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Notes and Comments

Headlights and Reflectors

With the return of fall with the early falling of darkness and the fog and haze common at this season of the year, the unlighted bicycle is again haunting motorists and in particular those who have occasion to use city streets.

Those who use bicycles should know that the law requires them to carry both headlights and reflectors on the back. A goodly number, however, do not carry any, with the result that those who have occasion to use them increase their own peril.

Reflectors and headlights can be secured at nominal cost today, so there is no excuse for not carrying this precautionary equipment, especially when the operator knows that it is for his own protection.

A danger to themselves, they can get other people into lot of trouble, and rank as a road menace just like the car driver with blazing headlights that he neglects to control when meeting traffic.

Public Utility Commission Advocated

The reeve of Stouffville is advocating the appointment of a Public Utilities Commission, to handle the water and light vested in the corporation. It may be fairly estimated that either these items, our water system or our hydro system are worth a hundred thousand dollars each, and they need much better management than the reeve as head of the council thinks he and his council have time to give them.

Both the water and lights have doubled and tripled in value over recent years, and with that growth there comes more and more detail and management, especially if they are to be operated successfully.

Members of a council may not be chosen because of their qualification to handle business of this kind. Public Utility Commissioners are chosen because they are known to have qualifications for the office they are expected to serve. They get paid for their services. Perhaps not as much as they are worth, but they will be paid something.

This year it has been proven that neither the reeve nor his councillors have sufficient time to devote to these two big branches of the town's business, and the only wise thing to do, it seems, is to spread out the responsibility, by appointing a Commission to handle the light and water, leaving to the municipal council the management of streets, police, and the scores of other items that devolve upon a council.

Reeve Nolan says that before he gives up office, he hopes to have such a bylaw prepared for the consideration of the 1948 council. We hope he carries out his promise for a Commission could do a better job in Stouffville. They operate water and light under a Commission in Uxbridge, Aurora, Newmarket, and almost every other town. A three man commission may stay in office for years provided they are making a success of their work.

Camera Reveals Fly Secrets

The common drone fly now is "top secret." Thanks to some new fast pictures—3,000 to a second—scientists at the American Museum of Natural History are finding out what the common fly has known for several hundred million years.

They've discovered how the fly knows where he is when he can't see where he's going, how he can fly through fog when a bird can't, and what it is that, when he loses it, causes him to make a sudden crash landing.

The movies were made at the request of the Sperry Gyroscope Co.

Dr. C. H. Curran, museum insect expert, worked with photographer Henry Lester for several years before they got the pictures they wanted.

In the movies you can see the 300 beats a second of the fly's wings and—more important—the halteres or balancers just under its wings.

The tiny balancers, sticking out under the wings like a pair of lady's hatpins, go up when the wings go down to their oarlike motion.

This, said Curran, is one of the things scientist didn't know before the pictures were made. And they are just beginning to get into the study of how the little balancers work, maintaining the fly's equilibrium like the fluid of the inner ear does a man's.

The halteres are effective—they tell the fly just as accurately which is up and which is down.



While the results of the recent York-Sunbury, N.B. by-election were not entirely unexpected, yet, ever since it brought an overwhelming victory for the Government's political forces, it has been followed by strange stories along Parliament Hill of possible changes in the organization of the Progressive-Conservatives at their headquarters here, though no confirmation could be obtained. Inquiries indicate the stories heard are stories, even if sometimes such stories in Ottawa are forerunners of important news in the political field.

Whenever the farmers of Canada get more for their efforts, such increases are usually well publicized, particularly in the urban centres, so that the latest report in Ottawa about the higher costs being paid by the farmers for their services and commodities should

receive the same spotlight. This report shows that since the beginning of 1947 Canada's farmers have paid more for food, clothing, fuel, household equipment, health maintenance and other needs. Indeed, on the basis of 1935-39 equals 100, the Canadian farmers have paid 154.8 in Aug., 1947, for food, 161.5 for clothing, 139 for fuel, 162.8 for household equipment, 122.7 for health maintenance and 111.5 for miscellaneous items. Obviously, this report once again emphasizes that Canadian farmers are paying much more for everything they need and their costs have been rising steadily.

It is understood in Ottawa that Dr. Gaspard Fauteux, Speaker of the House of Commons, and Dr. Arthur Beauchesne, Clerk of the House, are working together with a view of preparing a report suggesting some important changes in the procedure of the Canadian Parliament in order to speed up the operations of the legislative body without interfering with the rights or privileges of members. They have been studying carefully ways and means of accomplishing this difficult task, including a trip overseas for this purpose, and the results of their work may be seen in the next session of Parliament when their report is expected to be made known. Their suggestions may

include possible changes in the method of asking and answering questions of members, time of sitting of the House, adjournment process, etc.

More and more complaints are being heard in this capital against the so-called "luxury" taxes and it would be no surprise at all to veteran observers here if the next budget will eliminate all or many of them.

It is argued that, in actual practice, these "luxury" taxes are causing injustices. For instance, if a person wants to buy ordinary glassware or silverware to set up house, a "luxury" tax has to be paid, even if this means adding only forks, knives and other necessities to the home. On the other hand, if a person buys flowers or expensive furniture, no such taxes have to be paid. In short, there is much discontent on the ground and this dissatisfaction is growing, with a change in these so-called "luxury" taxes being forecast.

Canadians should be able to get variety and quantity of goods shortly, it is learned here, since wholesalers across the country are reporting much larger stocks on hand in various lines. In fact, at the end of the eighth month of 1947, it is reported in Ottawa, Canadian wholesalers' stocks were valued

Says Curran, "These most amazing pictures" even taken of insects in motion" have unlimited possibilities in industry. Even more avid attention is coming from the military.

"But beyond that I cannot go," said Curran. "Top secret, you know."

Help Britain and Ourselves

We should all be thinking these days about how we can help ourselves to get out of the mess that the British people are in, because it is our mess as well as theirs, observed a writer in Saturday night recently. There are still many colonial-minded Canadians, not all of them in the Province of Quebec, who think that we must assert our independence of Great Britain on all possible occasions, but even they must be gradually learning that our political independence was won a long time ago. Anything that strengthens Great Britain today strengthens not only our safety but our independence, because Great Britain is the only power of any great consequence on the other side of the Atlantic that is opposing the spread of Imperial Communism throughout the world, and because, on this side of the Atlantic, we should be much more susceptible to pressure, even domination, from Washington if we could not from time to time call on London for help.

Unhappily these simple facts are not grasped as widely as they should be in this country; Mr. Duplessis shows no sign of leading a crusade for the relief of England. So our Federal Government, which can ill afford to lose support in Quebec because of its slim majority in the House of Commons, cannot go as far as it should in giving help to Great Britain, considering that it is really self-help.

Difficult as its position is, the Federal Government can do something. We are not satisfied that a further loan on generous terms or even a gift is beyond practical politics; during the war the Government consistently underestimated the amount of support it could get in the House of Commons, even from Quebec, on votes of money for Mutual Aid. Now are we satisfied that all other possibilities have been fully explored. Take, for example, the question of defence expenditures. Mr. Atlee has announced that, as part of his economy campaign, he will cut down the army by 80,000 and some of his supporters have been pressing for 250,000. Has Ottawa discussed with London how much their expenditures on the Royal Navy could come down if our expenditures on the Canadian Navy went up in the proper ways?

Luckily there is more to Canada than Ottawa, and it is the whole of Canada that can help. We should like to see Provincial Governments shoulder some of the burden. Surely British Columbia could afford to send some lumber, Ontario some newsprint, and Nova Scotia some apples and fish, and so forth.

And we need not leave everything to our governments. Each of us who has friends or relatives over there can send more food parcels, more clothes—anything to vary the drabness and monotony. Last Christmas a Canadian girl sent, together with a present for an English friend, some bright paper and ribbons for other presents on the Christmas tree, and it was the wrappings that brought the most ecstatic "thank you." We can give individually, or through our churches and clubs. Everything helps!

Cats Beats Hawk

Several very odd incidents in natural history may be recorded from different parts of England. The strangest concerns a sparrowhawk and a cat. The hawk descended again and again on a farmer's young chickens.

One day it attacked not the chickens, but one of two very young kittens that were in the habit of playing about among these late-hatched chickens. The mother was nearby and, as the hawk rose rather slowly with its heavier burden, jumped at the bird and pulled it down.

A duel followed, for the hawk managed to use its beak on the hindquarters of the cat; but there could be only one end. The kitten was saved and the farmer, whose acres were a bracken-covered hillside in Wales, lost no more of his chickens, according to the London Spectator.

What's in Bossie's Stomach

Whether the family cow or any member of the big farm herd has swallowed a nail need no longer be a matter of guessing at all. At the Agricultural College, Guelph, a detector is being perfected whereby the instrument will register the presence of metal in the cow's stomach, by merely passing the saucer-shaped instrument over the stomach as the cow stands in her stall or lies at ease in the pasture fields.

Cattle, it seems, are more liable to pick up nails while eating grass, than any other animal. Sometimes they prove disastrous, and oft times they remain in the cow's stomach for years.

If they give trouble, bossie will show it by going off her feed. If that happens again, like as not the veterinary will come along and start sounding for foreign matter with the metal detector. As he moves the disc over her stomach, all it quiet until he comes close to the presence of metal, then the loud-speaker kicks up a racket, and an operation will be necessary if the nail or perhaps several of them are to be removed.

37% higher than at the same date a year ago, with these increases usually meaning that more goods will reach your favourite store soon.

Often called a "hot potato" along Parliament Hill, rental control is not likely to be taken off as soon as many people seem to imagine, judging from observations in Ottawa where it is learned that such regulations may continue at least until the present life of emergency legislation on controls is supposed to last, that is next spring. However, there is a possibility that when the Government here does act to get rid of this "hot potato," it may hand it over to the provincial authorities since rentals do enter "property and civil rights" which are distinctly under the legal jurisdiction of the provinces by virtue of the British North America Act.

Though about 43 senior administrative jobs in Canada's Civil Service have been filled by French-Canadians, with the salaries ranging from \$4,000 to \$9,000 a year, yet it is understood here that more such appointments will be made within a relatively short period in order to satisfy the complaints of Quebec MP's who have been grumbling that French-Canadians have not been named to enough such posts. A drive against enemies of good

That's Right!

None better at any prize

Aurora Belle

PASTRY

Flour

Aurora Flour & Feed Mills, Ltd.

health seems to be intensified, judging from a number of important meetings in Ottawa, with one of the latest being a gathering here of Deputy Ministers and Chief Medical Officers of the provinces and representatives of English and French-speaking women's voluntary organizations as well as from labor, agricultural and scientific bodies.

Canadians may be getting more woollen and cotton materials from Britain as in pre-war years shortly and less from the U.S., according to a reliable report here.

There is a severe paint shortage in Canada now and little prospect of relief is anticipated for many months in face of all official actions to increase the output by Canadian paint manufacturers, it is learned in the Capital.

Improved telephone-dispatching equipment has been created for Canadian railways and this will lead to co-ordination of train operations in this country, with such trials having been conducted and tests said to be successful.

Labor unions in Russia could not seek an advance in pay for a worker, declared Wilbert Hamilton in Ottawa where he addressed a meeting following a recent visit to Soviet Russia, with this being something which Communists could not when they boast about their alleged "good intentions" towards labor which is far from true.

Rumors that Canada would allow into this country 70,000 or more displaced persons from Europe are flatly denied by officials here since plans for the time being call for 20,000 by next May or June, with shipping problems preventing such large scale immigration plans being formulated right now anyhow, it is learned in Ottawa.

WAIT for

The Goodie Colored Orchestra

from the United States

to appear at the
UXBRIDGE JUNIOR FARMERS SPECIAL DANCE
 in Uxbridge
Sat., Nov. 8th

Friday & Saturday, Oct. 31, Nov. 1
"MY BROTHER TALKS TO HORSES"
 "I COVER BIG TOWN"

Monday & Tuesday, Nov. 3-4
"Calcutta"
 ALAN LADD AND
 WILLIAM BENDIX

Thursday!
"LOVE LAUGHS AT ANDY HARDY"
 MICKEY ROONEY AND
 BONITA GRANVILLE
 \$200.-\$175.
OFFER!

Wednesday & Thursday, Nov. 5-6

Friday & Saturday, Nov. 7-8
"ADVENTURE ISLAND"
 Paul Kelly—Rhonda Fleming
"FUN ON A WEEKEND"
 Eddie Bracken—Priscilla Lane

Monday & Tuesday, Nov. 10-11
"SEA OF GRASS"
 Adult Entertainment

STANLEY Theatre of the Stars!