

The Athens Reporter

ISSUED WEEKLY

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William H. Morris, Editor and Proprietor

THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 1919

The splendid big game field known as the Hudson Bay Region is fully described in Rod and Gun for April, which is now on sale. Bonnycastle Dale, the well known sportsman, tells in his own graphic style of the trapping season of 1918 at Rice Lake. Mr. Charles S. Landis, the editor of the guns and ammunition department of the magazine and the best informed firearms man in America, has his life story told by J. R. Morrison. "A Morning at Constance Bay" will be read with interest by all young Canadians. It is the story of a splendid outing held by Ottawa Boy Scouts. In addition to numerous other articles and stories of merit, the usual departments are included in this splendid number. W. T. Taylor, Limited, Woodstock, publishers.

Messrs. J. P. Lamb & Son informs us that already a great many farmers are buying Blackleggeds preparatory to vaccinating their cattle this spring. There is no question but that this is a good move, something that every owner of cattle ought to attend to before it is too late. Veterinarians agree that there is little use trying to treat a case of Blackleg. It is almost invariably fatal and a single case is likely to so inoculate the soil with germs that the infection will linger for years to come.

Since it is a well established fact that vaccination will protect against the disease, no one ought to neglect this precaution. The next time you have an opportunity, ask for information. Booklets, etc., at J. P. Lamb & Son's.

AGRICULTURE NOT LANGUISHING, SAYS THE LOCAL MEMBER

A. E. Donovan, M.P.P., Speaks on the Condition of Farming.

THE POLICY OF THE GOVT.

Efforts of Hearst Administration in Behalf of Rural Population Reviewed at Length.

Toronto, April 22.—Of recent years there has been a practice in the Legislature of Ontario of introducing a motion directing attention to what is called "continued rural depopulation," and asking for the appointment of a commission to investigate the causes and suggest a remedy. On its face the proposition looks well, and while it may have received perfunctory attention in the past, this session the Government invited the House to discuss in detail every phase of agricultural development, and see whether or not there was any real problem such as the Hon. Mr. Hearst, Liberal member for Prince Edward county, Mr. Hearst based his main argument on the statement that the population of Ontario was about 1,000,000 less than it was forty years ago, and made the assertion that the decline in the number of large families

or that the size of the average family was becoming smaller.

This debate brought out one of the most informing speeches of the session when the discussion was closed by A. E. Donovan, member for Brockville, who took as his text the condition of the farming industry in the county of Leeds.

Mr. Donovan's Speech.

"I represent a constituency where there is a great deal of mixed farming carried on. I know of no other constituency in the whole of Canada—and I may be safe in saying the British Empire and perhaps the world—where the farmers are more intelligent, more industrious, more progressive and more responsive to the great impulses of civilization than are the farmers of Leeds county. I can recall the appeal that was made to the people of Canada last fall on behalf of the Victory Loan. What happened then in Leeds county? The farmers of Leeds county purchased Victory bonds, by tens and hundreds of thousands of dollars. There is no complaint from Leeds county, because the people are happy, contented and prosperous." (Applause.)

One of the first things to be considered in viewing the policy of the present Government toward agriculture was the fact that the Minister of Agriculture was himself a practical farmer, a graduate of the University of Toronto and of the Ontario Agricultural College. The Minister of Public Works was also a practical farmer and brought to the solution of the problems of highway improvement in Ontario the experience and view point of the rural districts.

Many Securing Education.

The influence of the youth from the country was an important factor in maintaining the vigor and strength of the nation, continued Mr. Donovan. At Toronto University 65 per cent. of the students were boys and girls from the country, sons and daughters of farmers. From the University they went into business and professional pursuits and the success that followed their endeavors was one of which Canada itself might be proud.

It was true that in years gone by there had been a movement away from the farms. First it started to ward the cities and then was attracted by the lure of Western Canada. Ontario should be well satisfied that her sons and daughters had done so much to stabilize Canadian sentiment in the West. That movement from the farms continued until about 1905 when it turned. Since then there had not been such a large migration from the rural districts, but it could never be entirely stopped. The love of adventure and the desire to roam was an instinct of the Anglo-Saxon race, and that instinct had made the colonization enterprises of Britain so successful throughout the world.

Reminding the House that in 1881 a commission had been appointed by the late Government to investigate the causes of rural depopulation at that time, Mr. Donovan said the whole affair was received by the farmers with hostility and indignation by reason of the inquiry into what they regarded as their own affairs.

Conditions Now Different.

Approaching another aspect of the question, Mr. Donovan said that the conditions under which farming was conducted to-day were entirely different from those of twenty years ago. The advent of labor-saving machinery, the development and extension of hydro-electric power, and the application of science to agriculture lightened manual labor and made it possible to produce more with less effort. On the other hand he dissented from the view that young men and women should be lured from the farms for no other purpose than to supply labor. The farming industry of Ontario should present the same attractiveness to the young people as the conditions under which work is carried on in the cities. For that matter, while he himself had been an indifferent farmer, he was ready to admit that the moral fibre of the nation was recruited from the farms. To make rural conditions attractive the Government had taken important steps by the introduction of agricultural education into the schools, the tremendous development of the hydro-electric enterprise, the encouragement of the use of the rural telephone and the assistance given to distribution of information by rural mail. All these had done much to eliminate the gulf that seemed to separate the country districts and the cities.

The Condition of Agriculture. Mr. Donovan then went on to touch briefly the condition of agriculture as evinced by the prices that were being received for farm products. He said that a few years ago beef only brought four to five cents a pound, while recently he had seen it quoted at fifteen to eighteen cents a pound in the carcase. One opposition member had made some criticisms with regard to the price obtained for cheese. He reminded the House that last year the Minister of Finance went to Washington and borrowed \$10,000,000 to finance the purchase of the cheese factories of the Dominion at prices ranging from 22½ to 23 cents a pound. Recently a

prize Holstein calf had been sold in Leeds county for \$100,000, and the ancestors of that calf had been in the county for thirty-five years.

Mr. Donovan vigorously condemned the "mad oratory of the member for South-West Toronto (Mr. Dewar)." "I was astonished and surprised to read his mad oratory in the newspapers recently when he referred to the Prime Minister of this province as a puppet during the time he occupied the portfolio of Agriculture. I was surprised that the Hon. member should make that remark when I understand he is aspiring to become leader of the Liberal party in Ontario or perhaps Canada."

The Government's Work.

Dealing specifically with the work of the Department of Agriculture, Mr. Donovan asked the question "Has Hearst" helped Agriculture?" That question he answered in the following manner:—In the four years of the present Government the farm assets of Ontario have increased \$116,500,000. The value of the combined farm assets of Ontario when the last figures were compiled was \$1,572,069,071. The total area under crop in 1918 was about ten million acres, an increase of 560,000 acres in four years. The value of the farm products for 1918 was field crops, \$350,000,000; live stock, \$100,000,000; making a total for the year of \$530,000,000.

In 1904 the expenditure on agricultural education was \$100,000. During the year the Government, through the Trades and Labor Branch, had supplied not less than 30,000 people to assist in farm work. To-day in every county there was a representative of the Department of Agriculture, whose duty it was to bring to the door of the farm the facilities and instruction of the college. These men had a wide range of duties, and there were, it was admitted, were of great value to the farmer.

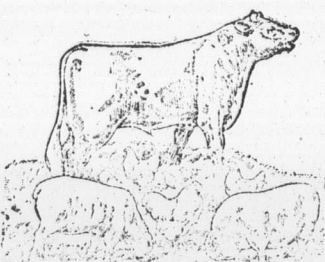
The work of the Women's Institutes had progressed under the Government. In 1904 there were only 57 institutes, with a membership of 524. At the present time there are about 900 institutes with a total membership of 30,000. Last year these women's organizations raised in cash for war purposes over \$800,000, while the attendance at their various gatherings and meetings was considerable in excess of 500,000.

Highway Improvement.

With regard to highway improvement the Government had spent over \$10,000,000 on road improvement in Ontario. The policy for the future was framed for the purpose of providing road facilities where they were needed and of a character suited to the class of traffic the roads received. It was important to bear in mind when the proposed provincial highway was being discussed that 50 per cent. of the population, 50 per cent. of the wealth, and 50 per cent. of the revenue from motor vehicles was derived from a strip twelve miles wide through which the new highway was to pass.

Special attention, Mr. Donovan pointed out, had been given to agricultural education. Not only had agricultural training been introduced into the schools, but the new Minister of Education was taking important steps in the direction of extending this training. In 1914 the school fair, which was an innovation started by the present Government, started with 150 fairs. Last year 307 fairs were held, representing 2,863 schools, 71,083 pupils, 67,238 plots and 117,749 entries, and an attendance of 86,343 children and 94,888 adults. The new agricultural high school at Kemptonville for which \$100,000 had been appropriated would serve the eastern section of the Province and prove a source of pride to the country.

With these and other facts before the House and the country, Mr. Donovan concluded by saying that the farmers of the country would repudiate the inference in the resolution of the member for Prince Edward (Mr. Parliament) that the agricultural industry was languishing. "I am sorry, Mr. Speaker, that he had the political audacity to introduce into this House such a sickly, narrow, anemic resolution in the hope that he would please the farmers of this country." (Applause.)



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CIVIL WAR FEARED.

Conditions in Ireland Are Rapidly Growing Worse.

LONDON, April 22.—The possibility that all Ireland will be idle soon is becoming greater hourly as the result of what may be called a deadlock in the strike in Limerick against the British Government. Besieged Limerick has now become the battle area for organized workers, whose leaders assert that unless the siege of Limerick is raised and her people are permitted to come and go without military permits, there will be a complete paralysis of industry in the south and west of Ireland.

Limerick has been proclaimed a military area for a week, and for that week it has also lived under Irish rule. Behind the governing Soviet is seen the inspiration of the Sinn Fein and this renders the developments in Limerick of even greater importance.

For it is believed that if the paralysis of the country becomes a reality there will be established numerous local Soviets, the chief links of the chain being the chief factors of the Sinn Fein.

No one is underestimating the seriousness of the immediate situation or its future possibilities. British soldiers with fixed bayonets and equipped with tanks and barbed wire, have not been called on so far by the residents of Limerick or by employers there for protection from the Soviet's rulings. A strike committee has had a week's term of office and is now pointing out how successfully it has managed the distribution of foodstuffs, which are fast being depleted, and at lower prices. It points to the lack of disorder under the Soviet's regime which is asking itself, "if this can be done in Limerick, why not elsewhere, if there is a national strike?" It savors of a well-thought-out plea of the Sinn Fein leaders. Early in the week the strike committee might have been willing to listen to promises of modifications of the military measures, but not now. A proposal to modify the restrictions on the movement of workers offered by the British general in charge of this district, has fallen on deaf ears.

German Princes in Switzerland.

GENEVA, April 22.—An official statement from Bern states that the Federal Council has authorized four Austrian archdukes—Max, Frederick, Eugene and Charles Etienne—to live in Switzerland, on the condition that they shall not engage in propaganda or politics.

The four archdukes will temporarily stay with the former Emperor Charles at the Chateau of Wartegg, at Saand, near Rorschach, on Lake Constance. Five other archdukes are expected to arrive in Switzerland shortly, while it is reported that the former Crown Prince of Germany is doing his utmost to exchange his Dutch residence for a Swiss hotel.

Seize Enemy Stocks.

MONTREAL, April 22.—The Secretary of State Saturday secured permission to take possession of Royal Bank stock valued at \$17,000 owned by enemy aliens in Montreal. The bank did not oppose the transfer, but filed a bill for \$55,000, which the German Government owed it through its confiscation of money in Belgium and a deal put through for the commanders of the Dresden and Karlsruhe at Jamaica on a coal purchase two days before war broke out.

Peter Burzocki, an Austrian, while attempting to act as peacemaker among five Russians quarrelling and apparently under the influence of liquor, was killed by a blow on the head with a brick.

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White Cap Yellow Dent
Early Huron Dent
Imported Leaming
Compton's Early
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Stowell's Evergreen Sweet

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Alsike and
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5 Roses Flour
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and Grain Warehouse



THE STANDARD BANK OF CANADA

HEAD OFFICE - TORONTO

FARMERS

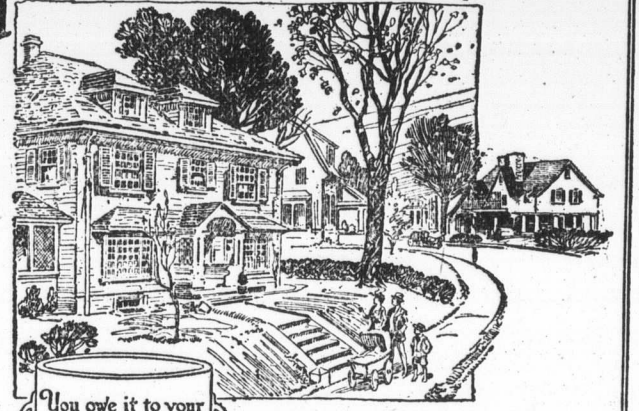
Advances to farmers are made

a special feature by this Bank.

Athens Branch, W. G. BEDFORD, Mgr.

"Save the surface and you save all."

Paint as a Matter of PRIDE



You owe it to your own community to keep your home in perfect condition. Paint is a preservative.

Which House Dominates Your Block?

SOMEWHERE in "Every community" is a house which always smiles at you. It is always a little more cheerful looking than the others, brighter, better kept, and—well painted.

Inside that house lives a good citizen and a good neighbor. His house is so inviting that it is like a hand stretched out to you. You are bound to feel glad that its owner lives near you.

B-H PAINT

Somewhere else in "Every community" stands another house. Its owner has become discouraged. He has quit trying. He has lost his ambition and gradually has accepted his fate as a down-and-outer.

You know that this is so, because his house says so. It is dingy, beginning to crack and sag, and is unpainted.

Its owner is not a good citizen. He has not done his share. His house stands out like a "sore thumb." It robs a whole neighborhood of legitimate real estate value. Buyers of new houses avoid its neighborhood.

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Paid-up Capital, \$7,000,000 Total Deposits (Dec. 1919) \$132,000,000

Reserve Funds, 7,437,973 Total Assets (Dec. 1919) 162,000,000

President: Sir H. Montagu Allan, C.V.O.

Vice-President: K. W. Blackwell Managing-Director: E. F. Hebban

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