



**A WEEKLY EDITOR
LOOKS AT
Ottawa**

*Written specially
for the weekly newspapers of Canada*

In view of its importance in post-war planning on a national scale—and the health of Canadian merits—a top spot—we are discussing briefly this week an interesting article on trends in Canadian vital statistics from a recent publication of the Wartime Information Board. While substantial improvement is evidenced in Canada's health in the last 20 years and public interest has been greatly increased, it is pointed out that much remains to be done through improved public health services and educational programs so that needless deaths and preventable disease can be wiped out.

The article is introduced by statistics showing that fewer Canadian mothers are dying in childbirth; that the number of infant deaths has been reduced by almost half; that recent measurements of school children show that children seven to thirteen years of age one to two inches taller than they were 20 years ago. To dispel any complacency, however, Dr. J.J. Heagerty, director of public health services for the Department of National Health and Welfare, is quoted as saying that the general death rate is still too high and deaths from certain diseases and conditions are excessive. Particularly did he refer to infant and maternal deaths and said that most of them definitely are preventable. He believes tuberculosis; for instance, need not exist in any civilized community, yet in 1942 a total of 12,361 cases were reported.

In delving into the trend of statistics, the article picks out some interesting points related to marriages, births and deaths. The marriage rate is closely allied with prosperity levels and employment opportunities. It reached a low ebb during the depression period and showed a marked increase in the early war years with marriages taking place at an early age. The 1930-32 average age of marriage for girls was 25.3 years; in 1940-42 it was 23.8. The peak of marriages was apparently reached in 1942. Since then the rate has declined and is now about what is considered normal. However, it will probably decline further if the war is prolonged because of the absence of men. Nuptiality figures for 1930-32 indicated that, of every 100 girls 15 years old, 82 would live to be married at least once. This was a low rate that reflected postponement of marriages during depression years.

years. In contrast the 1940-42 figures showed probable marriage for 95% of girls 15 years old, which is abnormally high and not likely to continue for any length of time.

While the long-term Canadian trend is toward smaller families, the article points out, most marriages are followed very soon by a first birth, and many by a later second birth. The birth rate closely follows fluctuations in the marriage rate at an interval of about one year. The rising trend of marriages arrested the downward trend in the birth rate, but no marked increase occurred until 1940. It continued to rise through 1943, but will probably decline again after the decline in the marriage rate which began a year earlier. Studies show women marrying young have larger families than those marrying at an older age, but considering the interruptions in the child-bearing of women whose husbands are overseas, the net effect of earlier war marriages will not be easily detected in the over-all statistical picture.

The article declares the effects of war on civilian mortality are difficult to assess accurately. The mortality rate seemed to be stationary during the worst depression years, began to improve in 1938. In 1941, a bad epidemic year, the death rate rose, but dropped in 1942 to the lowest level ever recorded.

Of interest are the figures on "life expectancy" which has improved greatly in Canada in the last ten years. Figures show the mean life for children born in the years 1930-32 to be 60 for males, 62.1 for females. Male children born 10 years later, in 1940-42 had an expectancy of 62.95 years, and female children 66.9 years. It is indicated that while the incidence of tuberculosis increased in war years, earlier diagnosis and treatment have lowered the death rate.

Accidental deaths in 1941-42 were higher than the average of the 5 previous years, and while automobile accidents were numerous in 1940-41, the 1942 death rate was below the average for 1936-40. Of course the gasoline and rubber shortage was the reason.

Now as to infant mortality, there has been a steady improvement between 1926 and 1942. Significant is the fact that two causes of infant deaths much affected by the state of health of the mother during pregnancy show the most favorable improvement even during the war years. This would indicate improvements in nutrition and education in pre-natal care.

Here's another fact worthy of note. In the three years before the war the maternal mortality rate was reduced 25%, and in the first three years of the war a further 30 percent reduction was noted. This improvement kept on through 1943, despite an increased number of births among a highly mobile population, a severe strain on hospitals and medical facilities. The use of sulphur drugs and improved nutrition of the mother are two basic reasons for this good trend, it is suggested. Recent government

health campaigns are considered as great aids.

Statistics show that stillbirths have been on the decline since the year 1939. A contributing factor, states the article, is fewer large families and more families of one and two children. Conditions affecting maternal mortality also affect the stillbirth rate.

The conclusion reached is that, in general, the health of the Canadian people showed a marked improvement during the 10 years preceding the war and that improvement has continued through the war years. Progress has been greatest in maternal mortality, some aspects of infant mortality, and mortality from pneumonia and influenza. Contributory factors are believed to be advances in medical methods and the improved nutrition of mothers during pregnancy. However, there is no room for any slackening of health education and public health programs.

GOODWOOD ANNIVERSARY

The anniversary services at the United Church, Goodwood were attended by overflow crowds both afternoon and evening. The afternoon service was led by pastor B. Garrett in devotional exercises—message of welcome and prayers. The visiting choir was the Quaker Hill Quartette, who gave their message in song eulogizing the church, and our duty to keep the lower lights burning. Pastor Garrett led in an inspiring solo of praise and thanksgiving. Rev. Rowan gave a stirring address from Judges 6, reminding us how God used Gideon to deliver Israel, and who when spoken to by the Lord, exclaimed "Oh my Lord." If the Lord is with us why is all this befallen us? This shows that we too, when we get wise to ourselves will take our brother by the hand and Bible under our arm and go back to God—speaker told us that it was because of our forefather's simple faith and earnestness that we have been able to enjoy such a wonderful heritage, and that it was imperative that we recapture their simple faith. If we intended leaving the next generation the same heritage that we enjoy.

Rev. Taylor of Goodwood Baptist Church led in prayer, the home pastor closing with the benediction.

**York C'ty Council
Recalls the Ole
Swimmin' 'Ole**

In this northern part of York County ratepayers look upon our county council, as largely a body of farmers and if they are, then strange support is given to some matters brought before them.

For instance last week, recommendation by the Education Committee that leadership training courses, initiated this year (in the more urban schools we presume) be continued and expanded was endorsed by the whole council without any opposition from the rural representatives whose ratepayers may have to share the cost, although the children in the country will still continue to use the old swimming 'ole at the creek's bend.

A course, operated in York Township, resulted in the development of 25 playground supervisors, while an extensive course covering several phases of volunteer community service leadership is being operated in the Lake Shore district at the present time with an enrolment of 187 leaders, the committee reported to council.

The Education Committee also reported the operation of a course to develop advanced swimmers as swimming coaches. The course is being operated all fall and winter by the Lake Shore Swimming Club at Humberstone Collegiate with Gus Ryders, R.L.S.S., as director, with an enrolment of 40 prospective coaches. Not much in this undertaking for the rural sections.

"Mr. Ryder reports that he has developed 20 swimming coaches, who can take groups anywhere, having first passed tests in life-saving." Deputy Reeve Hugh Griggs, secretary of the Education Committee, reported to council. He said an additional 20 will be trained in actual class work during the next term.

Council unanimously recommended upon the suggestion of the committee that recommendations be forwarded to the Ontario Department of Education "that this type of program be encouraged by way of provincial direction and the establishment of approved grants to finance same."

The committee reported further that V. K. Greer of the Ontario Department of Education, has given assurance that consideration will be given in 1945 to the county's request that King Township be made part of York Inspectorate.

**LOCAL BREEDER BUY TOPS
AT DISPERSAL OF
PIONEER-HOLSTEIN HERD**

E. & H. Fairly, Milliken, bought two top-priced cattle at the dispersal sale of the pioneer Holstein herd of Fred E. Hilliker, held Nov. 15 at Norwick. They secured a first calf heifer at \$465 and a bred heifer at \$420. Both are well-bred animals and are excellent individuals. The 28 sold in this dispersal averaged \$202.77.

EDITOR'S MAIL

Islington, Ontario

Dear Editor
The Stouffville Tribune

I, too, enjoy reading your splendid paper—especially those articles of a controversial nature.

I read Mr. Milligan's reply to my brother's letter to The Tribune and I certainly respect his views. How lucky we are to be living in a country where there is so little intolerance.

I think, however that Mr. Milligan is confusing Religion and Christianity. We have plenty of the former but far too little of the latter. Christianity is simply a "way of Life" the right way and Jesus Christ lived and died to show us that way.

Russia never at any time repudiated Christianity. Religion was in a terrible condition. The church was deeply involved in politics and morally rotten with a depraved priesthood. Little wonder that they soured on religion. They welcome Christianity.

I too think the C.C.F. with their imperfections—is the only people's party. Christianity and capitalism in its present form, cannot exist in the society. Liberalism and Conservatism have played their part in the past and played it well. Both are self-centred and top-heavy. True, we are getting some much needed reforms but only because there is a third party pushing them unwillingly ahead.

If those people who now "jeer" at the C.C.F. would take the trouble to investigate its beginning, aims and ideals, I do not doubt they would remain to "whitewash."

Respectfully
Harry L. Wideman

**Reeve Doubts
Council Vision**

Doubt was cast on the fitness of a county council to deal with problems of postwar rehabilitation by Reeve W. E. MacDonald of New Toronto in course of discussion of the report of the Postwar Planning Committee at York County Council.

The report which presented suggestions for the rehabilitation of farms, the immigration of new industries to the county, and the establishment of more extensive industrial markets was adopted. "I do not doubt that you men are big enough in heart," Reeve MacDonald told the council, "but you are not big enough in political stature to handle the problem." He maintained that a reeve's short term of office would tend to make rehabilitation plans a political football.

Reeve C. Hooper of Markham Twp. challenged Reeve MacDonald's remarks, saying: "We should not sit back for anyone. Who, knows the immediate needs better? We are the closest representatives to the people in all Canada."



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is a family affair . . .



A laughing couple, dodging showers
A of rice . . . fireside . . . garden . . .
chubby babies . . .

These are scenes we know and like, because they're part of our lives . . . because they spell happiness . . . contentment.

But we know that these things don't "just happen." They have to be worked for, lived for. Protected, too, because of ever-present dangers which may spoil them.

Veneral Disease is a spoiler. In a cold, relentless way it can kill infants, rob the home of its breadwinner, cripple, destroy. These are not mere possibilities. THEY HAPPEN . . . RIGHT HERE IN CANADA!

But, these things should never happen. They can be prevented.

Young men and women can safeguard their future happiness together by making sure before marriage that V.D. will not blight their plans. A medical examination, including a blood test for syphilis, is a protection no couple can afford to pass up.

The expectant mother, too, may know for sure that her baby will be all she dreamed of. Syphilis in the expectant mother rarely shows outward signs, and it is no respecter of persons. An early check-up by her doctor, including a blood test, is a most essential, yet simple, first step in protecting her baby's health.

Nor must the breadwinner neglect his part. The security of the home depends upon his ability to work regularly and efficiently. Unsuspected syphilis, striking in middle life, may make the head of the home unable to provide for his family. It is wise to KNOW FOR SURE in time. Industrial medical examinations should include a routine confidential blood test.

A blood test should not be looked upon as something unusual. It should be regarded for what it is . . . a normal safeguard of health, security and happiness.

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