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Just as the Star of Bethlehem
Shines on Christmas Day!

Smallest Family Numbers Nine in this Quebec Town



Canadian record for large families in Canada is held by Plessisville, Que., a town of 4,600. Most prolific is Omeril Tardif, 83. He has fathered 25 children. Here, he shows his second wife, mother of 16 of them, a record of the first child's birth in 1882.

The town of Plessisville, Quebec, has 4,600 souls and boasts that it has the largest number of big families in Canada. Families with fewer than nine children just aren't, that's all. There are 167 couples who have 1,856 children among them; none fewer than nine and ranging up to 25 offsprings. What a harvest of government cheques for family allowances.

Mayor Has 10 Children

"All our citizens are industrious, God-fearing, law-abiding people, and their children are many and well cared for. All are living comfortably, whether as farmers, factory workers or merchants," said Mayor Theodore Fortier. He works for no salary and is serving his second term. He has 10 children, who include two priests, a Christian brother and two nuns. He is a well-to-do farmer.

Leading numerically with the largest family is 83-year-old Omeril Tardif, father of 25 children, 13 now living. After 43 years of working in the foundry here, he was retired. Spry as ever, he has never been ill. "My children, most of whom are scattered across Canada and the United States, write me once a month. I have 50 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren," points out Omeril. His second wife bore him 16 children.

"Omeril always chose our children's names. He's the boss," laughed the attractive, gray-haired woman, who doesn't look 65. "We still have the book in which Omeril started to record in 1882 the birth of his first children. There are 25 entries in it in his own hand," she added. Her husband is the uncle of Mayor Fortier.

Nine Sisters Have 106 Children

A unique record is held by the nine married Marcoux sisters here. "We have 106 children among us, all good-looking and healthy," remarked Mrs. Emile (Malvina) Paris, mother of 14 children. Her sister, Mrs. Alphonse Michaud, two farms away, has 19 children. There you have 33 children between two happily married sisters. The majority of the children are born at home. The town has a modern, well-staffed hospital.

With gasoline rationing over, Pere Noel, as Santa Claus is known here, dispenses with his sleigh, and arrives in a snowmobile, a popular

winter vehicle in snowbound Quebec. Does he come down the chimney?

"Of course not!" exclaims little Denise Cote, aged nine, one of 15 children of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Cote, who own a farm a couple of "ranges" away from town. "He carries 256 gifts just for papa and mamma and 15 children. That's if each of us give at least one gift to every one in the family," said the bright little girl, who had figured it all out.

Set 17 at One Table

"We have ten boys and five girls. We all sit down at one table, not in shifts," remarked Mrs. Germaine Cote. She has six neighbors, and there are 10 to 18 children in each family.

Mons. Alfred Boule, cure of St. Calixte church, has been here 10 years. He says there is no juvenile delinquency in Plessisville. The average age for marrying couple is 21 years. The groom either has a good job in town, or is taking over his father's prosperous farm, with the father retiring and moving into town. The cure takes an active interest in the town's civic affairs.

Police Have Easy Time

"We have baptized 192 babies so far this year. There are as many boys as girls baptised, but few multiple birth as twins or triplets," remarked the venerable priest. In all the many marriages in the past 22 years, there has been only one separation. The parish has given 34 youths to the priesthood and three times as many girls to the convent as nuns.

Chief of Police John Pomerleau, his son Paul, and Willy Daigle, constitute the police force. Crime does not pay in Plessisville, not that any lawbreaker tried to find out. The stalwart minions of the law here have an easy time, and probably play checkers most of the time. There just is no crime here. A little rowdiness, perhaps on Saturday night, but shucks, Farmer Brown, what's that.

For the record, here is how the town's big families are listed according to size: 41 families of nine children, 41 of ten, 25 of 11, 16 of 12, 13 of 13, 11 of 14, seven of 15, five of 16, two of 17, and one of 18, 19, 20, 22, 23 and 25 children, a record on the other hand, can be boasted by the older generation for its longevity.

THURSDAY NIGHT
IS FOTO NITE
Offer - \$275

MINK PELT PRICES SOAR TRAP LINES YIELD MANY

Removal of United States ceiling on mink pelts has boosted the local price to \$30, and is setting traps on district waters all the way from Lily Lake and Chemong to the Halibur-

tons.

Mink hides of the best quality are bringing to trappers 50 per cent more than a year ago, and seconds up 40 per cent, spreading the local quotations from \$20 to \$30, it is reliably reported.

The streams throughout the county of Haliburton are yielding a few minks. One trapper brought in several from the west end of Chemong Lake in early December.

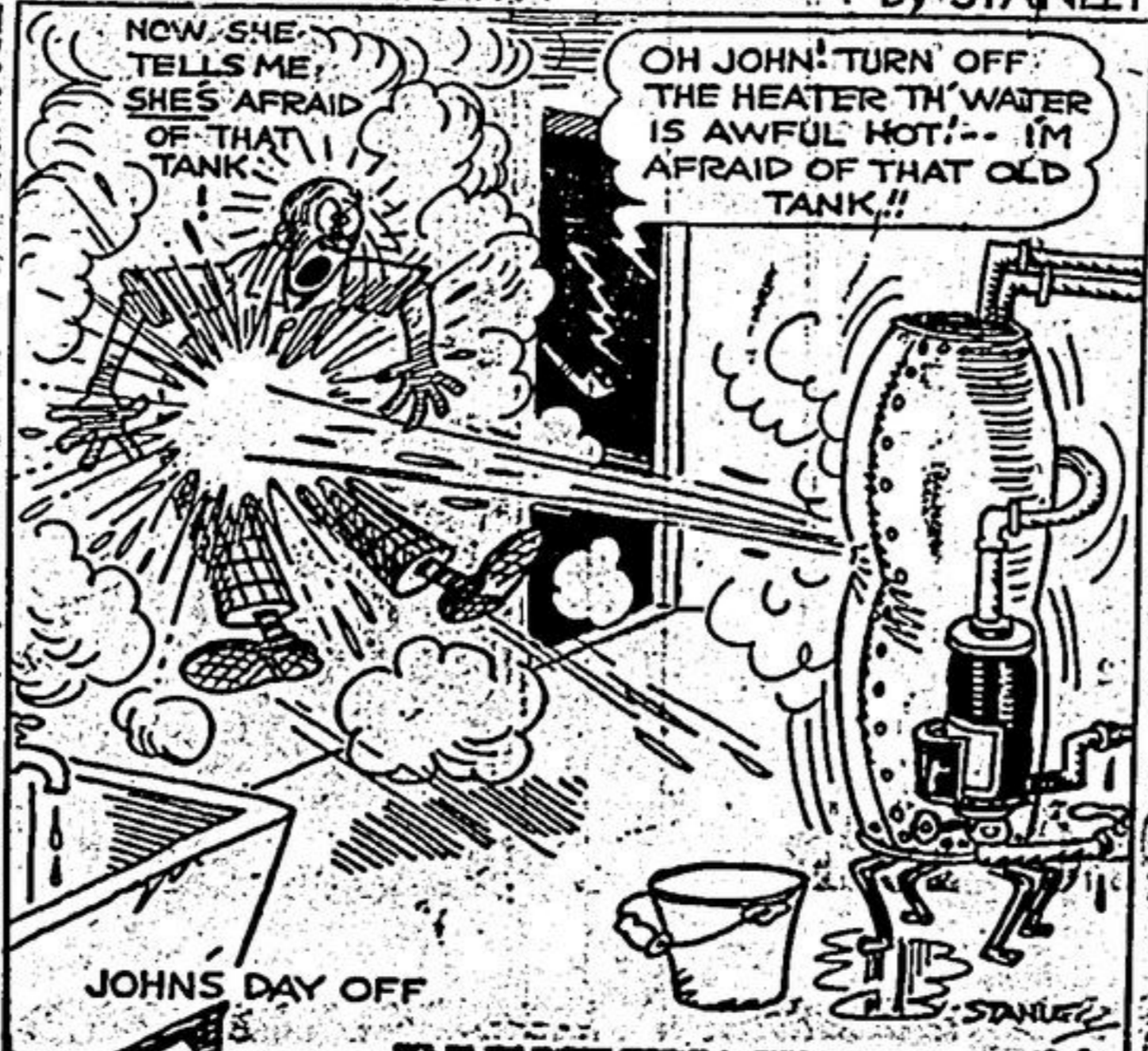
Three of these pelts grading at the top level will net the trapper close to \$100, and if there are any women in the district conjuring mink coats at the new prices they should understand that after the trapper has been paid for his catch, the raw pelts have to be processed,

another substantial item, before they reach the hands of the furrier, who will make another substantial income. There is also government tax to add on.

WHOLESALE PRICE ON TURKEYS LEGAL IF DELIVERED IN BULK

Following the practice usual at this time of year, many office and factory workers are pooling their orders for Christmas turkeys. Turkeys are also often used as gifts by firms to their employees and are commonly used as prizes in raffles and bingo games. Under some conditions, the wholesale price may be obtained on turkeys purchased in

THE OLD HOME TOWN By STANLEY



JOHN'S DAY OFF

this manner.

"If the turkeys purchased under any such pooled arrangements are delivered in bulk to one address, the maximum wholesale ceiling price will prevail," stated F. L. J. Seldon, Prices, and Supply Representative of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board. "On the other hand, if deliveries are made separately to individual homes, then the retail price will apply." He further stated that, continuing the practice of past years, any contract made previously with a producer is illegal.

Maximum wholesale prices for Central Ontario either box-packed or loose for deliveries made between December 15th and the end of the year are: Special Grade 32 1/2c, Grade A. 38 1/2c, Grade B. 36 1/2c, Grade C. 33 1/2c. Retail maximum prices are: Special Grade, 47c, Grade A. 46c, Grade B. 43c, Grade C. 40c.

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