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NATIONAL REGISTRATION PLANS MOVING RAPIDLY

Labor Minister Gregg said last week that advanced planning for a national registration is going forward rapidly.

In a speech prepared for deliv-

ary to the annual convention of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, Mr. Gregg said the registration plans are being made "so that one might be completed at short notice if the situation should demand it."

The government, he said, has acted on several important recommendations of the National Advisory Council on Manpower, which a few months ago expressed belief a national registration was not needed at this time.

A plan has been inaugurated to step up the training of skilled workers for the armed forces and for defence production. An inter-departmental committee is working out a plan whereby employers engaged in essential activities will be given preference when the men and women who apply for work at National Employment Service offices are referred to jobs.

"I can assure you too that in other departments of the government, similar efforts are being made to make certain that nothing will obstruct the fulfillment of Canada's program of preparedness," said Mr. Gregg.

Door Too Tiny for Driver, Make Her Bed in Corridor

It took four police officers and two civilians to get a 220-pound woman from a police cruiser to the jail at Pickering on Friday night—only to find that the cell door was too small to admit her.

The woman, Mrs. Verna Tweedy, 38, of Greenwood, was arrested, after a chase, on charges of drunk driving and leaving the scene of an accident.

While Pickering Township Sgt. Fred White was patrolling the main street, two cars sped by. He gave chase and stopped Mrs. Tweedy, in the lead car. The second motorist, witness to a side-swipe accident, had been chasing her.

Moments later a Provincial Police cruiser, which also had been chasing the Tweedy auto, pulled up. It took the combined efforts of the two officers and four civilians to get her out of her own car and into a cruiser. After another six-man effort to get her into a cell failed, the officers made up a bed in the corridor. Later, when her husband arrived to bail her out, he commented: "She's the boss of our house. I'm a peaceful man myself."

PETERBOROUGH POLICE SHOOT COWS ON STREET

Two 800-pound Hereford heifers were felled by police bullets after they escaped while being unloaded at a packing plant. Susan Dewarga, 4, was knocked down but not severely injured as the cattle ran through city streets.

MODERN LIGHTING

The Uxbridge Public Utilities Commission have received approval from the Ontario Hydro for the expenditure of approximately \$7,000 for the modernization of the street lighting system of the business section on Brock Street.

Local Native Authoress Has Novel of Distinction

Critic for Toronto Daily Reviews New Book by Luella Creighton, Former Luella Bruce of Stouffville

This is probably the best regional novel yet written in Canada. And that, in my opinion, represents very solid achievement in spite of the anguished cries for a "truly national literature." If we can keep on producing writers like Mrs. Creighton we can well afford to let the Great Canadian Novel look after itself.

"High Bright Buggy Wheels" is not it, of course. This book is no myth. It is solid writing, which deals with a very alive phenomenon of Canadian—indeed—life in Western civilization. Its primary problem is that of emancipation, the breaking away of the individual from the firm and fast indoctrination of his social, religious and political group. The heroine, Tillie Shantz, simply has to decide what is right and what is wrong; whether what she has been taught is sin when her own instincts, developed by contacts with other concepts of right and wrong, tell her that "sin" is a word which no group or sect can define finally and for all time.

On this broad, general problem, which is one of the few basic situations for fiction, Mrs. Creighton constructs a tale which is enriched by the regional detail which she has chosen to use. Her specimen is the Mennonite community which produced Tillie. With tremendous patience, the authoress delineates this community and the people who inhabit it. No important point of their dogma is overlooked or goes unexplained, for Mrs. Creighton is not out either to defend or destroy the precepts by which these gentle people live. All she wants to do is to show that they do not apply to all people, and what happens when a rebel is produced within the confines of a fixed dogma.

What happens to Tillie Shantz is that she goes out into the world to learn a little dressmaking and music before she marries a Mennonite boy. In the process, she finds that for her there is a richness of experience which her faith will not let her enjoy. She also finds that there is a man outside her faith whom she can love. The resulting conflict within the girl herself makes the major portion of the book. With pace sometimes perhaps a bit slow a pace sometimes—Mrs. Creighton takes the reader into the heart of Tillie Shantz, making him see that with most of us one of the most difficult things in the world is to make a clean break. Even after Tillie marries the outsider, knows wonderful happiness, she turns back in an extremity to the old faith only to find that it no longer can satisfy her. This is a real dilemma—that of the man or woman who finds he can't go home again, and yet ever has a yearning for the bosom on which he was nurtured. Mrs. Creighton offers a solution in the closing chapter.

In this land, where almost all of us are only a generation or two away from country living, this book will strike many a responsive chord. Many of the pictures it paints will produce a nostalgia for that other way of life even if the reader's knowledge of it is only in the reminiscences of his parents. As far as the novel goes, the effect is to create a backdrop of rich authenticity which adequately compliments the characters who dominate each page.

The prose itself is adequate to the load it must carry, but not exactly inspired. One feels that the authoress had a heavy burden in what she wanted to say (and she did at that) and that she just contented herself with saying it clearly. She did do that, but her words never sing; there is rarely the joyous lift which comes from great writing.

Am I expecting too much? After all this is a first novel and it is one of the best we have had in many an arid year. Well, that's just it. Here is a writer who knows how to tell a story, how to pace it, how to hold it together, how to make the little show the big. I want her to write like one possessed, too, for she is one of the best bets I know right now. What's more, I go out a little farther and predict that "High Bright Buggy Wheels" will soon be topping the lists in popularity for Canadian readers.

JAMES SCOTT

THE REMARKABLE BANANA
From the London New Statesman and Nation

A friend sends me the following extract from the Illustrated Weekly of India, quoting from the essay of a Japanese school boy: "The banana are a great and remarkable fruit. He are constructed in the same architectural style as the honourable sausages. Difference being, skin of sausage are habitually consumed, while it is not advisable to eat rapping of banana. Bananas are strictly member of vegetable kingdom. Affiliation of sausage is often undecided."

The man who is a stickler for law is liable to be a trial to his friends

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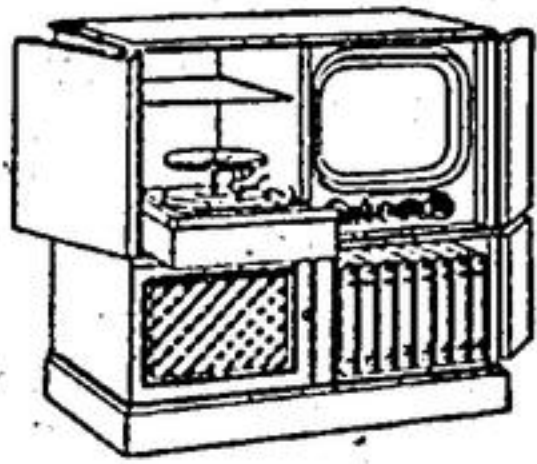
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