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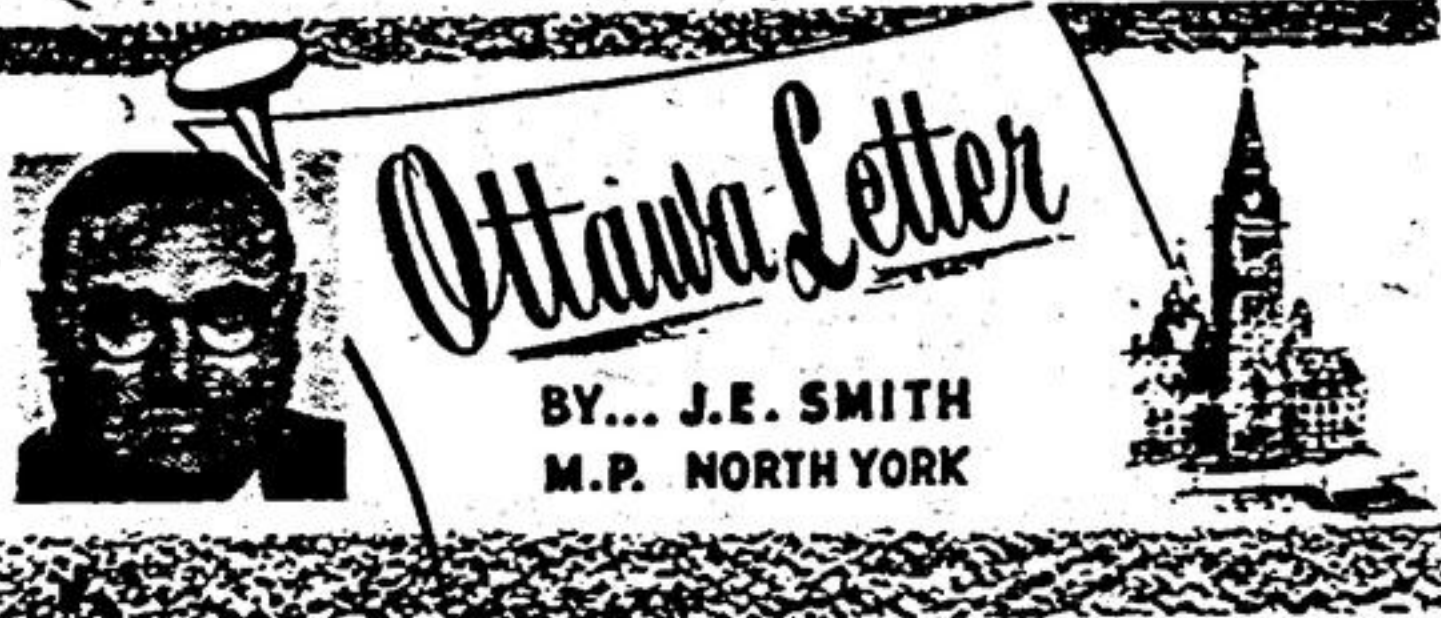


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BY... J.E. SMITH
M.P. NORTH YORK

The welcome announcement was made this week that March 1st the United States ban on Canadian livestock and livestock products will be lifted, effective next March 1st.

The United States border has been closed to such imports since February 23, 1952, when the Canadian government announced the outbreak of Foot and Mouth disease in Saskatchewan. Strong and efficient methods adopted by Canadian officials which included quarantine, inspection, slaughter of diseased and exposed herds successfully confined the disease to a small area. This effective fight against the dread disease is something for which all Canadians, and farmers in particular, may be very thankful. It has meant a great deal to continuing prosperity here.

Canada will likely have another prosperous year in 1953, C. V. Parker, Agricultural Director of the Bureau of Statistics predicted here this week at the Annual Federal-Provincial Agricultural Conference. He predicted more jobs, slightly higher incomes and strong world demand for most of Canada's exports.

The Federal-Provincial Agricultural Conference is an important annual meeting of federal and provincial ministers of Agriculture and agricultural leaders from all across Canada. It meets here in the Railway Committee room of the House of Commons. The views expressed are those of men all across our country in closest touch with agriculture, its problems and its prospects. The conference is closely followed here and the opinions and representations have I assure you, the most careful consideration of the government.

It is felt defence production will continue next year to stimulate our economy, but more important and more spectacular will be a heavy concentration on development of Canada's strategic natural resources. It is expected the value of Canada's total national production in 1953 will equal the 1952 peak of \$22 and a half billion. This all indicates a strong market for Canada's foodstuffs.

Meat prices which have been slipping during the last few months will likely decline a little in 1953. S. C. Barry, the Agricultural Department's livestock chief, said the drop may be more pronounced for cattle and calves than for hogs.

There has been pretty general appreciation of the Canadian government's price support policy for Canadian livestock. Just how much this has meant to prosperity in our agricultural industry sometimes is overlooked.

Thanks to the Canadian price support progress our farmers are selling livestock at the highest prices obtaining in any country in the world.

There is some criticism from opposition speakers who claim we have lost the British market. The plain facts are that it is not a case of having lost the British markets, but rather that we cannot afford to sell at present prices prevailing in the British market.

We still could sell our produce in the British market if we wished to sell at the price they are willing to pay.

However, I don't think Canadian farmers would be interested in having contracts at prices which Britain is paying today as the following clearly show.

Department of Trade and Commerce figures given out this week show the following prices being paid by Britain for agricultural produce:

The price of bacon in Denmark and Holland where Britain is making extensive purchases is 30 to 32 cents per lb. In Canada it is 36 cents per pound. Britain buys top quality New Zealand beef at a price of 14 cents, and while Argentine prices are still under negotiation the asking price for all Argentine beef is less than 19 cents. The Canadian prices are good, average 44 cents, commercial average 42 cents, cows average 36 cents.

Britain buys butter in New Zealand at less than 38 cents and in Holland for 40 cents. The Canadian price is 62 cents.

Comparative prices for eggs as at mid-September were; Australia 52 cents, Denmark 46 cents, Canada 61 cents per dozen.

One of the interesting characters in Parliament is Jean Francois Pouliot, the member for Temiscouata. First elected to the House of Commons in 1924 he this week celebrated his 28th anniversary as a member and received congratulations from all sides of the House on one of those pleasant occasions when party lines are forgotten. The Pouliot family has a long background of public service. The present member's father was a member of the House of Commons and his grandfather and great grandfather were active in different legislative fields.

Creameries Ask Ban On Ersatz Products

The Ontario Creamery association last week joined the Ontario Federation of Agriculture in demanding a ban on production of "further ersatz dairy products" until a study has been made of their nutritional value and the effect of their production on the national economy. The association objected to the use of vegetable oils in the manufacture of ice cream, concentrated milk, cheese and fluid milk.

The association also decided to petition Ottawa to set butter prices "more in keeping with the prices of other dairy products to encourage a greater production of butter, rather than an excessive amount of exportable dairy products."

King James I Started Popularity on Turkeys

In the Middle Ages, Christmas was a great church festival, celebrated in medieval times by the King and his barons, by the clergy and by practically nobody else.

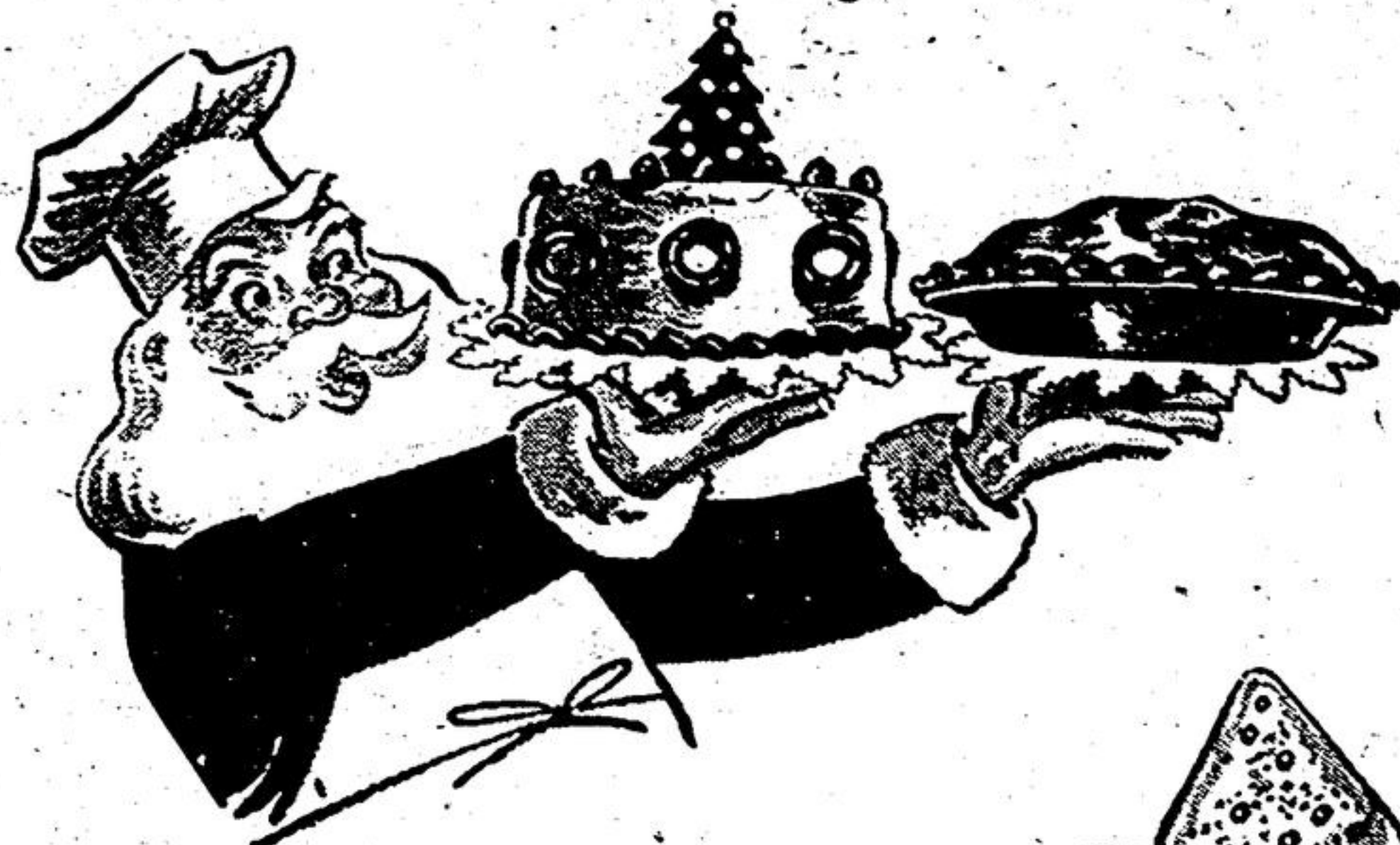
Gradually the observance became widespread and by the time Henry VIII was on the throne of England, it was a red letter day throughout the realm.

Edward VI preserved its customs with great lavishness as did Queen Elizabeth during the latter part of her rule.

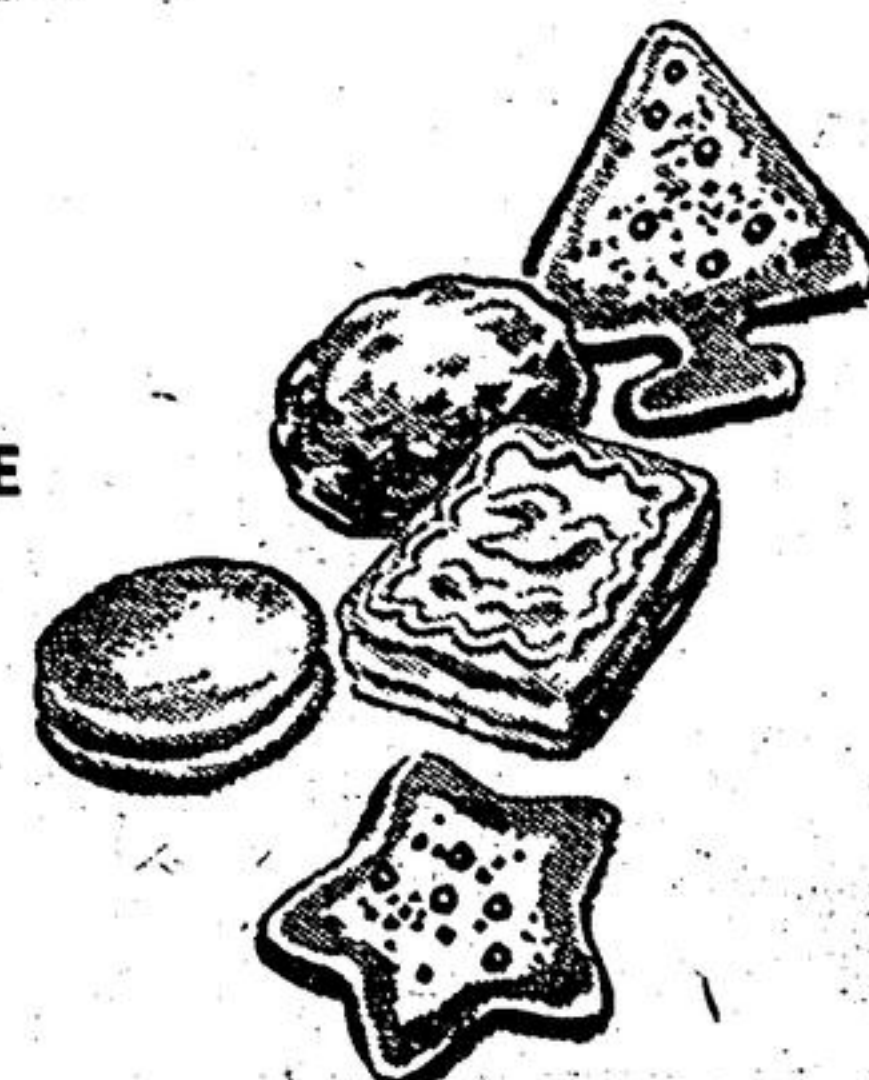
It is recorded that James I (1603-1625) disliked the custom of serving a boar's head as the principal dish at the Christmas feast and he substituted turkey instead.

Earlier English noblemen may have tried serving turkey at Christmas at one time or another, but it was really James I who started the elegant bird on the way to its present general popularity as the main item on the Christmas dinner menu.

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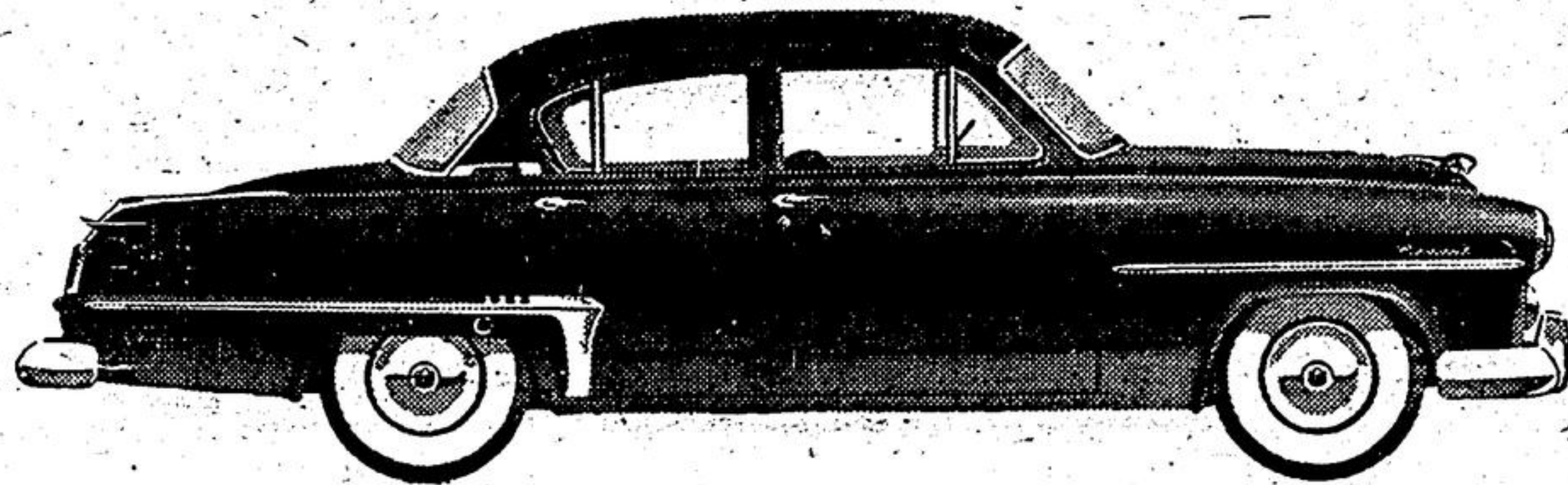
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