

**GOVERNMENT TO ACT ON
FEED GRAIN PRICES**

At the second day's session of the Dominion-Provincial Agricultural Conference held in Ottawa December 1st to 3rd, Right Hon. James G. Gardiner, Dominion Minister of Agriculture, said:—

"I am authorized to state that some action will be taken which will result in prices rising on products fed from grain which will take care in future of the increase brought about in feed costs through the removal of ceilings and withdrawal of draw-backs or subsidies."

CHESS-BOARD PLANNING
(By Lewis Milligan)

We have heard a great deal in recent years about town planning, and there are people who have made a special study of the subject and who charge big fees for planning or re-planning towns and cities. One of these gentlemen — I believe he was a Frenchman from Paris — was commissioned by the Federal Government to re-plan the City of Ottawa. There was some criticism about the size of his fee and much more about the cost of his proposed destruction and reconstruction.

I was reminded of this in reading a heavy book on "Environment Race and Migration," by Prof. Griffith Taylor, head of the Department of Geography in the University of Toronto. In a chapter dealing with the surface structure of Ontario as a result of the Ice Age, the author says: "Toronto, like most cities of the Victorian age, evolved without a scientific plan. The main roads naturally ran along concession lines. It so happens in Toronto that the main valleys and ravines enter the Lake somewhat diagonally. Hence the orthodox 'chessboard' design cannot possibly fit the topography."

The reference to the Victorian age struck me as very appropriate and interesting, for it was one of the most unplanned of all progressive periods. The same may be said of the Elizabethan age. No one planned or thought of planning the City of London. Its streets run and wind in all directions, and it has been supposed that they originally followed the devious tracks of a drunken sailor. Some of the main streets in our own large cities probably started as cow paths, and others doubtless were Indian trails. The curves and windings of some of our streets were originally determined by the surface formation of the land, to skirt around a hillock, a stream or even a wood. There were no city planners in those days. The City of Toronto was built up piece-meal with the establishment of little villages which were gradually absorbed into one community by the growing town of York.

That is the story of all great cities; they were not planned — grew as the result of the free enterprise of individuals and little communities. If the early settlers had laid out cities on the chess-board plan there might never have been cities, for instead of getting down to the cultivation of their own patch of soil, the building of a mill and the marketing of their products, they would probably have done as little work as possible in the hope of selling their stakes in the future big city. But the Victorians did not act that way. They were individualists. They were free workers. They could not conform to the chessboard design, and they refused to be moved about as pawns by town or social planners.

The British Empire was evolved without any scientific plan. It was built up by sea-rovers, explorers, traders, immigrants and exiles who scattered over the face of the globe in the spirit of adventure or under the spur of necessity and the desire for personal gain. They did not know they were empire-builders, and it was not until the dawn of the Victorian period that the people of Britain fully realized that they had an Empire on their hands.

Napoleon was an empire-planner, and he succeeded in bringing the whole of continental Europe under his subjection by force of arms. His empire lasted less than twenty years. Hitler and his Nazi scientists and war lords were master-planners, and they repeated Napoleon's achievement in shorter order. But it didn't work out according to plan.

And now the Communists of Russia have a plan. They have succeeded in laying out their own country like a chessboard on which they push the people around in the game of Socialism. Omar Khayyam described it —

"Tis all a chequer-board of nights and days,

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Omar was a fatalist; he did not believe that men were free-will agents, and it is a notable fact that many of the outstanding preachers of Socialism were determinists. Both Napoleon and Hitler believed they were men of destiny, and they regarded the people as puppets — pawns in their political and military game. But they discovered that the world was not a chess-board and that men and nations had a bad habit of asserting their freedom when they were pushed around.

**Spent Lifetime at Forge
but Never Shod a Horse**

Without a spreading chestnut tree — and also without a horse — Herbert Gater, of suburban Richmond Hill, has succeeded in being a blacksmith all his life.

Now retired after a stint in a war plant, Mr. Gater explained his work at the forge has had to do with such inanimate things as locomotives, bridges, toolmaking and the like. He never has shod a horse.

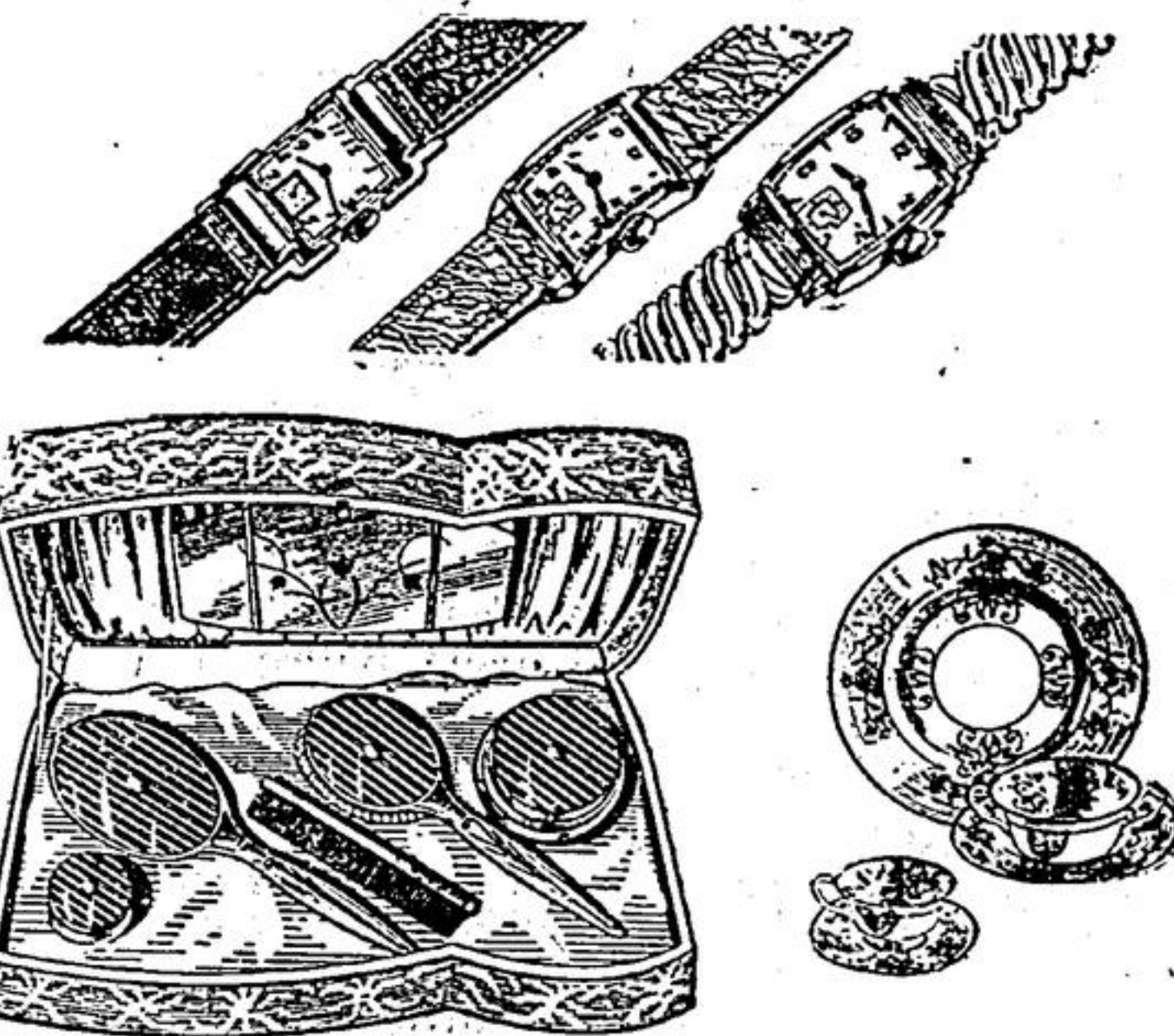
He started to learn his trade at 14 in Birmingham, England. As an apprentice he received four shillings a week for seven years. He came to Canada in 1911 and worked for many years in London, Ont., forging tools and parts for a CPR bridge-building division. From there he came to Toronto and worked in the shops of the Metropolitan Railroad.

Mr. Gater is proud of the work he has done in such items as iron railings and door findings since coming to Richmond Hill. He is most proud of a set of fire irons made to match a fireplace imported from Morocco.

Now 62, it is unlikely he will ever nail shoes on Dobbin.



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PINE ORCHARD

(Too late last week)

Mrs. Rae McClure accompanied her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Whitfield of Thornbury to Toronto one day last week.

Glad to report Addison Sheppard has his foot out of the cast, following a broken ankle, sustained while working on the railroad.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Brammar and Lorraine were Sunday guests with her parents here.

Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Brandon, Doris and Bruce of Uxbridge visited his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Brandon, sr. on Sunday.

Mr. J. Harper has been under the

doctor's care, but is now improving.

Congratulations to our newly weds, Mr. and Mrs. Haines, (nee Edith Shropshire) who were married on Thursday at her parents home, Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Shropshire. Rev. Mr. Rowan performed the ceremony.

Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Harper spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Albert Ridley and attended the christening services of their three grandchildren.

Mrs. W. Johnston and Earl spent Monday with Mr. and Mrs. Chapman.

Mr. and Mrs. George Banks have moved from our community to Weston.

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