ahead. There are 24 Members of Parliament on the Committee.

It may not be soup and fish news but Jack Johnson, the great colored pugilist of former days and once champion of the world, visiting Ottawa has been addressing service clubs quite neatly and making personal appearances helping to sell war bonds, as his contribution to the war effort. Just goes to show everyone can do something.

Statistics seem to grow on trees in Ottawa, but they usually show some extensive phase of our widespread economy. Here's something which interests rural people. There are 22 projects, or phases of farm work under study on the 161 Illustration Stations and 45 District Experimental Stations throughout the Dominion in 1942, and during that year 148 field days were held when nearby farmers visited the stations with a total attendance of about 20,000 persons, or an average of 131 per meeting. Neighboring farmers

are of course, welcome to visit the stations at any time and observe how the projects suitable to their own districts are progressing. Up at my home Station in Swift Current, Sask. it is nothing unusual to have 2000

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THE OLD HOME TOWN

By STANLEY



people at the annual field day.

Director of National Selective Service Arthur MacNamara says that sooner or later an order will be issued requiring employers to satisfy themselves that all male employees in age and marital classes designated under Mobilization regulations have papers to show that they have been rejected or discharged from the Forces, or otherwise that they have complied with the Regulations. Which seems to put it up to the employers.

An experimental farm tip for those interested . . . where cull apples can be secured at a low cost conversion of the fruit into ensilage is an economical method of supplying succulent foods for the production of milk and beef. At the present time with an acute labor shortage many farmers find it difficult to grow either roots or corn, the two chief sources of succulence for winter use. To prevent leakage of juices they should have an absorbent such as alfalfa or grass hay.

The Army has just got off the presses a new booklet entitled "For your information, please", third revised edition of a "Rookie's Bible" with much pertinent information such as "Don't wear your socks if they need darning" to the proper procedure at funerals.

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