

MIGRATION MIRACLE

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st Russia. For a hundred years before they gained their independence they chafed uneasily at the chains which bound them to Tzarist Russia. Then came the Bolshevik Revolution in October 1917 and the proclamation that the will of the people must decide the future of States, even to the point of separation from Russia. That offered the Balts the opportunity of realizing their long-cherished dream of freedom. It was not before that proclaimed freedom had been defended by force of arms and their determination had been sorely tested that independence did indeed become a fact. All three states achieved in 20-odd years a high standard of living and culture, comparable with only the most progressive of European countries, and proved themselves fit for freedom.

This happy era was brought to an abrupt close by the signing of the infamous "Ribbentrop-Molotov Pact" in 1939, when Hitler, to obtain a free hand against Poland, declared the Baltic states to belong to Russia's sphere of influence. In 1940 the Red army marched in, and framed elections backed by Red bayonets brought the "unanimous demand" from the Baltic states to be included in the U.S.S.R. as Soviet Socialist Republics. Their incorporation into Soviet Russia has never, to this day, been recognized by the United States of America or by Great Britain.

The Baltic peoples remained where they were almost to a man during the first Soviet occupation of 1940-41 and also during the later German occupation. They had nowhere else to go for one thing, and had no idea of the real nature of the impending changes. They were therefore very favorably placed to observe the process of the sovietization of their homelands, and are in a position now, having fled their countries in 1944, to give a detailed account of what went on in every sphere of life under the Soviet domination. They all testify that only by such excesses as terror, concentration camps, typhus, scurvy, starvation and forced collectivization, only by renewing such medieval processes as inquisition carried out by the dreaded MVD, only by the absolute suppression of all liberty, turning the population into unthinking cogs in the agricultural or industrial machine, was the U.S.S.R. able to realize its experiments in the Baltic states.

When Hitler attacked Russia in June 1941 the Soviets retreated too rapidly to cover up all traces of their guilt. Unable to evacuate the inmates of all prisons and concentration camps, they executed them in mass graves. They did not

kill the prisoners outright but first tortured them. They cut strips out of their backs, tore out their tongues, gouged out their eyes, cut off their ears and noses. Photographs of mutilated bodies with the findings of the doctors who examined them give proof of an insane bestiality which is impossible to describe. It surpasses anything that the Dark Ages produced, and this was done by Baltic patriots in their own country by a foreign invader.

Small wonder, therefore, that the Germans were treated as liberators at first. Some Balts who perhaps found a wife in the mass graves, could not settle down to a normal life, but joined the Germans with one thought in mind, revenge—as long as they could draw breath. Understandable as this is however, these persons in Germany are not now DPs, as under the eligibility clause, a person who voluntarily assisted the enemy against the United Nations is not granted DP status.

The German occupation lasted until 1944 and it was soon learned that one form of totalitarianism does not differ very much from another, and that the "liberators" were not German peoples but the Nazis, indoctrinated with race theories which automatically classified their Baltic victims as members of "inferior races" and whose policy was the colonization of the Baltic states as vassal states of Germany. Resistance movements rapidly grew up, especially against the recruitment for compulsory labor. At first the Germans called for volunteers, the call being garnished with inducements of every kind, but there were few simple enough to put themselves forward. Then a labor mobilization was proclaimed. When that also was of no avail the Baltic police were ordered to hunt down the youth of the land, but these orders leaked out so that the people in the areas in which the man-hunts were to take place were "not available" at the scheduled time. The Gestapo then organized its own press-gangs which surrounded cinemas, theatres, schools and even churches. Men, women and children were dragged off to Germany as slave laborers with no opportunity of taking leave of their families, and these were the slave laborers released in 1945 to become DPs. Even in Germany, resistance went on and they escaped from their places of work at the first opportunity. It cannot be said that the Baltic peoples, with very few exceptions, collaborated with the Germans or worked of their own free will in German war industries.

Mobilization, too, was a similar failure. It was not until the Red army was again on the borders of the Baltic states that volunteers came forward, and then only to take up arms against their direct enemy, communism. They did not doubt for a moment that their course was just. They knew that

the U.S.A. and Britain had never recognized the annexation of the Baltic countries by the Soviet Union, and they were familiar with the contents of the Atlantic Charter, which promised justice to small nations. They believed that the Baltic states would escape a second Soviet occupation if they managed to hold back the Russians until the armistice between the Allies and Germany was signed. They could not possibly know that their countries had already been sacrificed to Russia at the Allied conferences and consequently they fought with great bravery and resolution.

Abandoned by the Allies, all was in vain, and those who could fled to Germany and Sweden. In Germany they too are denied DP status, only those who were forcibly conscripted into the German forces being granted this privilege.

All other Baltic people who could fled before the Soviet terror, their only hope now being in a push to the west where they hoped to contact the western Allies.

Thus, with the slave laborers, they were liberated and classified as DPs, and will, in no circumstances, return behind the iron curtain.

The story of the Ukrainians is similar. Having suffered Bolshevik doctrines for 20 years, the German occupation gave them the opportunity for escape, that and their forcible deportation by the Germans. They, too, will not return.

The Yugoslavs are mostly royalists and no lovers of the particular brand of communism favored by Tito. Repatriation for them is also out.

The remainder of the DP population is made up of Poles who came largely from that part of Poland which was occupied by the Soviets from 1939 to 1941 and slave laborers from all parts of Poland; by Hungarians, Czechs, Roumanians, Bulgarians and many stateless people from eastern Europe. None will return as long as the Russians continue to wall in their countries against the progressive west.

CARELESS DRIVING CHARGED TO TWO

Weekend traffic accidents north of Barrie on No. 27 Highway resulted in two drivers being charged. Charged with careless and dangerous driving is Walter K. Arnest, 22, Aurora. Provincial Constable A. Kellog said his new car, travelling north about 5 miles from Barrie, Saturday morning struck a railway wig-wag device, tore it and concrete base from the ground and landed almost wrecked more than 100 feet beyond. Wm. Steadman, a passenger, was attended by Dr. N. M. Laurie and rushed to Toronto General Hospital. His condition was fair. Arnest was treated at hospital in Barrie for facial injuries.

Henry Quellette of Locust Hill, was charged with careless driving after his car went into the ditch and was extensively damaged about nine miles from Barrie early Sunday morning.

Stouffville Attends Tri-County Annual

The fifth annual meeting of the Tri-County Baseball Association was held at Lindsay, Friday night. Mr. Roy Scott of Seagrave was elected President of the Association for the coming year. Frank Power, the first President of the League, was named Honorary President. Others on the executive are: Frank Speer, Past-President; Lloyd Burrows, Lindsay; Pete Hicks, Valeria Irving Boyd, Port Perry; all vice-presidents and group convenors; Secretary, Bill Fittsall, Lindsay and Treasurer, Hudson Pillsworth, Lindsay.

The meeting was well attended with 13 teams, of last years 17 teams entered, represented. They were: Cambray, Cameron, Fenelon Falls, Bobcaygeon, Lindsay, Little

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Britain, Sonya, Woodville, Valeria, Port Perry, Sunderland, Sutton and Stouffville. Newmarket a possibly new entry, had representation. Representatives failed to show from Oakwood, Manilla-Cannington, Beaverton and Bolsover.

Considerable time was spent on deciding whether or not the league should affiliate with the Ontario Baseball Association and the meeting by an 11-2 vote decided to stay on its own. However, a resolution was passed that would permit any team so desiring entering O.B.A. playdowns, to enter the O.B.A. direct. The meeting felt that any teams entered from the Tri-County League in O.B.A. competition should be permitted to strengthen.

The 1949 Champions of the Tri-County League, Lindsay Walkwood's threatened to withdraw if the League passed a motion barring Lindsay player that played with the Lindsay Lakeshore entry. After considerable discussion on this matter, a motion was passed to bar any player that played in the Lake-

shore League last year from playing in both leagues this year.

A number of the teams favoured a longer schedule. Final decision on this matter was left until a meeting of the League executive on May 26th.

The league opened its season on May 26th last year and the teams played 101 games. A total of 270 players were registered with the secretary. Only one protest was received during the year and it was not considered due to insufficient grounds on the part of the protesting team.

Small token honorariums were voted to the secretary and treasurer as an appreciation for their time and effort on behalf of the league.

Spring fever is okay—in the right place, at the right time. But it's definitely not okay when walking across a street, or driving a car, or riding a bike. Sheer self preservation demands that you stay alert, watchful and careful in today's traffic.

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 - 1940 Chev. Coach
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 - 1940 Pontiac
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 - 1940 Plymouth
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 - 1940 Ford
Club convertible.
 - 1940 Mercury Sedan
 - 1936 Chev. Convertible
- *****
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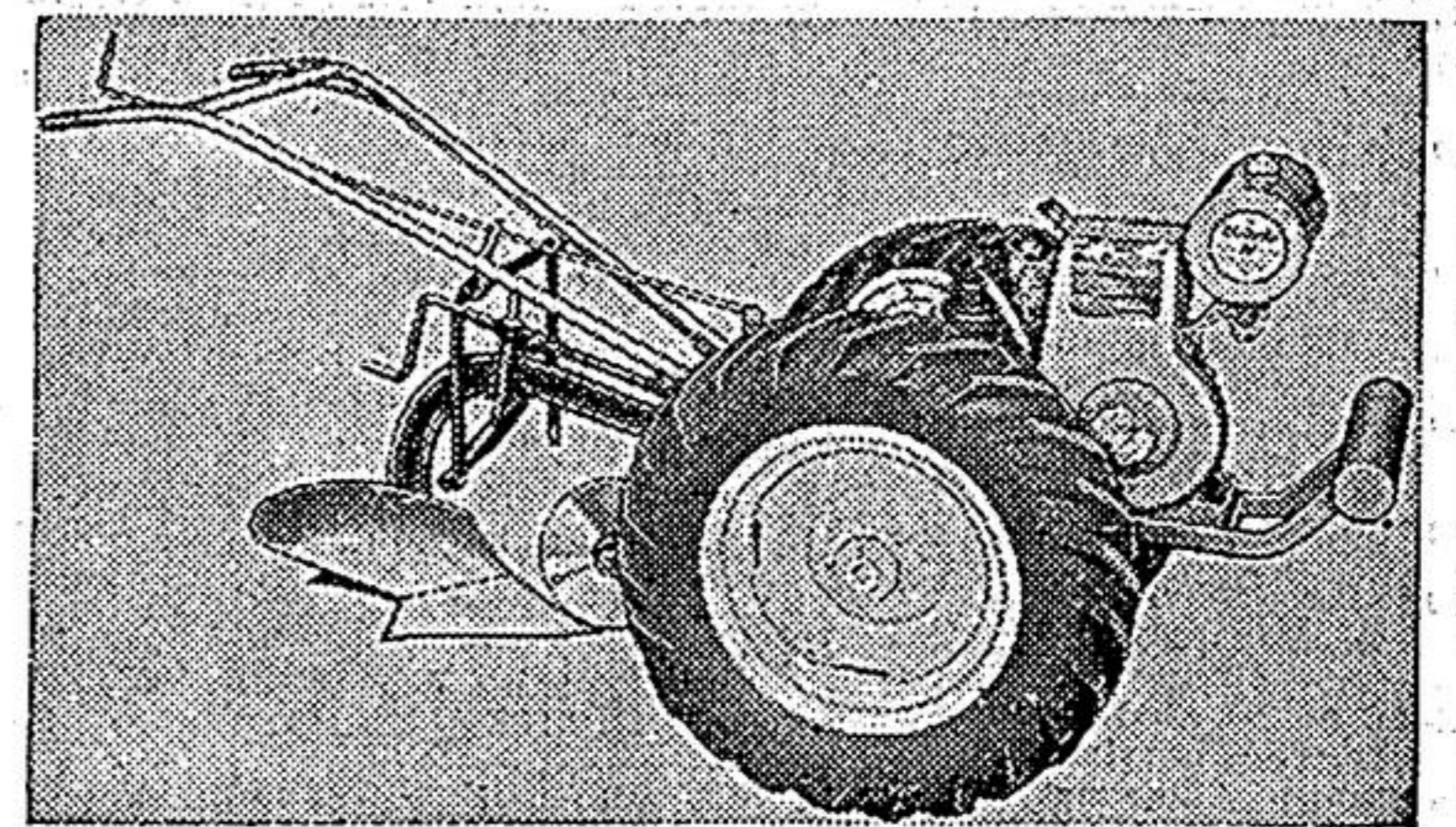
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