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NOTES and COMMENTS

Rest Homes Needed, Not Hospitals

Ontario County Council last week refused a grant of \$10,000 to a proposed hospital in Port Perry. Too high, said fifteen of the members. There is some justification in their refusal. Too many small towns are trying to establish hospitals, even in the face of the established fact that almost every public hospital in Ontario fails to balance its maintenance and capital expenditures with available receipts.

The larger hospitals all run "in the red" too on maintenance account, and one needs to ask who will make up the loss? Is the village of Port Perry prepared to meet the annual deficit that will surely accrue?

What this province needs is more rest homes and not small hospitals. The fully equipped hospitals should be enlarged rather than smaller ones added over the province.

Many hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of equipment goes into fully equipped hospitals, and this equipment services 300 or 500 beds in a hospital. It is not feasible to have all this expensive equipment in every town in closely knitted territory.

For this reason we feel that well equipped nursing homes would meet our deficit confronting all public hospitals.

Get That Furnace Ready

According to a bulletin just issued to the National Solid Fuel Institute, householders will need to take extra care of their heating equipment this winter to get maximum benefit from their fuel. Coal for domestic use — practically all of it imported from the United States — may be in short supply, and this means that the demand for Canadian made coke will be heavy.

Increases which have had to be made in the price of solid fuel because of devaluation average about \$1.70 a ton. For the consumer who uses seven tons, his total extra cost for the year is \$11.90. This is a substantial amount but proper care of the heating system will help beat the extra cost.

Few homes with new furnaces begin regular servicing of their equipment during the first year of use. Most home owners who do look after their heating at all, according to N.S.F.I. surveys, start inspections, cleaning and painting after the five year mark. And in many houses, such attention is neglected entirely until there is a breakdown.

The result is that the operating efficiency of the heating system gradually deteriorates. "Summer rot", or corrosion, is a furnace killer. Fire-pot, furnace doors and the combustion chamber develop air leaks which reduce the heat or take more and more fuel to maintain a constant temperature.

Markham Township Reeve Demands Look Right

Reeve Vern Griffin of Markham Township is on the right track, we believe, when he comes out in favor of forcing the municipalities of the County of York to observe the law in respect to the Assessment Act regarding what is known as "Clause 57a."

This section of the Act requires municipalities to assess buildings in process of construction during the year they are being built. If a property only had the foundation constructed, then that foundation would be valued by the assessor, and if a house had the roof on but no windows, it too would bear a certain value. All-in-all this valuation throughout the County of York would run into millions each year.

Two years ago the County Council of York agreed among members that each municipality could retain all the taxes they collected under this clause, and that the county should be given none of it. Obviously since the southern municipalities each have hundreds of thousands of new assessments in their respective places, they were mighty glad to escape remitting any part of the taxes therefrom to the county coffers.

Unfortunately the northern members did not see the full implication of such an agreement and nearly all reeves and deputies agreed to waive claim to taxes under 57a as a county councillor. Of course, the whole thing was illegal.

Now Reeve Griffin points out that the more settled municipalities, including Markham, are being "gipped" as a result of the illegal "gentlemen's agreement." He wants the county to collect its dues under 57a, and while Markham, Whitchurch, Stouffville and other northern municipalities will have to contribute, they will in the long run, gain much because the southern places are growing by leaps and bounds, and new assessment from buildings in course of construction, is enormous.

Everybody will hope that Reeve Griffin presses hard his fight to enforce this section of the assessment, and he is entitled to expect the support of the great majority of county councillors.

Our Sorry Indian Record

When it comes to telling other people how they should or should not treat their minority racial groups, Canadians are outspoken enough, states The Financial Post. That being the case our own treatment of the native population we took over with the country must puzzle outsiders.

After more than two centuries of white man's rule the average red man is still without a vote, still without a dominant voice in the management of his own property and in many districts still without an education. And despite these handicaps the Indians of this country have made a substantial contribution, out of all proportion to their numbers, to our national defense and to our literature and general development.

Our record in dealing with the Indian race is not one of which we can boast. For years we have been talking about extending full citizenship privileges to the Indian. Long before this they should have been offered.

The Decline of Spanking

In Atlanta for three days last week the nation's organized grandmothers, in convention assembled, swapped ideas on how to bring up children. It is reported that "don't spank" was the cardinal rule emerging from these discussions. This decision of more than 400 representative grandmothers confirms again a tender trend which has been plainly evident in the 50 or more uneasy years since grandpa was a boy and spanking was a terminal occurrence of corrective necessity and small rarity.

We speak of "grandpa" in this punitive connection, for in the good old days of spanking it was always boys who suffered that chastisement which had Solomon for its best-known sponsor. Little girls were immune from any of those parentally imposed visits to a barn and a barrel-stave

HERE'S HOW FOOD PRICES COULD BE REDUCED AND FARMERS STILL PROSPER

(By Financial Editor Toronto Daily Star)

President Truman's ambitious plan to permit food prices to drop to lower levels and, at the same time, guarantee American farmers present high returns for their production, has fallen by the wayside for this year at least.

Congress approved a compromise farm bill that meets only one of the objectives. It provides for continued high government price support for major farm commodities. But in doing so it virtually precludes any real reduction in the retail price of food which is perhaps the most important factor in today's high cost of

living.

Has New Approach

The significant thing about the president's plan, however, is not that it was defeated. That was expected this year. Instead, its real importance lies in the new approach it offered to the high food price problem. Since this is something that applies equally as much to Canada as to the United States, it is a matter of interest to both Canadian farmers and consumers.

In the United States today, as in Canada, it is widely recognized that farmers must receive a fair return for their products or the whole economy will suffer. Farm prices determine the level of farm

income. And if farm income drops off sharply, farm spending is sharply reduced and business of all kinds is adversely affected.

Recognition of the importance of farm prices has led to various schemes to try and stabilize farm income at fair or so-called parity levels. In the United States, this has been done by a system of government price supports which establish floor prices under the basic farm commodities. The average support price for wheat for 1948-49, for example, was \$2 a bushel; corn, \$1.44; oats, 70 cents; barley, \$1.15.

Several Support Plan

In actual practice, there are several methods of supporting prices. The chief one is by means of a government loan up to the parity value of the commodity. If the market price rises above the parity price, the farmer can sell his crop and pay off the government loan. If the market price remains low, the government takes the commodity as full payment of the loan.

While this stabilizes farm income, it has produced other problems. One is that it tends to keep food prices at very high levels and very much to the disadvantage of consumers. Another, is that the guaranteed prices lead to surplus production that is wasted. The government cannot sell the farm commodities it buys at less than the parity price. When perishable commodities are involved, such as potatoes a year ago, this production is wasted.

The president's farm support plan, which was drafted by Secretary of Agriculture Brannan, sought to correct one of these problems—high food prices. It proposed that farm prices be permitted to find their own levels which virtually assured a reduction in some food prices. At the same time, it provided for direct cash payments to the farmers to make up the difference between the market price and what the government considered a fair price.

Bread Would Drop
Take wheat as an example. If

the parity price was fixed at \$2 per bushel, and the market price dropped to \$1.50, it would mean some reduction in the price of bread for consumers. The farmer, however, would still receive his \$2 bushel since the government would make up the difference, in this case 50 cents.

The major criticism of this plan is the money it would cost the government. If food prices were permitted to find their own levels, there probably would be sharp reductions in some lines. This would call for much heavier government spending than the present plan which requires the government only to buy up what amounts to the surplus production.

On the other hand, the plan seems to be one of the very few ways food prices can be reduced while, at the same time, maintaining farm income at fair levels. And certainly this is a great need today. Present food prices, although reasonable from the standpoint of producers, are out of line with the earnings of many workers.

GIVES HELPFUL MOTORIST \$1,000 BILL BY MISTAKE

Oakland, Calif., Oct. 20—John Kay, Danville building contractor, was driving from nearby Lafayette to Walnut Creek. His car sputtered to a stop—out of gas.

A friendly motorist in an old automobile, Kay said yesterday, stopped and offered to push his vehicle to a filling station.

"Thanks, and by yourself a drink," Kay said, pressing a bill on the other driver. The helpful motorist tried to refuse, but Kay insisted.

A few hours later Kay looked into his wallet. To his dismay, he said, he discovered that instead of a dollar, he had given his highway benefactor a \$1,000 bill.

A man should never be ashamed to own that he has been in the wrong; it is but saying in other words, that he is wiser today than he was yesterday.

A smile is contagious, but the health department doesn't object.

which were once a routine of domestic discipline as firmly established as the rulings of the Book of Proverbs.

Because of this family discrimination in spanking which restricted the painful ceremony to unfortunate young males, we are not sure that grandmothers are the best judges of whether or not spanking should vanish from a delinquent land and overall.

It is possible that because members of the National Grandmothers Club were themselves never spanked they now regard the handmade punishment as of little worth. Too, grandmothers are famous for their over-kindly attitude toward their children's children, and the term "grandma's boy" has often meant a particular product in any home lucky enough to possess a grandma.

In any event, we would prefer to hear grandmas polled on the subject of spanking. Some of the best home-grown, corn-fed spankees we ever knew in and out of "Who's Who" are today's grandpas.—New York Herald Tribune.

The Farmer's Dream

We were amused with a story read the other day and written by Albert Hines of the Nashville, Tennessee, about the glories of farming. While we know there is a great deal of glory to be had from farming the reasons advanced by Hines made us smile. Says he, "go when you like, get up when you like." Well, as our farm readers would say, "Just let Hines try it and see how long he would last on a farm. Why the mortgage would swallow him in a few years. However, here is Hines article:

"I am a farmer for the purpose of this article. I am the most independent chap on earth, being able to go home and come when I please, and to stay a spell between if I want to.

I don't have to look up to anybody. I don't have to punch a time clock. I can sleep till breakfast if I want to. I can plow by sunlight or moonlight, or both, or not at all.

Mother nature provides my every want, provided I cater to her whim and fancy. Daily I commune with her, and she tells me all that I need to know.

She lulls me to sleep with the patter of raindrops and with the singing of the wind and the chirp of the night things as they come and go outside my window. She wakes men with the rosy tints of dawn stealing over the mountain and filtering among the treetops.

When I feel the pangs of hunger, I go to the smokehouse and down a ham, or I drop a handful of corn on the ground and gather up a fryer, or, if I'm a vegetarian, I go out into the garden and gather a sackful of cabbage and beans and beets and tomatoes and corn.

I am the envy of all men, and at least 87 per cent of the women, and fully half the small fry. I don't know how lucky I am, living out here among the birds and the bees and the grasshoppers, sniffing the sweet scent of the wild flowers, secure in their peace of mind which the rest of mankind seek in vain.

Unlike the politician and the statesman, I am not harried by day and hounded by night. I can look the whole world in the face and smile that smile of superiority. My heritage is one to be proud of.

I feed the world. I clothe it. Should I go on strike, everything else would go to pot. My corn crib is more important than a bomb plant and my pigeon more essential than silver and gold. My hoe handle and plow handles bring more genuine happiness than pearls and diamonds.

I am a farmer, and there is nobody like me, and I wouldn't swap places with anybody in any other callings I ever heard of."

GOVERNMENT OF CANADA BONDS

4 1/2% due November 1, 1959
Have been called for payment
November 1, 1949

These bonds should be presented for redemption with all coupons of later date attached. No further interest will be paid on these bonds after this date.

RB1W

Grand weather

...for making aluminum!

RAIN! It may sound strange, but it's a fact: Every thing you see made of aluminum was made with raindrops—even the bus for which you scurry to escape the rain!

It's like this: Rain falls on high land in our north country. It runs down as rivulets and creeks. It becomes tumbling rivers. By trapping it behind dams, and guiding it through powerhouses, Alcan develops electricity—and uses it to make aluminum.

Smelting aluminum eats up vast quantities of electricity. Enough goes into making a single ton to light your house for fifteen years!

Today Alcan is prospecting for still more waterpower because Canada needs more aluminum for use at home and to sell abroad.

RAIN MEANS DOLLARS FOR CANADIANS:

- Alcan jobs for 15,000 Canadians
- Alcan pay envelopes holding \$35,000,000 a year
- Alcan aluminum for more than 1,000 independent Canadian manufacturers—some 50,000 more jobs.

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