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Notes and Comments

Should We Drop Christmas Market Day?

Last Thursday both Uxbridge and Stouffville held special days. In the northern town it was a Christmas market day, and in Stouffville a horse show competition provided the attraction. Our neighboring town was greeted by great crowds of people, while the horse show in Stouffville attracted only a small attendance. The excuse that it was too cold, is hardly sufficient reason for the small attendance in Stouffville, since it was just as cold in Uxbridge.

Our neighboring town really makes a day of Christmas market, provides a prize list for poultry, ample show room accommodation, and a good market place wherein produce may be weighed, and sold.

Here in Stouffville such accommodation is lacking. We have no hall, and no effort was made to substitute some other premises for the occasion. As a result the so-called Christmas market was not as good a business day as the ordinary Christmas trade might have brought without any attempt at the unusual.

One of our leading merchants said, that things must be improved here. If we are to retain our good name as a leading business centre we must do better.

There is another school of thought that indicates a market is not necessary. It makes a lot of work, brings the crowd all in one day, to the detriment of other trading days.

There is some truth in this argument too, but the merchants should consider the whole matter. Market hall accommodation can be found without trouble, if a market is considered an advantage to better trade. However, if the majority of merchants are against a market, then it might be better to drop the effort entirely. It is up to the business interests to settle this matter.

Women Drive More Safely

Men drivers are so much more numerous than women drivers that it is not surprising that men motorists are responsible for most of the traffic accidents in Ontario. But the larger number of men who operate cars is not the only important reason for men being involved in a larger number of accidents. The records suggest that men drive more recklessly than women do.

Official figures for the year 1946 show that for every hundred women drivers in Ontario there were only .67 accidents whereas for every hundred men drivers there were 2.83 accidents. In other words, men caused more than four times as many accidents as women did in proportion to their numbers.

Women drive more slowly than do men and with more consideration for the rights of other motorists and of pedestrians. They may drive more hesitantly, on the whole, and not signal their intentions as well as do men. But they keep their cars under better control and do not take so many desperate chances. Fewer of them drive when inebriated.

Destructive Field Mice

Farmers have to contend with many pests that destroy their crops. One of the most damaging is the field mouse, of which there are many varieties. They are most prevalent in the West, but the amount of damage caused by this pest in Western Ontario is greater than the average farmer realizes.

Kerry Wood, writing in the Family Herald and Weekly Star, reports that during the bad year of 1942-43, farmers in Alberta and Western Saskatchewan found as many as 30 field mice under a single stook, and as snow delayed threshing until spring, the average yield was 20 bushels compared with an expected 40, the mice having eaten the rest. Field mice were so plentiful that threshing machines ran red with blood and the works were clogged with mashed bodies, while farmers themselves suffered from an ailment called "mouse ringworm" or "mouse eczema." Such a plague can occur again—and it may spread into Ontario.

The mice breed rapidly, having five or six litters a year of six to eight youngsters, which start raising families of their own at three months.

Research has shown that each mouse can eat 30 pounds of green stuff a year, so that 60 of them will eat one ton.

What protection has the farmer against field mice? It is pointed out that a single weasel will kill hundreds of mice in a season. Weasels, unfortunately, also kill poultry out of sheer murderous instinct. Next come owls and hawks. Foxes and skunks are also mice killers, although the latter prefer grasshoppers which are another farm pest.

Possibly field mice are becoming so much of a problem because so many of their enemies are being destroyed, thus upsetting the "balance of nature." The indiscriminate shooting of hawks is partly responsible. So says Dr. J. D. Detwiler, professor of zoology at Western University. He points out that repeated examination of stomachs of at least six common types of Western Ontario hawks show they eat practically nothing but field mice which are destructive to small trees and crops.

SEE HOT CONTEST FOR COUNTY WARDEN

With only a few municipalities yet to hold their elections, the 1948 York county council picture finds many new faces, and some hot electioneering in the interim between election and council sittings for the office of warden. Reeve Boynton Weldrick, Vaughan township; Reeve Kenneth Thompson, Weston; and Reeve John L. Strath, New Toronto, have already announced their candidatures. Reeve Weldrick has been in county council longer than either of his opponents and is expected to poll heavily from the rural areas. Reeve Thompson is heavily favored in the southern part of the county, while Reeve Strath, who previous to this year served as deputy-reeve to Ex-Warden William McDonald, has also strong support.

Send The Tribune to absent friends.

THEY HELP THEMSELVES FROM AROUND NEWMARKET

Turkeys have been stolen in large numbers from three different owners around Newmarket in the last couple of weeks, according to the Era and Express. Mrs. William Sweezy Sr., R.R.2, Newmarket, said that they had 15 turkeys and about dozen chickens stolen a week ago Thursday. In the brooder house was found an empty bag of dog food, and two chicken heads were also left by the thieves.

Last Friday night, Mrs. Len Selby, Sharon, had a number of turkeys stolen and Sam Mitchell, who lives between Newmarket and Bogartown, had from 22 to 25 turkeys stolen.

"The Egg and I" is coming to the Stanley Theatre on January 12 and 13, with three showings each night. Then on January 16 and 17 "The Royal Wedding in technicolor"



"I would hesitate even to pretend to say anything about conditions, had I not had the opportunities I have mentioned, and had I not received a good deal by way of what one would regard as inside information, I might call it more accurately authoritative information, in regard to what is taking place at the present time," said Premier Mackenzie King referring to his observations abroad and hinting about the seriousness of current world developments in his report to Parliament.

"There seems to be little doubt in the minds of those who are close to the matter, that if Western Europe cannot be saved from the appalling position in which it is at the present time, if there are to continue to be millions of people with insufficient food and clothing, if there is to continue to be social unrest fomented from underground sources, the whole continent may get more or less out of hand altogether," Premier King declared in part. "I think I have said sufficient to indicate that I believe there has not been a time, except prior to the recent war, when matters were shaping in such a threatening manner as they are at the present time. While it is difficult to suggest what can be done to meet the situation, perhaps the first step in that direction is to realize, that the situation is indeed a very serious one."

Reading between the lines of this significant statement in the House of Commons it should not be difficult for the man-in-the-street to comprehend the seriousness of the situation, especially when these words come from not only the head of the Canadian Government but one of the most experienced in the British Commonwealth.

With the Government aiming to speed up the process of passing the emergency measures before Parliament because conditions appear to warrant such speed, there has been observed strong objection against this speed, especially on the part of some private members, so that unusual excitement has resulted in this session, with conditions being aggravated in no small measure by the apparent pressure being put on members by representations of businessmen and others who are worried about the changes in their operations through the latest enactments affecting business and

the cost of living. Even simple motions or questions of procedure have been arousing much excitement early in this new session and this atmosphere is being interpreted as a forerunner of things to come, probably resulting in one of most exciting peacetime sessions in Canada's history and reflecting the frame of mind of the legislators.

"If I am to resume my seat I shall go back and tell my people that no longer can we proceed with the debate on the speech from the throne as we have done in the past, and that the farmers cannot have the members who represent them in Parliament air their grievances," said one prominent Opposition MP, speaking on a question of procedure. "That they must air them in the garages and barber shops and that the business people must air them in the offices of their executives. I did not come here for that purpose. I could be employed in other places. No hon. member came here for that purpose. We did not accept an increased indemnity to do less in this House."

The statement, reportedly made by External Affairs Minister St. Laurent at a political gathering that he prefers "the family allowances be paid than to grant these exemptions," referring to Roman Catholic Bishops of Quebec's request that present income tax exemptions be raised, may have been a purely personal opinion but it has caused much gossip on Parliament Hill as possibly a hint of things to come. It is interpreted as meaning that possibly tax exemptions may not be raised next year.

Charges that the National Film Board of Canada has a "nucleus of Communists" are practically ridiculed here, though officials refuse even to comment.

A delegation from the Canadian Chamber of Commerce interviewed Finance Minister Abbott in Ottawa where the group claimed "business profits had been so marginal as to be an insignificant factor in the upward spiral of prices."

Chateau Laurier Hotel in this capital is jammed with worried businessmen as a result of the new import restrictions and excise taxes, rivalling now in political "tips" Parliament Hill itself.

Milk sales are said to be dropping across Canada as a result of rising price, an undesirable development from a health point of view.

FIRST SINCE 1899

Listowel residents are going to vote for a deputy reeve this year for the first time since 1899.

Listowel is now eligible to send two representatives to Perth County Council. And with more than 300 names of tenants and owners added to the voters list the town now boasts of 1297 electors.

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