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Smith Farmer Acquitted On Theft of Horse

No man who takes possession of property in the honest belief that it is his own is guilty of theft, even if his belief is not one which a normal man might have. That was magistrate R. R. Philp's judgment in court at Peterborough, when he acquitted Thos. Hetherington, a farmer of Smith township Wednesday, of stealing a mare from Albert White, 109 Bennett St. and John Heard, 102 Bennett St.

Although the charge of theft of the mare was dismissed, there is no reason why civil action to determine rightful ownership of the mare, should not be taken, the magistrate told White and Heard. Heard and White said they had bought the mare from Hetherington, each having a half share, nearly three years ago. On May 15 she disappeared and Heard discovered a few days later that Hetherington had the mare on his farm.

Both men said that when they had gone to ask Hetherington for the mare he had asked them for another \$200, saying he had sold the mare too cheaply. He refused to let them take the mare without further payment.

Hetherington said that when he sold the mare he had asked for \$500. White, with whom he had made the deal, would give him only \$225, which was paid in cash. Hetherington said that he accepted the \$225 on the understanding that the horse should be trained for racing and that he would receive additional sum up to \$500 if the horse made good.

There were several charges and counter charges from Hetherington on the one hand and White and Heard on the other concerning the ability of the various parties to train horses.

White and Heard denied having made any such arrangement with Hetherington and claimed that they were the rightful owners and owed nothing to Hetherington.

Hetherington said that when Heard visited his farm a second time for the mare, he told him he could drive it out but would not allow him to put her in his stables. The mare had foaled a day or two after going to Hetherington's farm.

There could be no sweeter music now than the sound of raindrops.

B.C. COUPLE MARRIED 50 YRS., WIFE LOCAL NATIVE

Vernon, B.C., June 10—It does not take gold in its literal interpretation to make happiness, is demonstrated by Mr. and Mrs. William Campbell, 2802 35th Street, Vernon, who will celebrate their golden wedding Tuesday. They first came to Vernon in 1935. For some years Mr. Campbell was in the employ of the Vernon School Board.

They will celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of their wedding in their comfortable home with its lovely garden, in the company of two or more of their four children, and their many friends.

Mr. Campbell has a memory for dates, times and places, which would put any young person to shame. Dramatically, in an interview with The Vernon News, he recalled the vicissitudes of fortune through the past half century which have been their lot. They saw the gold of a bumper wheat crop laid low year after year, by hail, drought, grasshoppers and rust, meanwhile folding close those intangible things which misfortune cannot touch.

Mr. Campbell is a native of Woodville, Ont. Mrs. Campbell, born Eva Mary Wagner at Stouffville, Ont., to Mr. and Mrs. Frank Wagner, is of Pennsylvania Dutch ancestry. The Rev. Peter E. J. Bridgeman married them in the Baptist Church at Lakefield, Ont., on June 14, 1899. Best man was the bride's only brother, Geo. W. Wagner, now in California, and planning to be in Vernon next week for the golden wedding; and Miss Edith Campbell, cousin of the groom.

The couple came west a few years later, and arrived in Regina on April 23, 1906. A miller by trade, Mr. Campbell was employed by the Regina Flour Mills for a year. In February, 1908, the mill burned down. In March, Mr. and Mrs. Campbell left for their homestead 50 miles northwest of Moose Jaw. The post office was, and still is known as Eyebrow. The C.P.R. steel was laid through Eyebrow a few months later.

In 20 years, from March 1908 to 1928, Mr. and Mrs. Campbell had only one good wheat crop.

At the mercy of the elements, as well as grasshoppers and rust, summer after summer brought succeeding misfortunes.

In 1948 they sold their homestead to the Mennonites. That year Mr. Campbell operated Ogilvie's elevators at Brownlee, close by. And again misfortune stepped in, for that summer saw a record wheat crop harvested, with 112,000 bushels of wheat going through the eleva-

tors. The next, and several consecutive years only 1,00 bushels went through.

No One Could Make Money

Meanwhile, Mrs. Campbell and her daughter, by that time a registered nurse, operated a "cottage hospital" in the district. On October 1, 1929, the elevator closed. Loading a car with their household effects, a few implements and a team, the Campbell family set off for High Prairie, Alberta. Although not a profitable undertaking, the succeeding five years were happy ones.

At High Prairie, there were trees; there was water; there were gentler winters and kinder summers. But the times were such that no one could make money. The produce of the mixed farm could not be given away.

Once more the family tore up its roots. It was 1935 by this time, and they came to Vernon; "looked around here" and what they saw pleased them. However, they were determined to see what else B.C. had to offer, so they turned Vancouver Island, the Fraser Valley and elsewhere.

"At noon one day I said to my son: 'Let's go back to Vernon,'" Mr. Campbell reminisces.

In 1936, Mr. Campbell bought five acres of orchard on Lake Drive. There was little or nothing in fruit in those days, and he lost his hold-

ing.

In 1937 Lady Luck looked in Mr. Campbell's direction. This time she smiled. Vernon School Board offered Mr. Campbell a post in the new High School as caretaker of the building. This position he held until 1943, when the family went to Vancouver for three years, returning to Vernon in 1946.

The words they pledged 50 years ago: "For better, for worse," have never been more truly exemplified than in the lives of this pioneer Canadian couple.

Their orderly, comfortable home, with all modern conveniences, lies back among shade trees. Their son, Allan Campbell, now in Edmonton, helped them build on to the original dwelling which was their first home here. They also own adjoining property.

They have four children, Allan Campbell of Edmonton, Alta.; Ford Campbell, Steelhead, 4 miles from Stave Falls; Miss Jean R. Campbell and Mrs. R. Forest, both of Edmonton, Alta.

In its native habitat, tropical America, mahogany, the "Premier cabinet wood of the world" is used mainly for firewood and rough construction.

It's about time for the past-middle-aged people to begin dreading their annual vacation.

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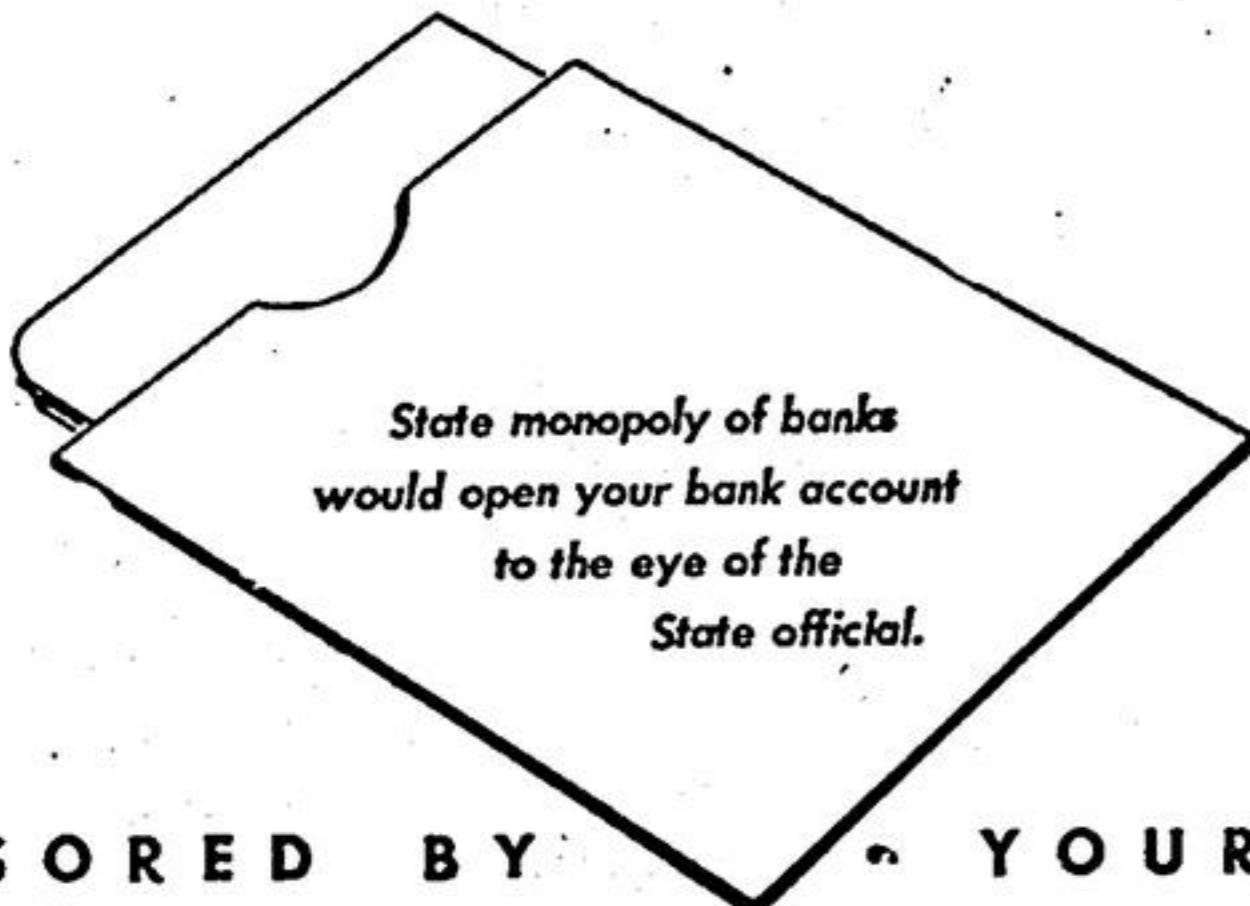
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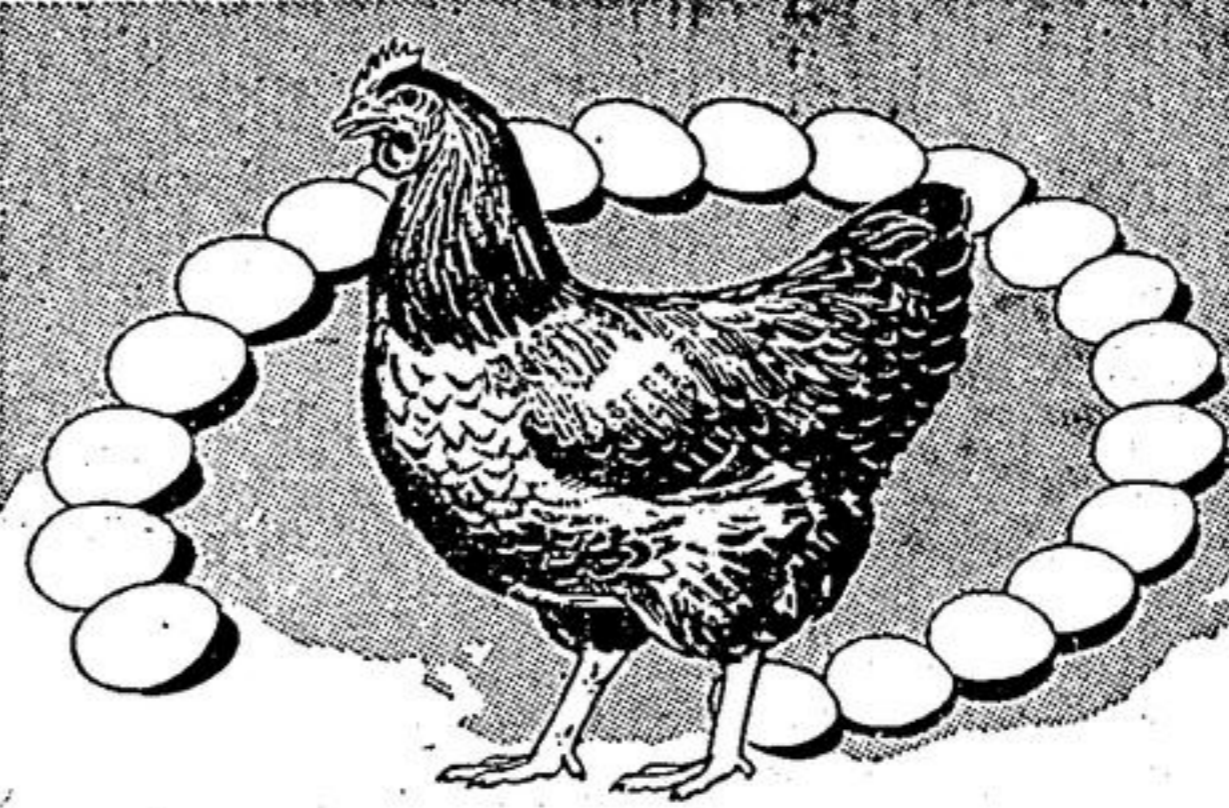
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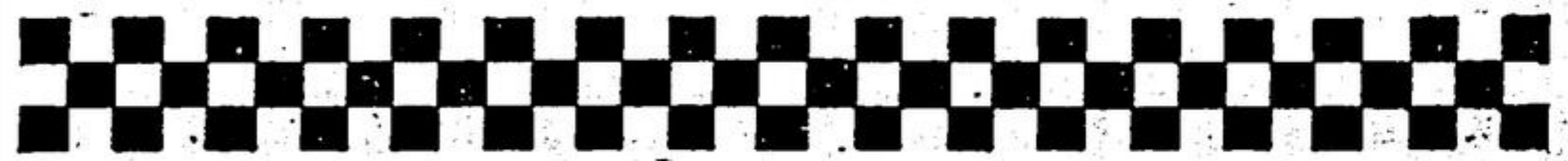
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