

EDITORIAL PAGE.

Dear Readers,

This month we would like to make an appeal to the older residents of the area. We'd like to start a series of articles entitled "I Remember". We are looking for people who can write us a story of days gone by.

You do not have to be a writer - just scratch it down on any piece of paper and send it off. We will help to edit it into presentable form.

How about a story on the steam-boats of the Rideau, or the old mills of the area? How about a cheesemaker to tell us about that famous Leeds County product? Or even some old recipes that grandma was famous for? We'd love to hear it from you! Just jot your thoughts down on a piece of paper and mail it to the Leeds Lantern, Box 136, Elgin.

P.S. What member of the Group of Seven once painted the Morton Church? Look for the answer and picture in next month's Lantern.

North Leeds
LANTERN



The North Leeds Lantern is distributed free of charge to all households in the Townships of North Crosby, South Crosby, Bastard and South Burgess, Rear of Leeds and Lansdowne, and Villages of Newboro and Westport.

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Letters to the Editor

"DAIRY INDUSTRY IN MESS"

This letter is written because of a sincere and profound concern for the present status of our dairy industry in general, and the cheese producers in particular. It is also written on behalf of the increasing number of confused, frustrated, weary, betrayed and unhappy producers and consumers in Ontario.

We believe that the Ontario Milk Marketing Board is the best example of bureaucracy, dictatorship and abuse of power that this country has ever seen. And, that it will eventually lead to the demise of the industry. The policies, decisions and directions coming from that body are unbelievable, dictatorial, uneconomical and repugnant.

We are led to believe that there is a shortage of milk. At the same time, producers are not allowed to produce enough milk to supply the demand for dairy products. Cheese producers are only operating at about half capacity and cannot meet the demand for cheese.

The latest disturbing rumour is that the OMMB is considering closing our cheese factories and bringing our cheese from Quebec. What a disaster and black day that would be. To close an industry that has been the back bone of farming for so many decades, with no thought of the investment involved or the jobs provided. We are not going to sit idly by and see our country, our province and our industry turned over to Quebec. We are going to fight.

There is'nt much incentive now days for new people to take up farming. We have seen so many put out of business because of the bulk milk legislation. And, a report a short time ago, suggested that another 3,000 milk producers would have to cease operations. These farmers were forced out with no thought of their investment, no opportunity to retire with dignity and no feeling of justice. The policies of the OMMB are forcing farmers deeper in debt or out of business. When the individual does not have an option it is the end of democracy and dictatorship takes over.

Milk trucks are hauling from one end of the province to another. At the same time we are warned of an energy and pollution crisis. Milk is being hauled from the near vicinity of a cheese factory to some distant point. And then, milk from a distant point is hauled back to the cheese factory. We don't have to be a professor in economics to understand the uneconomics of this folly. All this is at the expense of the producer and consumer.

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture has offered no support to the farmers, a good number of them members of OFA, who have been forced out of business. If it is not going to support and assist its members the only alternative is to form our own organization.

Subsidies are not the answer. They encourage the big to get bigger and over produce, which puts things out of balance.

The time for "sweet talk" is over. We must stand up and be counted and let our views be heard. It is time for us to prize honour, virtue and dignity above the external advantages of rank and fortune.

Our long range objective is to disband the OMMB and return our dairy industry to the free enterprise system. It should be noted that the beef industry has rejected the Marketing Board concept, mainly because of the mess of the dairy industry.

Our immediate objective is that the Chairman of the OMMB resign or be replaced. We need a man who understands our problems and with whom we can communicate. The present incumbent will not listen to delegations who try to present their views. We need a man who can show compassion and treat us as brothers instead of slaves. A man who will do a good act, not for himself, but for the cause of good.

It is hoped that concerned citizens will respond by letting their views be heard.

Joe K. Raison,
RR2, Portland, Ont.

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DEADLINE:

Our August deadline for submission of material is Fri. August 25th. Distribution will be Friday September first.