

UNITED FARMERS OF ONTARIO CRYING FOR MORE HELP ON LAND

Rural Population Has Declined 30 to 70 Per Cent—Municipal Profiters Taking What Help War Has Left by Big Wages—Hot Shot for Bacon Barons.

TORONTO, Dec. 20.—"Farmers are working fourteen hours a day, and yet production is falling off. Why? Because the rural population has declined by thirty and fifty, and in some cases, to the extent of seventy per cent." This statement was made by E. H. Stonehouse, president of the Milk Producers' Association, at today's session of the United Farmers of Ontario.

"As farmers," continued Mr. Stonehouse, "we feel the serious nature of the situation, because we understand that situation as others do not understand it. We are not asking for exemption from military service as a class. We realize that our blood is no more sacred than that of others. But we do feel that food production in Canada is as necessary to the winning of the war as service in the trenches in France. To take one skilled laborer from the farm means adding one more to the body of consumers. It does more, it removes from the land one who is in a position to provide food for six or eight others, as well as himself."

"If we are to produce food to the limit, not only must we be allowed to retain skilled labor on the farm, but we must have a system of registration under which labor can be placed where needed—under which non-essential industries will be closed and more labor provided for industries which are essential."

"If the law of supply and demand were left alone, and the manipulation of combines eliminated, I do not believe price-fixing in any line would be necessary," said R. W. E. Burnaby of Jefferson, speaking of the fixing of prices of farm products.

"You farmers," Mr. Burnaby continued, "are not guaranteed cost plus a reasonable profit on goods, but the British Government does guarantee an excellent profit to packers on the bacon made from your hogs."

"The situation is indeed serious when rich and poor in England have to line up and wait for meagre supplies of the necessities of life. But I wonder if our Government is serious when it allows munition makers, by the offer of \$10 a day to take labor from the farm, it is not surprising that munition manufacturers can pay these wages. One such manufacturer handed over to the Government \$700,000, the profit he made on one contract. How much profits have other munition manufacturers made that they have not handed over? These men take good labor from the farm to cut their jaws and then they kick at 14 cents a quart for milk."

R. H. Halbert was re-elected president of the organization.

DRAFTEES OF M. S. A. TO GET ORDERS TO REPORT NEXT WEEK

Ontario Registrar Prepares to Send Out Notices.

TORONTO, Dec. 20.—By Thursday morning, December 27, it is expected the men called to the colors under the military service act will have received notices from the Government telling them when and where to report to begin active service.

The Ontario registrar's office states that the notices are to be sent in a few days from now.

46 KILLED AND MANY INJURED; TRAINS COLLIDE

Fast-Moving Limited Crashes Into Rear of Crowded Local Express

NEAR CITY OF LOUISVILLE

Worst Wreck in History of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad.

Shepherdsville, Ky., Dec. 21.—The death toll taken last night when Louisville and Nashville passenger train No. 7 from Cincinnati to New Orleans crashed into the rear end of a Louisville-Barabtown and Springfield accommodation train a few hundred feet south of the railroad station here, reached 46 today.

The number killed was at first placed at 38. Revision of the figures caused by additional deaths from among those badly injured increased the total to 46.

The wreck, which is said to be the worst in the history of the Louisville and Nashville, occurred just after the local train had pulled out from the station here. It had gone only a short distance, when the other train came into sight, traveling at a high rate of speed. Before it could be halted it had crashed into the slower-moving train ahead and made kindling wood of the two wooden passenger coaches it carried.

The locomotive pulling the fast train was badly damaged by the impact, but the engineer and fireman escaped with a few bruises. The heavy steel coaches it pulled were uninjured with the exception of one baggage car, and the train was able to proceed when a second locomotive had been secured from Louisville and the wreckage of the local train cleared from the right-of-way.

Blame for the disaster seems to hinge upon whether the fast train had been given a clear block or not. Jess Weatherford, operator at the station, said immediately after the collision, that after the local train pulled away from the station he had turned his board to show the track clear for the fast train,

and then left his post in response to orders to help unload baggage.

As he left the office, he said he saw the train approaching, rushed back to his office, set the red danger signal, picked up a red lantern, and rushed to the platform just as the train passed him, he said.

Superintendent Sheridan closely questioned the crews of both trains, as well as the station force, but declined to attempt to fix the blame, without further investigation.

Trapped in Wreck.

Immediately after the crash, passengers from the New Orleans train and Shepherdsville citizens rushed to the aid of those imprisoned beneath the wreckage of the local.

Several of those killed were so badly disfigured that it was impossible to identify them last night.

Two children were found in snowdrifts into which they had been thrown and were cared for last night by Shepherdsville citizens. One, a girl of about 11, was apparently unhurt, but had suffered such a violent shock as to lose her memory at least temporarily. The other child, a little girl about 4 years of age, was asleep when picked up from the snowdrift into which she had been pitched by the impact of the collision. Her rescuers decided not to awaken her after it was found she was unhurt, and the child slept the night through. Many of the injured were so badly hurt that it is feared the death list will be increased even further.

DISTRICT CASUALTIES

PRESUMED TO HAVE DIED

STAFFA.
K. Connelly, LONDON.
K. F. Martin, LONDON.
J. Martin, STRATHROY.
C. H. Smith, ILL.

EXETER.
Bombardier J. A. McMahon, DIED IN HOSPITAL.
PORT ELGIN.
D. Thompson, WOUNDED.

WOODSTOCK.
Sapper G. W. LeCras, INNERKIP.
Pte. John M. Birtch,

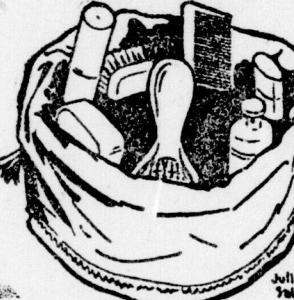
Ashplant's The Good Shoe Store

We Will Exchange Our Goods Any Time.

Ladies' Fur-Trimmed Velvet Juliets, in black, black and white check, purple, saxe blue, gray and red \$1.75, \$1.50
Ladies' Black Felt Juliet, velvet trimmed \$1.25
Ladies' Felt Kozy Slippers, ribbon trimmed; choice of 11 colors \$1.00
Special Hi-Cut Cozy Felt Slipper, regular \$1.25 value \$1.00
Ladies' Satin Boudoir Slippers, pink, pale blue, mauve, red or black 75c
Ladies' Glove Kid Boudoir Slippers, mauve, old rose, pink, pale blue, brown or black \$2.00
Ladies' Felt Arctic Slippers, warm and woolly \$1.25, \$1, 75c
Ladies' Skates (attached free) \$1.25 to \$3.00

Toilet Bags (Rolls)

For Men and Women



Ladies' Purses

Boys', sizes 1 to 5 \$2.00, \$2.50, \$3.00
Girls', sizes 3 to 7 \$2.00, \$2.50, \$3.00, \$3.50
Small Girls', sizes 11 to 2 \$2.00
Men's, sizes 6 to 11 \$2.50, \$3.00, \$3.50, \$4.00, \$5.00

Made with strap on back and of all leathers.

Goat, Seal Goat, Walrus Grain, Pin Seal, Calfskin, etc.

Priced at 50c, 75c, \$1, \$1.25, \$1.50, \$2, \$2.50, \$3, \$3.50, \$5

Always a pleasing gift to the young man or woman who travel at all or do any visiting.

Made of finest leather, nicely lined and fitted with all the necessary toilet articles.

Priced at \$5.00 to \$14.50

Hockey Boots

These are real economy, too, because they save their best Boots.

Boys', sizes 1 to 5 \$2.00, \$2.50, \$3.00
Girls', sizes 3 to 7 \$2.00, \$2.50, \$3.00, \$3.50
Small Girls', sizes 11 to 2 \$2.00
Men's, sizes 6 to 11 \$2.50, \$3.00, \$3.50, \$4.00, \$5.00

Ashplant's
THE GOOD SHOE STORE

Ashplant's The Good Shoe Store

We Will Exchange Our Goods Any Time.

Men's All-Felt Kozy Slippers, padded soles, in gray or brown \$1.25
Men's Arctic Felt Slippers, plaid, check and plain patterns \$1.25
Men's Brown Imitation Alligator Slippers, nicely finished, At \$1.50, \$1.25, \$1.00
Men's Brown Kid Romeo Style Slippers \$3.00, \$2.25, \$1.75
Men's Brown Kid Slippers, regular pattern \$2.25, \$1.75
Boys' Hockey Skates \$1.25, \$1.50, \$1.75
Children's Warm House Slippers, in big variety, At 50c, 60c, 75c, 85c, \$1.00
Boys' Storm Prospector Boots, black and tan \$3.50 and \$3.00

Ladies' All-Leather Hand Bags 98c

Special sale this week of Leather Hand Bags, which we secured before the last advance in price of leather.

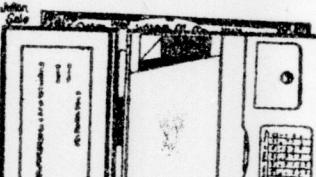
The Bags are all of the new type in shape and are lined in daintily colored material.

Choice of any at 98c

Moccasins

Boys of any age and girls, too, delight in wearing Moccasins; light and warm. They are noiseless around the house, too.
Boys' and Girls', sizes 11 to 2 \$1.35
Boys' and Girls', sizes 3 to 7 \$1.65
Small Children's 70c, 75c, \$1.00

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With car ticket and small change compartments.
A wide variety of leathers and in all qualities.
Priced at 50c, 65c, 75c, 90c \$1, \$1.25, \$1.50, \$2, \$3 and \$3.50.
Certificate cases, holding one, two three or five.

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ALL artists, ALL instrumental soloists and orchestras, ALL bands, ALL popular songs of the day, ALL dance music, are at your command without restriction when you play

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ALL PHONOGRAPHS IN ONE

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This remarkable instrument is especially designed—not adapted—to play all records. It is the final type phonograph, combining all the merits of all the phonographs.

For a long time its craftsmen have made phonograph cabinets for others. Now in their own-named instruments their greatest achievements are seen. Each Brunswick is built artistically and well.

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The Brunswick has an all-wood sound chamber—built like a violin. So there are no metallic or nasal tones.

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And Brunswick Records

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Easy Terms Arranged

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C. Crawford 326 Dundas St.



THE EVERGREEN GIRL

By Marston Mercer.
(Copyright, 1917, by the McClure Newspaper Syndicate.)

Every year about the middle of November a small sign appeared over the door of the "Evergreen Shop," which read, "The Evergreen Girl." Year during the Christmas season Ruth Thomas made hundreds of evergreen wreaths, which she sold for Christmas decorations.

"This was why the people of Briery called her the evergreen girl."

The day before Christmas Ruth sat in her little shop finishing the last wreath she would make that season.

"There!" she said, "I have twisted a sprig of bright red berries among the evergreen stems, 'that finishes Helen Stanwood's order, and thank goodness, it's done in time. O, dear," she sighed, "laying the wreath aside, I do wish I could spend one Christmas time enjoying myself as others do. Why, there has not been anyone here over the holidays since I can remember, and I have not been to a Christmas party in years. Since the time I went over to Dolly Blair's with Dane."

A warm color suddenly glowed in the girl's cheeks, and there was a soft light in her brown eyes, as she thought of that party. Once during the evening she had caught her. This she was standing under the mistletoe bough, and the sudden roar of a high-power automobile broke in upon Ruth's musings. The car belonged to Dane Stanwood. Dolly Blair's, Dane had gone west to become a mining engineer. He had written a few times to Ruth, and then the letters had stopped coming, and she had not heard from him for nearly four years. Then, just a month ago, he had suddenly appeared in Briery with the blue racing car. Soon it was rumored that he had made a fortune in the mines.

The second week after his return Stanwood bought the old Blair mansion, and gave the information that he intended to move into his new home before Christmas. Next he announced that preparations were under way for a party which he was giving Christmas eve.

The evergreen girl had been surprised and a little bit hurt because Dane had not even called. She had thought it strange, too, at first, that she did not receive an invitation to the party, for she knew nearly every one in Briery was going.

But when Ruth was told the party was to be given in honor of Stanwood's fiancée, she understood why she had not been invited.

"That is why Helen Stanwood didn't little laugh."

"I am sure we can if we work fast," she answered. "I am used to this work, you know, and with your help it won't take long."

"How long have you been the evergreen girl?" Dane asked, as he and Ruth were trimming a chandelier.

"This is my third season," Ruth replied. "I found that there was a big demand for wreaths and laurel trimming during the Christmas holidays, so three years ago I opened an evergreen shop. I love to do this kind of work, and although the season is a short one, my little shop pays well."

The evergreen girl might have added that, more than this, the rush of work was always so hard to bear during the holidays. She said nothing of this, though, but asked instead:

"Tell me, Dane, how have you spent Christmas while you have been away? Have you been where there was much merry-making?"

"For the past three years," said Stanwood, "I've celebrated Christmas by working from dawn till dark. This is the first enjoyable Christmas Eve I

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Louis XVI, and Adam patterns of Community Plate.
Also Wm. Rogers and World Brand Designs.
Any pattern in Community Plate supplied.
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VACUUM BOTTLES
Pints, reg. \$1.50, for \$1.19
Quarts, reg. \$2.25, for \$1.79

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BRASS GOODS
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Ash Trays 45c up
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Hanging Baskets 65c up
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Cut Glass, richly cut, Razors, Pocket Knives, Casseroles, Chafing Dishes, Trays, etc.

Our stock of Wooden Toys is most complete. We invite your inspection. See our display of Useful Gifts. Prices to suit all.

A PLEASURE TO SHOW GOODS.

Westman's Hardware, Limited

have known since I left Briery."

"It has been a very pleasant evening for me, too," said Ruth, "and I have enjoyed it ever so much. Now, we'll trim the Christmas tree, and then you can take me home and get back in time for the party."

A half-past seven Dane surveyed the big double parlors with satisfaction. With the help of the evergreen girl he had finished the decorations and everything was in readiness for the guests. The rooms looked just as they did four years ago at Dolly Blair's Christmas. "Don't you remember how that one hung right over our heads, as this one does now?"

The evergreen girl was silent.

"Had you forgotten, Ruth?" he persisted.

"No," softly, "I had not forgotten."

"You never thought I had forgotten, did you, dear?"

"But you never wrote, Dane."

"Because for a long time I was miles from a railroad or postoffice and could not send any mail. But I've thought of that night, though, and all these years I've been planning to have a Christmas party as much like that one as I could, only this one tonight will be for you."

"But isn't the friend who is coming with Helen your fiancée?" faltered Ruth.

"Not exactly," laughed Dane. "That friend is Harry North, Helen's fiancée. The girl I expect to marry is that one, now, and by Jove, I've caught her again, standing under the mistletoe bough."

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