

### WEST LOOKS FOR A WHEAT ACREAGE BOOST

Doubts prevail as to whether western farmers next year will comply with the suggestion made by the Minister of Agriculture at the Ottawa conference this week of Dominion and provincial agricultural authorities, to the effect that there should be no increase in 1946 from the wheat acreage of 1945. That advice is given in order to encourage maintenance of the acreage seeded to coarse grains. Wheat is still the favorite crop of western farmers, and their natural inclination is to seed it to the full extent that sound farming practice will allow, turning to other crops only after a full wheat seeding program has been completed.

The shift during recent years from wheat to coarse grains was accomplished in part in response to official urging. It was also encouraged by fears of limited opportunities to dispose of wheat, during the period when elevators were congested with stored wheat. Each year farmers were led to believe that deliveries for the forthcoming year would have to be restricted. Another highly important factor was the extent to which farmers turned to hog raising, and desired on that account to produce feed grains for their own use. Now many of them have gone out of hogs. Others have found much more difficulty in disposing of their oats than they ever had with wheat.

Observing the rate at which Canada's wheat supplies have been marketed since the close of the war in Europe, and with the spectacle of empty elevators before them, farmers tend to be bullish on the future prospects for wheat. Even if they should fear a lull in demand, and envisage the prospect of elevators once more being overloaded with wheat, many of them are not averse to accumulating and holding stocks of wheat on the farm. It is easier for them to envisage continued good prices for wheat than for feed grain. Moreover, if grain has to be stored on the farm it is much easier to store wheat than more bulky grains.

Prices for oats and barley are admittedly good, but a farmer who is giving up feeding them himself is not quite sure that other farmers will continue. They have noted that wheat exported is now selling on the basis of \$1.55 a bushel and that apparently it is only the ceiling price policy of the Government that prevents prices from becoming generally higher. For such reasons many of them are planning an increase in wheat acreage, at the expense of acreage in other grains. It will be difficult for government advice to change such plans, for the strength of directions from authorities is much less than while the war was in progress.

### BERT HAWTIN REEVE OF BEAVERTON

J. A. Hawtin has been elected reeve of the village of Beaverton by acclamation after serving for five years as a member of the council. Mr. Hawtin is well known in and about Stouffville and is highly esteemed here where he bought and sold cattle. He held about 25 public auction cattle sales within a period of a few years, and was always able to come back for another good sale because of the confidence imposed in him by the farming community.

### THANKS FOR THE NICE PRESENT—WHAT A STAY BUSK!

With Christmas close at hand the young man is likely to solve the "fit problem" in an orthodox way by visiting the florist or candy shop. Exhibits in the Royal Ontario Museum, however, show that in the 17th century his lady love likely would have received a far more varied selection of presents. For instance, she might have been given a stay busk, which was a long flat piece of wood that women wore at that time tucked down inside the front of their bodices to add to the rigidity of the prison-like corsets. Here is a stay busk in the costume gallery of the Museum that is covered with two sets of initials and dated 1793.

An even more significant gift was a wooden spoon. There are some of these love spoons in the Museum that are beautifully carved and seem to suggest that in days gone by you had to be quite handy with pocket knife before you could be a successful lover. The expression "looming" comes from the way spoons fit closely together and this is the custom of giving a spoon as a gift out of that use of the word.

### THE LOG FOR THE MUSEUM

A log of wood, representing part of the trunk of an extinct form of tree or honey locust, has recently been placed on exhibit in the Royal Ontario Museum. The fossil was found in sandy layers of rock at the Valley Brickyard in Toronto. These sands were laid down in the bed of an ancient lake which covered the region about a quarter of a million years ago, between the retreat of one great ice sheet and the advance of another. From the general character of the fossil plants associated shell-fish remains, and in these layers of sand, it is believed that the climate was somewhat milder than at the present time, possibly similar to that of Pennsylvania to-day.



John A. Marsh, latterly special assistant to the Minister, Department of Munitions and has been appointed Commissioner of the Ontario Division, Canadian Red Cross Society.

### CARELESS DRIVER DRAWS \$10 FINE

Paul D. Knudsen, R.R. No. 1, Pickering was fined \$10 and costs or 10 days in the county jail following a conviction on a charge of careless driving, when he appeared before Magistrate F. S. Ebbs, in police court.

Knudsen who pleaded not guilty to the charge, told the court he stopped at the Altona and King Road intersection before entering No. 2 Highway. After waiting for three cars to pass, "I started out onto the highway. I saw lights coming across the bridge and I had just turned into the highway about 50 or 100 feet from the intersection when the plaintiff's car crashed into the rear of my truck."

Cross-examined, Knudsen said it was raining and visibility was bad. In passing sentence His Worship said, "In view of the condition of the road and the weather you should have been very careful."

The inventor of powerless smoke is, Dr. Chaim Weizmann, who later became world chairman of the Zionist movement.

### SAINT NICK LIVED IN 4TH CENTURY

On Christmas Eve, Canadian children will be tucked snugly in their beds—while visions of sugar plums dance through their heads. Listening breathlessly, they may hear sleighbells in the snow. Santa will be about, his pack laden with dolls and drums, painted carts and picture books, and unrationed good cheer for young and old.

The real, live St. Nicholas was born in Asia Minor and lived during the Fourth century. The Dutch settlers brought many legends centering around him to America. He was an extraordinarily studious youth and, after his father died, much concerned about the fortune he had inherited. He, therefore, conceived the idea of supplying financially embarrassed maidens with dowries, the young ladies having no idea where the money came from.

In his youth, Nicolas visited the Holy Land, and as a result, desired to spend his life in a monastery. However, he was blighted to "Go on, live among men." Later, as the Archbishop of Myra, he was renowned for his graciousness, kindness and understanding of children. The feast of St. Nicholas, patron saint of Russia, is celebrated on the sixth of December. On that day in many European countries, the children are visited by St. Nicholas and given nuts, apples, candy and small gifts, providing they have been well behaved throughout the year.

The modern American conception of Santa Claus was first expressed by Washington Irving who, in 1809, described him as a tubby, jolly little fellow speeding across the sky in a reindeer-drawn sleigh.

In 1822, using Irving's description and supplying additional details from his own imagination, Clement Clarke Moore told his children the story of "The Visit of St. Nicholas." A year later, the poem was published in the Troy Sentinel. Many years passed, however, before Dr. Moore, being a professor of divinity, pub-



This little boy looks wistfully across the ward at his fellow patients who are able to move about more freely in bed. He is being treated for tuberculosis of the knee at the Queen Mary Hospital for Tuberculous children, one of four hospitals operated by the National Sanitarium Association which is now conducting a FREE Mass Chest x-ray Survey of Greater Toronto and York County. The survey will be made by means of transportable x-ray units that

will in time come to each neighborhood in this area. The survey will be financed through the sale of Christmas Seals, but additional contributions will be needed. Though Tuberculosis kills more persons over the age of five years than all other infectious diseases combined, it can be controlled. Only the x-ray can find Tuberculosis in the early stage when it is almost always completely curable.

licely acknowledged having written the now famous poem, which has been translated into several foreign languages.

Thomas Nast, creator of the GOP elephant, the Tammany tiger and the Democratic donkey, apparently

drawn Santa in his red suit through a series of sketches appearing in Harper's illustrated weekly.

The Tribune—An ideal Christmas Gift.

## Would Abolish Bilingual Schools

Abolition of bilingual schools in Ontario is asked by the Association of Public School Trustees and Ratepayers, in a brief presented last week to the royal commission on education.

The brief said: "Ontario is 90 per cent. English-speaking. The business of Canada is done in the English tongue. One hundred and thirty millions of people in the United States use English as the only language. The language of world trade (and now even of occupied Germany) is English. Knowing this, there can be no point in annually appropriating large sums of English funds to maintain bilingual schools in this province.

"Undoubtedly, more French being taught in the so-called 'bilingual schools,' means less English. From examinations made by us it would appear that the practice is to divide the time about 50-50 in such schools. That was not the intention, nor the promise when the change was made in the regulations in 1927.

"Not only has the spread of bilingualism been thus aided, but the policy of maintaining a training school for bilingual teachers in the Ottawa university normal—for members of the Roman Catholic faith—cannot be justified. The appropriation for this school averages \$60,000 yearly, and we are of the opinion that it is not only unnecessary, it is against the public interest and unjustifiable in a province so predominantly English-speaking.

### TOWNSHIP OF BROCK RECORDS FIRST SURPLUS

For the first time in its history, Brock township council has been able to carry on extensive work without a bank loan, M. C. McLean, treasurer, stated. Cash in the bank now totals \$10,000 and there is also a \$5,000 Victory Loan, he said recalling that in 1933 \$32,500 was borrowed owing to a tax arrears from depression years.




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