

The Stouffville Tribune

Established 1888
 Member of the Canadian Weekly Newspaper Association
 and Ontario-Quebec Newspapers Association
 Member of the Audit Bureau of Circulations
 Paid-in-Advance Circulation as of March 1st, 2,553
 Issued every Thursday, at Stouffville, Ontario
 Subscription Rates, per year, in advance:
 In Canada \$2.00 In U.S.A. \$2.50
 A. V. Nolan & Son, Publishers

Notes and Comments

Toad-in-Hole

If a toad decides to make his home in your garden, by all means be hospitable to him—which means, mainly, just don't molest him, or let anyone else do so. He may look like a mere animated clod, but his sticky tongue is forked lightning to insects. He does all his work at ground level, looking up at the undersides of leaves where insects lurk that even the sharpest-eyed of birds fail to see. He is one of the most valuable of our allies in the endless insect war.—Brandon Sun.

Who are These Designers?

A story is going the rounds of the daily press to the effect that fashion designers have decreed that men's pants will be worn, ending at the ankle as the new style. At the same time women's skirts will be worn longer in length, which all leads us to enquire who are these designers that presume to tell men how long their trousers shall be?

It may be truthful to say that women are a slave to fashion, and were ready to wear skirts that didn't cover them decently, but we mean it when we say that men cannot be pulled around by the nose in this fashion.

The length of trousers will not be changed materially, regardless of what the designer says. He may pull a few freaks into line, but not the rank and file.

If the designers think we do not know what we are talking about here in this rural section, just let them throw a pair of their new-fangled length pants at us and see.

Where is Protection?

The Financial Post is not very critical of the manner in which Canadian banks try to defend their cash, but the paper instead asks, "where are the police?" Our humble impression is that the banks might do a little more about these robberies instead of the police. For instance, if banks were equipped with alarm system that could be set off by a clerk merely reaching his or her foot forward to warn the outside that a robbery was underway, more of the bandits might be caught. However, that is just a suggestion and there might be a better one with which to foil the hold-up man. However, here is the editorial printed in the Financial Post:

"Bank holdups and robberies of safety deposit boxes have been alarmingly frequent during the past year. Notable is the fact that the gangsters seem to pull off these holdups with very little interference.

Are our police forces giving up the kind and quality of protection we pay for?

When lawlessness, in any form, succeeds, it becomes increasingly difficult and expensive to check more and more lawlessness. Gangsterism readily skips from one form to another.

Banks are overhauling their vaults, installing safety devices and otherwise trying to meet the present emergency. The suggestion has been made that municipalities, perhaps with provincial aid, arrange special guards for banks. It is argued that heading off a crime wave will be cheaper now than later on.

Whatever the solution, the reality is that the situation seems to have got beyond the police. This continent has had enough awful examples of rampant lawlessness to suggest the need for some very sober attention to this matter here, right now."

Why Bread Is Going Up

A sharp jump in bread prices is certain to arouse emotions across the country. In the outburst a lot of innocent people are going to be criticized. Farmers, millers and bakers will be accused of excessive profits. We saw the same thing when milk prices advanced after subsidy removal last spring.

Now the subsidies are coming off wheat and a lot of people will complain that bread prices are soaring. Actually prices have been advancing steadily since 1939 but the increase has been largely hidden. In wheat, which is the raw material for bread, the subsidy amounts to over 80 cents per bushel which was more than the world price for this commodity not so long ago. Altogether since the start of the war Ottawa has paid out almost half a billion dollars in farm subsidies alone, including some, back in the early years, for reducing production, not increasing it. After the war the Government hoped to withdraw quietly from the subsidy field as prices fell. The plan was to have the consumer assume the full retail price when the decline had equalled the subsidy. In that case the consumer would not have noticed any change. But the plan went widely astray when food prices continued to advance instead of declining this year.

Now the consumer faces a double hoist, the amount of the subsidy the Government has been paying, plus increases in costs. He's not going to like it, because he doesn't understand but in the end it will make life simpler because we will learn what our food and other commodities really cost.

Government to Recommend Higher Wheat Price

Early in the next session of Parliament the Federal Government will recommend an increase in the initial wheat price paid to Western farmers, retroactive to the 1945 crop, stated the Hon. James A. MacKinnon, Minister of Trade and Commerce on August 26.

He said that a higher advance to farmers is possible because of the favourable prices received by the Canadian Wheat Board on sales to date, and because of the guarantees and other provisions contained in the United Kingdom wheat contract applicable to the balance of the present crop, also the 1948 and 1949 crops.

Under the Canadian Wheat Board Act, the initial price to farmers is \$1.35 per bushel for One Northern, basis in store Fort William, Port Arthur or Vancouver. It will therefore be necessary for Parliament to amend the Act before a higher initial price can be paid. If Parliament approves the higher price will apply to the 1945-49 crops.

Mr. MacKinnon said that the amount of the increase would depend on the size of the present crop, and developments in the market situation between now and the assembling of Parliament, but he gave assurance that an increase would be recommended.



Although a new Fisheries Minister has been named in the person of Milton F. Gregg, who was president of the University of New Brunswick and who is contesting for the Liberals York-Sunbury in the Oct. 20th by-election, yet it is whispered in this capital that a cabinet reorganization is almost a certainty before the next session of Parliament will get going, with a variety of rumors heard in gossip circles along Parliament Hill at the present time, including the possibility of a shift in posts for some members of the cabinet and the departure of others. In any case, it is said here that such plans are in the making right now and the appointment of a new Fisheries Minister is only one of the moves, with others likely to follow later.

There is no doubt that businessmen and others throughout Canada will be interested to learn that unofficially it is understood in this capital that the Wartime Prices and Trade Board may be the subject of an important announcement within a few weeks and this may offer a hint as to the approximate time for the end of most of the operations of this organization still to be carried on from headquarters here. It is said that the expectation is that this will indicate what few controls will be allowed to remain until the final wind-up of the organization, with one suggested as a likely control being rental regulations.

The importance of uniformity of legislation in the different provinces was emphasized at the Conference of Commissioners on Uniformity, a committee of the Canadian Bar Association, at a meeting in Ottawa where a spokesman for the Canadian Government indicated in no uncertain language of the benefits derived from the deliberations and decisions of this body both for the Dominion and the provinces. Indeed it is recognized here that many of the recommendations of these Commissioners have been accepted and placed on the statute books "We all know that disruptive forces are tirelessly at work in Canada today," said W. J. P. O'Meara, K.C., presiding at the Conference. "The rule of law alone, aside from Christian faith, holds those forces in check." These distinguished members of the bar receive no remuneration for their work on this Conference on Uniformity.

It is reported in Ottawa that more houses will be built in Canada this year than ever before, though there is no doubt that the initial objective of 80,000 housing units may not be reached, even if the 70,000 units figure is almost sure to be passed, including 20,000 housing units under government plans and from 50,000 to 55,000 units under private plans. Incidentally, too, building costs are reported to be passing their peak, and, while material costs may be a little higher, efficiency in building and less costly details in securing materials may bring a downward trend by moderate degree.

"The trouble with the British Commonwealth is that Britain is overpopulated and that the Dominions are underpopulated," said Hon. A. A. Calwell, Australian Minister of Immigration, during a brief visit to this capital.

"The amount of the increase cannot yet be decided, depending in large part upon the size of the present crop and developments in the market situation between now and the assembling of Parliament, but an increase will certainly be

recommended," stated Trade and Commerce Minister MacKinnon in discussing wheat prices.

"They are amazed at what we have sent over and hope we can continue," remarked Bryan L. White, editor of the Ottawa Farm Journal, during an address following his return recently from a trip overseas where he attended a farm organization conference.

"I hope the immigration laws regarding Chinese will be widened even more," said Dr. Wu Shang-yang, Secretary-General of the Legislative Yuan Mission, upon arriving in this capital.

"Any student of world events recognizes that there is a terrific struggle going on to-day between the forces of dictatorship and those of democracy," declared M. J. Caldwell, leader of the CCF Party.

"Women work only because of economic compulsion," stated K. F. Lloyd of the Post Office Department. "adequate salaries were available to husbands, women would prefer full-time home-making."

It is learned in the capital that housewives are showing a terrific demand for DP's as domestic workers ever since it was announced that the Canadian Government will allow such displaced persons to enter Canada, with the National Employment Office here being flooded with such requests.

Three members of a Chinese legislative mission have visited Ottawa to meet parliamentary officials and to continue their study of democratic institutions and parliamentary processes in Canada.

Meanwhile, one of this country's most outstanding experts on parliamentary procedure, Dr. Arthur Beauchesne, has gone to London, Eng., to study ways and means of streamlining our own parliamentary methods in order to speed the business of parliament, with the anticipation that he will prepare a report on same for the Government after visiting Westminster.

AUCTION SALE

30 GRADE DAIRY CATTLE
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Having received instructions from the owner

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 Larry Parks—William Demarest

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'The Jolson Story'
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