



DEER HEARTS AND GENTLE PUPPIES — Deer and dachshunds can live together in harmony—provided there's plenty of chow to go around. This happy "family group" on a farm near Bergen, Germany, proves it. A German farmer found two young deer, injured and abandoned. He took them home, only to discover that his pet dachshund had given birth to seven little, long ones. Now, all nine pets are growing up together. (NEA-Acme photo by Staff Photographer Gerhard P. Seinig.)

### Will Take Over Unpleasant Duty

By GERALD WARING  
OTTAWA—When Finance Minister Abbott shifts over to the Justice Department, as he appears likely to do before the year is out, he'll escape the many headaches of finance, but he'll acquire one new and unpleasant duty. That is deciding which condemned murderers shall die, and which shall have their death sentences commuted to life imprisonment by exercise of the Royal prerogative of mercy. For a sensitive man—and despite his tax measures, Abbott is probably as sensitive as the next man—this usurpation of a function of God can result in great mental and spiritual strain. The knowledge that whether a man lives or dies depends on the turn of one's hand is a burden not usually borne lightly. Even the

Judge who condemns the culprit to death has a mental escape in that he knows his sentence is not necessary final; that the Minister of Justice is required to review it, and, if he thinks fit, reduce it. . . . Actually, this is really the duty of the Solicitor General, rather than the Minister of Justice. But as often as not there is no Solicitor General, and then the duty devolves on the Minister. That is how this comes to be part of Justice Minister Garson's job at the present time, and will be Abbott's too unless a new Solicitor General is appointed. Prime Minister St. Laurent, when he was Justice Minister, performed this duty for three and one-half years, until Joseph Jean was named Solicitor General in 1945. Rt. Hon. J. L. Halsey, who took over the justice portfolio a year later after the arduous task of being Wartime Finance Minister had sapped his strength nearly to the breaking point, is reported to have made the continuation of the office of Solicitor General a condition of his ac-

ceptance of the Justice post. He wanted nothing to do with deciding who should live or die. After Jean went to the Quebec Bench, battle-hardened Lt. Col. Hughes Lapointe became Solicitor General. But he moved to the Veterans Affairs Ministry a year ago, and since then Garson has had to perform the disagreeable function. . . . The criminal code makes the death sentence mandatory in all cases of murder, no matter what the circumstances may be. The judge is not permitted to take into consideration the mental and emotional state of a poor devil convicted of a crime of passion. That is the job of the Solicitor General in deciding whether the death sentence should be commuted. Thus, unlike in the United States, there is no such crime as second degree murder. Murder is murder, and the only punishment under the law is death by hanging. Whether it wouldn't be better to give the courts some discretion

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as to degree of culpability is a moot question. For despite all precautions, innocent men have been convicted of crimes they didn't commit. In Saskatchewan two decades ago an innocent man was hanged for murder. Had he been convicted of second degree murder, he would merely have gone to jail, and proof of his innocence wouldn't have come too late to save his life. But this question receives little attention in Parliament. There the issue, on the rare occasions it is raised, is the old one of "Should we abolish the death penalty?" The C.C.F. advocates this step, but never has been able to get a majority of M.P.'s to agree with it.

### ILLUSTRATION STATION FIELD DAYS

The Dominion Department of Agriculture in co-operation with the Provincial Department of Agriculture will hold Illustration Station Field Days on the following dates—rain or shine.

Farm of Robert Woodside and Son, Knutsford, August 7, 2:00 p.m. Speakers: Miss Mary H. Robin, Hon. C. C. Baker, W. E. Shaw, M.B.E., R. C. Parent, Dr. G. Fisher, S. C. Wright, R. B. MacLaren

Farm of William E. Johnstone and Son, Long River, August 8, 2:00 p.m. Speakers: Miss Eleanor Clapp, Hon. C. C. Baker, W. E. Shaw, M.B.E., R. C. Parent, Dr. G. Fisher, I. L. Tulpin.

Farm of Zenon Gallant, Urbainville, August 9, 2:00 p.m. Speakers: Miss Mary H. Robin, Hon. C. C. Baker, W. E. Shaw, M.B.E., R. C. Parent, Dr. G. Fisher.

Farm of J. W. MacKemie and Son, Rose Valley, August 10, 6:00 p.m. Speakers: Mrs. Malcolm MacLeod, Hon. C. C. Baker, W. E. Shaw, M.B.E., R. C. Parent, Dr. G. Fisher.

A tour will be made of the Station fields and fertilized pastures, meadows, cereals, root and potato crops will be observed. The experimental work active on the Illustration Stations will be reviewed and discussed by the Supervisor.

Take this as an opportunity to meet your neighbors, to converse with Departmental representatives and view the work that is in progress.

W. N. BLACK,  
Supervisor of Illustration Stations  
for Prince Edward Island.



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