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Ontario's Agricultural Practises are German Rather Than British

(This is another of a series of articles by Dr. Reaman, dean of men at Waterloo College, who has made an extensive investigation into the backgrounds of Ontario's early settlers.)

By G. E. Reaman

Although Ontario likes to think of itself as very British, a study of agriculture practises in the province will show that they are German rather than British.

There is a definite geographical reason for this. Compare the land and climate of the British Isles with that found in south Germany, Switzerland, Pennsylvania or Ontario and it will be found that in all of the last four the climate is much more rugged in winter.

Animals have to be sheltered in winter, whereas in many parts of the British Isles they can fend for themselves. In addition, Britain never had the forests that these other countries have had.

Such being the case, one can readily see why a German immigrant would find himself more at home in Pennsylvania or Ontario than would the man from Britain.

This probably explains why at the close of the U.S. Revolutionary War the British U. E. Loyalist preferred New Brunswick and Nova Scotia to Upper Canada. Those two provinces had had settlers, whereas Upper Canada was quite unpopulated.

It was an accepted fact three centuries ago that the Palatine Germans, that is, those who lived in south Germany, were the best farmers in Europe. When these people came to America they brought their skills with them.

That they did so is borne out by the fact that of the 25 most productive counties in the United States, nine are peopled by persons of this lineage. It is said that the land in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, is the most valuable land in the nation, and it was from this area that the original settlers of Waterloo County came.

Land tillage and kinds of crops in Britain were far different from what was possible in America. Horticulture, as applied to garden produce, was unknown in England at the time William Penn invited the distressed and persecuted Germans of the Rhine valley to share his province in the New World.

England did not grow vegetables in gardens until William of Orange brought with him some Dutch gardeners in 1688 when he and his wife became the ruling monarchs of England. The Germans possessed this knowledge and put it into use.

That the British did not have it is shown by the fact that at a point near Jamestown in Virginia, an entire settlement perished in the early years, largely because they did not know how to grow food in forest conditions.

It was an Indian chief who condescended to teach the Pilgrims in Massachusetts how to plant corn and thereby make possible the memorable Thanksgiving in 1621.

Coping to our own day, it is an accepted fact that the garden

of the Pennsylvania German housewife has always been outstanding, and she has always considered it her special responsibility.

Because of the severity of the German winter, the farmers were accustomed to building large barns to take care of their crops and to protect their animals.

They had a saying: "Kein Fut, kein Vieh; kein Vieh, kein Dung; kein Dung, kein Ertrag" (no food, no cow; no cow, no manure; no manure, no profit).

They placed a great deal of stress on the use of fertilizer, both organic and inorganic. Besides, they grew clover, plowed it down, and rotated their crops.

They were the first to practise contour plowing and irrigation of crops; also, to devise ways and means of preventing soil erosion and to practise conservation.

They introduced into America the bank barn and the log cabin, which later became a stone house. To quote an American writer:

"Their partnership with God and Nature was designed to feed the future as well as themselves so that today most of the farms under their cultivation are as fertile as they were 2 1/2 centuries ago."

Such a statement is just as true of the areas in Ontario farmed by Germans as in Pennsylvania. They had a wonderful skill in selecting good land, preferring limestone soil, they frequently found it when they saw a grove of black walnut trees, for this kind of tree will grow only on that type of soil.

A fact which is not often known or appreciated is that many of the Germans who migrated to Upper Canada around 1800 came with money and chattels. There was a reason for this.

By that time, land in Pennsylvania had become quite expensive and as it was customary for there to be several sons in a family for whom property was to be found, the father found it an expensive matter to find land for them. It was much cheaper to outfit them with money and animals and have them go up to Canada where they could get free land.

For the Pennsylvania Germans, emigration provided few terrors; it appealed to his love of adventure, for this type of German has always been a born pioneer. Of course, whole families often came, but in each case the motivation was the same.

How many people know that the most important horse in Ontario up to 1840 was the Conestoga, a breed developed in Pennsylvania to draw the Conestoga wagon? Why then did he disappear? Probably because he was a slow moving animal.

When roads improved and farmers used them more, they wanted an animal that could make time. They tried crossing the Conestoga with other breeds but it did not produce good results.

About this time, the English Shires and Clydesdales were brought in. As they seemed to have faster moving characteristics, they replaced the Conestoga. But he should not be forgotten, since he was the horse of pioneer days and did his job well.

Summing up, it is interesting to note that many of the farming practices now being promoted by agricultural colleges have been used by the Palatine Germans for centuries. Farming to them has always been a way of life, not just a means of making a living.

Besides, to be a good farmer and practise conservation has been almost a religious belief. They have always enjoyed hard physical labor, but along with that they were born inventors. For example, when they didn't have the right kind of ax to cut down the forests, they invented the one we use today.

They opened up Upper Canada for the many British who came, following the Napoleonic Wars, after 1815, intermarried with them and worked with them to make Ontario the prosperous province it is today.

When all of the other garden flowers have stopped blooming, mum is the word.

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Unionville Items of Interest

Fidelis

September 26th, the regular meeting of the Fidelis Group was opened with the Devotional by Evelyn Rainey. It was decided to keep on with the Nursery School during the Church Service.

An invitation to the W.M.S. Autumn Thank Offering Meeting was read and also a letter from the Session, pertaining to the 100th Anniversary of the Church. Evelyn Rainey agreed to act as our delegate to this. It was decided that we assist in conducting a Fashion Show in late October. Dorothy Smith and Sylvia Skerratt will represent our group.

The remainder of the evening was spent in playing croquet and scrabble. K. Kilfe and Chris Warne brought the evening to a close with the serving of a lovely lunch.

Mr. Milton Findlay, Mrs. L. Rainey, Mrs. B. Findlay, Miss Margaret Rainey, Mr. and Mrs. C. Weir of Unionville attended the birthday party of Mr. Talbert Findlay of Thornhill, on Tuesday night. Mr. and Mrs. Bert Findlay and Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Walker of Hyland Park were also guests. An evening of Euchre was enjoyed and prizes were won by Mrs. C. Weir, Mrs. L. Rainey and Mr. Bert Findlay.

Mr. Truman Harvey Wideman passed away at his home, Pomanda Road, Unionville, on Monday, October 1st. He was in his 69th year, and had been ill for many months. Sympathy of this district is extended to his wife, the former Bertha Hare, and daughters, Mrs. William Pierdon (Greta) and Mrs. Donald Parkhurst (Eleanor), both of Toronto, and their families. Service was held on Wednesday at 2.30 p.m. from the Dixon Funeral Home, to the United Missionary Church, with interment in Heisey Hill Cemetery, Gormley.

Mr. Leonard McMullen has recently purchased the Mrs. G. A. M. Davison property on Main Street. He also sold a property on Main Street to the Unionville Police Village for the erection of a new Fire Hall.

All roads from Unionville to Markham were very busy on Saturday as most of the residents here attended Markham Fair.

Congratulations to Unionville Public School who won 3rd prize in the Parade from Markham Rose Gardens to the Fair grounds. Prizes were also won by several in the leaf collections and writing contests.

Mr. Donald Hunter, a 41-year old farmer of Unionville, had a very narrow escape when a 2,000 lb. bull which he had been clipping to show at Markham Fair, attacked him when he was talking him back to his stall. He escaped with broken ribs, fractured pelvis and internal injuries. His wife, Mrs. Margaret Hunter, managed to keep the bull back with a pitchfork, while her husband crawled to safety. The neighbours said Mr. Hunter would have been killed before his wife arrived if the bull had had horns. We wish him a quick recovery.

Police Receive Varied Excuses From Drivers Involved in Accidents

Drivers involved in accidents often come up with humorous sayings and excuses when questioned by police. A few of these famous "first words" are listed below.

I consider that neither vehicle was to blame but if either was to blame it was the other one.

I knocked over a man. He admitted it was his fault as he had been run over before.

One wheel went into the ditch, my feet jumped from brake to accelerator pedal, leapt across to the other side, and jammed into the trunk of a tree.

I remember nothing after passing the Crown Hotel until I came to and saw P.C. Brown. The accident was due to the other man narrowly missing me.

I collided with a stationary tram-car coming the other way. The car occupants were stalking deer on the hillside.

I left my Austin Seven outside, and when I came out later to my amazement there was an Austin Twelve.

To avoid a collision I ran into the other car.

The water in my radiator accidentally froze at twelve midnight.

Car had to turn sharper than was necessary owing to an invisible lorry.

After the accident a working gentleman offered to be a witness, in my favour.

Honeymoon in Mexico

Mr. and Mrs. C. Wynn of Campbellford visited a few days this week with Mr. and Mrs. Ed. Wynn, Pomanda Road, on returning from a honeymoon trip to Mexico.

Mr. and Mrs. Norman Heimler and Mr. and Mrs. Ross Heimler spent the long holiday weekend visiting their uncle, Mr. Matthew Garritz, in Buffalo.

The Unionville Women's Institute held their October 4th meeting at the home of Mrs. W. W. Mason. Motto—Charity Begins at Home. The W.I. Central Ont. Area Convention will be held at the Royal York Hotel, Toronto, on November 1 and 2. Mrs. H. Boardway and Mrs. W. W. Mason were appointed as delegates to attend the Thursday luncheon.

Thanks were voted to Mrs. Milton Thompson and committee for their work on Exhibits for Markham Fair Booth. Also to those who sent exhibits for showing.

A vote of thanks was moved to Mrs. Mason for entertaining the us and Roll Call was answered with the naming of a United Nation country. This was our Citizenship meeting and the convener, Mrs. J. Champion, assisted by Mrs. Carey, Mrs. Boardway and Mrs. Mason gave a splendid talk on the United Nations which came into being 11 years ago. They told us we must have peace and freedom if we are to work together to overcome backwardness.

Mrs. Champion finished the talk by reminding us that the United Nations is only as strong as the will of the people.

Mrs. Russel Brown, who has visited the United Nations Building in New York, gave us a very descriptive talk of its beauty and told of some of the parts in the grounds, which had been sent by different members of the U.N.

The date of Saturday, October 27th was set to hold a Bake Sale and white elephant. A lovely lunch was served by the hostesses, Mrs. Butcher and Mrs. Temple.

We are sorry to hear Mrs. Fugard and Mrs. J. MacLaren are ill and hope they will soon be feeling better.

Sympathy of the district is extended to Mrs. Evelyn Sabiston and her family in the passing of her grandfather, Mr. Briggs of the 2nd Concession of Markham, this past week. He was 82 years of age.

W.A.S. Thank-offering Service

Two Carloads of members of the Unionville W.M.S. accepted an invitation to attend the Brown's Corners United Church Thank offering Service on Wednesday night. Groups were present from Melville, Unionville, Whitevale, Headford, Victoria Square and Maple. We enjoyed the meeting conducted by Mrs. Rodick, who welcomed the guests. A presentation was made to three of their members—Mrs. Russell who is moving to Unionville, Miss Rhea Giles to Markham and Mrs. Scott to Richmond Hill. We all appreciated the soloist, Mrs. Mason of Toronto, who sang two numbers

Sympathy of this district is extended to Mr. Wesley Gohn and family in the death of a wife and mother at St. Michael's Hospital, Toronto on Saturday, October 6th. She was in her 76th year and had lived in this district for a great many years. She was the former Mabel Estelle Brooks. She is survived by her husband and family, Mrs. J. O. Smith (Reva), Elgin, Aubrey and Mrs. W. Dedlow (Ruth) all of Toronto. Lloyd of Markham, and Irvin of Brown's Corners.

The Funeral Service was held on Tuesday with interment at the Lutheran Cemetery, Buttonville.

I ran into a shop window and sustained injuries to my wife. I misjudged a lady crossing the street.

I heard a horn blow and was struck in the back—a lady was evidently trying to pass me. Coming home I drove into the wrong house and collided with a tree I haven't got.

Three women were talking to each other and when two stepped back and one stepped forward I had to have an accident. A lamp-post bumped the car damaging it in two places.

The car in front stopped suddenly and I crashed gently into his luggage grid.

Cow wandered into my car. I was afterwards informed that cow was half-witted.

If the other driver had stopped a few yards behind himself the accident would not have happened.

There was no damage to the car as the gatepost will testify. The other man altered his mind so I had to run into him. Dog on the road applied brakes causing a skid.

I can give no details of the accident as I was somewhat concussed at the time.

A pedestrian hit me and went under my car.

I blew my horn but it would not work as it was stolen.

I unfortunately ran over a pedestrian and the old gentleman was taken to hospital much regretting the circumstances.

I thought the side window was down but it was up as I found when I put my head through it.

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The speaker, Miss Nancy Edwards is a British Columbia graduate of the United Church school who has been doing missionary work in Newfoundland for 8 years. She showed slides giving a very vivid description of her work there. Brown's Corners, who were hostesses, served a delicious lunch, following the meeting.

Larry Skelton had the misfortune to injure his ankle on Tuesday night, when he jumped off the bulldozer he was operating. He was taken to the hospital. Fortunately, no bones were broken, and he was able to return home. We wish him a speedy recovery.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Gough returned home on Wednesday night following a pleasant three months visit with relatives in England.

A supper will be served by the W.A. on the evening of Oct. 15th for the Educational group of which Mrs. Fear is Convener and other groups of the Church. Rev. Sellers, in charge of Education at Bloor Street United Church, Toronto, will be the guest speaker. The supper will be held in the Central United Church.

St. Philips Anglican Church held their Harvest Thanksgiving Service on Sunday, Sept. 30. The church was decorated with the fruits of the harvest. The Rector, Rev. J. D. Tiller, in his sermon, reminded his people that despite a rainy summer, we are fortunate and blessed. The choir under the leadership of Mrs. Arthur Gresham, with Miss Ilia Weighill, ATCM, at the organ, sang the Anthem "Dear Land of Home" from the Finlandia Suite by Sibelius.

The Unionville Skating Club expect to open for the season on Saturday, October 27th.

Mr. and Mrs. Lebofsky and family of Toronto spent Thanksgiving with Mr. and Mrs. C. Weir, Pomanda Road.

Golden Wedding

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Casely and granddaughters, Misses Anne and Wilma Casely were guests at the Golden Wedding Anniversary celebration of Mr. Casely's sister and husband, Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Valliere, at Thornhill last Wednesday night.

Mr. and Mrs. Valliere received the guests amidst a setting of lovely Fall Chrysanthemums.

Rev. and Mrs. Butt and Bill spent the Thanksgiving holiday with their daughter and husband, Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Harley, at Mitchell.

Miss Annie Walker of Milliken visited on Sunday with Miss Kathleen Walker and Mr. and Mrs. Jim Walker.

Mrs. G. Kerswill gave the missionary talk, "The Service Room and the Elves," at Central United Church School on Sunday morning.

A severe thunder and wind storm swept the Unionville District at 10 p.m. Saturday. Half a large maple tree opposite Central United Church was blown across the road and sidewalk, breaking down the Hydro wires and for a time leaving the church on Sunday morning without heat or organ. Part of the village was blacked-out for four hours.

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YOUR HEALTH

HEADACHES

The examination of ten thousand unselected men between the ages of eighteen and thirty-eight years for military service in World War II revealed that headache is probably the commonest complaint that the doctor is called upon to alleviate.

The most commonly encountered headaches are vascular headaches, including migraine, and tension headaches which arise from sustained contraction of the muscles of the head and neck. The headache associated with fever and septicaemia probably ranks next in frequency and then some of those associated with hypertension, nasal, ear, tooth and eye disease. The headaches of brain tumour, abscess, and meningeal hemorrhage constitute a very small portion of pains in the head. Dilatation and distention of cranial arteries, the end result caused by foreign proteins, fever, and certain emotional states, has been shown to be a probable mechanism causing headaches.

Many headaches can also be traced to constipation, liver and bilious upsets, gastric disturb-

ances and disease, so that while referred pain may be in the head region, it is an indication that tissues and organs somewhere else in the body are not functioning normally. To merely treat the head symptoms, or suppress the pain without determining the cause can in time, lead to a more serious disease. Chiropactic maintains that in order to function normally, tissues and organs must have a proper nerve supply and this is controlled by your brain, the central nervous system and the continuation of it, the spinal cord which is enclosed in the vertebral column. Any spinal abnormalities or sustained muscular contraction will decrease the nerve and blood supply to organs involved, bring about tissue changes and set up pain reaction.

Any headache which does not relieve itself with a night's sleep, or keeps recurring from time to time, points the way to more serious complications. The chiropactor's approach to headaches has been successful because he knows that a nerve disturbance of some kind is causing the pain.

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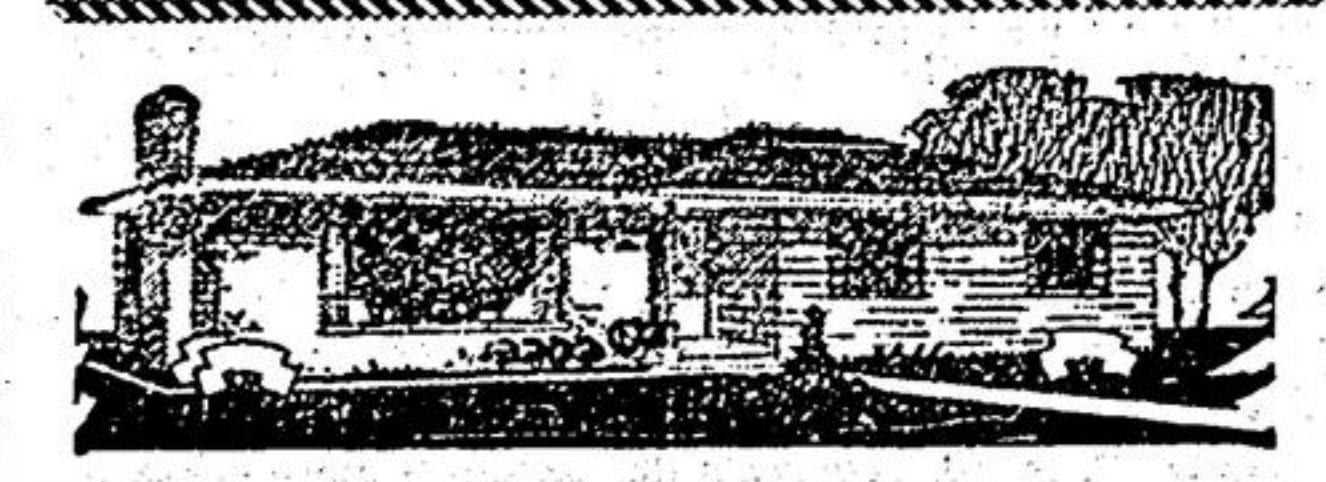
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