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THE
Flesherton Advance
W. H. THURSTON EDITOR

THE ONTARIO BUDGET

Provincial Treasurer Peter Smith delivered his budget speech in the Ontario Legislature last week. The document as published makes very interesting reading. From it we learn that there will be no reduction of taxation this year. It is proposed to borrow 35 million dollars this year, 16 millions of which are for building highways. Nearly nine million dollars more was expended last year than in the previous year, yet there was a surplus of $1,064,326 on hand. The present government has doubled the amount of revenue.

The above figures do not show any evidence of retrenchment, although the Treasurer promised retrenchment this year; and there is a glimmer of hope in the following statement from his lips: "I think it is time that people realized that the war is over and that they get back to normal in the matter of spending."

To this sentiment we would say "hear, hear!" and we would advise the Hon. Peter to have the sentiment printed on a placard and tacked up on the door of every spending department in his government. It might be well, too, to have forty or fifty copies scattered around the Legislative chamber just prior to voting on the next sessional bonus to members.

FIRE PROTECTION

Grand Valley has purchased a fire fighting apparatus at an expenditure of $3000. From a description it appears to be about the kind of thing that Flesherton requires. The motor is gasoline driven with a 53 horsepower gasoline engine and the guaranteed capacity is 320 gallons per minute.

Every big fire in Flesherton produces a "splurge" of enthusiasm for fire protection, but after a few weeks and investigation on the part of committees, the enthusiasm dies out and no more is heard until the next conflagration. And thus it has been for the past twenty years or more. We congratulate Grand Valley citizens on their acquisition.

Hog Clubs

Grey County Hog Clubs are very quickly increasing in number. About fourteen are organized now with prospects of several more in the near future. Lack of application forms have resulted in some delay but several are now on hand so that promptness will be observed in mailing the same from the Grey County Branch, Department of Agriculture, at Markdale.—Department of Agriculture Report.

SOY BEANS IN ONTARIO

Its Seed Production Here Is Yet Rather Uncertain.

The Crop Is Good for Hay, Pasture, Silage or Seed—Breeding Plants for Selection — Systematic Field Arrangement—Marl.

(Contributed by Ontario Department of Agriculture, Toronto.)

Soy beans can be successfully grown for fodder in Southwestern Ontario and in the Niagara Peninsula, and in favored areas even farther north. The production of seed of the Soy bean in Ontario is a more uncertain problem. In good seasons, first-class seed of a number of varieties have been produced at Guelph, and in poor seasons no matured seed was obtained from any variety.

Soil Inoculation Necessary.

Soy beans are very rich in nitrogen, the seed having a higher protein content than either common beans or field peas. This plant is a legume, and when planted for the first time should be inoculated with the proper nitrogen fixing bacteria. The Soy bean has varied uses, the whole crop being grown for hay, pasture, silage, and green manure, and the seed for stock feed. In the Orient, the seed is grown not only for stock feed, but to an even larger extent for human consumption.

For Hay, Silage, Pasture or Seed.

Soy beans have been grown for fodder and seed production in the experimental plots at Guelph since 1894, and have been distributed through the medium of the Experimental Union to farmers of Ontario each year for the past twenty-three years. During the past five years, the most promising varieties under test at Guelph have been the O. A. C. No. 211, Ito San, Minnesota No. 157, Early Brown and Early Yellow.

Sandy Soil Not too Rich Preferred.

A sandy loam soil not too rich is suitable for growing Soy beans. The seed-bed preparation for Soy beans should be much the same as for Indian corn and they should be planted about the same time. Soy beans usually produce better results when planted in drills which are about thirty inches apart than broadcasted. It requires three-quarters to one bushel to plant an acre for seed, and about one and one-half bushels to plant the same area for fodder production.

Producing Plants for Selection.

A number of plant-breeding selections are under test at Guelph, and it is hoped that before long varieties will be produced which will be early enough to mature seed each year, and, at the same time, produce a good yield of green fodder. One of the best strains tested at Guelph is the O. A. C. No. 211. This strain will be included in the Soy Bean Experimental Union Co-operative Experiment, material for which will be sent to any Ontario farmer who desires to test this crop in the spring of 1923.—Dept. of Field Husbandry, O. A. C., Guelph.

Systematic Field Arrangement.

Many an old farm has waste land, unproductive pastures, irregular field and fence lines and rundown soil, but still the proprietor does not become a bankrupt. The farm gives him board and lodging, and if an early homesteaded area it has no burden of carrying charges. When these old farms come into the ownership of young and progressive men purchased at a price in keeping with the present market values, reorganization must be affected. The reorganization will usually consist of a general cleaning up of fields, fences, buildings and trees and planning anew the old farm area to conform with the modern and necessary farm plan with its systematic arrangement of fields, straight fence lines, drained areas, tidy orchard and tidy farm yard, so different from the half century of accumulation too frequently seen about old farm homes. Old farms are not modernized or made over in a year. Time is required to clear the stone piles and stumps away, to drain the fields, to rebuild the fences and to repair the buildings. The present day investment requires that every foot of land should be productive, and that the field arrangement and general farm plan should be such as to reduce the labor to a minimum. This is accomplished by having the farm buildings located in proper relationship to the fields, the lane and the highway.—L. Stevenson, Toronto.

Marl.

Marl is a mixture of disintegrated limestone and clay, it contains in varying proportions lime, phosphorus and potassium. There is no better fertilizer for sandy lands than peat and marl, and it is surprising that greater use is not made of this material on many farms. Small marl beds are common over the Province of Ontario, and this material can usually be obtained for the labor of excavating. Farm labor and teams might be well employed during odd days during the summer and autumn period getting out marl for future applications. Crushed or finely divided marl can be directly applied to the land at any season of the year. —L. Stevenson.

Pure-Bred Makes Best Gain.

The grade hog is more profitable for the farmer than the scrub or razorback and the pure-bred is more profitable than the grade. The pure-bred gains weight faster on the same feed than either the grade or the scrub and finishes so much better for market that it invariably commands a much better price.

The bigger a hog can make of himself the more profitable hog he is.

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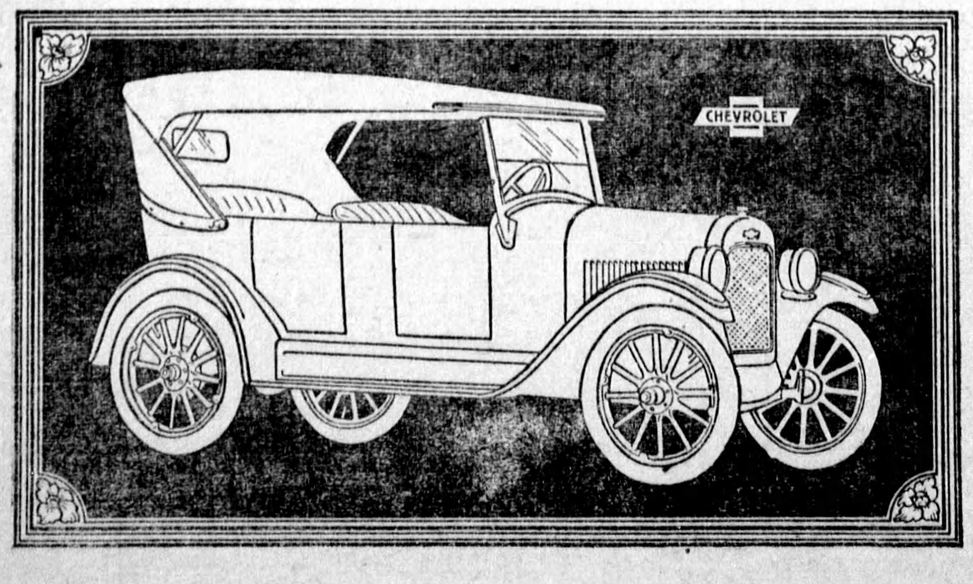

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