

pump" can be very effective in stopping a small fire. For electric equipment it would be well to have on hand a carbon dioxide or dry chemical extinguisher. Keep your fire department's number with your telephone. When you go to fight a neighbor's fire, don't go empty-handed—fill cans with water and take them with you; and when you get there park your car where it will be out of the way of the fire trucks when they come.

Gasoline should be stored out of doors and underground. Have strict rules about smoking in the barn or careless smoking in the house. Use proper sized fuses—your fuse is your safety valve; if you are blowing fuses you are overloaded. Light bulbs in barns should be protected by guards and out of the reach of animals. Have buildings equipped with lightning-rods. Check heating equipment regularly and keep chimneys and pipes clean and in good repair—small holes in stove pipes may emit not only sparks but also carbon monoxide.

The Minister Speaks

The Ontario Department of Agriculture was host to the conference delegates for living and travelling expenses; and at the banquet the Minister, the Hon. W. A. Stewart, congratulated the safety councils on what they had already accomplished. He said, "As farm people we owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to you who are taking the message of safety to farm people." He was pleased to find so many women interested. As a farmer himself he considered the family farm the most important unit in the farming industry and the family farm wouldn't be what it is without the farm wife.

"Many a farmer looking over his fields and herds feels that it's good to be alive," the Minister said. "Our lives are our most precious possession and the saving of lives is the most important thing in our crusade for safety. We don't like to think of the danger of accidents, but farming is a hazardous vocation. A few years ago we took risks with horses and we became, to some degree, safety conscious. When tractors came they could neither kick nor bite; but once their power is set in motion they are far more dangerous than the old gray mare."

Mr. Stewart referred to the report of the Ontario Farm Accident Survey showing that the fatalities from farm accidents were three times the mortality rate in the city of Toronto. The figures from March 1st, 1959 to February 29th, 1960 were: a total of 7,835 accidents. Injuries were, 293 fatal, 336 permanent, 5,868 temporary. Total medical bills, \$700,977; time lost 112,493 days or 311 years; property damage \$5,253,799.

★ ★ ★

JOHN KELLY
Winifred M. Letts

It was among the cowslips
I saw John Kelly stand,
An old caubeen was on his head,
He'd cowslips in his hand.
He picked a big bunch,
I picked one too,
But his he laid upon my knee.
Said he, "There's thim for you."
Ah! warm the sun was shining
That day above Dundrum,
The corncrakes all were shouting,
The blackbirds whistling, "Come,"
Clear was the Three-Rock,
Misty the sea,
That time I met John Kelly there
When first he spoke to me.
We stood among the cowslips,
I heard the cuckoo call.
John Kelly showed his cabin there
Beyond the granite wall,
A white-washed cottage
Warm-thatched and small,
An then he smiled and said good-bye,
I smiled — and that was all.
The scent of cowslips still brings back
That day above Dundrum
When corncrakes shouted in the grass,
When blackbirds whistled, "Come."
Still I can see you
There by the gate;
John Kelly, you were five years old
And I was twenty-eight.

★ ★ ★

"There are many difficulties in agriculture that the farmer cannot control," the Minister said. "I know the financial problems and the heartaches. The Department of Agriculture has provided machinery by which farmers can market co-operatively; and a farmer can control many problems by good farm management—safety practices have an important part in this. To assist in the safety program the Department of Agriculture would continue its annual \$40,000 grant to the Farm Safety Council and would give priority to safety promotion in extension work.

Mr. W. P. Watson, Chief Production and Extension Division, and Assistant Deputy Minister of Agriculture, closed the conference with the thought that when an accident has occurred sometimes the experience can be turned to account. He quoted a man who had been injured in an accident saying: "Before this happened I had worked from the neck down. Since then I have worked from the neck up, and I have made a great deal more money than I did before."