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Notes and Comments

Dangerous Rural Boxes!

The Financial Post editorially classifies the farm rural box as dangerous. Some of the stuff that is put into the box may be a bit doubtful, but the box itself is hardly dangerous. It is a general nuisance to workmen, especially in winter when snow cleaning is on the go. However, the mail post is frail, and is easily snapped off by car or truck, and hardly presents a serious obstacle in case of emergency.

However, the Post prints the extraordinary suggestion of the Manitoba Motor League that the boxes might be placed in farm lanes. Can you rural people imagine anything quite so fine! But why not do away with the box, and have the mail man drop the letters in at the door? Just as possible to do this as to require the mail courier to drive into the farm lane ever so short a distance.

The mail box along the roadside could be made more attractive and be less of a nuisance if the farmer would take a little pride and keep it brightly painted, also keep the name printed on the box as the postal requirement say he should do. Motorists might have more respect for a well kept mail box, than an old rusty one looking like a discarded can.

Here is the Post editorial:

"The present position of rural mail boxes along the highway is considered dangerous and unsightly by the Manitoba Motor League. In a letter to the Postmaster-General, the League suggests that these be removed from the shoulder of the road, and placed on standard, approved mounts in the receiver's driveway.

Most highway users, including the mail box owners themselves, must agree that this criticism seems justified. In many cases, boxes and their posts come unpleasantly close to traffic and in no case are they decorative.

Original regulations regarding location were based on horse delivery, the boxes being mounted in such a position that mail could be delivered or picked up without the courier dismounting, turning, or having to leave the right side of his route. With motor delivery a little extra manoeuvring is not so important, though even without this, as at present, it has not always been easy to secure applicants for the job, and after tendering, many rued their bargain. If delivery it to be made more difficult, especially during winters of heavy snow, this "free" service of the Dominion Government may prove costlier."

Bigger Dustbowl Threatened

Two years of drought could produce a bigger dustbowl in the centre of the United States than the disastrous one which developed during the 'thirties. That is the opinion of Washington soil specialists who claim that continued high wheat prices are responsible. At least five billion acres of grasslands on the margin of the old dustbowl have been plowed up and put into wheat. Still more will be plowed loose if prices stay firm, it is feared. With the fibre of the grass roots gone this soil would start to move quickly if it dried out, a menace to good farming country for miles around.

It was the plowing up of marginal land during and after the first Great War which resulted in the first experience with widespread soil drifting on the Canadian and American plains. On this side of the line, however, the lesson was learned and under the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Act, millions of acres of light marginal land were taken over and seeded down firmly with special drought-resistant grasses. This has stayed seeded down.

There was seeding down in the United States, too, but apparently nothing was done to prevent get-rich-quick wheat farmers from plowing it up again. Once loose, it is difficult to stop drifting soil from rolling across and ruining miles of good country but the big new pastures created in our southern prairies should prove a barrier.

Bull Fighting and Prize Fighting

The other day the great Manolete was gored by a bull in the ring and died soon after. This happened in Spain, but it was front page news in Toronto, therefore, we feel justified in dealing with bullfighting as clean sport. Sometimes the bull gets the best of it, but not very often, we thought as we read about the so-called hero.

Bullfighting is not a sport, but a spectacle, a holdover of Roman barbarism, and as such should be condemned by all right-thinking people.

No doubt such a view would be an offence to Spanish and Mexican standards, but not to Canadian standards, for bullfighting is forbidden in this country.

The brutality of the bullfight affects the whole attitude toward animals. The suffering of the horses in the ring, who are disembowled before the spectators' eyes, makes for horror and a callousness we Canadians cannot understand. While many of the riders love their steeds, and can be sentimental about the animals and careful of his life just as he is of his own, yet there is the cruelty.

We spoke of this to a Mexican at the C.N.E. who was tending horses in the midway, and when we said the bullfight was cruel, he shrugged his shoulders and said, "yes, yes, you like cruelty to humans better. What about the prize fighter?"

Well, he rather had us there, but we did admit, the prize fight is cruelty and barbarous too, but at least in its favors is the fact that the participants are all willing. Not so with bullfighting. The bull and the horse are victims of the pleasure seeking thriller.

OUR CAPITAL CORRESPONDENT

Though there is apparently outward calm in officialdom in face of a surprising wave of discontent sweeping across this country in the wake of the Government's major decontrol move, yet "inside" Ottawa it is known that many officials are keeping an anxious watch over the latest developments resulting from the lifting of all controls over thousands of commodities and services, especially showing con-

cern on the accounts of possible skyrocketing food prices.

It is evident that officials in Ottawa believe that common sense and competition in private enterprise may keep prices within reason until a proper adjustment will take place. At least, they hope for such peace-time adjustments to come sooner than the man-in-the-street seems to think that these will come. But they also hope that labor unrest may not come, though such is threatened.

All in all, it is a gloomy picture along Parliament Hill now-a-days. People may resist buying many commodities, it is whispered here,

A Softer Race on the Way

The fact is the human race is restless, it surges like the waves of the sea, says R. J. Deachman, noted writer. In North and South Dakota the last census recorded a 15 per cent drop, Montana and Idaho fell more than 10 per cent. In the South, Mississippi, Kentucky, Alabama and Georgia lost population due to the migration of Negroes. California is the up and coming State of the Union. Michigan and Ohio because of their great manufacturing industries follow after. California wins because of its climate.

We are becoming a softer race, the fire is dying out in the eyes of the pioneers, he says. Baby bonuses and old age pensions are working their will upon us. The supreme desire of the human race today is not for new worlds to conquer—not even for peacetime victories. We seek a spot in the sun where we can gaze at the stars—movie stars. Life need not be strenuous, the cry of the world is for rest—with a soft drink by our side, and that is the simple truth

Are Pheasant Shoots Worth While?

If a vote were taken, we believe the farmers would instruct the councils to do away with pheasant hunting. After all, it is becoming a bit of a nuisance for the farmers. Outsiders range over their premises, the farmer and his live stock are more or less in danger at this season from being hit by stray shots. Really, one may ask, "is it worth it?"

What benefit is derived by a municipality by creating a game preserve in this matter, with advertised dates for city people to come in and shoot? It would only be fair for tax payers to ask for a financial statement on the matter, and if this is gained, will it be imposing enough to warrant going to the trouble, councils go to, plus the fear many have about danger lurking in every road on hunting days.

Started a few years ago with a great deal of enthusiasm the annual pheasant shoot is now a fixture in Markham, Whitechurch, and Pickering townships. A lot of money is being spent annually to provide constables on the days of the hunt, and this year the councils in the first two mentioned townships at least have spent a sum of money for erecting pens, and feeding young birds, in order that they may be available in the country on the two-day shooting dates.

It is true that this expenditure is returned in license fees, in whole, in part, or even showing a small surplus. The surplus, if any, is too small to be noticed by the tax payers over whose lands the city hunters range on the days of the hunt.

Reeve Evans of Whitechurch, when watching an account of over \$100 pass in council for caring for newly arrived pheasants, say truly, "I wonder if it is worth it?"

Sunflowers Keep Turkeys Home

We do not know by what authority they speak, but the Calgary Daily Albertan tells us something interesting for turkey growers concerning the value of sunflowers. Since we have the turkeys and can grow the sunflowers how about noting this information. The Alberta newspaper says:

"A rural informant reveals that sunflowers are planted around the edge of turkey-runs to keep the birds from flying over the fence. The seeds are eaten—but that is a secondary importance.

Unlike their wild ancestors, modern domestic turkeys cannot attain great altitudes in flight. They're too heavy. But they can and do fly over a six-foot fence. The expense of 10 or 12-foot fences has now been found unnecessary. Just plant sunflowers along the inside of an ordinary low fence.

As the turkeys grow, so do the sunflowers. By the time the turkeys can fly, the sunflowers have reached their full height of 10 or 12 feet. Flexing his primary wing muscles, a gobbler eyes the distant world of unknown delights and prepares for the take-off. Then he sees the close-standing ranks of tall sentinels, and changes his mind. He hasn't sense enough to know he could thrash right through the sunflowers and escape."

but it is doubtful if they can resist eating so that the skyrocketing food prices, particularly those resulting from the removal of the hard wheat subsidy is causing most of the discontent since somehow or other the steadily rising bread prices appear to be instigating more complaints than anything else, judging from reports heard in this capital, with the agitation among low earning groups increasing rather than decreasing on this point and providing excellent material for such agitation.

Under normal conditions, the next session of the Canadian Parliament would probably open at the end of January or early in February. However, well-informed circles in this capital are now talking about the possibility that the members may be called back here earlier if any critical situation should arise, especially on the economic front or the dollar shortage crisis, to warrant such an earlier meeting.

Warnings are heard now in reliable quarters in Ottawa that fuel oil may be in short supply this coming winter and that fuel oil companies are not guaranteeing that they will be able to supply any new customers this year, with demands exceeding supplies. In fact, it is held that since the Federal Government granted special priorities to oil companies for steel for construction of additional storage tanks the oil business has been on its own and the Government is exercising no longer any control over fuel oil so that it would only move into the picture in the event of a national emergency.

These warnings are extremely important because there have been many conversions from coal to oil-burning equipment during the past year or so and many people do not realize the supply situation. As far as coal is concerned, it is expected to be much the same as last year.

On the basis of reports in circulation here, the threatened strike of Canadian railway workers may not come about as soon as the man-in-the-street expects since the strike vote for or against such a strike would not lead immediately to action of this sort because there would have to be a joint meeting of all railway unions, probably in

Friday and Saturday, Sept. 26-27
 "Gallant Bess"—Marshall Thompson

Monday and Tuesday, Sept. 29-30
"Secret Heart"
 CLAUDETTE COLBERT AND
 WALTER PIDGEON

"FOTO-NITE"
 Thursday!
"MIGHTY MCGURK"
 WALLACE BEERY
 AND ED. ARNOLD
"DANGER STREET"
 JANE WITHERS AND
 ROBT. LOWERY
 Wednesday and Thursday
 Oct. 1-2
\$325.00 OFFER!

Friday and Saturday, Oct. 3-4
"My Favourite Brunette"
 Bob Hope — Dorothy Lamour

STOUFFVILLE STANLEY
 Theatre of the Stars!

Coming!

the middle of October to determine the headquarters in Ottawa as well as in branches across the country until this meeting at least has been held.

With the lifting of thousands of controls, it would logically be suspected by Canadians that the framework or legal structure of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board at the headquarters in Ottawa as well as in branches across the country will immediately drop almost all employees on their staff. However, it is reported here that, while some few hundred members of their staff would gradually be released of their duties, yet actually the reductions in staff would not be great.

Wherever there is **DISTRESS**



LAST YEAR approximately 1,761,200 Canadians were materially helped by the personal services of the Salvation Army in its:
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 General Hospitals
 Old Folks' Homes
 Prison and Police Court Work
 Children's Homes
 Children's Summer Camps
 Missing Friends' Service
 Free Labour Service
 Men's Hostels

... there you'll find the understanding heart, the human touch of THE SALVATION ARMY

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