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On The Farm Front...

A. A. Wall, Agricultural Representative for York County.
 I heard about a farmer the other day that has had a succession of fifteen different hired men in a period of six months. This is extreme, but it illustrates the point that it's difficult these days to keep a farm well staffed.
 I don't know what the answer is, but I often wonder why men who want to work on farms are so scarce. After all, we have had a surplus of men in most other trades for some time now. A farm offers a nice balance of outdoor and indoor work without lot of the dull routine, close supervision, and pressure that exists in many other jobs. Still, it's quite evident that farm work just doesn't appeal to a lot of people and some possible causes are worth taking a look at.
 Wages are a factor. I don't know many wealthy farm workers, but still when you add the value of board and free housing to cash wages, the gap between farm wages and those in industry isn't too wide.
 Irregular and long hours have always been a problem. Happily, machines have helped to ease the manual work, so that now the farms that can operate on a regular schedule, have a more contented labour force.
 Prestige is involved too. Farm workers haven't had too much success with the social register, and it's rather rare to find a father encouraging his son to pursue farm work as a vocation. Probably the time has come when the labour force on a farm should be recognized more as a vital influence on success. Buildings, machinery, feeding systems, prize livestock, all share the limelight, with well trained labour being sort of taken for granted. Prestige will come to the man who has the judgment to make decisions for himself and can take some responsibility. Training for farm labour is badly neglected and some sort of programme for it might have a place.
 A survey a few years ago brought out a few things that farm workers rate important. Wages, working hours, and food were naturally high on the list. Some less obvious ones were that men much preferred to work on well managed farms, rather than those that were run poorly. The men frequently mentioned harsh criticism for mistakes, as a cause of discontent. They liked definite wage contracts, prompt pay, and to have a part in planning work. Surprisingly, they were only mildly interested in profit sharing plans.
 The farm labour situation will not change overnight, but it's important enough to justify a lot of time, effort and careful thought.

Sunday School Lesson

GOLDEN TEXT—Verily, verily I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father. John 14:12.
 The lesson last week showed our Lord confronting two terrors: the storm on the Lake and the deepest sorrow that can invade the heart of man, the death of a loved one. He was manifestly Lord in both circumstances. In so doing it reminded us of the mighty power resident in the Son of God, yet clothed with tenderness and grace, and the relation of this to human need.
 Service must begin with Christ and not with men. He calls us to Himself before sending us out into the world, and He alone gives the power by which we may acceptably serve Him. To try in practical experience to divorce Matthew 28:19 from the previous verse is to invite barrenness in service and, perhaps, spiritual disaster.
 Service must continue by a day-to-day consecration of all we are and have to Him. It may be little, but He takes it and uses Heaven's multiplication before passing it on to the multitude.
 Too often today the church seems lacking in power. Is it because we do not begin our service with communion and an unshakable sense of call, or have we missed some anointing of power that can only come from Christ? The ability to cast out devils and heal the sick was obviously more in evidence in a comparatively undeveloped society than in our present culture, but is this really an adequate reason for not expecting God to work today in what seem to us startling ways? Our prayers, meetings should be times when we ask and expect to see God at work in specific answers to prayer. Are they?

It is significant to notice how much Jesus used His disciples to the very limit of their capacity and does nothing for them that they ought to do for themselves. They walk, preach, heal, sail, or row the boat, provide the loaves and fishes, organize the crowd, distribute the food, and clear the ground afterward. He calls, commissions, empowers, commands, and multiplies their gifts. Today we do what we can, and He does all we cannot—with simple staggering results.

It is with regret that we learn there will be no Minstrel Show in Stouffville this spring. For the past three years folks around these parts have enjoyed the art and antics of some pretty fine local talent in these shows, sponsored by the Stouffville United Church Couples Club. However, Peg Topping, who produced the shows, advises that the Club has decided to take a year's hiatus, but assures me they have great plans for "something special" for next year. Many people will be disappointed — even some of the performers who seemed to have about as much fun "doing their stuff" as the delighted audiences had in watching — and we'll look forward to next spring when it's "on with the show!"

By the way...

Next Monday evening at the meeting of Stouffville Lions Club, eight talented young people will participate in the annual Lions Club Public Speaking Contest. From these eight (finalists in the Junior and Senior High School eliminations held this week in Stouffville District High School) two winners will be chosen by a panel of three judges to represent this area in the East-West Zone competition to be held in Newmarket. From there, two winners go on to Toronto to match their skills against representatives of other districts; and finally compete in the grand finals at Canada's largest public speaking contest sponsored by Lions Clubs of Ontario and Quebec.
Made Their Mark
 Although there is no official record of the original contestants, a plaque carrying the names of winners for the past fifteen years hangs in the high school, and heading this list is Clarence Fockler, winner of the 1949 contest. It is interesting to note that Clarence, now married and the father of three children, lives in Ringwood and is manager of the Ontario branch of Vachon Cakes Inc. Many of the names on the list have made their mark in the business and professional world. William Ratcliff, winner two years ago is enrolled at the University of Toronto. Quite a number of past winners, including three in the past six years, have swept through all the district contests to participate in the Ontario-Quebec finals. The 1958 winner, Norman Hendricks, now a third year student at McMaster, was selected in his freshman year as one of a two-man team to represent McMaster in inter-collegiate debate with the University of Toronto and Queens University. Stouffville can well be proud of the record of these ambitious young people. Last year's winner was Barbara Button and as she is still a student at Stouffville High, there is a possibility she may be one of the school finalists and a contender in next Monday's competition.

Means of Expression
 Much credit is due to Mr. Duxbury, principal of Stouffville High School, and to Mr. Smith, head of the English department, and the English teachers, for their interest and co-operative efforts in this yearly event. Because of their encouragement, students become enthusiastic participants. Public speaking is also a part of the composition course at both our public schools where every student in the senior grades is expected to prepare and present two or three "speeches" during the year. By this means, children naturally self-conscious and inarticulate, find means of expression. With similar assignments through the high school grades, even a student with little natural public speaking ability, becomes more proficient in expressing his thoughts and ideas. Looking to the future, this experience can prove invaluable to a young man or woman, in applying for a position, explaining complex mechanical instructions to a crew, expounding business procedures to a staff, teaching theories to a class of school students, making political speeches in parliament, or merely saying "I do" in a marriage ceremony. Not everyone is a natural speaker, but each young person can derive some benefit from the experience of public speaking classes and competitions.
 And so we give great credit to the local and district Lions Clubs for sponsoring these competitions, and especially to our own Stouffville Club who make this competition possible in our district, underwriting the expenses of the winning contestants to go on to greater achievements. This year, trophies are being presented by the Club and we know they will be treasured with pride by the successful young speakers who receive them.

In Debate Finals
 Congratulations to the Stouffville District High School debating team. Of the eight schools participating in this year's inter-school debates, Woodbridge and Stouffville have come through preliminary rounds and are preparing to do battle for the trophy. Stouffville, represented by Barbara Button and Eric Button for the negative, and Dawn Grose and Tim Wees for the affirmative, defeated Bradford in the first round, then won over King City who had knocked out Aurora. And so they meet Woodbridge, winners of the western division, in final debate.
 In each round, held in the schools, there are three outside judges, and results are computed on total points obtained. In these battles of wits, the negative team travels to the opposing school to participate. The final debate (date and location to be announced as soon as arrangements are completed) will be held at an evening session and the public will be invited to attend. Here will be our opportunity to lend our moral support, and show our pride and confidence in Stouffville's young debaters. So — every success to you Dawn and Barbara, Tim and Eric! We're mighty proud.
No Minstrel Show
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ANNE ROSS,
 Billy Graham's Associate Evangelist

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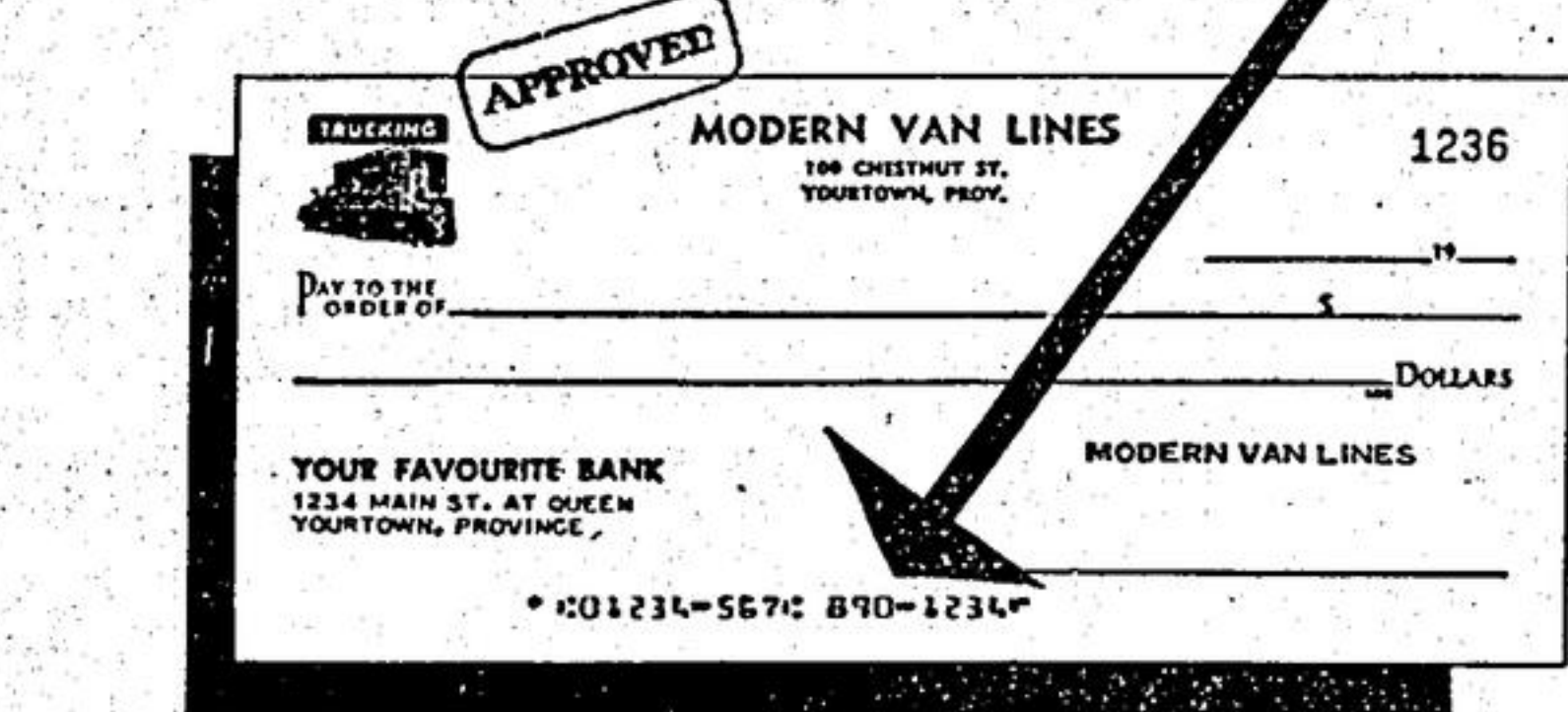
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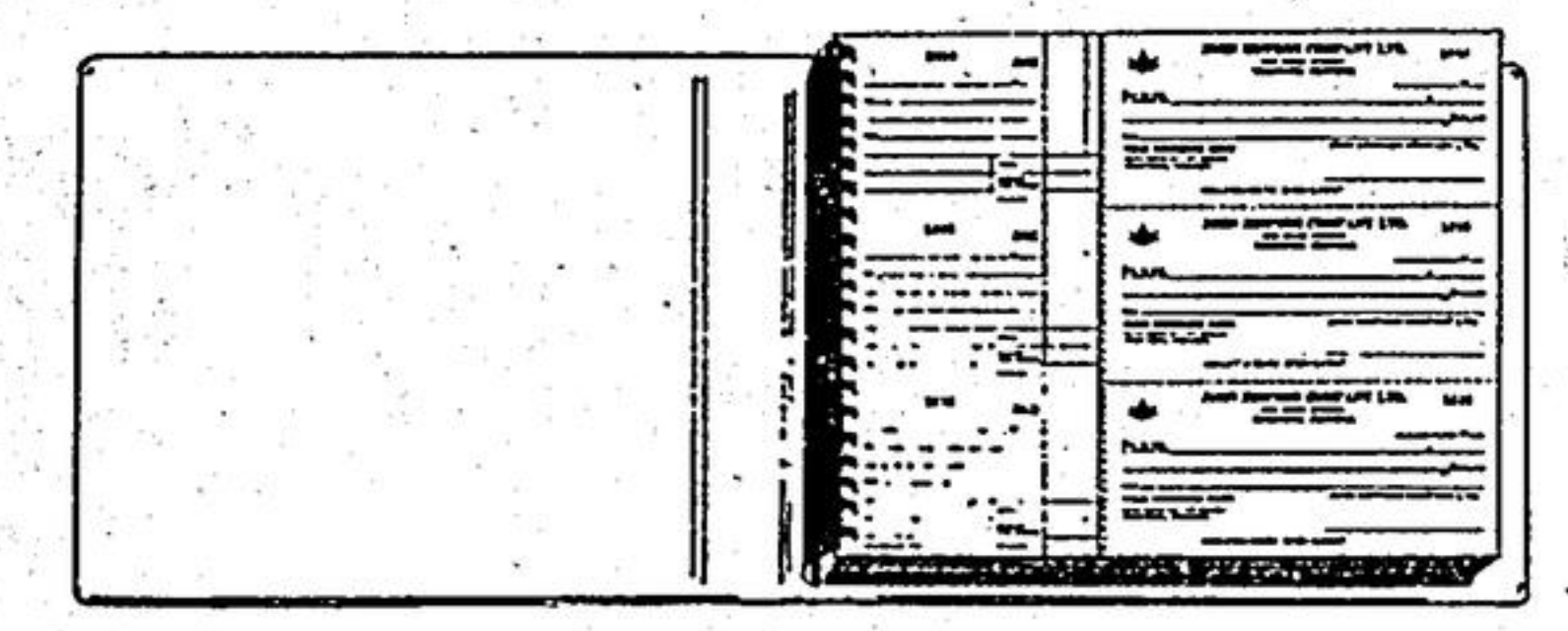
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