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Notes and Comments

Mr. Gardiner Protects the Farmer

Canada's new contract to supply Britain with bacon calls for 450,000,000 pounds per year for two years. The 1943 contract called for 675,000,000 pounds and is being approximately fulfilled. The reduction has been criticized on the ground that Britain will in consequence have a reduced bacon ration. Why, therefore, has this reduction been made? It has been made because at the end of the war Britain will return to her prewar market for the purchase of bacon and that market is Denmark not Canada. And why will Britain not now contract with Canada to take Canadian bacon after the war? Because she prefers Danish bacon and Denmark will buy British products in payment, whereas Canada imposes a tariff upon them.

The fact is that if our Canadian farmers were raising hogs for a 675,000,000 pound British demand, and the demand suddenly faded to the pre-war 1937 peak of 192,000,000 pounds, Canadian farmers would find themselves with hogs minus market. In 1931 Britain took only 11,000,000 pounds. As we have said, she prefers Danish bacon, and Denmark affords a market, in return, for British goods. It is plainly indicated that she intends to rely on Denmark for

bacon after the war is over.

Hon. James Gardiner, therefore, as minister of agriculture and the guardian of the farmers' interest, does not want our farmers to be let down so badly when the British demand falls off as would be the case if they were still providing 675,000,000 pounds per year for that market. As it is, the situation will be difficult enough if the British market is lost in the face of even a 450,000,000 pound production. But Mr. Gardiner has further protected the farmer by making a contract for that amount per annum for two years, so that it will doubtless extend for some time beyond the end of the war. It thus affords an opportunity for readjustment of production and the cultivation of new markets in the meantime.

The increased price of feed is another factor in the situation—one which makes farmers less anxious to raise hogs. The suggestion has been made that the Canadian government should subsidize the hog farmers. If Canada had done nothing for Britain in the way of free gifts during the war, there might be ground for such action. But Canada has certainly not been niggardly—a gift of \$1,000,000,000 to Britain last year and of \$1,000,000,000 to Britain and other Allies this year, besides a loan of \$700,000,000 to Britain previous to these gifts, a loan on which Canada requires no interest during the war.

Canada, which has supplied bacon to Britain during the war, is in effect told that our farmers must suffer the loss of the British market to another country in the post-war years. A long term agreement which would protect Canada in that respect would be a substantial contribution to the solution of the problem.

Dr. J. A. Scott Watson, agricultural adviser to the British embassy at Washington, says he fears Britain may lack exchange wherewith to buy bacon in Canada when the war is over. That raises the question of freer entry of British goods into Canada. The tariff operates against the farmer in this respect by restricting the entry of goods from outside Canada which would otherwise be available as barter for what the farmer has to sell.—Toronto Star.

Farmers Get Hurt

Results of a Study of 150 Injuries Culled Out of the Press by the Canadian Press Clipping Service

Agriculture in Canada is the lame duck in accident care and compensation. Farmers get hurt and only the family cares.

That is not so in industry. In 1941 the various Compensation Boards in Canada paid twenty-one and a half million dollars to men out of work from injury, to hospitals for white warm beds and operating rooms and to doctors mostly for setting bones.

In some provinces they bury the deceased and compensate the widow. They even pay the mother of an illegitimate child if she can prove that the careless father met judgment day from an accident.

According to the Canada Year Book nothing has been paid to the farmer for injuries. He is not compensated if unable to work from an accident. Neither are his bills paid. If he is fatally injured and indigent his friends have to bury him. Worse still, he is responsible for his hired man getting hurt, as a recent judgment of \$4,000 indicates.

If a farm boy joins any of the Services, or goes to work in a factory, or gets on relief, or develops so-called social diseases, his illness is looked after free. It he stays at home, goes to church and works hard he has to pay for his medicines when he gets hurt.

A recent study was made of 150 consecutive farm accidents in Canada as reported in weekly newspapers. While these were not the serious accidents they did indicate the where, when and why of farmers getting hurt.

Since 4.15 per cent of all men at work will get hurt, there will probably be 51,000 serious accidents to Canadian farmers each year. Some authorities estimate as high as 150,000 for minor accidents are usually forgotten.

The story, as told in the papers, included many fractures of the lower limbs and spine and two many fatalities.

There were three cases of flying off the handle. In two cases the axe handle flew off. In another case a farmer got mad and killed his neighbor.

Thirty per cent were caused by machinery in motion. Farmers are attracted by machinery for rapid movement always allures. The rhythmic swell of the watch spring and the mill wheel tumbling round catch the eye more than quiet pastures. Even a girl that dances well has more partners than a maid with a wooden leg.

The tractor accounted for one-third of machinery accidents. It raced forward, backed up and turned over of its own accord. It fractured legs, ankles, hips and ribs. The tractor has to be handled like a frisky mare.

Half of the machinery accidents were blamed on threshing machines and combines. Quite often in an attempt to adjust something askew, or to oil the machinery, a hand was pushed in and caught. A loose sleeve often drags an arm with it.

There were two hold-ups. One farmer lost some skin off his nose and three dollars. A rural merchant, whose family conducted a general store for seventy-five years states that in good times a farmer carries forty dollars in his pants when he goes to town. In poor times he just doesn't go. Robbery

is not important among farmers. Farmers like politicians often tumbled down. They fell from scaffolds, through trap doors, out of lofts, down ladders and into wells and cellars.

Four were up on branches and one minute later were in the shade of the old apple tree—with fractured legs and backs. Others just fell.

Power Companies who do a lot of climbing tell their employees to crawl up carefully. The Air Force teaches its men to fall and bump easily but instructions to farmers about crawling up or stepping down safely are all too rare.

Burns are mostly from tubs of boiling water. Thirty years ago the big pot for boiling lye, the brass kettle for apple butter, and the Saturday afternoon tub for the hired girl were perilous environments.

On such afternoons the boys were sent to the barn. The hired man took to the fifty like a gentleman and the woodshed door was locked. Once the water was too hot but the scar doesn't show.

The local doctor will try to stop pain and avoid scars when treating burns. He must also treat shock which may hurry in immediately or perhaps a day or two later.

An ointment for treating burns is valuable medicine in any farm cupboard. Tannic acid preparations are good and cold strong tea is not bad. The family doctor can tell about new preparations using Cod Liver Oil Sulfa drugs and various dyes.

In shock the patient's face is wet, his forehead is icy and clammy and his pulse like the faint ticking of a watch. This condition must be treated by plasma which is the clear but very needy part of the blood. Local Boards of Health can arrange for plasma or at least have a steady list of blood donors.

Domestic animals caused ten per cent of the injuries. One disconsolate boar bit a farmer's leg and it required ten stitches. Probably he dreamed of the black forest where his ancestors' prong-like tusks pushed aside young trees like he now shoves away scotch thistles.

The bull was in nine serious squabbles. He carried one man around on his horns. Threw another into the air. Gored a third, and tossed a fourth into a manger. He bruised the others and frightened them all. That same bull, mentioned often in Hansard, makes news when he gets loose and mad.

Even the meek cow trampled, kicked and horned her owners and during the same period a lady was struck by a ram and both legs were broken. The reporter didn't say whose.

The gray mare is not more docile than she used to be. Eleven out of every hundred injuries were caused by horses. They kicked, trampled and ran away. One lad was bit on the nose by a filly, but the colt can be excused for human females often do the same.

One runaway was not reported in this series but was told to me with the greatest secrecy thirty years ago. Beneath an elm his shoulders covered more than half the buggy seat and she was eighteen. They didn't remember whether the sunset was flashing red like indignant rays over Lake Huron when day is done, or long fingers of quiet purple above Lake Winnipeg. It was just a night in June.

His hard brown fingers moved

across the buggy back and round her shoulders and they forgot. The reins dropped. Maud's bit lay snugly against her lower teeth. She dreamed she was in clover up to her spavins. Suddenly a firefly shone and Maud tore through the spruce swamp like a dive bomber. And only the 'britchin' was left when they caught her.

Three weeks later they were married. The harness cost the lad \$14 for repairs and parts. He paid the doctor fifteen dollars and a couple of bags of potatoes. The license was five and he slipped the minister \$2.

Nervous unreliable horses are dangerous.

People continue to fall off wagons like they did in the days of Caesar. One was hard to forget. A blue-eyed boy threw pebbles at a white collicie as he rode. He sat on the reach near the lynch pin. The wheels struck new gravel and the boy fell. He had a fracture of the spine with the front ends of the vertebrae squeezed together.

The crippled lad might have become a great counsellor in his community.

Farm accidents should have prevention, treatment and compensation. Prevention is accomplished by education, discipline, awards, the reporting of accidents and routine inspection of danger spots.

Education involves first aid. First Aid lectures tell people what to do when someone gets hurt. It also helps them to appreciate how tragic and expensive an accident can be. A fatal injury to a farmer may mean poverty, lack of education for the children, and a string of catastrophes that tumble down through generations.

First Aid classes may be organized by Public Health nurses which every municipality may have.

That nurse is a vanguard (often a pretty one) of civilization. She is hard to retain for nearly all nursing studies lead to the altar. She can save her salary in fifteen minutes by preventing a serious infection.

"How did he get hurt?" is always asked. The answer is for rural schools to teach accident prevention and he won't get hurt. A board with a sharp nail must be turned down. An oil can with a long snout is better than a short one and a loose sleeve. Moving parts must be left alone. Trap doors, cog wheels and cutting boxes should have guards.

Practically every accident in the series studied could have been prevented.

Mechanical training is a great preventive. Trained mechanics don't get hurt.

Limiting mechanical devices to anything with a wheel that goes round, a catalogue of farm products listed over 70. They included kitchen pumps, motors, tractors, corn cutters and combines.

More mechanical training might work wonders at rural schools. Such training is now well carried out in high schools where mere boys with memories of sore backs and sun burns decide they are definitely called to the ministry or medicine.

A forge, a drill and lathe might have a front place in the rural school.

A post-war Wyandotte, due to advanced aero mechanics—and some co-operation on the part of the hen, may lay an egg on Monday and it can be in the stomach in India on Wednesday. In it a world of mechanics.

The best treatment of accidents is the first treatment. The old doctor is often temporarily out of breath when he gets there. Indeed many still think of him as a sympathizer with a death bed manner rather than a scientist with a bedside man-

ner. A St. John Ambulance group in every school section and a Victorian Order Nurse in every larger municipality will pay dividends.

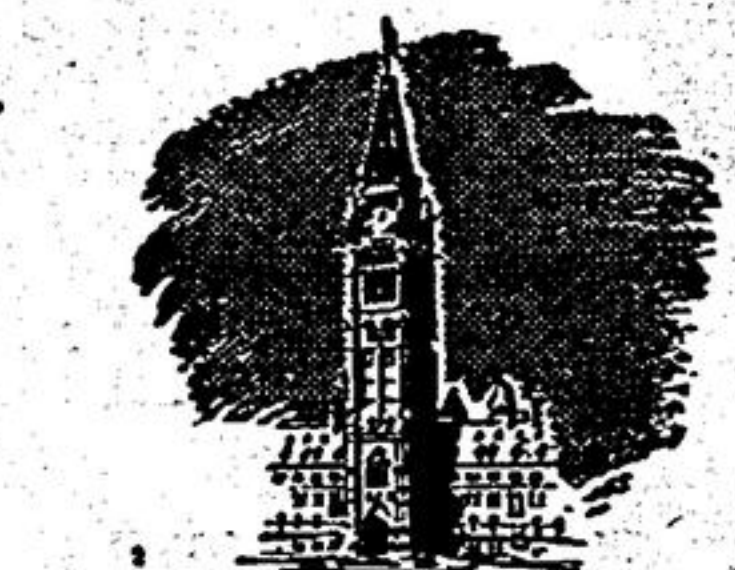
Farmers should be compensated when injured. The Ontario Compensation Board, with 28 years experience and over a million and a half cases on file, estimated an accident costs about a hundred dollars.

Severe accidents to Canadian farmers would cost a little over five million dollars. This cost would be shared by about 672,000 Canadian farm operators. Those farmers should have compensation for themselves and the hired man whenever injured with all doctors and hospital bills paid for approximately \$7.30 a year plus six per cent administration costs.

This, of course, allows nothing for reserve. Compensation Boards have large reserves for some industries could have three thousand accidents at once.

A large reserve is not necessary for not many farmers are ever together at once although now that horse racing is back, fall fairs are better attended than they used to be. Eighty-five cents a month from each farmer in Canada would provide a fine compensation scheme.

Items of interest: 8,225 cases of clothing, footwear, medical supplies shipped by Canadian Aid to Russia have arrived safely—Dominion revenue from customs, excise and income tax in October this year was \$239,682,360.



A WEEKLY EDITOR LOOKS AT Ottawa

Written specially for the weekly newspapers of Canada (By Jim Greenblatt)

Ottawa Clippings: Operators at two high speed cheque writing machines are sending out income tax refunds to Canadians at the rate of 8000 a day at National Revenue. Munitions department is considering establishment of a crown company to centralize disposal of machinery, war material and other surplus goods. Discouraging non-essential buying, the Treasury Board has announced that payment of month-end December salaries to temporary and certain permanent employees before Christmas will not be authorized; it affects 30,000 temporary employees in Ottawa, 40,000 outside the Capital and 22,000 permanents—in a case here a magistrate ruled that "hamburger" retains its original name "round steak" when the meat is ground up for a customer at his request—contributions to Canada's recently established "quinine pool" equalled 110,000 doses in the first ten days.

The Canadian Army, after a goal of 100,000 more personnel for the 1943-44 fiscal year, had reached at the end of September, a net intake of 63,580 and net discharges of 21,120. Total intake was 55,188 volunteers; 29,602 call-ups.

We don't know but that we should be bothered about an alarming situation wherein the convictions for infractions of the law in Canada during the first three years of this war increased 30.6 per cent. There were 420,975 convictions in 1936 and 632,431 in 1942. The worst of it is, of course, that juvenile delinquency has jumped up badly, way past the adults. Among the juveniles, major convictions increased 37.9 per cent. In short our convictions increased twice as fast during the war years as during the peace-time period.

It may not be generally known yet but farmers and other primary producers can purchase lumber for new buildings essential for storing grain or housing livestock at 10 per cent below current retail price through payment of a subsidy by the Stability Corporation, a branch of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board. The subsidy is also payable to fishermen, co-operatives, unincorporated associations and incorporated farms. It also may be granted in assisting the restoration of essential business buildings when the proprietor is himself bearing the cost of rebuilding. The ruling says, "Any civilian purchasing lumber for use in assisting the primary production of essential foods is eligible for a consumer subsidy." Here and there: One Norwegian

tanker, of hundreds sailing for the United Nations, just crossed the Atlantic for the 45th time since the outbreak of war, carrying 300,000 tons (105,000,000 gallons) of oil across the ocean, enough for 100 raids on Germany of a thousand bombers each; and had never seen a U-boat—the 1943 production of children's knitted underwear is expected to break all previous records with output of more than ten million garments and a continuous flow to retailers; the board says diapers, for instance are up more than 30 per cent over 1941, and flannelette garments are far in excess of pre-war years—Canada's birth-rate last year was 1.2 per thousand higher than the year before, showing increases in every province except Saskatchewan—Canada is today supplying nearly two-thirds of the imports of Newfoundland with the United States second, supplying about 32 per cent.

The federal government will pay a drawback of 25 cents per bushel on wheat bought for feeding purposes on grade known as Manitoba No. 4 Northern, equals or lower, to replace eight cents a bushel which has been paid for the past year or so if purchased for feeding. Delivery of hogs reached such tremendous proportions a short while ago that the Meat Board asked all packing plants in Quebec, Ontario and the prairie provinces, to slaughter no more hogs until all regular classes of finished hogs at yards and plants were slaughtered. A recent week saw an all-time slaughtering of hogs, about 192,000, greater by 15,000 than any previous week. The congested situation was not confined to Canada, but prevailed in the United States, too. The Board pointed out that as two regular hogs can be processed with about the same amount of labor as one sow, and as additional weight does not lower the eventual value of hogs temporarily held back, this was the best practical solution to the problem.

Farmers are urged to make immediate arrangements for fertilizers they will need next spring and to accept delivery during the winter months, because of problems of transportation, labour and storage, states P. S. Peart, the Fertilizers Administrator. If the farmers' needs are to be met, manufacturers must keep the stuff moving out. About 500,000 tons of different kinds are expected to be available in Canada for the spring of 1944.

WATCHES

- Gents' Wrist Watches \$14.50 to \$29.75
- SHOCK PROOF WATCHES \$25.00 to \$80.00 (splendid for soldiers)
- LADIES' WRIST WATCHES \$18.00 to \$25.00
- FEW LADIES LOCKETS Gold-filled \$6.00 to \$7.00
- Few Gents' Chains and Pocket Knives, and Rings
- Also Assortment of Bracelets for Watches
- All prices subject to gov't tax
- J. SMITH
- At the home on Fair Street, near C.N.R. Station.



STOUFFVILLE Christmas Market

Tuesday, December 21st

The merchants of Stouffville announce that they will hold a special Christmas Market, on Tuesday, Dec. 21st. Invitations have been issued to outside buyers, all of whom are invited to be here for this big annual event. If you are a buyer and have not bought on this market come along, there is no charge for scales or services.

Farmers may be assured of highest Christmas prices again this year, and those who have sold here before know that the Stouffville market pays top prices.

Few of the towns or villages will be found better stocked than the stores of Stouffville, despite the difficulty of obtaining goods during the war period.

AFTERNOON HORSE SHOW

In response to a popular demand the Horse Show will be put on again this year. Liberal prizes for farm horses will be announced next week. Plan to attend this show which is a popular event of the day.

WELCOME TO STOUFFVILLE DEC. 21st