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Notes and Comments

The Weed Problem

The weed nuisance this year has rather baffled most of the township councils, as a drive out into the country will prove. Up several concessions of Whitechurch weeds stand high and Pickering township too suffers from lack of weed cutting. It seems too bad that the farmer on the opposite side of the fence toils away to keep down the weeds while the public highways flourish with them. However, if we are to believe the latest information, the scientist is coming to the rescue and shortly will have something that should relieve the situation.

The long-suffering gardener too can look forward to relief from the backbreaking chore of digging weeds from his lawns, at long last. A revolutionary selective chemical killer of the toughest weeds with which he has had to contend is about to make its appearance on the Canadian scene, according to an announcement from the Naugatuck Chemicals division of Dominion Rubber Company Limited.

The new weed killer will be known as "2-4-D", a contraction for its proper name of 2,4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid, and like another product, DDT, manufactured by the same company, promises to arouse considerable interest in the general public. 2-4-D as manufactured by Dominion Rubber will vary slightly from the product hitherto used for this purpose. Sprayed on affected areas, it is absorbed through the leaves of the weeds and is carried through the branches into the farthest root tip. Ordinary concentrations do not affect most grasses. Just what happens inside the stem is not known, but apparently it either breaks down the cell walls or paralyzes them so that they can't function. Weeds so treated show signs of trouble within a day, and in the course of time wither and die.

Up to the present it is known that 2-4-D definitely kills more than 30 varieties of weeds including bindweed, burdock, dandelion, and perennial sow thistle. A white powder in form, it can be dissolved in water, with the aid of a small amount of another chemical. It will be supplied to the general public in liquid form, requiring addition of water only. It is effective when used in such solutions at the rate of one to one-and-a-half parts per thousand. Ten gallons of the solution will do a thorough job on 2,000 square feet of lawn. It will not corrode spraying equipment; it is selective in action, controlling the broad-leaved types of vegetation and not disturbing the grasses; it is non-poisonous to human beings and to animals when used as directed; it will not sterilize the soil. Economical, it will fit the public purse, it will not stain or damage clothing, it will not irritate the skin.

2-4-D is expected to have a wide application for lawns, railroad right-of-ways, parks and playgrounds, airfields, dry yards, industrial establishments, orchards, fence lines, and as a selective herbicide for some fall grains. Production of experimental quantities has commenced at the Naugatuck Chemical plant of the Dominion Rubber Company Limited in Elmira, Ont., and these will be available on request to organizations interested in horticultural and agricultural research, to colleges and schools, and to other societies. It is anticipated that some 2-4-D will be placed on the market

for general use next spring, and will be made available to users in all probability through established weed killer distributors.

Fires From Damp Hay

This has been a bad season for haying, that is, getting the hay into the barns in proper condition. There has been so much wet weather that much damp hay may have been hauled to the mow, and as we understand it, wet hay will start heating, and combustion may result.

It is quite possible that unless farmers are especially vigilant, there may be some unfortunate outbreaks of barn fires. The farmers, more than anyone else, realize this, but it is just as well to emphasize the point, for there are some who still do not concede spontaneous combustion as the cause of any barn fire.

It would be too bad if we had a series of barn fires this fall when labor is so scarce and materials very expensive and difficult to buy.

The Pawn Broker "Racket"

John E. Rumble pleaded guilty in court at Windsor last week to stealing five suits of clothes, which he sold to a pawn broker for \$15. How long is this pawn shop racket to last?

The broker who bought five good suits for only \$15 must have known they were stolen goods. Several winters ago the writer drove into Toronto, parked the car for five minutes, but that was long enough to have a \$40 overcoat lifted off the seat. We stepped across the road and notified the city police office. Two days later they reported the coat back in the police office recovered from a pawn broker just as they visualized the incident ahead of time. We paid the pawn broker's fee of \$3 which the thief collected on turning the coat into the broker as a legitimate sale.

This kind of racket is too easy and the law could be easily tightened up, we imagine. If the thief who submitted the coat for sale was required to wait three days for his money it would give the owners of coats and other clothes a chance to recover without the thief getting paid.

When these so-called pawn brokers take in certain articles at ridiculous prices, it is fairly certain the goods have been stolen, and some kind of delaying action before payment is made would tend to hinder the easy method of picking up another's clothing, furs or jewelry running them down to the pawn broker to be sold for a fraction of their real value.

God's Nickel

Not long ago we were ushered to a seat near the front since the "regulars" occupy all the rear seats, for the Sunday evening church service. Theme of the discourse "The Lord Loveth the Cheerful Giver," had a more direct appeal to giving one's self to the service of God, than the mere giving of one's money. Still, the second arrow could be easily read, and as many people give their money as a sort of "sop" to the Almighty, our eyes scanned (brazenly) the collection plate as it passed by coming up from the rear. It was fairly loaded with big bright nickels. "God's nickels" we said almost audibly.

Strange, isn't it how folks dig down in the pocket or purse to find a nickel to put on God's collection plate, just as though it would be more favorably received than a quarter or half dollar.

On this particular occasion we hoped the preacher wouldn't see the collection, lest he arrive at the conclusion that he had only delivered a "nickel sermon" instead of the master-piece it was.

When the collection plate comes round,

Open your heart, contribute a pound.

Hold back the nickels for daily bread,

Yes, give Him the pound—instead.

of the authorities to assure a proper supply of Canada's "uranium"

Now, it can also be told that it was apparent in Ottawa for a long time that much secrecy seemed to prevail about the production of "uranium", and this deep form of secrecy existed even prior to World War II, though no one appeared to know the real reasons for this action. As far back as 1937, commercial production of uranium-bearing ores were reported in this country as coming entirely from the Great Bear Lake district in the Northwest Territories, and the Eldorado Gold Mines Limited operated a mine as well as a mill at Echo Bay, Great Bear Lake, Northwest Territories, having been only Canadian producers of pitchblende ores, during that pre-war year. Pitchblende concentrates produced by this company were treated for the recovery of radium and uranium at refinery owned and operated by the company at Port Hope, Ontario. It is most interesting to report at this time that the figures pertaining to production of radium and uranium in Canada were not published even before World War II. Likewise, all data relating to possible imports of uranium salts were not revealed in Ottawa in the year preceding this war, stressing in no uncertain manner the tremendous importance attached to secrecy about certain facts of this sensational "atomic bomb" to which discovery Canada has made a very heavy contribution, though this cannot be revealed in detail at this time.

Allegations have been heard in Ottawa that irregularities may have occurred in the election of the Hon. James Gardiner in the constituency of Melville, Saskatchewan, with both sides said to be making such allegations. However, it must be pointed out that in Ottawa information indicates that any alleged irregularities reported to the Chief Electoral Officer in this capital

would be investigated on his behalf and those responsible would be punished in the usual manner, though any effort to annul an election would be made under the Corrupt Elections Act, including the general practice of making the necessary deposit as security for costs and petition to the court.

In view of the widespread publicity which has been given to the report that an American authority on sugar has forecast that the supply of this may be continued to be "desperate" for a long time and its rationing may exist in 1947, it can be reported that no such statement has been made in Ottawa, even if it is true that Canada's position in the supply of sugar is closely related to that of the United States and the "pool" of the other United Nations. Indeed, it is stated in usually well-informed quarters in Ottawa that it is almost impossible to forecast exactly when sugar rationing may be discontinued in Canada since shipping and sources of supplies alone can determine the time of such a change. There seems to be no doubt that sugar rationing will continue in the next year or so but whether this will be the need in 1947 or later cannot be foretold at this time.

If the average man or woman across this country will find that he or she has a greatly increased volume of citrus fruits, winter vegetables, bananas, pineapples, and jutee in winter in the near future, he or she will know that this is due to the efforts at the present moment of officials in Canada's capital to complete arrangements of a trade agreement with Mexico whose Minister in charge of marine and shipping, General, Heriberto Jara, has been in conference in Ottawa with such high Canadian officials so that such trade can be facilitated. He is also seeking new freight vessels in this country. On the other hand, it is said that

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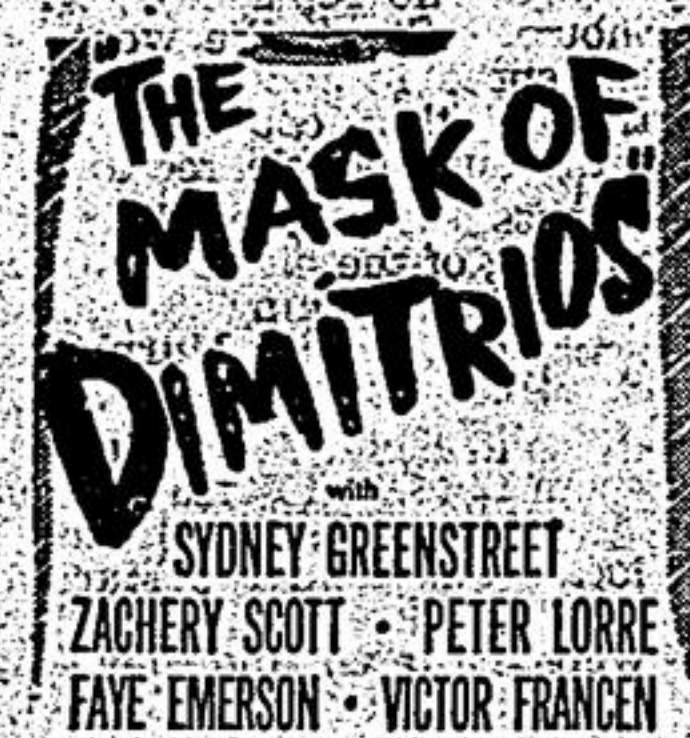
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Mexico would be willing to buy increased products of both wheat and flour as well as great quantities of manufactured goods and product in Canada.

Some senior positions in the Department of Veterans Affairs may be filled with men overseas. This has been revealed in Ottawa as the result of examinations held overseas by the Civil Service Commission. Another report in Ottawa is that already 177 applications for divorce have been made to the Senate Divorce Committee, with the remark that such proceedings only come from residents of Quebec and Prince Edward Island since the other provinces have their own divorce courts. Moreover, it is interesting to note that it is said that about half of these applications for divorce involve service personnel and the increase is blamed by some on wartime conditions.

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME WILL CONTINUE IT'S FEARED

Farmers may look forward to another winter of intolerable daylight saving time unless some more pressure is brought to bear on the King government. T.L. Church, M.P., brought up the fact the other day that Great Britain had ended daylight time now the war was over, to the attention of Hon. C.D. Howe, Minister of Munitions and of Reconstruction. The latter has replied that after consultation with Hon. Paul Martin, Secretary of State, it was decided to take no action at present. Surely there is little excuse to carry on this fast time business

next winter, sending children off to school in the morning darkness. However, the government is boss in this matter, and no one mentioned or exacted a promise from them to be any different in their attitude to fast time during the last Dominion election, strange as that may seem.

FLIES STILL LIVE

The new DDT spray that was expected to kill every fly in the barn, hasn't lived up to expectations, farmers tell us. Tests have shown that the stuff doesn't kill too well, for it was sprayed on some flies which flew out of the spray and lived. Probably the manufacturers diluted the insecticide to make safe for common use, for the advertising and stories told about it in advance of the killer coming on the market gave the impression that it was capable of doing a better job than has been shown by local demonstrations.

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OUR CAPITAL CORRESPONDENT

Written expressly for The Stouffville Tribune by Dean Wilson

It must be confessed that, in face of the passing of time since it had been revealed, yet the "atomic bomb" is still the main topic of conversation behind the scenes along Parliament Hill, with suggestions offered that the Canadian Government had provided most valuable aid or contribution through indispensable raw material for the project as a whole and the necessary facilities for some of the work that was done in this country by both Canada and other Allied Powers, though the exact extent or

entire details have still not been revealed and this may not enable the average man or woman in Canada to adjudicate this nation's role in this world-shaking drama at least for the moment. Indeed, piece by piece some of the reasons why extraordinary security precautions had been taken in Canada to prevent any disclosures from leaking out have been revealed in part with the report that Canada was one of the world's largest and most important sources of "uranium" and at present this raw material was absolutely essential for the production of the spectacular "atomic bomb". In fact, it is known in Ottawa now that when the Federal Government had taken over the famous Eldorado Mining and Refining Company at the beginning of last year, there was involved in this move an objective on the part

THE OLD HOME TOWN By STANLEY

