

Pickering Farmers in Fight for Produce Market Stability

Pickering Township farmers have turned their sights on revision of international trade agreements as their first line of defence in the fight to achieve produce market stability. At an organization meeting in Brougham a Township Federation of Agriculture was formed for the purpose of bringing problems closer to the individual farmer and the following resolution was framed to be sent to the Dominion Minister of Agriculture.

WHEREAS it is evident that the prices of farm products in Canada are strongly influenced by comparatively small surpluses and

WHEREAS it appears that by removal of these surpluses from the domestic market stability of farm prices can be achieved and

WHEREAS immediate action is imperative to prevent catastrophic breaks in the markets of butter, milk and hogs as has happened in the egg market.

THEREFORE be it resolved, that the farmers of Pickering Township, do urge the Minister of Agriculture the Right Honourable James G. Gardiner, to take up the offers made by Sir Stafford Cripps in 1948 and by Sir Andrew Jones, head of the British Food Mission, in Ottawa in 1949 (as reported by the farm press) to buy the surplus of Canadian farm products against payment in pound sterling or British manufactured goods through barter agreements.

Be it further resolved that until satisfactory agreements are concluded the government be urged to keep the floor prices of 1949 under all farm products.

"It is against all reason for Canada to try to do business with Britain and demand payment in dollars," said one of the farmers, F.V. VonPillis. "It seems that it takes a catastrophic event like the loss of overseas markets to bring farmers out to look after their own interests. What we need today is for local farmers to take a closer interest in their affairs before more breaks come in farm prices. Farmers should be so strong that no government would think of appointing a minister of agriculture without approval of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture."

Mr. VonPillis noted that a week ago, it was announced that the price of butter will be going down at the end of March. If the farmers had got together in time, they could have had the government maintain the price, he said.

Continuing, he said: "Our food surpluses in Canada are small, about 12 to 16 per cent, yet it is these surpluses which govern the domestic prices. If there were some way our federation could find markets for the surpluses, it would give us stability in prices at home. In my opinion, the only place to dispose of these surpluses is by renewal of trade agreements with Britain."

"The term 'dollar-gap' has come to have an hypnotic influence on our politicians," continued Mr. VonPillis. "It would seem to me that the normal process is for Canada to accept their pound sterling or take some of their manufactured goods by barter agreement. If only 15 per cent of our U.S. imports could be swung to Britain it would solve our difficulties. To achieve any such trade deals, we must have weight behind our organizations and deal directly with the government."

Provincial chairman of the meeting was F. M. Chapman; Alan Lishman was secretary; I. L. McLean called the meeting to order on behalf of the County Federation of Agriculture.

Mr. Chapman said: "The Federation of Agriculture is the only farm organization making itself heard in the farmers' interest. That is the reason all groups, hog producers, milk producers and the rest, should all be interested in the federation and do all they can to bolster the central organization. We must maintain our position and our prices."

Another speaker was Cecil Belyea representing the Ontario Federation of Agriculture who gave the background of the formation of commodity groups and he enumerated some of the achievements of his organization.

Roy Lick, secretary of the Ontario Milk Producers Association told the gathering that the time has come when local groups of farmers must accept more responsibility for doing their own marketing and look to the government only for the legislation required. He said that agricultural subsidies should continue through this transition period.

The following provisional directors of the Pickering Tp. Federation were named to chart the future course of the organization: Milton Pegg, F.V. (Bob) VonPillis, F. M. Chapman, Alan Lishman, Douglas Coates, Sid Dunning, Mrs. I. L. McLean, Arthur O'Connor, C. S. Bryant, William Collins, Vincent Teefy, W. Dowling and Miss Mary Boyes.

Canadians will pay the government more than two hundred million dollars in customs duties on goods brought into the country in the federal government's current fiscal year.

YORK COUNTY FARM FORUM NEWS

Did you send one copy of your forum findings of this week to your county press secretary?

How did you like the Farm Forum folk school? Come on! Let's really make this a news column folks.

Victoria Square was the only forum to send in a copy of their findings for last week. They had twenty-five present and had two lively discussion groups.

They found the topic timely and while most of surrounding farmers have their farms well equipped with their own machinery they thought in a new land area or where young farmers were starting, co-operative farming would be ideal.

There were eleven enrolled for full time at the folk school, then local members came in to make the number up to 26 for Saturday.

Rumor has it that there will be another one before the summer is over.

M. Sanderson

FORMER UXBRIDGE GIRL BEREAVED OF HUSBAND

A life long resident of the village, Thomas Alfred Palmer, died at his home, Port Perry, on Saturday, March 11, following a short illness. He was in his 69th year.

A son of the late John Palmer and Sarah Blanchard, the deceased was married in 1907 and for 50 years had been an employee of the Jeffery and Taylor store in Port Perry and for the past two years had been an employee of the Gosard Co. there.

Surviving besides his wife, the former Rosetta Adams of Uxbridge, whose father was a rope maker on Quaker Hill, are four daughters and one son. They are Miss Mildred Palmer, Mrs. Cecil King (Norma) and George all of Port Perry and Mrs. S. A. Thompson (Marjory) of Chiliwick, B.C., and Mrs. W. T. Graham (Patricia) of Oshawa.

Mr. Palmer was a member of Fidelity Lodge, A.F. & A.M., and of Blue Ray Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star.

About three-quarters of Canada's school teachers are women.

From Stouffville To Australia

(By Cliff Salmon)
(Continued from Front Page)

big ones, some with interesting looking hills that could have been old volcanoes, others flat as pancakes with semi-circular lagoons boasting a string of palm trees for shade. The largest of all is called Viti-Levu, and it is there that the capital city of Suva is located. In size, Viti-Levu would compare with the main island of Hawaii, and be about 90 miles in diameter.

About 8 o'clock at night, and in a tropical rain storm, we docked at Suva. Everything in town was obviously closed up, so none of us went ashore. But the rain didn't keep the native dock workers from coming aboard, and the ship was promptly invaded. Ostensibly looking for trucks, etc., to carry off for passengers disembarking at Suva, they explored every inch of the ship. Most of them were big men, some over 6 feet in their bare feet, and of course the impression of tallness was helped along by their "gollywog" hair-does. Generally speaking, they had happy faces, and it was really odd to hear them calling to one another with shrill, highly-pitched voices. Fijian is the queerest lingo I've ever heard, and I've heard quite a few. As we stood on the deck with the children watching them going and coming, we could not help reflecting that their grandfathers were cannibals, and quite a number of them looked as though they could happily stew you, given different circumstances. Later on, about midnight, the rain had ceased, and we spent quite awhile looking out of our porthole onto the wharf which was teeming with shouting and singing natives as they worked at unloading the ship's cargo. We finally went to bed and to sleep in spite of the noisy activity outside.

Next morning, after breakfast, we went ashore armed with our inevitable camera and with a thirst for venturing into the unknown. We hadn't gone very far when we were approached by a taxi-driver, so we piled in and asked for the

post-office. After attending to our mail, we took his recommendation and went for a trip to see a nearby native village. This was really quite something. Incidentally, it was our first drive "on the wrong side" of the road, and on the curves in the jungle road, we received several unexpected thrills. However, we survived, although it was a bit painful.

As we neared the native village, the sound of jungle drums got louder and louder. Another turn or two along the winding road, and here we were, in the middle of a group of grass homes. I say homes, rather than huts, because most of them were very large. At the side of the road, a couple of native girls were beating a welcome on what looked like a couple of hollow logs. My camera was in action immediately and after a donation of six pence apiece, I took a second one graced with two good-natured Fijian smiles. Doris and the children preferred to stay in the taxi as it was very muddy after the recent rain. I took pictures right and left, and was invited to visit the chief's home. This was a bit more elaborate than the others and illustrated the best Fijian workmanship. I shook hands with the old boy, and he took me around showing me his possessions. On a rafter, or rather beam, across the middle of the house, there was a picture of King George, opposite which was another of Roy Rogers on his horse, and in another place was a picture of himself in uniform with his First World War army unit. The chief spoke excellent English, and asked me where I came from.

When I left the chief's house, I found Peter doing a bit of exploring on his own. It runs in the family, folks! So I stood him up against a little native boy about his own size, and I got a wow of a picture. Wait till you see it! These people were apparently quite accustomed to seeing tourists and being paid just for being Fijians. Even the tiniest kiddies were all running around with hands in the "gimme" position, and had been taught to carry a bunch of flowers in the other hand as a "come on". A few coins here and there and they will pose for you, standing on

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for the price of
— ONE BOX LUNCH FOR TWO —
These Events Will Take Place in

VETERANS' MEMORIAL HALL
STOUFFVILLE, on FRIDAY, MAR. 24TH

commencing at 8.00 p.m.

Girls without escorts — One Box Lunch for Two
Boys Alone — \$1.00

Save the dollar by finding a girl to prepare a box lunch for admission.

TORONTO & YORK ROADS COMMISSION

Notice to Truckers

HALF LOADING REGULATIONS 1950

On and after MONDAY, MARCH 20TH, the 1/2 load restriction will be enforced on all roads in the York County Highway System under the jurisdiction of this Commission with the following exceptions:

- Road No.
- 1 Bathurst Street — South of Eglinton Avenue.
 - 5 Dundas Street
 - 6 Vaughan Road — South of Eglinton Avenue.
 - 7 Weston Road — From North Limit of Weston southerly.
 - 10A Dixon Road — West of Town of Weston.
 - 17 Lansing Side Road — Dawes Road to Kingston Road.
 - 19 Eglinton Avenue.
 - 20 Scarlett Road.

H. C. ROSE,
Chief Engineer,
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F. A. LUNDY,
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FOR GRADE 'A' LARGE WHITE EGGS

Cases Supplied, Free Pick-up, and Prompt Returns
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H-E-L-P!

The Ontario Society For Crippled Children

By Purchasing

EASTER SEALS!

Why You Should Help!

- Every crippled and handicapped child restored to health is an added asset to the community.
- This is a double-barrelled job — to help the Ontario Society for Crippled Children, and the work of the Stouffville Lions Club.
- It's easy to help! Just slip your contribution in the envelope provided and mail at once.
- The sum total of small contributions can provide a great fund for a worthwhile humanitarian effort.

If You Have Not Received Your Letter You Can Help By leaving your contribution with Dr. S. T. Bodendistel, Chairman of the Lions Club Health & Welfare Committee, Stouffville.

For the fourth time in Ontario the sale of Easter Seals will be held commencing this week, to raise funds for the work of the Ontario Society for Crippled Children. The Stouffville Lions Club has undertaken the sponsorship of this campaign.



SHARE in this great Humanitarian Work

their heads if necessary. I took several group pictures which are interesting studies of the different native types. Peter and I then walked over to see one of these grass houses in the process of construction.

Soon we were back in our taxi, and whizzing along the jungle highway back to Suva. We had him drop us about a mile from the docks, and then took ourselves for a most interesting walk. The most conspicuous persons in Suva are the policemen. They are bigger men than usual in the first place, and they are dressed so they can be seen. They wear a bright red sash under their black police belts; a black jacket with polished silver buttons and last but not least a white skirt with points all around the hem-line. Once again, wait till you see the pictures!

On the way back to Suva, I forgot to mention that we passed a Sikh temple. About half the population of Fiji is Hindu. And there would appear to be no love lost between the Fijians and the Hindus. As we strolled through the streets of Suva, there were as many if not more turbaned Hindus than there were fussy-topped Fijians. Another conspicuous memory we have of Suva is the odour of the market place. It had a fish base, to which was added ripe fruits of various kinds and other smells too numerous to mention. On the whole, we remarked that Suva would be an interesting place to spend a vacation, but not a place we would like to remain in permanently. In a music shop on the main street, we bought several copies of "Isa Lei", the very popular native song. Some of these will find their way to Canada when we get around to it. The Fijians are great singers and at the docks they assembled a male choir which gave us a lusty send off. As the green-clad hilly of Viti-Levu faded in the distance, we looked forward to our next port-of-call which was to be Auckland, New Zealand.

(to be continued)
(The address of the Salmon family at top of this report, will enable our scores of readers to drop a card or letter to our former Stouffville friends to let them know how much you appreciate his dispatches. So graphically describing this remarkable trip to their new abode in Australia.—Editor.)

Steam railways in Canada have 42,335 miles in operation.

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"WHIRLPOOL"

GENE TIERNEY and RICHARD CONTE

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\$130.00 Cash Offer

Wednesday Night is Attendance Night.

LOTS OF FUN . . . LOTS OF CASH

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with DAVID FERRAR and BEATRICE PEARSON

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"TWELVE O'CLOCK HIGH"

GREGORY PECK and HUGH MARLOWE

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