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NOTES and COMMENTS

Apprentice Farmers

Apprentice farmers will soon be working on farms in Scotland. An agreement has been made between the Ministry of Labor, farmers and trade unions for a three-year apprenticeship scheme.

In the past farmers in Britain have had to draw new recruits to agriculture from the sons of plowmen and farm workers. The new scheme will offer opportunity to those young men who have a leaning towards a life on the land to acquire the necessary technical education for this skilled work. In addition to gaining experience through practical farm work they will be able to study soil chemistry and other related subjects essential to success in farming.

Shortage of Cement

It is rather queer that cement is being imported from Belgium and Britain to meet the unprecedented demand in Canada. One would think war devastated Europe would require all it can produce. Some is being imported, too, from the United States.

Though the shortage in Canada proves the expansionist period of our building and construction industries, it also is curious in this country we cannot meet our own needs. We have the raw materials available, but sufficient facilities are not available to produce enough cement.

Which indicates that mergers are not necessarily the answer to production. Three decades or more ago small cement factories were dotted about Ontario. Most of them were owned by the individual operators, though a few were operated by something resembling a co-operative.

Along came the era of the big mergers. Under the slogan of increased efficiency and reduced costs, these cement plants were gobbled up and almost invariably closed up. The cement merger was one of the coups which made Lord Beaverbrook, then Max Aitken, a millionaire before he was 30 years of age.

If all those cement plants, then closed, were now in operation, Canada might not need to import cement from the United States, Britain and Belgium.—Windsor Star.

Whippoorwill

The whippoorwill is a most unusual bird. It can't really sing a note, yet its call is known and even admired by most Americans. Probably not half those who recognize the call have ever seen the bird, which is a long-winged, mottled brown creature with a small beak and a big mouth.

It spends most of the daylight hours dozing and out of sight, but as soon as dusk descends it makes the world its own. It takes to the air and catches insects with great dexterity; it perches on poles and trees and goes into its vocal performance.

If the whippoorwill uttered its call as most birds do, pausing for breath and a look around between phrases, it would be just another bird. But it doesn't do things that way. It starts that three-note call and keeps on going with what must be the most repetitious bird song ever uttered on this earth. You listen to its start and wonder how long it will continue this time.

You begin to count, and just about the time you are practically hypnotized by the call's rhythm the bird skips half a beat to catch a breath. Then the call goes on, and on, and on. It is no feat at all for a whippoorwill to utter its three-note phrase with virtually no pause 75 times in a row.—New York Times.

Oil For The Fires of Canada

The heat will be on. That is a guarantee, but not of election heat, or summer heat, but of winter warmth in houses and other buildings heated by oil furnaces. The Department of Trade has announced that there will be ample supplies of oil and of tanks in which to store the oil. A chief reason for the alarming shortage in the winter of 1947-48 was the lack of tanks; there had not been enough available steel from which to make them.

It is interesting to recall the adventures of oil for heating during the last twenty years. In 1929 oil furnaces were rarities, and whether there would be oil or not in any one winter bothered nobody. It was the coal and wood supplies that concerned people — and the costs. By 1939 many of our home furnaces were oil-burning. It was thought that the war with its armies on wheels and its oil-burning ships would put an end to supplies for domestic school and office purposes. Some users of oil went back to coal, and stored their oil burners "for the duration". But regulations and the oil supplies permitted their use all through the war. In 1945 people began to install oil furnaces as fast as they could get them. One incentive was coal-miners' strikes and the shortage of railway carriers for coal; oil requires little manual labour to produce, and most of it is carried by ship or piped from sources to depots. However, in 1947-48 oil became scarce. Places which had gone back to coal in 1939, then to oil in 1944-45, wished again that they had coal-burning furnaces in 1947-48. This winter oil-users at least will have heat.

TELL FARMERS PLANT CORN CONSERVE HAY

The Ontario Agricultural Department suggests that farmers plant corn to fight the loss in hay crop due to the drought of the past three weeks.



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A statement by the Crops, Seeds and Weeds Branch of the Department says that corn may be sown as late as June 25th in many sections of Ontario and, if moisture conditions are favorable, a substantial crop may be expected.

The department says that new seedlings have made little or no headway in the past two weeks and it suggests that late-sown corn may meet the emergency.

It's recommended that the farmers give particular attention to the type of seed they use, making sure it is one of the early hybrid varieties. Supplies of high quality seed corn are ample in all varieties.

The Congo River in Africa was discovered by the Portuguese navigator Cao eight years before Columbus discovered America.

Peru has winter and summer at the same time. When it's winter in the mountains it's summer on the coast and vice versa.

The Mackenzie River is the longest river in Canada, although it ranks only fourteenth in the world.

Well-Known Uxbridge Doctor Dead

Dr. R. B. E. Wilson, 54, practicing physician in Uxbridge for the past 28 years, died in Newmarket Hospital Friday morning after a week's illness.

Born in Woodstock, N.B., he received his early education there, leaving school to enlist in the 24th Battalion of Victoria Rifles, Montreal, and served overseas during the First World War. He became a first lieutenant and won the Military Cross.

Upon his return he became a teacher and later was graduated from the University of Manitoba with an M.D., after which he settled in Uxbridge.

BY A LIFE-LONG LIBERAL

Mr. George McCullagh, publisher of The Globe and Mail, having made a tour of observation, in European countries, has recently—in a non-political address, at a club luncheon, in Toronto—related his experiences.

So important has that speech been deemed to be, that it has been printed in pamphlet form. The outstanding impression that was made upon Mr. McCullagh, during his tour, was the high estimation with which Canada is regarded in European countries. So pronounced was this attitude, in Europe, that Mr. McCullagh was very proud of the fact that he was a Canadian.

Of course the high position which Canada now occupies, in international affairs, is the result of her achievements in the recent war, and also is a result of her leadership at international conferences. The position to which she has attained is a matter for justifiable pride to all Canadians and to all Canadians credit is due; but it is self-evident that the Ottawa Government must be credited with having organized and focused the national effort so as to produce the result which has made Mr. George McCullagh so proud.

This being so it is interesting to recall the dire prophecies of inevitable disaster which were made by Mr. McCullagh's paper, and Conservative spokesmen, while Mr. King, and his colleagues, were formulating, and directing the policies which have produced such satisfactory results. In January 1942 the Conservative party persuaded the Right Hon. Arthur Meighen to leave his safe anchorage, in the Senate, and to venture, once more

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Note: This is one of the really good pictures of the year.

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on the open and stormy sea of political strife and a bye-election was held, in an attempt to find a seat for Mr. Meighen. Judging from the speeches that were made, and the editorials that were written in support of Mr. Meighen, there was on one hand—a Government composed of inefficient office-holders, whose administration was "shameful"; "humiliating to Canada"; "disgraceful"; even "criminal", while on the other hand there was an official opposition that was just "rarin' to go" and which would be invincible if it had at its head the Right Hon. Arthur Meighen.

Well!—Mr. Meighen was defeated and the Government of the day continued on its "disgraceful" course with the happy result to which Mr. George McCullagh bears witness today, as he swells with pride when he remembers that he is a Canadian.

Canada has grown up; she is today a power in international affairs and the issues confronting the electors, are not local trivialities, such as whether Premier Smallwood, of Newfoundland, was joking or threatening when he made his now famous speech.

Great international problems are the issues with which our country is confronted. If the nations fail to solve these problems the world faces disaster, and every individual in Canada will suffer hardship, as a consequence of the failure. If these problems are solved other problems will begin to adjust themselves to the improved conditions.

Granted that we have arrived at a satisfactory solution of pressing world problems, international tensions will decrease; with this decrease confidence concerning the future, will return; expenditures on problems of defence can be decreased; our energies can be directed towards profitable production; the burden of taxation can be decreased, and the cost of living will fall.

The present Government is composed of men who are familiar with every phase of the development of our international problems, from the day that they appeared as clouds on the political horizon. The Prime Minister, and the Minister for External Affairs have been closely associated with the efforts that have been made to solve them. Surely it cannot be that the electors of Canada—at this most critical period—will dismiss these men and put in their places men, who may be able, but who are untried, and are certainly inexperienced? Alex. D. Bruce, R.R. 1, Unionville

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