

**NEXT STOP, PLEASE**

**BOOST TRADE**

**STOCKHOLM.**—(CP)—Sudden emergency halt of an express train on the main Gothenburg line startled passengers and crew alike. Officials traced the cause to an elephant in a baggage room. The bored pachyderm had pulled the emergency brake cord with his trunk.

**KARACHI.**—(CP)—A trade agreement just concluded between France and Pakistan contemplates a big increase in trade between the two countries. France is a large purchaser of Pakistan jute and cotton, while Pakistan buys large quantities of heavy goods from France.

**Island Odds And Ends**

Farmers in the Province are facing the same old problem this year a shortage of farm labor. The shortage is not confined to the Island. It is nation-wide. No lasting solution is in sight, but as in other years a temporary easing of the problem is possible. Dutch, German and other Europeans will fill many of the vacant farm jobs long enough at least to carry through another crop year. The Canadian Immigration Department is approving the entry into Canada of many European farm laborers, but only after arrangements for placing them have been made beforehand.

Surprising as it may be to some people, Canada has never had enough agricultural workers to supply the demand, except on very rare occasions. True, there have been times when Central or Eastern Canada has had a surplus, but viewing the broad national scene, there has seldom been a year in the past fifty when the overall supply was sufficient.

Away back in May 1901 the *Labour Gazette*, official Government organ, carried this item:

"It is apparent that there is a general and pronounced demand for good farm help all over Canada. Some farmers are trying to secure desirable men under yearly contracts, in order to retain their services, and to this end they are prepared in some cases to supply their men with cottages on the farm."

The article went on to explain that high wages paid in other occupations, and the attractions of city life were draining labor from the rural districts.

In the spring of 1952, the fifty year old item from the *Gazette* fits today's situation very neatly.

According to Dominion Government records 70,000 young people leave Canadian farms every year for the cities. This exodus has been going on year in and year out for half a century. As a partial offset, in this year of '52, 20,000 agricultural workers will be brought to Canada from across the Atlantic.

At first sight, it would appear that Canada should have faced a food shortage long ago. How was one avoided?

No crisis in food production occurred mainly because of giant strides in the mechanization of agriculture.

In 1922 only two combines were in operation in Western Canada. Seven years later in 1929, there were 7,255. Today in Western Canada between 60,000 and 70,000 are in use. It is estimated that one combine takes the place of five harvest hands.

In Eastern Canada too, mechanization has made possible an increase in the number of acres, which can be cultivated by one farm family. Scientific methods, better fertilizers and the like, have also played their part in increased

production, so though the rural population has decreased, production has been maintained.

It is inaccurate, nevertheless, to believe that the steady loss of farm labor to the cities is to be lightly taken. It is a very serious problem all over Canada, and were it not for post-war immigration, and organized movements of farm labor from one part of the country to another, Canadian farms would have found themselves in a very bad way.

Even here in Prince Edward Island we have been forced to import more than a thousand potato pickers in a single crop season.

There is no doubt that some crops would have been lost if it had not been for this and other transfers of labor in various sections of the country.

Most helpful too has been the neighborly spirit of farmers, who can always be counted on to help one another when assistance is needed.

This Province hopes to obtain one hundred of the German farm laborers who are expected in Canada this spring. That is the number the Provincial Department of Agriculture believes will be required to fill the many farm vacancies. It is possible that some of the immigrants will arrive in mid-May but this is far from certain. Some definite information about the date of arrival is expected shortly from the immigration authorities.

At present a few Dutch workers are arriving in the province from week to week but not in significant numbers. Only a dozen or so have reached the Province in the past two months.

**Cautious In Statement On F. and M. Disease**

**OTTAWA, April 23**—(CP)—Agriculture Minister Gardiner said today that he hesitated to make a general statement on the spread of foot-and-mouth disease in Saskatchewan because "you can scare people too much these days by saying certain things."

He was replying in the Commons to a question by Gordon Graydon (PC-Feel). Mr. Graydon said he seemed to recall hearing reports that the new outbreak in Saskatchewan was spread through frozen meat which originated in the quarantine area.

Mr. Gardiner said he would hesitate to make a statement on that matter, though he would be quite willing to discuss the matter with Mr. Graydon and "give him any facts which I have."

Mr. Gardiner also suggested that the Commons agriculture committee be called immediately though a detailed inquiry into foot-and-mouth disease may be delayed.

He told Percy Wright (CCF-Melfort) that it had been hoped to convene the committee the week after next. But with a new outbreak of the disease in South Saskatchewan, it was not certain the officials dealing with it there could get away that soon.

He suggested the committee be called together anyway and "if we are not able to deal with that question at that time, we could go on with the report of the Wheat Board or with some other matter which is going to be referred to the committee."

**Gives Figures On Illness In Korea**

**OTTAWA, April 23**—(CP)—About 45 per cent of the 12,500 Canadian soldiers who have served in Korea have reported sick.

A Defence Department reply tabled in the Commons gave the number who have been sick as 5,565 and said this is made up of the number of admissions of non-battle casualties of the 12,500 soldiers who have been in Korea. Of this total, 4,450 returned to their units, 909 were sent home for medical reasons and 206 still are in hospital.

The reply, tabled for E. D. Fulton (PC-Kamloops) said rotation brought 982 Canadians home up to the end of March and that total army strength in the Far East at that time was 7,646.

**NOTICE TO MOTORISTS RAILWAY CROSSINGS**

The attention of motorists is directed to section 44 of The Highway Traffic Act, of which subsections (1) and (4) read as follows:

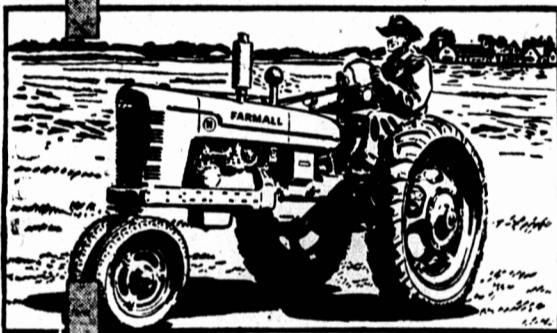
"(1) Whenever upon a highway a vehicle approaches a level railway crossing and a clearly visible or audible signal gives warning of the immediate approach of a railway engine, train or car, the driver shall bring the vehicle to a stop before traversing the crossing and shall not proceed until it is safe to do so.

(4) The driver of a motor vehicle approaching a level railway crossing, whether or not such crossing is provided with a visible or audible signal giving warning of the immediate approach of a railway engine, train or car, shall slow down or bring the vehicle to a stop before traversing the crossing and shall not proceed until it is safe to do so."

WALTER E. DARBY,  
Attorney-General.

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4-24  
J.R. WILLIAMS

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