



# FARM NEWS

**Halton To Experiment In Conserving Water**

Halton Conservation Committee since early in the year has been, with the co-operation of the Department of Agricultural Engineering at the O.A.C. and the Conservation Branch of the Department of Planning and Development investigating the possibilities of establishing a few dam sites. Filling wells and dwindling springs and streams is getting to be an old story in Halton. It is the opinion of many leaders in Halton that from a long time viewpoint the solution to the reforestation of areas where the headwaters of our streams arise, the building up of the organic matter content of our soils to prevent run-off and increase the water holding capacity of our soils and proper land utilization. However, the immediate solution would appear to be the conserving of our present water supply. It is therefore of interest to learn at the last session of the Halton County Council, action was taken to establish a pond on the escarpment on the Paul Fisher property which lies North side of No. 5 Highway, east of Nelson. This will necessitate the construction of an earthen dam of considerable proportions. This will form a catch basin which will cover several of the acres. Numerous springs arise below this area and it is the hope and opinion of the Halton Conservation Committee, that a pond established above these springs on the escarpment will strengthen and increase the flow of water. The Ontario Department of Agriculture is supporting the experiment to the extent of furnishing financial aid to the amount of \$100 for each \$100 raised locally, to a maximum of \$1000. Halton County Council has adopted the principle of furnishing the \$100 for each \$100 supplied by the property owner. In the case of the Fisher property the grant by the County Council is not to exceed \$250.00 which if all utilized will mean an equal expenditure to Mr. Fisher and \$500 from the Ontario Department of Agriculture. It is anticipated that this dam site will be completed in 1949, and there is a strong possibility that a few others may be established at strategic points in 1950.

Halton Men Selected as Royal Winter Fair Judges  
T. J. Brownridge, well-known Tamworth breeder of Esquimaux

Township has been selected as the official judge for the Tamworth and Berkshire Swine classes at the Royal Winter Fair, which officially opened on Tuesday, November 15. J. H. Willmott, prominent Hampshire breeder of Trafalgar Township will officiate on the classes of Hampshire and Suffolk sheep to be judged during the first week of the big show.

In the inter-county live stock judging competition open to teams of three young men under 26 years of age who have not previously represented their County, Halton will be represented by Don Holmes, Trafalgar Township, Fraser McNeill of Esquimaux Township, and

David Pelletier of Nelson Township. They will judge and give oral reasons for their placing on ten classes of livestock (two in dairy cattle, two in beef, two in swine, two in sheep, and two in heavy horses). Thirty seven teams from as many different counties in Ontario will be in action for the Lefroy Bull Memorial Trophy.

Halton will be well and worthily represented at the 1949 Royal Winter Fair. While we have not a complete list of the Halton exhibitors, here are a few who have made entries: Belgian Horses, Ernest Armstrong, Esquimaux Township, Clydesdales, Valley Crest Farms, Jersey, M. C. Beatty Featherstone Bros of Trafalgar Township, Holsteins, F. Pelletier and Sons and Ross Segsworth of Nelson Township, Grant W. E. Brecken, Freeman, Mills, Bros. Georgetown and M. T. Sherwood of Freeman, Shortburns, S. G. Bennett Georgetown, H. W. Merry Oakville, T. C. Amos and Grant Campbell of Moffat, while in the King's Guinea Class, while in Club members with baby heaves, Halton will be represented by Judy Merry, Duncan Campbell, Gaiter

and Clifford Norrish, Alex Buchanan, John McKinnon, John Okumura, Evelyn McCann and John Willmott.

**Sheep Population At Low Ebb**  
Most of our successful farmers have followed the practice of running when the other fellows walk and walking when the other fellows run. During recent years many Canadian farmers have been running to get out of the sheep business with the result that this once great industry is now in the walking stage.

The Sheep population of Canada has declined from three and three-quarter million in 1944, to two and one-quarter million head in 1948. Ontario now has less than 500,000 sheep, as compared with over a million at the beginning of the present century. While Canadians are notoriously small consumers of lamb, current production provides for less than three pounds per capita. It would therefore appear that this industry could be expanded without fear of creating any serious marketing problem.

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