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Notes and Comments

The Years Bring Many Changes

People who live in small places seldom note the passage of the years other than by the change of the seasons, or the growing up of children. However, persons who return to their birthplace after a number of years often have a rude shock in store for them.

Recently, when the opportunity presented itself, we paid a visit to the town of our birth in which we were brought up. Despite the fact that 20 years had passed since we lived there, our hopes were high of meeting old chums, seeing some of the people we had known, and renewing old friendships. Like many others who have gone back to the old home town, we did not reckon with the changes that time brings.

Walking up and down the main street we were only able to find four or five of the chums we had known a quarter century ago. Many others were dead, and many had moved away. Then there was that group of men who were older than we, and who impressed our life, and imprinted their likeness on our mind, so that we never forget them. Not one of them is there now. We saw a number of men and women who remotely remembered us, but that was all.

Even the village or town whose every garden and lane we had once known like the palm of our hand, seemed to have changed. They and the house around seemed to have shrunk. They were not so pretentious. Few of the stores are operated today by the same owners as we had known, and their fronts or windows didn't impress up like they once did. Everything today, it seemed needed paint, and the old jail which we thought was a most imposing public building, now gives up the ideal of a third rate pump house.

Yes, if you want to feel the years, or gauge the change in your outlook or viewpoint, or estimate how time can change your opinion of things, make a trip to the old home town.

Higher Wages May Boost Freight Rates

The expected has happened. Increased wage rates have brought a request for higher freight rates. The 1945 Annual Reports of our Canadian Railways showed sharp increases in operating costs above prewar levels. Labor costs accounted for most of this—it appeared in direct wages and in higher costs of materials.

We watched these changes, we knew they were taking place. Labor received its increases in 1945, came back, received them again in 1946. The inevitable happened. These increases impinged on costs of moving the goods. When costs rise, freight rates must go up. Something must be done. We cannot see the arteries of trade and commerce weakened from malnutrition, the railways of Canada must be put in a position to carry on.

R. J. Deachman, writer, pointed out these things times without number but if there is one purpose clearly fixed in the mind of the public it is this: It will not anticipate events. The announcement of coming wage increases did not cause a ripple on the shores of Canadian thought. We have a large and powerful government owned railway and no government owing a railway is in a position to negotiate with the workers of that railway on rates of pay. It will always have the strongest possible temptation to yield.

The farmers who should be vocal in these matters are tongue-tied, they are hoping to raise world wheat prices by cartel control of wheat marketing.

OUR CAPITAL CORRESPONDENT

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

The answer to the whispers heard that Canada was supposedly aiming more to keep wheat prices at a proper level rather than to feed starving nations, these whispers coming from outside this country, it can be emphasized in the strongest language possible that Canadian authorities, it is hinted in Ottawa, are moving wheat abroad by all facilities of transportation over land and water and at as rapid a pace as possible. Indeed, it is appropriate to report that Canadian wheat has been moving to Britain and the old continent at about a million bushels daily for the past three years, with wheat and wheat products being exported by Canada under Mutual Aid and after the end of Mutual Aid under provisions of credits.

Furthermore, whispers about the "huge" amount of Canadian wheat available for export could be toned down considerably, in face of the good crop this year, reports in Ottawa suggest, and it believed that the exportable surplus may not be as great as initial enthusiasm estimated, particularly in estimates made outside of this country. It is stressed in Ottawa that, before wheat is shipped abroad, provisions must be made to fill the contracts with Britain, to carry out obligations within this country for domestic requirements, including flour needs, and a holdover, no matter how small, must be accounted for this year.

This capital has witnessed the arrival and departure of several heads of provincial governments, with these premiers coming here to discuss with officials the possibility of arrangements being completed on tax matters so that the 1942 wartime agreements might be replaced by new agreements in line with the pattern set by the Federal Government on June 27 of this year when the budget was handed down. Already Premier Macdonald of Nova Scotia, Premier Garson of Manitoba, Premier McNair of New Brunswick, and Premier Jones of Prince Edward Island have been noted amongst those present in this capital and delegations from other

provinces are either on the way at the time of this report or are about to be heading for Ottawa.

It is reported, significantly enough, that cheques cashed across Canada for the first nine months of this year were greater than in any other year in history. The increase over 1929 was 49.5 per cent, while a gain of 130 per cent was shown over 1938, the last peacetime year.

Although priority certificates for the purchases of men's suits in Canada are no longer necessary since the first of November and this might be interpreted that at least 35 per cent more such suits would be available since this was the percentage of suits put aside by merchants for ex-servicemen with such certificates, yet it is reported that throughout Canada there is still an acute shortage of men's suits and little optimism prevails that this severe situation in supplies will improve for at least several months. In fact, in many localities stores' stock of men's suits are amazingly low and merchants are entirely unable to meet the demands, nor to obtain deliveries from manufacturers or distributors.

Various explanations can be heard in Ottawa for the situation throughout Canada and one of these is that materials for making such suits are not arriving in this country on time, orders being unfilled for many months. Another reason commonly given here is that foreign sources for suitings from which men's garments are made prefer to ship these suitings to other countries where price ceilings are practically none existing, insinuating that under the Canadian price ceilings their profits would be much lower. In any event, it looks none too good for the poor male's chances of getting a new suit easily in face of the removal of the priorities on such suits.

Following numerous, though gradual decontrol actions in Washington, including on meats, dairy products, wheat, etc., there has been a virtual wave of rumours of what may be forthcoming in Ottawa since there is an admittedly close relationship between these two countries so that no ceiling in United States might produce higher prices or new subsidies in Canada, though it is known that the Canadian Government is aiming to reduce or to eliminate subsidies

"Editorial of the Month"

The Weekly Editor, the only magazine published exclusively in the interests of the Canadian weekly newspaper field has chosen an editorial from the columns of The Tribune as the "Editorial of the Month."

The editorial which so appealed to the magazine editor made reference to the devastating effect strikes have for not only the strikers, but all the people. The editorial further pointed out that the cause of strikes could be laid at the door of capital as well as labor, and that capital is not too badly treated. Then the article sighted how rich Americans were bidding \$40,000 for single fur coats, indicating that a certain section of people had money to burn.

Coming Our Way

While many of our feathered friends have taken themselves south with the approach of chilly weather, that does not mean that the birds have all gone. To many a bird Ontario is practically tropical. During late autumn and winter we may observe birds which we cannot see at any other season of the year, ornithologists of the Royal Ontario Museum declare.

Among these birds are the familiar ones such as the slaty grey junco, sometimes called the black snowbird. You'll know him at once by the white feather at either side of his tail. In company with tree sparrows, also down for the winter, the juncos feast on weed seeds that remain above the snow level. Snow buntings too whirl up from fields of weed seeds like a flock of snowflakes blown by the wind.

The Bohemian waxwing is a jaunty fellow in grey and brown and yellow, with blobs of red on each wing, like drops of sealing wax. The scarlet berries of the mountain ash are his favourite snack. He is a little smaller than robin, as are the Pine Grosbeaks and the Evening Grosbeaks, also winter guests. The Pine Grosbeak is rosy red in colour, and you'll see him searching out the seeds of the ash tree. The Evening Grosbeak is a dashing fellow in canary colours. He prefers the seeds of the Manitoba maple, or box elder.

The Northern Shrike, with the black mask over his eyes, may be a desperado, but he's not all bad. Mice form the greater part of his food. He hangs them on a thorn or barbed wire fence until his lunch hour comes, accounting for his name the "butcher bird."

Aurora Borealis

Those of us who like to do a bit of sky gazing particularly when out in the country of an evening, have at some time seen a vivid display of the northern lights or the aurora borealis. When the show is at its best you see shafts of light shooting from the northern horizon toward the zenith. Great streamers, now colorless white, now tinged with rose and green and yellow, move back and forth across the sky. The colors change quickly and the movement of the light streamers are extremely swift and erratic. At times they resemble lace curtains blowing out of an open window.

Writing in the Beaver magazine, Bennie Bengston says that auroras occur at heights varying from 40 to 600 miles, the greatest number occurring at the lower heights. These have been accurately measured by specially designed cameras, pictures of the same aurora being taken simultaneously from several positions, 50 miles or more apart. The negatives are then compared, the background of the stars showing a shifting. The distance between the cameras being known, this gives one side of the triangle; two angles are secured, and so the other two sides and the distance to the aurora is figured.

Many are the theories that have been evolved to explain this remarkable phenomenon of the sky. In regard to these, the author of the article in the Beaver says:

"It is known that auroral displays are most frequent during periods of great sun-spot activity. Hence it seems likely there is some connection between the two—that the electrical or magnetic disturbance causing the aurora has its source in the sun."

rather than to increase their number or extent. However, the best information available so far does not suggest any large sudden decontrol of prices soon in Ottawa but rather an extension of the Canadian Government's authority or power over prices when the National Emergency Powers Act expires in March, 1947, with decontrol over prices gradually in 1947 as conditions will allow or even sooner.

According to a report of the Department of Veterans' Affairs, it would be clear that discharged veterans in Canada are home-lovers after they leave the services because during the month of August alone no less than 42,672 ex-servicemen and women accepted re-establishment credits for \$5,371,457 to buy furniture and household equipment across Canada.

Eighteen Estonian refugees who had made their long voyage in a small fishing boat to Miami, Florida, were not admissible to Canada, if they tried to get into this country after their 6,000 miles sea trip, officials hinted here. Mines Minister J. A. Glen has returned to this

capital following official inspection trips to famous gold mining areas of northern Canada as well as Jasper and Banff national parks. It is understood in Ottawa that the Federal Government has been given a resolution from the provincial ministers of mines urging the adoption of "an aggressive road building policy," though these ministers did not press the issue since this is tied up closely with Dominion-Provincial agreements which are still pending. William M. Pappin, who has been cleared of charges arising out of the Royal Commission probe or espionage activities in Canada, is back at his government job in the Passport Office in this capital. Teodoro Erdmann Lan, 44, who was arrested in United States as a former Nazi spy, is said to have interviewed Canadian firms allegedly interested in the export business claiming to be in the hosiery business in Argentina. State Secretary Paul Martin has forecast in Ottawa that the greatest number of patent applications in Canadian history will be made this year and that there will likely be a reorganization of the patent office. (Reproduction Prohibited, 1946, Federal Features Syndicate).

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FROM INTERNATIONAL LIVE STOCK EXPOSITION

CHICAGO, October 29 — Recent Ontario entries for the 1946 International Live Stock Exposition and Horse Show were made here by several well known stockmen of this province. They are John Miller of Ashburn; W. E. Parker and Sons of Watford; and S. G. Bennett of Georgetown, all of whom will exhibit purebred Shorthorn cattle at the Chicago show.

Walter Biggar, internationally known cattleman and judge of Dalbeattie, Scotland, has been named to judge all of the individual steer classes at this year's show. It will be the 13th since 1920 that Biggar has officiated in this capacity.

SIXTY PER CENT OF STUDENTS VETERANS

About sixty per cent of the freshmen registering at the Ontario Agriculture College last month were ex-service men, it is reported by John Eccles, dean of men at the College. The freshmen class numbers close to 500, and with approximately 600 students in the second, third and fourth years, and with a record enrolment at the Ontario Veterinary College, the campus is crowded with boys and girls, the girls being students of the MacDonald Institute which has reopened for a one year homemaker course with a registration of 108 girls. Among the students entering the degree course at the O.A.C. is one girl.

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