

It may be a trip back to the town, then come to Maine in March. If the money moves too fast, it may be suspended until the government seems to be coming and too far from the town to be a good investment, then you should attend an annual town meeting in New England. It is an amazing experience.

Several weeks before the meeting a warrant is posted in various places around the town which must be signed by the constable else the meeting is illegal and any business transacted will be void. The warrant will read something like this:

The Town of Mount Vernon, in the County of Cumberland, and State of Maine, GREETINGS:

In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify and warn inhabitants of the Town of Mount Vernon, in said County, qualified by law to vote in Town Affairs, to meet at the Mt. Vernon Town Hall, in said Town, on Monday, the 1st-day of March, A.D. 1954, at eight o'clock in the forenoon, then and there to act of the following articles, to-wit:

Article 1. To choose a Moderator to preside at said meeting. Upon the choice of the moderator depends how the meeting will be conducted. He must know all the people in the town, must be sufficiently familiar with Roberts Rules of Order to be able to conduct the meeting properly. Anything he does not strictly according to rules of procedure will be swiftly noted and loudly condemned. He must be a good psychologist, and must exercise proper tact. And he must often be a peace-maker trying to smooth ruffled tempers, to bring some agreement between the warring factions of the town, to cut off debate when it strays too far from the point or when it threatens to become a knock-down fight between traditional enemies - as it does occasionally.

After the moderator has been chosen and been sworn into office, the polls are open until noon to elect all necessary officers for the ensuing year, the selectmen who are also assessors and overseers of the poor, the tax collector, treasurer, town clerk, road commissioners and the school commission. The polls remain open until noon, the votes are counted - and then the fun begins.

Usually there is little contest for the offices of the town. There are too many headaches and too much criticism. There are seldom political parties as such in a town, but there are factions and divisions who represent greater differences than any political party ever does. The sad truth is that few of the voters ever consider the good of the whole town but only their section. They want good roads in front of their own farms, let the rest of the town get stuck in the mud, it's no concern of theirs. Only in one point is there harmony. The appropriations must be kept down, taxes are already much too high.

By eleven o'clock the old town house is crowded. The benches that once served some of the schools which have been closed are filled. It is a social occasion as well as a civic one. You see people you haven't seen since the last annual meeting. Many of the women have brought their knitting. Small groups of the voters are gathered in various corners discussing the town report, asking why there is an overdraft in this or that account, demanding to know why the money that was raised and appropriated for the Belgrade road wasn't spent. Many of the people interested in seeing that an article in the warrant is amended go around talking up the issue, lining up voters for their side of a question.

In one corner several of the women serving hot dogs and coffee and home made doughnuts. Some families have brought a picnic basket. In some towns one of the organizations serves a baked bean dinner with salads and hot rolls and all kinds of pies. But there is no room in our town house. By one o'clock there isn't even standing room. Now there are places in town that would accommodate all the people comfortably, where a hot dinner could be served in a dining room below the auditorium, where all the cars could be parked and even the horses stabled. But these places are in the village not in the geographical center of town. And the people in East Mt. Vernon have no intention of conceding a mile of their rights. Besides town meetings have always been held here in this old ramshackle building and will be until it falls, come hell or high water.

It is that spirit of what was good enough for my grandfather is good enough for the town today, that makes the town meeting such an anachronism. Progress of any kind that calls for a change is viewed as hostile as communism. Acceptance of state aid for any project is hard to take, and as for federal aid, why that is sheer heresy. Even help for the backward schools, schools whose physical facilities might have been up to date a hundred years ago, is shouted down. Although some of the voters may point out the fact that the town people pay taxes to the government, to the state, most of the people feel as one Independent old patriarch who has been voting and paying taxes for some seventy-five years.

It's come to a sorry pass when a town has to accept help to educate its young people. If we can't afford to build a school, we won't go into debt for one, and we won't take charity from Washington either. We're too close to the pork barrel already.

As get loud applause, too, and the issue was voted down. And the town will continue to have one room schools, three grades to the room, with outdoor toilets. Only the fact that the minimum salary for teachers in the state is fixed by law makes it possible for a teacher to eke out a meager living.

The first business after lunch is over and the results of the balloting have been announced is contained in Article 3. - to consider and act on the Town Officer's reports. And this can start lively and acrimonious debate. The taxes are high and the people want to know where every cent of that money went and why. They want to know who gave the school committee authority to take a town school bus out of town for repairs. If the repairs were to be so high, they should have called a special town meeting first to determine the will of the voters before they assumed any such obligation. Most definitely they want a break down of the town poor accounts, who received help, how much help they got, why couldn't they live on their old age pension.

"As for the road commissioner's report, why that money he spent on the Rat Mill road might just as well have been poured down a rat hole." Laughter at this great wit. What in hell did it all amount to? That gravel he used wasn't nothing but loam, earned poor loam at

And when these three winter already and road season hasn't started.

When all the objections have been made, some cooler person moved that the report be accepted, and it usually is. And the town clerk reads the next article. - To fix the pay of the Selectmen, Tractor, tractor, bulldozers and hoists.

Sometimes this can be fixed at once and passed as 'the same as last year'. However, if there is more than usual discussion, there will be long speeches about how the officers didn't earn their money, weren't worth half of what they were paid. The Chairman of the Board of Selectmen on whose shoulders falls the keeping of the town books, making arrangements for all the roads in repair or being built, makes the huge sum of six hundred dollars a year. Each of the others makes two hundred dollars. A month each spring must be spent in assessing. There is another month required for the town books and other business. The members must attend regular bi-monthly meetings to make out the town payroll. It is really a labor of love for which there is neither gratitude nor financial reward.

The sum of money the Town votes to raise and appropriate for roads and schools and incidental expenses is generally what the selectmen recommend. Some years when there has been unusually heavy winter, the amount for snow removal will have woefully inadequate. But snow removal is a large part of the road expense. Then there is an article about buying new snow fences which brings forth remarks about caring for the snow fence the town already owns, ought to be put under cover, not left out to rot, or have someone use for pasture fence.

Many of the articles that ought to be passed over, - that is not voted on because no one speaks for them, or because the real issue becomes obscure when too many try to speak. It is especially bad when an outsider rises in defense of a worthy appropriation. Now an outsider doesn't mean someone who has no right to vote at all. It is merely a newcomer, someone who has moved to town within the last thirty years or so and hasn't been tried by enough rugged Maine winters to prove his judgment. No matter how eloquent or how logical his words may be, the voters aren't impressed, and are often resentful. New ideas are listened to but not respected. And if a group of new citizens especially those from out of the state happen to want their road improved, they'd better keep their mouths shut and get an old resident to speak for them.

You may feel bewildered when own meeting is over. You know in your heart that it is a way of life that doesn't exist anymore. It isn't realistic, the people live in the past. That is all true. But when you have lived with them long enough you may begin to understand part of their fierce pride in their independence. After all if the farm they live on was wrested from the wilderness by their great-great-grandfathers, they may not want it changed. They like their way of life and they intend to keep it. They are people and they speak. No one in Washington is going to tell them how to run their schools or their business or their town. It is the real voice of democracy.

HELEN CALDWELL CUSHMAN

New Peanut Variety Means More Money

Those hard-to-get North Carolina No. 3 variety peanut seed will pay the farmer for his time spent searching, according to Robert Andrews, farmer of Williamston, Route 3.

R. McK. Edwards, Martin County Negro farm agent for the Agricultural Extension Service, says Andrews, who planted two acres of the new variety last spring, made \$133 per acre "extra" for the new seed. Early last year when Andrews decided to grow some of the new variety, he selected a four-acre field that was considered "fair" peanut land. He took soil samples and followed the fertilizer recommendations.

Two acres were planted in Virginia Bunch type nuts, and two acres were planted in the new N. C. No. 3 variety. The entire four acres was fertilized cultivated alike. Practically no difference was noticed in the growth of the two varieties. The difference was shown where it means most to the farmer - in dollars and cents.

The Virginia Bunch type produced 1,400 pounds per acre, while the N. C. No. 3's produced 1,900 pounds per acre. The Virginia Bunch sold for \$11.50 per hundred. The grade on the N. C. No. 3's was \$13.66 per

hundred. At the regular market price, the N. C. No. 3 peanuts would have brought Andrews \$97.52 per acre more than his regular peanuts. However, he booked all of them for seed and will bring \$8 more per hundred or, an additional \$133 per acre.

Based on the regular market price, Andrews received \$97.52 for the \$10 spent for the seed peanuts. In addition to making more on his regular peanuts, Andrews entered two exhibits in the State Fair winning first and second prizes and a cash award of \$17.50.

State Accepts Four National 4-H Award Programs For 1954

The State Club office has accepted four national 4-H awards programs for participation of members in 1954, the National Committee on Boys and Girls Club has announced. The programs are Garden, Clothing Achievement, Poultry, and Tractor Maintenance, in the last three of which awards have been changed.

In the 4-H Clothing program, four (formerly one) gold-filled medals of honor will be provided winners in qualifying counties by the awards

Senator Lennon Would Stop McCarthy With Change Committee Rules Of Senate

Wilmington.—Senator Alton Lennon said tonight that recent events have shown the need to change the committee rules of the Senate to stop "one-man rule" that is producing bitterness and the current McCarthy "headline parade."

He reminded a crowd of Southern North Carolina citizens at dedication ceremonies for the new Third District highway shops that he announced on the first day as Senator on last July 15 that he would be willing to serve on the subcommittee which is headed by Senator McCarthy in an effort to bring "fairness and order to its hearings."

Senator Lennon repeated his suggestions to improve the investigation to eliminate communism, corruption and inefficiency in government. They are:

1. The committee rules should be changed to prohibit the holding

of one-man investigating committee sessions.

2. The accused should have the right to have counsel of his own choice present to cross-examine the accusers.

3. The rules should be changed to require at least two members of the majority party and at least one member of the minority party members of the committee present before a hearing could be held.

4. Creation of a joint Senate-House Committee responsible for eliminating subversives rather than the present system of several committees.

Senator Lennon also discussed his position on other national legislation, including his request for a reduction in Federal income and excise taxes. He praised the spirit of cooperation and loyalty the people of the Cape Fear country are showing in achieving their goals.

Accompanied by Vic Schoen and his orchestra, Dinah will offer "That's Amore" from the movie "The Caddy"; "The Moon is Blue" from the picture of the same name; "My Flaming Heart" from "Small Town Girl"; "Secret Love" from "Calamity Jane"; and the "Sadie Thompson Song" from "Miss Sadie Thompson."

Alan Handley produces, directs and writes the Tuesday and Thursday telecasts of the Dinah Shore Show.

Awards in the 4-H Garden program, which are provided by Allen Chalmers, remain the same as last year - four gold-filled medals of honor, an all-expense trip to the National 4-H Club Congress, and eight \$300.00 college scholarships, to county, state and national winners, respectively.

All these national 4-H programs are supervised by the Cooperative Extension Service.

NBC singing star Dinah Shore will pay tribute to the forthcoming Mo-

DO W

W-85
\$4.65 Gal
In 30 Gallon Drums

W. H. Jones & Co.

Pink Hill, N. C.

Announcing...

A NEW PLANT SITE IN N. C.
AREA TO MEET THE DEMAND FOR

MATHIESON

N-82

ANHYDROUS AMMONIA MOUNT OLIVE N. C.

To Serve You
MATHIESON Anhydrous Ammonia (82% Nitrogen) for Direct Application to the soil!

- SAVE TIME AND LABOR! • NO BULKY STORAGE!
- FASTER STARTING CROPS! • CONVENIENT TIMING!

MATHIESON CHEM. CORP.
Standard Fertilizer Division
Cooper Gore W. W. Lottin

Would you trade a Penny for a Dollar?

You can if you use Natural Chilean Nitrate of Soda for your top-dressing and side-dressing needs. It costs a little more because it's worth more. But the difference in cost usually can be measured in pennies per acre, while the difference in value often amounts to dollars per acre.

Chilean "Bulldog" Soda gives you generous extra value. The nitrogen is 100 per cent nitrate. It's 100 per cent available (quick-acting); 100 per cent dependable. The minor elements make crops stronger, healthier. The sodium—26 pounds in every 100-pound sack—is a key to maximum returns on your entire fertilizer investment. It offsets the bad effects of acid-forming fertilizers... increases the efficiency of mixed fertilizers containing them. It releases "locked-up" potash in the soil... increases the availability and efficiency of soil phosphorus... reduces potash, calcium and magnesium losses by leaching... develops larger, deeper root systems.

Sodium builds up the productivity of your land—more each year. It's an essential element for some crops... beneficial to most and necessary for maximum yields of many.

Pennies-per-acre differences in cost may mean a big difference in value to you. Chilean "Bulldog" Soda is the best fertilizer your money can buy. Use it for all of your top-dressing and side-dressing needs.

CHILEAN NITRATE OF SODA

Do You Keep your money stowed away in an old trunk? If you do, you are not playing safe. Deposit your money with us, money deposited in our bank is Insured twenty-four hours a day. Use our convenient savings or checking account.

First-Citizens Bank & Trust Company

Pink Hill

Half-ton beauty with a two-ton punch

The new '54 GMC light-duty truck above wasn't born just to win beauty contests. Sure, it's sleek lines, full-width grille and panoramic windshield are handsomely un-trucklike. Here's the same truck showing its inside, too. Three-passenger roominess. Two-color treatment. Harmonizing, triple-weather upholstery. Smart instrument panel, with a cluster for instant visibility through a tri-spoke wheel.

But mister—take another look! A burly, brawny brute of an engine—a real truck engine—makes you think of Miss America who also can bend her knees. One hundred and twenty-five horsepower and in this beauty can huff a top load with ease and dash than you've ever seen before.

That's more power than some makers back into their two-ton models. That's more usable power than in any other 6-cylinder engine in the class. And look at that wide, deep box. It holds at least 8 cubic feet more than even the most '53 model. That tail gate isn't only grain-tight—it's sand-tight.

Finally, to top it off, it offers Truck Hydraulic Drive—the supreme automatic shift that lets you work your cash-saves your time.

(Note to those who want the look of luxury in a truck, there's the DUE DUE model at cost less than a car. It's a GMC with chrome grille and trim, two-tone paint, rear corner windows—the works!

Come in and drive this great GMC. It will be all the selling by itself.

*Try this truck for 30 days standard on any model, no money down!

Get a modern truck

Pollock St. Mt. Olive