

**Survey Of Farm Homes**

The hoped-for better day for the farm population must include an improvement in housing conditions, and the national housing scheme to be undertaken after the war will undoubtedly provide assistance for rural homes. Valuable information on this subject, on present conditions and the need for improvement, is available through somewhat extensive surveys made in Saskatchewan by the economics division of the Federal Department of Farm Management of the University of Saskatchewan in the year 1939 to 1942. The surveys were well planned and cover five districts in the prairie area, five in the park area, and nine in the pioneer area. The poorest farm houses were found in the pioneer area, as would be expected, and the best were in the longest-settled prairie country. But, out of 1,057 houses in the districts surveyed in the prairie area, only 67 were in good condition; 772 were fair, and 258, or 23.5 per cent were in poor condition. In the park area, out of 616 houses, only 59 were good; 362 or 58 per cent were fair; and 195, or 31.6 per cent were poor. In the pioneer districts, 37 out of 998 farm houses were good; 397 were fair; and 564, or 56.5 per cent were poor. Note was taken of the age of the houses, and this showed that 73 per cent in the prairie area were from 20 to 40 years old; 49 per cent in the park area were built in the last 20 years; and 92 per cent in the pioneer area were built in the same period. The conclusion reached is that: "At least 50 per cent of the houses in poor condition need to be replaced by more adequate and suitably constructed dwellings, and the remaining 50 per cent need at least about one-half of this replacement cost to put them in proper condition. "Farm houses in fair repair would need about 10 to 20 per cent of the present value spent on repairs to put them in a satisfactory livable condition. It was found that the size and condition of houses was related largely to the amount of investment which different farms and different areas could support, but that the investment needed was not the only consideration in a rural housing programme. There is undoubtedly good ground for the statement that "guidance to rural people in selecting houses of proper type and construction would go a long way in improving housing conditions in the province." There are obviously many phases of this report which are applicable to other rural provinces as well as Saskatchewan. Our own provincial authorities would be well advised to give a careful study in connection with any farm rehabilitation program they may be preparing to launch.

**What Obstacles Now?**

That doubly checked and revised statement of Minister of Agriculture Gardiner issued at Regina on the bacon situation, says the Globe and Mail, appears still stranger today. It engaged first as an announcement that the Canadian farmer was not going to be urged "to produce enough hogs to supply the British market when the British advise us that they may not require our bacon after the war." Later this was watered down to a quotation that, "with the advice representatives of the British Ministry of Agriculture have given farm organizations, we would not be justified in asking farmers to continue to produce hogs to the level of last year until the end of the war." Either way it was to be Britain's fault if Canadian hog production declined to the point where the British bacon ration dropped from four to three ounces weekly. Now has come the Minister of Food in Great Britain, Col. John Llewellyn, pleading that production be kept at 1943 level, and saying: "No one here need have any fear that by going extensively into hog production their market will slip away from them." "I hope," he told the Dominion - Provincial agricultural conference, "when you get back to your different provinces that you will try to help to maintain our present bacon ration, which barely just covers our essential needs." Col. Llewellyn's only suggestion for ensuring the market was a more careful grading of bacon after the war. This is far removed from Mr. Gardiner's intimation that Britain will be at fault if bacon shipments fall in 1944 to 450 million pounds. If bacon is not graded to suit the market it will be Canada's fault.

**"Take Your Choice"**

This is the title of a thought-provoking booklet just issued by the League of Nations Society in Canada. The "choice" is between taking an intelligent, active part in the duties of citizenship and assisting in "making democracy work in Canada" and, indeed, throughout the world—or, by leaving it to "the other fellow," risking another and still more destructive world war, in which, because of her situation on the "cross-roads of the air," Canada would be subjected to devastating bombardment. In homely language, the story is told of a prairie farmer, a typical average citizen who, honourably discharging his responsibilities to his family and his community, had failed to take due interest in the affairs of Government or to make sure that the best representatives were nominated and elected. Then came the war and its tragic con-

sequences, and his eyes were opened. He discovered that the solution of national and international problems was to be sought in the power of enlightened public opinion. "Individuals co-operating make the organization, and only through organization can the individual have opportunity to develop in this complex and interlocking One-World of ours."

**EDITORIAL NOTES**

Since war began, Great Britain has spent £1,500,000,000 (\$6,660,000,000) in the United States on supplies of all kinds.

Credits and Lend-Lease assistance given by Great Britain to Allies other than the U. S. A. and the U.S.S.R. (but including Turkey) amounted by December 31, 1942 to £186,000,000 (\$825,840,000).

Up to June 30, 1943, the burden which Britain assumed in the form of payments made to other members of the United Nations in excess of sums received from them amounted to over £2,250,000,000 (\$9,990,000,000).

Great Britain's war front against Germany, the Royal Navy, has played a tremendous part. Its task was to cut off the German war machine from vital supplies, and it accomplished this by stopping the following percentages of German imports from pre-war sources: oil, 8 per cent; cotton, 98 per cent; maize, 99 per cent; natural phosphates, 95 per cent.

The Bishop of Bradford, Rt. Rev. Alfred Blunt, has suffered a nervous breakdown "and gone away for a complete rest," it is announced. The bishop, it may be recalled, brought the romance between King Edward VIII and Mrs. Wallis Warfield Simpson into the open with a critical sermon December 1, 1936.

In Great Britain's air and sea front against Germany, the Royal Air Force has done a masterly job of destruction. It was given the task of crippling the German war machine, and in a single year, from the spring of 1942 to that of 1943, RAF raids on Germany are estimated to have reduced overall industrial output by from 15 to 20 per cent. This percentage has now been increased by further RAF, RCAF and USA air attacks.

Food experts at the recent meeting in Atlantic City agreed that the food problem in Europe will not be so serious as it has been pictured. It is stated on competent authority that actually in the past two years there has been greater food production on that continent than in the months immediately preceding the outbreak of war. This has been accomplished, obviously, under the spur of the enemy who has been diverting the food produced to its own uses, but the fact remains the means of food production is there.

Cranberry sauce for the Christmas turkey will be more readily obtainable this coming Yuletide season because of a recent ruling by the War-time Prices and Trade Board. The coupon value of this commodity has been increased. A large percentage of cranberry sauce, manufactured from the 1943 production of cranberries, has been packed in 12 fluid ounce containers. To meet this situation one "D" preserve coupon will now be good for the purchase of one 12 fluid ounce container. Previously only 10 ounces of cranberry sauce could be obtained for one "D" coupon.

George Romney, English painter, born this date 1734; was a rival of Reynolds as a portraitist, but was never admitted to the Royal Academy; his favourite sitter was Lady Hamilton, of humble birth but extraordinary beauty who became the mistress of Lord Nelson; Romney painted nearly 50 portraits of her in different characters before she died in poverty at Calais; his best work gives an impression of movement and elusive grace; outstanding examples of his work are "The Parson's Daughter", "The Duchess of Gordon and her Son", "The Misses Beckford When Children", which sold in 1919 for \$283,000.

A preliminary study of the best method of aiding servicemen and women to fit into civilian life after the war has been inaugurated by the congregation of the Church of St. John the Evangelist, Montreal. Called by the rector, Rev. Canon W. H. Davison, well known here, the meeting discussed the question with particular reference to the parish of St. John the Evangelist and to the activities of the church. During the course of the general discussion period, it was pointed out that the young people who returned to the parish after the war would have an entirely new outlook on life, an outlook which the church would need to welcome and understand in order to aid these men and women to make their contribution to the church life. The necessity for getting in touch with returned men and women as soon as possible after they came back was stressed, in order that they might not drift away, and the importance of the personal touch in welcoming them home was emphasized.

A gradual easing in the supply of raw materials for production of civilian metal goods is anticipated in Canada following the New Year. More metal is being released for this purpose, but manufacturers may find difficulty reestablishing civilian production owing to the shortage of skilled labor and the high wartime wage levels in effect. The government is said to be examining the lengthy list of metal products which are at present banned from production in Canada, with a view to permitting some of the more essential lines to be manufactured again, according to Hardware and Metal, Toronto. Hardware dealers are prepared for a heavy Christmas business. Although the assortment of gift suggestions is limited quantities of available lines are fairly good. However, with most shoppers on the go early this year, some merchants may find their stocks badly depleted.

**Notes By The Way**

Another sad feature of fatherhood is that daughter is too old for sport when she decides to treat you like a "quaint old darter." —Calgary Albertan.

New produce of the victory gardens is on pantry shelves and through the long winter the mighty gardener can keep his big new muscles by unscrupulous bottle tops. —Louisville Courier-Journal.

Isn't it strange how the same people who think they are the only ones who feel intense heat waves in the summer are the first to complain about the chilly atmosphere in the fall? —St. Thomas Times-Journal.

Perfection of an extremely sensitive new stethoscope by scientists of R. C. A. laboratories reveals that the human body is a veritable boiler factory for noise. Such a fascinating panorama of body sounds picked up by the new stethoscope that it was necessary to devise radio-like controls to tune out undesired noises. The instrument gives doctors a valuable new method of diagnosing what's wrong with human "innards" by the squawks they make. —Your Life Magazine.

So many women are finding the fruit preserves they put up last summer are going bad on them. Lacking the usual amount of sugar, they tried to do with less, attempted to follow recipes set forth by so-called experienced dietitians. Many women responded to the appeal to save food by putting up preserves. The things they are saying to themselves and their neighbors about the fruit going bad would not look nice in a newspaper going into the home. —Windsor Star.

Romain Rolland, French author and pacifist, whose death was announced this week, was dying when he arrived in Paris a week ago from a concentration camp in Northern France, says the Swiss Tribune de Geneve. Shortly before his death at his home he told intimate friends, "After all I experienced this past year it is better that I should never be permitted to write again. I would have to revoke all the works I have ever written and urge you to employ force against force." —Canadian Churchman.

That biotin, one of the B vitamins stimulates growth in new established, says a science writer. When rats are fed on raw egg-white they die. The reason is that egg-white contains avidin, which checks growth. Give a rat avidin in the form of egg-white and the biotin cannot do its work. Biotin is found in the body tissues and also in excretions. It is particularly rich in kidneys, brewer's yeast, soybeans, spinach and tomatoes. The vinegar used is, of course, acid. Hence in the pickling process the biotin must be largely extracted. The sour sauce is consumed with the meat or vegetable. It seems to follow that European peasants get their biotin even when, as often is the case, they have to rely on pickled foods for their supply. —Exchange.

The Services Division of the War Department has found out that two out of five men in the Army consider their pants too tight. From its thousands of "prize sheets" or questionnaire distributed among the soldiers here and abroad it has learned also that, contrary to tradition, most of them — four-fifths in fact — are satisfied with their food. On their own testimony it is fresh and hot and plentiful. There may be a direct relationship between these two discoveries — the better the food the tighter the pants. On the other hand, one wonders: Why should the pants particularly feel the pressure of their wearer's nourishment? —New York Herald Tribune.

pensions schemes of great industrial organizations, by reducing anxiety as to the later years, tend

**Freedom Is A Unity**

(Saturday Review of Literature, New York)

The Russians, the Chinese, and the Americans alike fought, when they were attacked, but the British fought before they were attacked. The British understood that their freedom was in mortal peril when Poland was assaulted; but it took Pearl Harbor to convince us that ours was in deadly danger. The power to maintain peace has been learned and we have never forgotten that an assault upon Massachusetts is an assault upon South Carolina, and a frenzy of bloodlust that sent them to sweep the world. Under a Prince of the Power, Darkness the Germans have fought well—but the democracies are fighting better under the leadership of plain men who have no traffic with demons or diabolical pagan gods. Winston Churchill, Franklin D. Roosevelt, and Chiang Kai-Shek would all be fish out of water in the medieval press of a Walpurgisnacht, and even Joseph Stalin was never suspected of consorting with any spirit more potent than Nicholas Lenin, who is now identified with Beelzebub only in our stuffer and more expensive clubs.

On the whole to prolong life, against this, however, must be set the disquieting increase in tuberculosis and one or two other diseases, which is now being combated with penicillin or diethylstilbestrol. On the other hand, the rise in the birth rate is a matter for general satisfaction, and this is increased rather than diminished when we look beyond the bare statistics to the less obvious surrounding circumstances. The rise over something in the emotional tension of war, which at once increased the number of marriages, but the birth rate actually reached its lowest point in the history of the year 1933, and showed a slight but steady rise every year until 1939. The conclusion seems to be that there is something in the direct consequence of increased employment as well as emotional tension. —Glasgow Herald.

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 LITTLE THINGS  
 Little things that run and quail  
 And die in silence and despair;  
 Little things that fight and fall  
 And fall on sea and earth and air;  
 All trapped and frightened little things,  
 The mouse, the coney, hear our prayer:  
 As we forgive those done to us,  
 The lamb, the innert, and the hare,  
 Forgive us all our trespasses,  
 Little creatures everywhere.  
 —James Stephens

**This War—Four Years Ago**  
 (By The Canadian Press)  
 DEC. 15, 1939—Uruguayan naval board recommended that the German battleship Admiral Graf Spee, in Montevideo harbor, be given until 5 p. m. Dec. 17, to leave port. Russians claimed occupation of Samuilov, Finnish nickel industry centre.

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