

# Promise of Fine Harvest in Britain this Year

By George Abell of Stouffville  
I apologize for mentioning the English heat wave a few weeks ago. Last Toronto paper I saw (June 15) painted a very grim picture of the hot, dry weather you have had with its bad effect on crops and water supply. Let us hope that things have changed for the better and enough rain has fallen to keep things green.

It is still dry here but not serious because this country does not have such high temperatures. The worst week we had the thermometer was around the middle eighties and although people complained I don't think anyone actually suffered. Even with the dry summer grain has filled well and looks like making a good crop. Harvesting began the first week of July in the south and if the weather holds the harvest will be complete by the first part of August. It is nearly unknown for Britain to have a dry harvest and the farmers have their fingers crossed. The government paid five pounds an acre bounty for each acre of permanent pasture that was ploughed and put to grain this year.

This acreage is nothing enormous, something less than 100,000 for the country as a whole but now that we have a hen that lays an egg every hour on the hour we will need a lot of extra grain for mash. Just think if all her eggs

are incubated, why in a year or so England will flood the world with eggs from her progeny. We would still be rationed to one egg a week each here but would be told how much nice foreign exchange we were helping the country to make. As far as most of us are concerned, foreign exchange would be a lot more interesting if you could ever eat it.

Before we leave the rural scene, I will pass on a recent news item that surprised me. It was in regard to the mechanization of world agriculture and stated that the farms of Great Britain were the most highly mechanized in the world. There is one tractor for every 70 acres of land as against one for every 130 in the U.S.A. and about the same in Canada. I have often noticed how many tractors are seen working but had no idea it was so large.

It's a wonder they were not nationalized like the trucks were a few years ago under the Socialists. The present Tory government is pushing plans for a bill to be shortly introduced in the House of Commons to denationalize the trucking industry or in other words, give the ex-owners of the trucks an opportunity to buy them back with the licenses and go back to work as if the last six years had never been.

But the Socialist party has pub-

licly stated that as soon as they regain control the first thing to be done will be that road transports will be taken out of the owners hands and nationalized once more. What a pleasant prospect for the operation. I imagine that most of them will decline the privilege of buying back their businesses with thanks for it can't be very satisfactory to know that your means of livelihood has become a political football to be kicked back and forth with every change of government.

One business over here that is not affected by the change of government and that has really flourished this summer is that of the pavement artists. Along the South and East sides of the huge National Art Gallery that forms the Northern edge of Trafalgar Square these men do some remarkable works of art each day.

Anyone can walk in the Gallery for free and wander for hours looking at the thousands of paintings, from the size of postage stamps to ones that take up a whole wall and must have been done at a contract price of so much an acre in the dim and distant past.

But out on the wide sidewalks are drawings on display that also draw crowds, many of whom drop a little money in the artist's cap or box beside his work.

These artists seem to be poured

out of the same mold. About 60 years of age, they wear old clothes with the trouser legs tied at the ankle with string, have an old broken peaked cloth cap on their heads and a dead, half inch stub of hand-made cigarette glued to their lower lips. Materials are a box full of bits of coloured pastel chalks, a three foot square of cement sidewalk and a pair of old socks to kneel on.

For a few minutes the other day I watched one put the finishing touches to a battle scene of the Spanish Armada and Drake's ships. In the circle of onlookers were art students admiring the detail of his color blending, children (the male ones were up to 70 years old) admiring the cannon smoke and blood and the usual number of camera slung visitors just having a look in case they miss something. There were many favorable comments being made but the artist never once looked up or gave any sign that he was aware of anyone being near. The only thing that existed for him was making that picture as perfect as if it would last for ever instead of a few hours.

His little wooden coin box was doing well for I think people like to see a man doing a good job of work whether it's drawing a picture or ploughing a field and the English are no exception.

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These are the two song leaders who will lead the massed choir and provide additional vocal numbers for the forthcoming Evangelistic Services in the Stouffville Arena, commencing Aug. 17th.

Quebec has 150,000 farms from which the average income is \$1,660 per farm.

The St. Mary's River irrigation project, now nearing completion in Alberta, embraces 220 miles of main canals and 2,200 miles of smaller canals via which 400,000 acres will be irrigated.

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