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**Notes and Comments**

**Heated Steering Wheel**

Next winter we may get some more comfort in driving from a heated steering wheel cover to keep our hands warm in the below zero weather. Just a little electric heating coil rolled up in a leather or rubber fabric and heated from the battery, does the trick.—Science News Letter.

**Rain Drops Longed For Now**

Somebody has said that rain drops are the weeping tears of angels. Without debating the issue, we want to say that if there is not soon a nice warm spring rain coming across this Stouffville district, there will be a lot more people than angels feeling like weeping. Thus far the spring has been dry and backward with too many raw winds. No wonder we are all longing for the welcome spring refreshment that makes the pasture lands green and causes the seed in the ground to spring up. Certainly a raindrop can be a lovely thing—whether it comes in silver mist or sheets of driving gray—and in its healing kindness it might seem divine.

Raindrops fall on rooftops or windowpanes with a companionable patter, like small friends knocking to announce their arrival, bringing a message of comfort.

One thinks of rain on dusty pavement, rain on parched earth; rain on withered grasses. One thinks of rain lashing the sea; rain deluging the tropics; rain dropping benediction on hot desert sands; and one is inclined to agree with Longfellow, "How beautiful is the rain!"

The whole universe would seem to concur in the decision, for when the soothing hand of the rain has passed, the earth raises a glad, wet face; and somewhere in the sky a rainbow may be found smiling a radiant smile of gratitude.—Montreal Gazette.

**Who Will Milk the Cows ?**

(The Financial Post)

Among the more sensational headlines dealing with the latest meat crisis in the Toronto area were the ones hinting at a strike of Ontario beef producers. Details were necessarily vague for the very good reason that such a proposal is just about unadulterated nonsense. Strikers don't fit in with farming any more than schemes for the five-day week or the eight-hour day.

**OUR CAPITAL CORRESPONDENT**

Written exclusively for The Stouffville Tribune by M. L. Schwartz

While the Dominion-Provincial Conference has left many impressions along Parliament Hill which will not be forgotten for a long time, yet some of them stand out much more than others, with after-math not being ruled out at this time amongst veteran observers, especially along political lines. It is pointed out that there is little doubt that taxpayers in general across this country do not favour any double set of taxation with Federal Government as well as Provincial Government doing collections of similar taxes such as existed in certain directions prior to the war so that any elimination of such duplications seemed to meet with popular approval. Likewise, it is indicated that, regardless of the outcome of the negotiations, the Federal Government did have the power to collect or the authority to collect taxes on a fairly broad scale and this would allow the central authorities to get the necessary money to carry out the post-war programme, though reconstruction processes would be slowed up if the Federal and Provincial Governments did not agree.

It is reported in Ottawa that at March 31, 1946, ex-servicemen who have been approved as qualified to come under the terms of the Veterans' Land Act included 10,544 in full time farming, 12,576 in small holdings, 347 in commercial fishing, and 1,123 in provincial land, with 1,127 veterans engaged in full time farming in this country receiving some or all of their farm equipment. Then again, 79.6 per cent of the equipment purchased by them was new and 20.4 per cent second-hand, this involving \$182,467.93 in payment for new equipment.

Meat investigators and inspectors in the employ of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board are reported to be \$3 in number, these being supplemented by the services of ration officials and woman's advisory and Trade Board and by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in various areas of Canada. Since 1945, when meat rationing was reimposed, \$103,948.66 was spent in salaries in respect of meat investigators and inspectors and \$30,468.41 was used as expenses in meat inspectors' as well as investigators' operations.

In answer to an inquiry, Minister of Justice, Hon. Louis St Laurent, has stated in the House of Commons in Ottawa that the trial of the Labor-Progressive Member of Parliament, Fred Rose, in connection with espionage charges is now under the sole jurisdiction of the Attorney-General of Quebec and he could not intervene, if he would, to bring about a delay in this trial in order to allow D.N. Prit, K.C., well-known British lawyer and M.P. to act as counsel for the Canadian M.P.

Premier Mackenzie King has stressed clearly in Parliament that dollar value of retail sales increased British Foreign Minister, Bevin by 12 percent in January, 1946 compared with the same month a year ago.

represented only the United Kingdom at the meetings in Paris of the foreign ministers and not the British Commonwealth of Nations, this being deemed an extremely important point to bear in mind according to veteran observers here.

There is widespread interest across Canada in the question pertaining to compulsory savings deducted during the war and whether these can or cannot be taken off the income tax payments. Now, it has been reported in Ottawa that it is government policy not to allow compulsory savings deducted during the wartime to be applied on payment of the balance of 1945 income tax since such action, it is emphasized here, might result in discrimination against other classes of income taxpayers in Canada.

Poor visibility and accidents at railway crossings are closely related, it is reported in Ottawa, to such an extent that figures compiled by the Board of Transport Commissioners in Ottawa show definitely that poor visibility has a direct bearing on the ratio of crossing accidents. Indeed, it is revealed that poor visibility caused by the need of anti-frosting and de-frosting devices on all types of motor vehicles, including farm trucks, is a strong factor in accidents, especially during the months of the year when the days are shorter and the weather bad on account of frosting on windshields and wind-ows in November and December. Among the underlying causes of such accidents almost a third of the total saw the automobile or truck run into the train and in most other cases the automobile or truck drove on to the crossing in path of train.

As a result of the resignation of Hon. Dr. Herbert Bruce (P.C. Toronto-Parkdale) who will be 78 years of age next September, the oldest Member of the House of Commons is now James E. Matthews (Liberal, Brandon) who will be 77 years next August. A 19-man committee of the Senate will consider Civil Service salaries and conditions, with interesting results anticipated from its functions. Stanley Lloyd, an employee of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board in Ottawa, has written a song "hit" and it has been published in England, with the name of the song being "Save a Little Sunbeam for a Rainy Day". The estimates show that \$50,000 will be spent in 1946-1947 for the National Gallery of Canada. Canadian service personnel travelling in or to the United States in uniform may purchase a round trip coach class fare on payment of 75 per cent of the regular one-way fare.

President Truman of the United States has endorsed a former principal of McGill University, Montreal, as head of the world bank established under Bretton Woods proposals. He is Lewis Douglas. The relaxation of some import restrictions on Canadian goods in the British markets, it is stressed in Ottawa, is only the beginning, a start, in this direction and other Canadian-made goods would be added to this list from time to time. It is disclosed in this capital that the continued advance in commodity distribution through retail outlets across Canada is an encouraging development, with the stressed clearly in Parliament that dollar value of retail sales increased British Foreign Minister, Bevin by 12 percent in January, 1946 compared with the same month a year ago.

About the nearest thing of that kind was the refusal of millions of Russian "kulaks" to co-operate with the Soviet authorities 25 years ago. The result was mass starvation, with the farmers themselves the chief victims.

The basic difficulty in enforcing a farm strike or a five-day week is the refusal of nature to play ball. Grass and cattle will continue to grow. Calves, lambs and chicks continue to be born. Cows must be milked and pigs must be fed no matter what the owner may think about it. If he refuses to cut the hay or milk the cows, then he himself is the first to lose. Like the individual businessman the farmer's main interest must be production, as continuous and economically as possible.

It is ridiculous for the producer of beef cattle or any other farm commodity to think of withholding any marketable product for any length of time. Once it passes the right stage for processing it begins to deteriorate or it runs up storage charges. If grain-fattened cattle are turned out to grass they will lose their finish and all the work and feed that went into that finishing is largely wasted. Once hogs are brought to the approved 200-odd pound market weight they must be butchered or they will be docked for excess fat and coarseness of flesh. And even the unfortunate who has never left the city pavement knows what happens to fruit and vegetables if kept too long.

If as a result of excessive cost or low price a product fails to produce a consistent profit the farmer will, if he can, gradually switch to something else, but he only pyramids his losses by refusing to sell what he has already produced.

Beef prices to the farmer in Canada have risen 40% since the start of the war and even if the level was abnormally low in 1939, that increase must surely rank among the highest for any product, farm or non-farm, during this period. If, with such a gain, beef raising in Ontario is still unprofitable then there would seem to be something fundamentally wrong. Instead of this silly talk of strikes a sober investigation into costs in Ontario and elsewhere would be much more to the point.

**The Anglican Advance Appeal**

In common with all the communions of the Christian Church as voiced at the council of protestant churches at Geneva, Switzerland, the Church of England in Canada has undertaken a great forward movement for rededication and thank-offering to be known as the Anglican Advance Appeal.

This appeal was officially launched on the Feast of Epiphany, and preparations for the financial drive during the present week are expected to bring great results. The appeal has been officially announced in this paper. Mr. Cecil Davis is local chairman.

A comprehensive summary of the Anglican Advance Appeal, its aims and allocations of funds, is fairly familiar to members of that church, and is one of the very worthy appeals of the current year. No one need be overlooked, for it is the duty of those who wish to give to come forward with their offering by forwarding the gift to Mr. Davis or by placing it on the plate on Sunday afternoon service.

shops, master agreements, or check-offs, but I have very definite ideas on a forty-hour week. Strangely enough, I am in favor of a forty-hour week or even less, providing, of course, that all our citizens will enjoy these shorter hours. With this in mind, I would like to direct a few questions to employers, labor union members, and even to the ordinary man on the street.

**THE FARMER AND THE 5-DAY WEEK**

As Seen By H.A. Hervie of Midnapore, Alta.

I have read recently, with surprise, that the question of a forty-hour week may shortly come up for discussion in Alberta. I am a stockman, or what might be termed a mixed farmer, and a veteran of two wars.

Last fall we came within a few hours of a serious tie-up in the packing houses, and a settlement was reached by a reduction in working hours. I have little or no knowledge of union shops, closed,

without being fed all day Saturday and Sunday? What about the hay or grain that is ready to harvest—will some one arrange to have the rain held back on Saturday and Sunday? What about our boys who, after years of overseas service, have returned to our mixed farming area to an eighty-hour week? Are they to be paid for forty hours only, or are they to be paid time and a half for the other forty hours? If so, who is going to pay them, and from what source is the money coming? Will a forty-hour week on the farm mean two shifts? Will two shifts mean a fifty percent increase in the farmers' costs? If so, will you city boys agree to pay the farmers prices to cover this increased cost? Will you pay 60c a pound for good beef, 60c a pound for butter, 70c a pound for bacon, 60c for eggs, 15c a loaf for bread, 15c for milk, \$2 for a chicken, and guarantee to take all the farmers' produce at these prices? If a forty-hour week is granted on the grounds that it will increase employment, will those getting the benefit of these short hours agree to legislation being passed imposing penalties on anyone taking on additional work? In addition to the ordinary necessities of life, farmers are principally interested in the costs of processing their products. If the costs of processing are increased by the adoption of a forty-hour week, who is going to stand the increased cost? Who is there to stand it except the producer? Why are we farmers so dumb that we sit still and see this developing right under our noses? Why are our so-called farm papers not putting this situation more

Are you in favor of making any provision to give the farmers a forty-hour week? Will any of you produce or invent a cow that can be persuaded to take a milking holiday from Friday afternoon at five o'clock, until Monday morning at eight o'clock? Will any one of you produce or invent a pig that will not squeal, and will be perfectly content to do

clearly before the farmers? Are the farmers going to speak up, or are they again going to leave it to the usual dog-fight between the processors and the professional labor leaders? How many millions will it cost the producers if the processors stop arbitrating, and grant labor's demand in full this year? Will labor's requests include not only a forty-hour week, but a substantial increase in pay, as it did in 1945? Will somebody tell me if the flour mills, the dairies, and the packing houses are making too much profit, and is the government taking substantial taxes thereon? Is agriculture, directly and indirectly, paying a goodly portion of the Canadian tax bill? If agriculture cannot make a profit, who is going to dig up the money to rehabilitate our boys who fought for us, while we stayed at home and agitated for more pay and more profits? I believe all farmers recognize our responsibility to the returned boys, but who is going to dig up the money for the taxes to pay our obligations to them? As one who has seen something of the suffering in Europe, I am worried, as I realize that we will find ourselves in the soup, unless farmers, industrialists, businessmen, employers, labor leaders, in fact all of us, cut out a lot of this nonsense, and wake up to the fact that work, and work only on the part of all, is the basic solution for prosperity and happiness.

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ABOUT THIS TIME OF THE YEAR "THE SLACKER"