

### ONTARIO LEGISLATURE OPENING CEREMONIES



Pictured above is the Ontario Legislature during the opening ceremony of the first session of the 27th Legislature, which took place on Thursday last, February 10th. Hon. the Rev. H. Cocks Davies, member for Windsor-Walkerville, newly appointed Speaker is shown on the

### Chronicles of... Ginger Farm

Written Specially for  
The Acton Free Press  
GWENDOLINE F. CLARKE

When the spring calves make their appearance we never seem to get through without one cow or heifer requiring veterinary attention. So it was this year. One by one three calves arrived and all was well in the maternity barn. But came the fourth and it was a different story. This time the mother—a heifer with her first calf—did not act according to Hoyle. To help her in the way she should go meant that my 14th hen stove was kept so busy I had hardly room to boil a kettle for tea. Warm water to drink, boiling water for bean mash, and heat to thin the molasses.

Oh, that molasses of all the goosey molasses! No wonder we don't use the expression so often. "Give us molasses in January!" It isn't so bad if one had a chance to warm the stuff but one time Bob came up for a dose and I had to get it from a new supply which was in a big pail for convenience. The prescription was four cups mixed with warm water in a bottle and given as a drench. So easy to write—so difficult to do. Dip the cup into the pail, then drop the molasses from the cup into a big pitcher and mix with water. But the molasses is too thick to drop so you judge the cup on top of the pitcher while you get a spoon. You finally put it down on the kitchen table, and then you see the mess it makes and wish you hadn't. And there is still another cup of molasses to wrestle with. While you are in the middle of things and ready to do battle with anyone, the One Man in Your Life comes along and says "Haven't you got that done ready yet? Better leave it to me next time if you're going to make a mess like that!"

Gladly the next dose is left to him but by that time the molasses is nicely warmed through and the going is easy. But who am I to deny a man's man the satisfaction of thinking he is able to do a better job than such as I? Anyway I was still busy wiping up blobs of molasses that must surely have dripped into places where I had never been.

It was around 9 a.m. that day when the "vet" was here to the cow. Then at noon we sent for him again, this time for a horse with a bad attack of colic. More bran mashes! Partner told the "vet" he had better take the farm because we couldn't go on paying him \$5 a day. But while he was here we had him give Honey a "shot" as a preventive against distemper.

And speaking of that little disturber of the peace—Daughter writes home—"How is my little Honey getting along?" I read her letter and thought of the night before. About 10 p.m. I took Honey down cellar for the night. While there I put another shovelful of coal on the furnace. Come back to my chair and my cozy work but could not find my glasses. They are the kind that are practically unbreakable—with shell rims. I could not remember what I had done with them and yet I had a hunch I had carelessly put them in my smock pocket, in which case they might have dropped out as I shoveled the coal. I searched the cellar over—in the coal bin; among odds and ends of this and that; in and around a small pile of furnace wood, and among the hidden bones in Honey's box. Partner even raked over the coal in the furnace in case I had shoveled them in with the coal. And wherever we went Honey scampered along with us and thought it all a great joke to have both of us down the cellar with her.

Well, I looked for those glasses off and on until midnight—why wouldn't I—without them I can't read a word. First thing the next morning I was at it again. Having looked in all the possible places I began looking in the impossible ones. Sure enough I found them in an empty coal bin, which I hadn't been near at all. They were not broken but as I picked them up one of the lens dropped out and I could feel one of the ear-lugs was roughened. I didn't need to be much of a detective to know how they were carried away and by whom. "How is my Honey?" Daughter will read this column and from it she will know all about her Honey. I wonder if I should have asked the "vet" to give her another kind of "shot" but no—for all her badness, she is still a "honey."

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on the subject

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C.B.L. 7.45 P.M. E.S.T.

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## FARM NEWS

### Record Attendance at Provincial Annual Meetings

During the past two weeks the Royal York and King Edward Hotels in Toronto have been literally swarming with farm delegates from all sections of Ontario. It was the occasion of the annual meetings and conventions of the majority of the Ontario and Canadian breed organizations; Ontario Crop Improvement Association; Ontario Plovers; Ontario Agricultural Societies, etc.

While we were only able to attend a very small percentage of the meetings and consequently heard only a few of the papers and addresses, one could not help but be impressed by the depth, the comprehensive nature of many of the addresses, and the clear cut manner in which many of the speakers got down to the fundamental problems of the day. In short, we personally felt that we heard our farm leaders have a grasp of our fundamental problems to a much greater extent than has been true at any time previously in the past 26 years—they literally and figuratively got down to earth. At both the Crop Improvement and Plovers' conventions the general theme was "Soil Building." No longer it is a question of Conservation but rather the necessity of building up the supply of organic matter and humus which is generally admitted as being essential. J. M. Appleton, of Wallaceburg, took as his subject "The Path to Profit is Grass Covered", which will suggest the trend of his thinking and convictions. To quote Mr. Appleton, "There is only one objective that should face every farmer, that is how to reduce costs; how to produce for less. This is the real application of science to agriculture. While all of the other complex economic problems are being worked out year by year, the farmer will make such problems much easier of solution for all concerned if he keeps hammering away at decreasing costs. The path towards this goal is covered with grass."

Prof. G. N. Ruhnke, formerly of the Dept. of Soils but now Director of Research at the O.A.C. took as his topic "Soil Building with Sod Crops". In other words farm leaders, both practical and effective technical, today are convinced that the most practical and effective method of building up our soils in organic matter and humus is by means of grasses and clovers—it is also generally accepted that our hay and pasture crops are our most profitable crops.

We were rather interested in a conversation we had with D. H. Hart, well-known Holstein breeder from near Woodstock. Mr. Hart owns and operates around 500 acres and is recognized as one of the outstanding farmers in Western

Ontario. We have known Doug Hart intimately since we both attended the little red school house on the tenth line of East Zorra and consequently have followed his career with a good deal of interest. Furthermore, we always find it worth while to keep our ears open and in so far as possible our mouth closed, when he is around. We asked his opinion as the advisability and practicality of sowing grass seed with every grain crop also his idea on the plowing down of green manure crops as a means of stepping up organic matter and humus. In reply to our first question he replied, "Oh, I've always seeded down every grain crop I sow and I never sow two grain crops in succession in the same field." We also learned that his barnyard manure all goes out on his meadows and in addition he supplements with commercial fertilizer. Approximately 16 tons of superphosphate was applied to the meadows last fall. As you would anticipate, lack of organic matter and shortage of pasture and hay are not serious factors on the Hart farms. They say, "Seeing is Believing," so we hope next June it may be possible to conduct a bus tour to the Hartholm Farms and other points of interest in Western Ontario.

### Profit from Problems Arose

On the Auld farm near Arkell, now operated by the Animal Husbandry Dept. of the O.A.C. was such a problem field. Twelve acres in extent, the last crop was taken off in 1914. Following 1914 it just grew up in natural grass. In 1945 it carried nine 2-year-old cows for two weeks, which will indicate its carrying capacity. The field in question is a sandy loam with a gravelly sub soil. Furthermore, it is hilly and stoney. In the fall of 1945 it was plowed and reseeded the following spring at the rate of 25 lbs. per acre plus a light manure crop and 250 lbs. per acre of 2-12-10 fertilizer. The field was pastured lightly in the late summer and fall of 1946. In June of 1947, twenty steers were turned in and there they remained until Nov. 6. During this period the 20 steers put on a total of 300 lbs. In the spring of 1948 the field was top dressed at the rate of 5 tons of manure to the acre. Twelve more steers were turned out into this field on May 9th, 1948, and remained there until August 23rd, when they were marketed. They had gained another 287 lbs. Prof. R. G. Knox who reported on this field at one of the Toronto meetings presented a fund of interesting and amazing figures. In brief, the total net profit per acre for the two grazing seasons was \$96.39. If returns such as these can be secured from a problem run down field, what are the possibilities on

### Halton Forums Discuss Problem Food Distribution

Halton Farm Forums got right down to business on the "This little pig went to market" broadcast. Sixteen reports were received, and all were in favor of some kind of organized marketing. The open market was held in very poor favor, many claiming that open markets have resulted in a great range of prices and have failed to move surpluses in the past. Thirteen forums advocate co-operative marketing.

Stone School said, "All agreed that the open market should go to be replaced by co-operative marketing, as a means of stabilizing farm prices at much as the law of supply and demand allows." Zimmerman advocated, "Strong producer associations to act as bargaining agencies in dealing with processors and distributors or their associations in setting prices and grading methods." Ashgrove was in favor of "a producer marketing scheme where the farmers have joint control with the marketing board for the domestic market."

Mr. Nemo thought "A price floor should be put under all commodities" but Darbyville was of the opinion that "if a floor price were set in everything, supply and demand would get the market." Concerning the problem of farm surpluses, the opinion was almost unanimous that some means should be worked out whereby surpluses would not go to waste. Town Line suggested, "Bring immigrants to this county to consume our surplus." Darbyville pointed out, "If co-operatives had their own cold storage for surplus, it could be held for a better market." Mr. Nemo said, "Markets should be open to countries to which we do not now export, developing world trade and currency."

Postville had an ingenious idea. "Farmers should go on an eight-hour day, with two weeks holidays." Snider's Corners stated, "The government should provide necessary means to dispose of surpluses to needy countries." Kelso suggested, "Cut production to meet any surplus that might develop." S.S. No. 7, Nassagaweya said, "We believe if there was a proper marketing scheme there would be no surplus. There are in our own country, people who could use the over-supply of almost any product. We also think that if inferior products were kept off the market, it would be better." Zimmerman declared, "The real problem is not surplus but distribution," and asked for a distributing agency to be set up by UNO with full-power and facilities for world-wide distribution of surpluses with settlements through a World Bank. In short forums agree with Margaret Bateman—that "There is more than enough for everyone in the world, but everyone doesn't get it. Because of this, there are wars. Because of this, there can be peace."

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