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OTTAWA REPORT



by **JOHN ADDISON M.P.**

60,000 new jobs, \$250 million increase in production in Canada's auto industry over the next three years sounds breathtaking — but by the signing of the Auto Agreement by Prime Minister Pearson and President Johnson, a distinct possibility. Reasons for such an agreement are obvious. First, that the Economic Council of Canada has warned us that 1,500,000 new jobs would have to be created by 1970 and second, to correct our historical imbalance of payments position with the United States. To do this, Canadians are asked to take a great risk but in doing so, the real possibility of even greater rewards. The Drury Plan as originally adopted provided a dollar in tariff rebate for every dollar increase in automobile parts exported to the United States. Our Canadian exports increased from around \$8 million annually to approximately \$75 million last year, compared to imports from the United States in parts worth more than \$600 million.

Terms of the agreement are, of course, complicated but in essence, it provides for a free exchange of new vehicles and new parts by the manufacturers between the two countries. The Canadian Government has abolished the import duty on new cars and new parts with the resultant loss of \$50 million a year. However, that under the previous Incentive Plan, we were prepared to remit the duty to manufacturers who increased their sales to the United States. In reality then, we were prepared to forfeit this \$50 million in any event for increased export production. It also means, by the end of 1968 in Canada, that all major Canadian car companies have agreed to increase production by 1/3 above normal growth rates which will entail their plowing back a large portion of the immediate savings by the elimination of the duty into plant expansion.

Canada has been in the unfortunate position of producing less of the total new vehicles bought in this country than we manufactured. It is the desire of the Canadian Government to ensure that Canada will be guaranteed its rightful share of North American production commensurate with our share of the overall North American consumption. It is interesting to note, that on a per capita basis, Canadians are buying more cars than Americans and this trend should continue. There will of course, be some dislocation. This is inevitable when any far-reaching agreement of this kind is instituted.

A number of years ago, the elimination of tariffs between the United States and Canada would have been rebuked. Not so today, for the very simple reason that Canadians realize, if we are to employ our steadily increasing population, we must have free access to larger markets. With our lower wage scale, our devaluated dollar, our more modern manufacturing facilities and skilled personnel some of which have been displaced by automation, Canada is in an excellent position to compete. For a great number of years, we have had free trade in the farm machinery industry and as a result, Massey Ferguson for example, a Canadian based firm, is the leader in this field.

As I said at the beginning, there are risks but inevitably without risks there is no progress. There is every chance, Canadian production will skyrocket as a result of this automobile pact. The Government with the manufacturers in a spirit of co-operation and mutual interest, has made free trade possible.

Soil and Crop Assoc. Annual Convention

Crops, farming systems and farm management problems will receive priority at the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association's annual convention in Toronto on January 27-29. The convention will be held in the Coliseum, Exhibition Park.

George Sufel, President of the Association, reports that an informative and varied program has been arranged which will be of particular interest to the delegates.

First day of the convention will hear discussions and reports on "Hybrid Wheat" as well as recent developments in the production of oats.

Soils, fertilizers, corn and soy beans have a prominent part in the second day's proceedings as well as the problems created by insufficient water supply.

Everett Biggs, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, will review the agricultural outlook for 1965 when he speaks on "Focus on Agriculture-1965." He will discuss the course agriculture may be expected to take in the light of developments in crop varieties, production techniques and business management.

The annual banquet will be held in the King Edward Hotel on Thursday evening when A. V. Piggott, Vice President of the Canadian Scholarship Trust Foundation, speaks on "Combiners and Computers."

The Friday program will be devoted to pesticides and their proper use. The recent TV series "Let's Look at Agriculture" will also form part of the convention program.

Held in conjunction with the convention, the Canadian Farm and Industrial Show, will be larger than ever.

Dist. Ladies Take Short Course In Block Printing

(Austra Janitis, Home Economist, York County, Ontario Dept. of Agriculture)

A short course in Block Printing was recently conducted at the Ontario Department of Agriculture in Newmarket by Miss Judy Gum. The course was divided into four sessions during which the participants were taught how to create their own designs, mix colours and then print them on all kinds of materials and textures.

Taking this course were: Mrs. Merle Mason, Stouffville #3, Mrs. Bruce Lewis, Scarborough; Mrs. George Ward and Mrs. J. Gloss, Aurora; Mrs. May V. Swash and Mrs. E. L. M. Smith, Stouffville; Mrs. L. A. Mason, Newmarket and Mrs. Nora Huyck, Newmarket #3; Mrs. P. Riordan and Mrs. Evelyn Snider, Maple #1; Mrs. W. G. Miller and Mrs. Cathie Closson, Highland Creek; Mrs. Harry Jackson, Maple #1 and Mrs. Norman Robson, Richmond Hill; Mrs. E. Ross and Miss Mildred Dike, Mt. Albert; Mrs. M. Biggs and Mrs. Alice Laing, Nobleton; Mrs. John Wray and Mrs. Clarence Kellam, Weston; Mrs. W. Crane and Mrs. G. Edwards, Schomberg; Mrs. Frank Greenwood, Newmarket #3 and Mrs. N. Storey, Sharon; Mrs. E. S. Reddick and Mrs. Helene Magiera, RR King; Mrs. F. J. Gardiner, Aurora and Mrs. G. C. Chalk, King #3; Mrs. Alva Thompson and Mrs. R. Holmes, Thornhill; Mrs. Shirley Deavitt and Mrs. Joan Kaak, Queensville; Mrs. Lloyd Pegg, Mrs. S. W. Schortinghuis and Mrs. Paul Feltham, Sutton West, #1.

Plans were made for a Summary Day to be held on April 12th at Victoria Square. At that time friends and well wishers will be able to see and appreciate what kind of creations can be made with the simple art of block printing.

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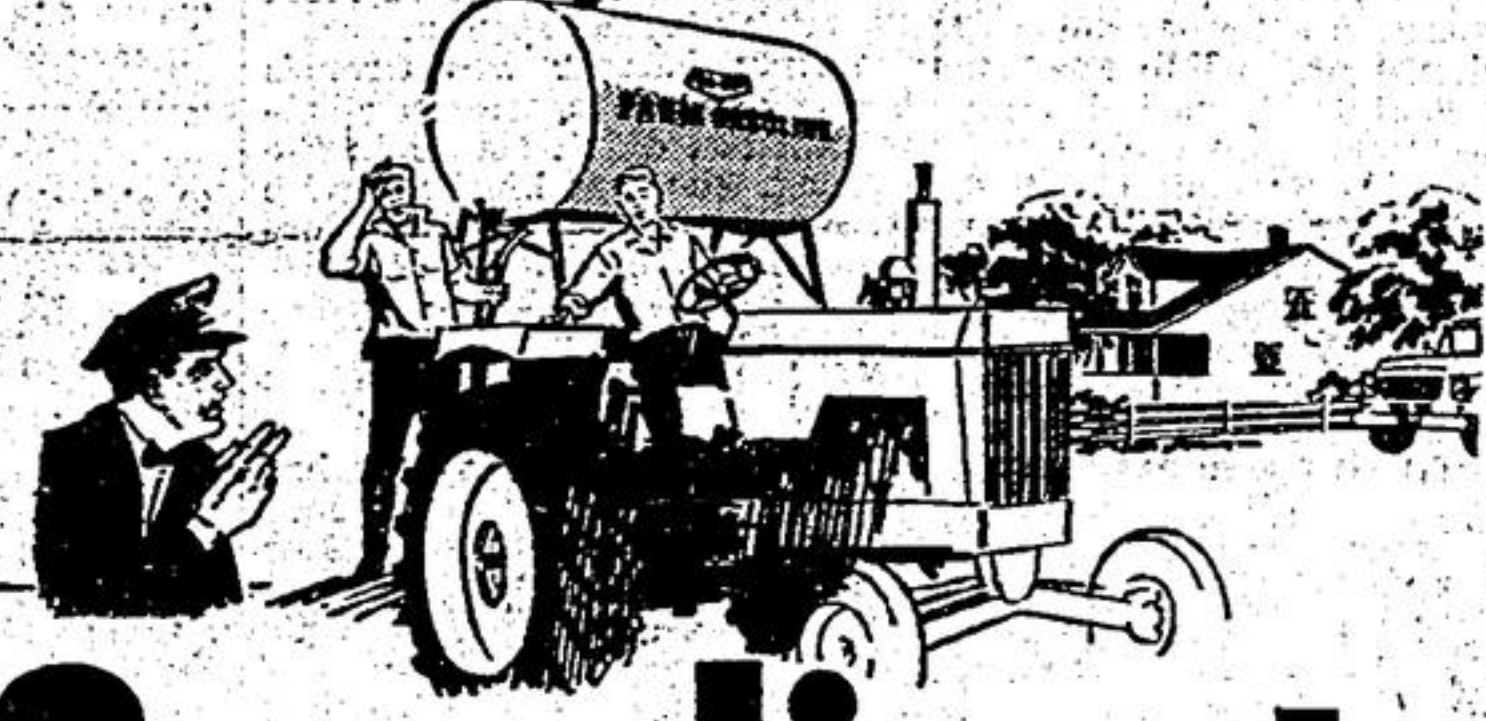
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