



ROUT THUGS FIFTY YEARS THEIR JUNIORS

Two youths, one armed with a toy gun, and both 50 years younger than their intended victims, were no match for William Hamilton, 76-year-old Toronto grocer, and his seventy-year-old wife. Instead of complying with the robbers' demands, Mrs. Hamilton ran to

the phone while her husband, a one-time wrestler, reached below the grocery counter and seized a stout four-foot hickory stick. The youths fled, with Mr. Hamilton hot after them. A customer in the store during the hold-up declared: "Mr. Hamilton sure scared the daylight out of those two men."

Western Grains Bring Weed Seed to East - Westney

According to W. H. Westney, Deputy Reeve of Pickering Township the greatest source of new weeds in the county is the western grains imported here, and also inefficient chopping mills which fail to properly destroy weed seeds and allow them to be spread across the fields again.

"How are we ever going to clean up these weeds if we keep on planting them?" he said to members of Ontario County Council in session last week.

Members of the Council asked Mr. Beare, County Weed Inspector, to give special attention to the efficient operation of threshing machines and of cleaning mills, to see that all weed seed is destroyed.

As to the cutting of weeds along highways, on farms and in vacant lots, the inspector pointed to the shortage of farm labor as one of the problems faced, but said that all possible work had been done.

He outlined a few of the experimental plots used during the year. Some sprayed with 2-4-D and others with Atlacide, but explained that many of these tests had been undertaken rather late in the season and that results would not be conclusive until next year.

The weed which he emphasized most in his report was buckhorn, a fast carrier, which grows along fences and roads. He asked that special attention be given to eradicating this noxious weed whenever discovered, both by cutting down and by spraying, and said that it had to be very carefully watched.

Mr. Beare praised the work of various Junior Farmer clubs in the

county who had launched Clean Farm competitions, and had set up experimental areas for observation.

He described the weed control work of neighboring counties, and said that with more equipment and more help just as efficient a job could be done in Ontario County. Mr. Beare also praised the work of municipal weed inspectors, and said that he hoped to report a great improvement in the work next year.

Warden J. M. Rae complimented Mr. Beare for the work he had done during the year in thanking him for his report.

TO SUCCEED BEVIN?



The British cabinet met recently undoubtedly to discuss a revolt among the rank and file Labor members of parliament against Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin's foreign policy. In the eyes of the critics Bevin is not regarded as irreplaceable. They believe Hugh Dalton (above), chancellor of the exchequer, could step into his shoes at once and swing Britain's foreign policy more in line with the Labor policy put forth during the election campaign.

Department of Education Still Out to Throttle the Smaller High Schools

Believe Footing Fifty Percent of Educational Costs is Proving 'Hot Potato' for Provincial Government—Trying to Unload at Expense of Smaller Places Like Stouffville

The Ontario department of Education still have their man Gordon L. Duffin travelling over the province preaching the destruction of many of our Continuation and High Schools which over the years have been the very centre of social and education life in the country.

The same government that pays Mr. Duffin to go out preaching this doctrine of centralization, also recommends decentralization of industry from the cities to the country.

There is a strong suspicion that the Department of Education hopes through their school area plan, to get rid of a "hot potato." They are paying liberally toward secondary education, and on a basis of giving more to the weaker area. If the small schools can be closed and the children lugged from one end of the country to the other by us, to some large school, the department will provide less grant to the large school than they would to a weaker section or area.

Mr. Duffin knows well how valuable a school is to any town or village, and that the closing of any school would be the biggest blow the place could receive.

It can be taken as so much bunk the cry of Mr. Duffin that only in the 500 to 1000 pupil school can proper, all-round education be provided. True there may be a lot of things taught in the very large schools that the smaller school would not touch. But the number who want the odd subject or course not covered in any 150 to 200 student school is very small indeed, and is not important enough to warrant such large areas as are being sought.

Mr. Duffin told Ontario County Council that the average area being set up is 200 square miles which meant that in Ontario county Whitby town, East Whitby and Pickering townships would all need to combine to get the required area. It is most unlikely that Mr. Duffin knows anything about the townships to be affected in this area, because he talks largely from maps, and has made some very impracticable suggestions along this line, as

it has been proven.

Township and towns alike would do well to move slowly in this matter. If the recommendations of the department and Mr. Duffin are followed, education will surely take an upward jump. Imagine Whitby, East Whitby and Pickering having to pay \$50.00 per year for transportation alone, and when the bus drivers get well organized that sum will not be sufficient to cover this one item.

Imagine, too, if you will, drawing pupils from Claremont and Altona districts all the way to Whitby, when they have a good high school at their very door in Stouffville. In school matters there are no county boundaries to be recognized, hence why not send the students to the nearest school available?

RHUBARB, FRUIT OR VEGETABLE?

If lawyers debating the question of rhubarb before a United States Customs Court at Buffalo, N.Y., expect any help from botanists in settling the matter of whether the plant is a fruit or vegetable, they're going to be disappointed.

Although, Dr. F. L. Drayton, Dominion Botanist, Avers, one thing is quite clear botanically: It's not a fruit.

The matter cropped up when U.S. customs brokers protested a 50 per cent duty on rhubarb shipped from Toronto to a Lockport, N.Y., canning company. Fresh fruits carry only a 35 per cent duty, and the brokers are anxious to prove rhubarb should fall in this latter category.

While quite certain the plant is not a fruit, botanically speaking, Dr. Drayton admits that there is a wide variation between terms used by the layman and the botanist.

"Actually, there's no such thing as a 'vegetable' botanically speaking," he said. "A vegetable is simply a piece of vegetation. To a layman vegetable is term for things used as a side dish, sort of, with meat."

A fruit on the other hand, is defined as an organ in a plant which has resulted from the fertilization of the flower. On this basis, the Dominion Botanist, stated, pumpkins and squash are both fruit.

Dr. Drayton then launched into a discourse on the sex life of the peanut, which, although it grows underground, is also a fruit. The pea-

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nut, he related, was formed from the flower above ground, and then was pushed underground by the plant itself.

Rhubarb? Well, the part that is eaten is the stalk, which is really a "Petiole" or extension of the leaf.

"Not many petioles are eaten," Dr. Drayton said. "At the moment, I can't think of any....."

"Swiss chard," offered Mrs. Drayton, intrigued by the telephone interview. Her husband agreed.

How would he define rhubarb, say, if he weren't speaking botanically?

"Well, I certainly wouldn't call it

a fruit." He offered one suggestion, however, which may or may not help the lawyers in Buffalo:—

"At the Experimental farm here, we'd get around it this way: 'We'd call it a 'field crop.'"

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