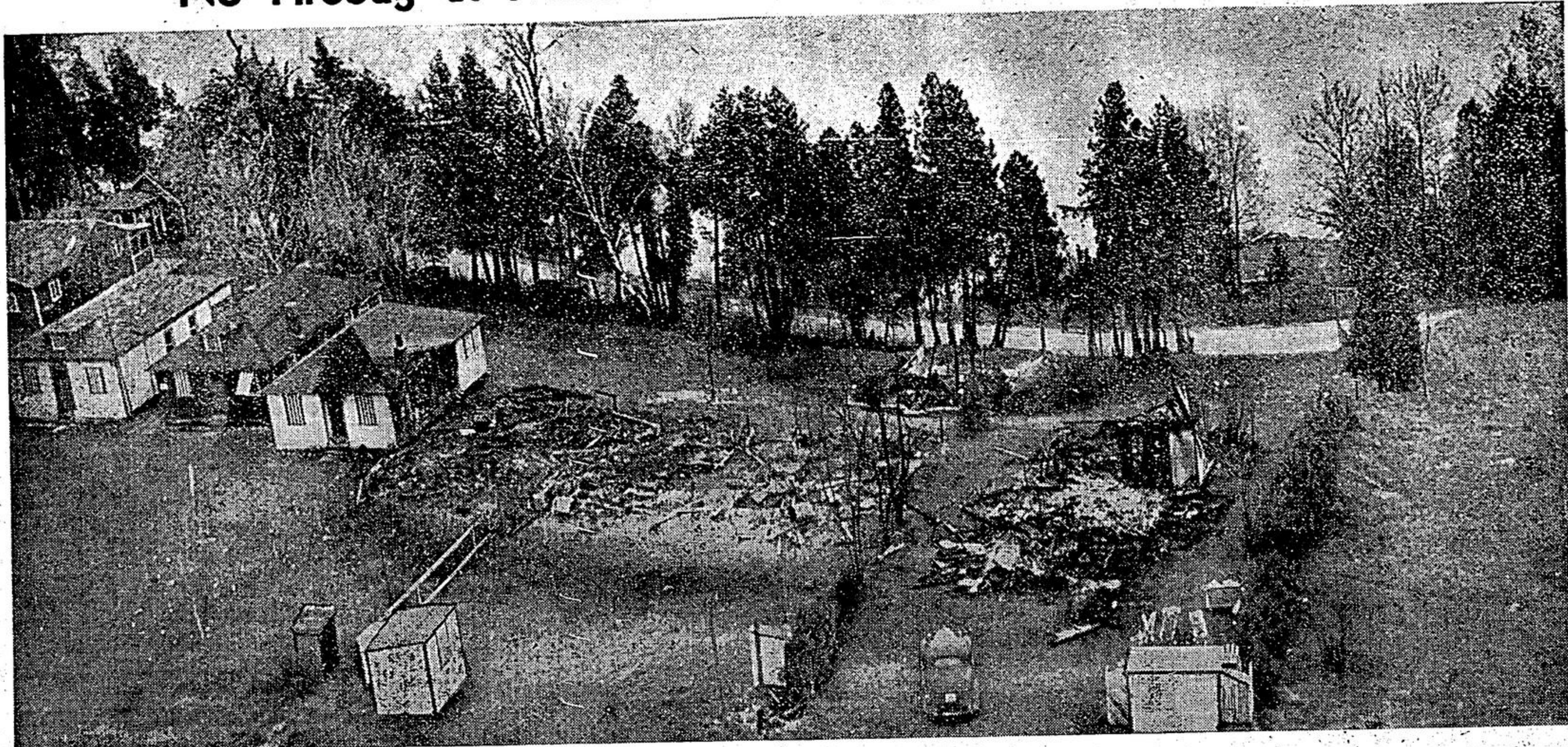


## No Firebug at Musselman's Lake, Residents There Affirm



With two big fires at Musselman's Lake last week within two days, the daily press got excited about a "fire bug" and sent out suggestions the cottages might have been "fired" by some individual. However residents at the lake scout any such suggestion. They point out that Toronto people, owners of the cottages, were out during the first outbreak and one was lost one night later. Had a water supply been more readily available one cottage would have been saved at the first fire, according to a statement by Chief Del Jennings of Stouffville. He favors trenches being dug to allow the water to run in from the lake to firm ground where the fire truck can readily run alongside. One near Davies pavilion was found inadequate to enable the fire engine to get near the water, and the chief says ramps are not the answer. Fire engine equipment wants to stand sidewise to the water, not endwise. During the first fire the Stouffville brigade sent up a second engine carrying additional hose since the fire was around 1000 feet or more from the lake, and that took a long stretch of hose. A second menace to fire at Musselman's is the close proximity of one cottage to another. The five cottages burned the first night were so close they could almost be touched from one to the other with the two hands. "This is a thing I have contended against all along," said Clerk John Crawford who took a lively interest in drafting the township building bylaw. Many cottages, of course, were built before there were any regulations.

### NOTES and COMMENTS

#### Nailing The Fate of Nails.

Canada is going to get 138,000 kegs of nails from the United States, and now the unions are sending the builders on strike, so that hundreds of thousands of nails that might be used this summer will not be required. Hundreds of would-be home builders are afraid to start building because of great costs, which the strikers will send even higher, — but there will be a saving of nails, yet what good are nails if they are not used?

#### Ontario C.C.F. Leader Is Lawyer

In critical mood, in a speech at Sarnia the other day, Arthur Williams, C.C.F., M.P. for Ontario county said: "There are 87 lawyers in the House of Commons — if it sounds like liars — I have a Scottish accent." But doesn't he know that the C.C.F. leader in Ontario is E. B. Jolliffe, C.C.F., M.P.P., who also is a lawyer?

#### Blueberry Plants

There is talk of attempts to cultivate the Canadian blueberry on the peat soil of Scotland where other crops have failed and, indeed, 40 plants have crossed the Atlantic to be used in such an experiment. They have done so well that already the Scots are talking about the creation of a new industry which will put to useful service thousands of acres of peaty soil upon which nothing else of value will grow.—The Brockville Recorder and Times.

#### Monday for Holidays

The demand that more of our national holidays be observed Mondays has been sounded loud and long. At last the federal government has indicated that it intends to do something about it. Mr. Gibson, acting secretary of state, said so shortly before Parliament was dissolved. The change will not be made, of course, until the new Parliament meets in the fall.

Victoria Day is a case in point. This year, May 24 falls on a Tuesday. How much pleasanter for all if it were observed on Monday, May 23, allowing everyone to have a long weekend.

It is not just a matter for "the convenience of business and those who go to country camps and resorts," as Mr. Gibson said; the benefit of rest and relaxation over a two or three-day holiday are shared by all, and are certainly much greater than if the holiday is a one-day break only, in the middle of the week.

Christmas and New Year's Day will continue to be observed on the days on which they fall. That is as it should be.

#### Good Times Continue

Statistical reports of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics prove a very effective answer to those who, earlier in the year, saw a business recession on the horizon. In nearly every field in which reports are made, new high levels of business and industry have been recorded for recent weeks. Here are some of the highlights which show that times continue to be good in Canada:

Department store sales for the week ending April 16 were fifteen per cent higher than for the same week last year. All retail sales for February were five per cent higher than last year.

Industrial employment on March 1 index stood at 189.2, as compared with 188.9 a year ago.

Industrial payrolls were 10.3 per cent higher in March this year than in March of 1948.

Canadian labor income in February was up \$59,000,000 over February, 1948.

Weekly earnings of employees in industry averaged \$44.34 in March, as compared with \$40.23 in the same period last year.

These statistics do not give much indication of a recession. They show that Canadian business and industry are maintaining their activities at a high level, and that there does not seem to be any diminution in the purchasing power and general prosperity of the people of this country.

#### New Type of Farmers

Recently, 36 young men were graduated from the two year course at the Agricultural College at Guelph. Practically all — 33 to be exact — went back to the farm, in most cases their own. In fact, according to reliable sources, more agricultural college graduates on a per capita basis are going back to farms in Canada than in any other country.

In the light of the worrisome problem of how to keep the boy on the farm, these facts are most encouraging indeed. They not only forecast a brighter future for Canadian agriculture, but can help make Canada one of the world's most progressive food producing nations.

Some oldtimers may regard this return of the college-bred boy to the farm with derision. Even some parents who paid for their son's education will rebel when the youngster suggests a revision of time-tried farming practices. "You can't plow a field with a diploma" is an expression too often heard in several sections of the country.

Such an attitude is non-sensical. There is much behind that diploma. There are years of intense classroom study; practical work on the best experimental farms on the continent; scientific research in laboratories. Yes, a diploma can plow, can sow and, most important, can reap.

The public spirited scientifically-trained farmer may well become the leader in his community by helping solve the problems of his less informed neighbors. If he fails to share his knowledge, he may as well have not gone to school.

#### In Ontario Riding

With a Progressive-Conservative candidate in the field, and the Liberals and C.C.F. holding their nominating conventions on May 11, it seems certain that there will be a three-cornered fight in the federal election in Ontario riding, which takes in all Pickering Township to the very outskirts of Stouffville, and it includes Oshawa. There is, however, a possibility that there will be more than three candidates in the field, since Labour-Progressives, or Communists, to give them their more familiar title, may also enter the campaign in this riding.

Ontario Riding, until the by-election of 1948, has since Confederation been fair fighting ground for the two major political parties. There has been a periodical change from Liberal to Conservative and vice versa. Third party candidates met with no success until last year, when the C.C.F. captured the seat in the by-election caused by the death of the late W. E. N. Sinclair, K.C. The C.C.F. member, Arthur Williams, secured so large a plurality in the city of Oshawa and the immediate suburbs that his opponents could not overtake his lead through their votes in the rural sections.

With a general election in progress across Canada, the campaign in Ontario riding will be much more intense than was the case in the by-election last year, the Oshawa Times-Gazette prophesies. There will be more clearly defined issues than was the case then. The impact of the Dominion-wide campaign, absent in the by-election, will be felt in the campaign during the next eight weeks.

So, just as Ontario riding has always been good fighting ground for all parties in the past, it can be expected that, no matter who the candidates are, this will be a keenly-contested election, with the result uncertain until the last ballot is counted.

### The Royal Family



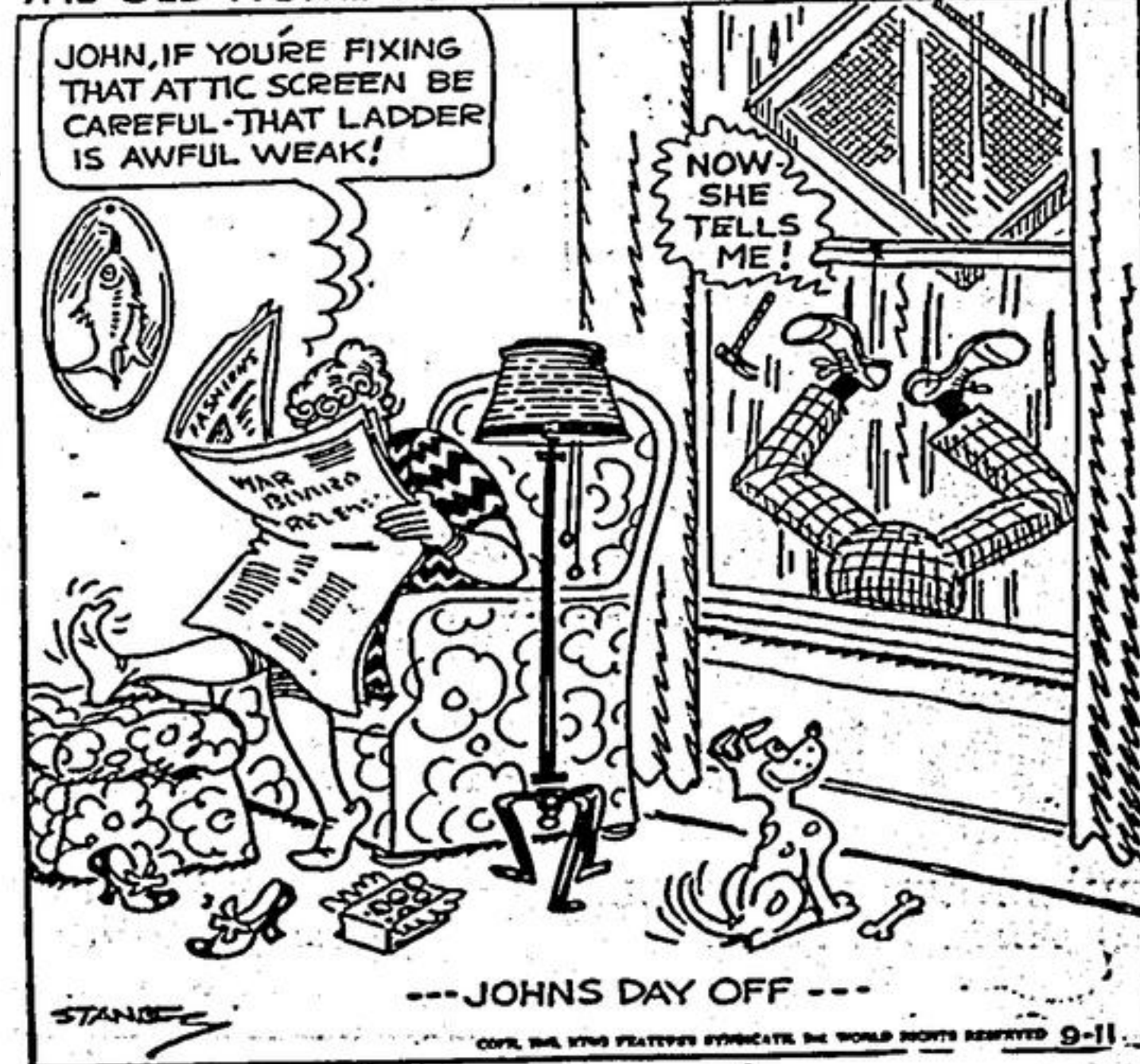
Posing for an intimate family group picture in Buckingham Palace, London, Prince Philip and Princess Elizabeth are anxious to co-operate with the photographer but Prince Charles has suddenly decided to focus his attention elsewhere. Father appears not too sure of himself as he holds the little fellow aloft for the cameraman, while mother wears a very proud smile.

A philosopher is one who, instead of crying over spilt milk, consoles himself with the thought that is was four-fifths water anyway.

The trouble with life is that it's too much like the movies.

The average gardener has already discovered how easy it is to raise blisters.

### THE OLD HOME TOWN



---JOHN'S DAY OFF---

Copyright U. S. Patent Office By STANLEY  
COPY, THE KING PUBLISHING COMPANY, THE WORLD BROTHERS PUBLISHING CO.