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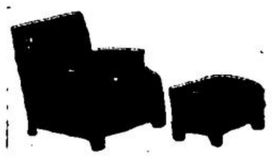

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Excellent Attendance at Halton Crop Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Halton Crop Improvement Association held on Saturday afternoon of last week had its usual excellent attendance which nearly filled the Court Room at Milton to capacity. President V. E. McArthur was the able chairman of the afternoon. The secretary's report revealed a wide range of projects conducted during the past year. Included among these were the following: (1) County Seed Fair, (2) Two Day Bus Trip, (3) Three Soil Building Competitions; (4) 50 Bus Winter Wheat Club, (5) Survey of Factors Affecting Yield of Winter Wheat, (6) Replicated Variety tests with Oats and Barley, (7) Replicated variety tests with Husking Corn, (8) Sub-soiling Demonstration, (9) Liming Tests, (10) Alfalfa Top Dressing Experiment, (11) Tillage Machinery Experiment.

The soil building competitions in which some thirty of Halton's best farmers participated revealed four or three weaknesses according to Agricultural Representative J. E. Whitelock. 1st Faulty seed mixtures lacking in sufficient legumes particularly alfalfa, and also in improved grasses. 2nd Faulty rotations too many grain crops in succession. "The greatest single weakness in Halton's soils is lack of sufficient organic matter", stated Mr. Whitelock. This condition, he added, can be corrected by shorter rotations and greater use of legumes such as alfalfa and sweet clover coupled with liming on the acid soils, greater use of legume cultures and more attention to the method of seeding.

Halton's winter wheat survey made on some 41 farms in 1947 and 1948 resulted in considerable data being collected. This material was recently analyzed by Dr. H. L. Patterson of the Cost Studies Branch of the Ontario Department of Agriculture. a few of the most important factors revealed by Dr. Patterson's report were: (1) Variety, (2) Fertilizer and manure treatment, (3) Length of time between plowing and seeding, (4) Number of times the field was cultivated, (5) Time of seeding.

If the question of variety is eliminated perhaps the most surprising factor was the third listed namely the length of time between plowing and seeding. It has generally been accepted that land for wheat should be ploughed at least 30 days before planting. The data collected by the Halton Ass'n indicates that a period of 50 days between ploughing and seeding is even better.

Jack Bennett of Kilbride, gave an excellent report on his experience in following a soil specialist's advice. The fields in question were sandy loam, one was plowed very shallow, cultipacked heavily, fertilized and sown to fall wheat and grasses in the fall of 1948. In the spring the legumes and additional nitrogen were drilled in. Mr. Bennett reported an outstanding crop of wheat from this blow sand field and a good catch of seeds considering the year. On another stoney field which was in sod following Mr. N. J. Thomas' advice, he one-way disced the field, kept the trash and mulch on top, and seeded to spring grain, again with splendid results.

Other interesting reports were presented by W. E. Breckon and C. L. S. Palmer of Freeman, relative to their experience with chemical weed killers. Mr. Palmer reported excellent results from spraying with 2-4 D an 18 acre field heavily infested with chicory. It was the opinion of both speakers that success was due, first to the spray being applied in early June when the chicory was in the rapid growing stage, and secondly, to the proper amount of 2-4 D acid being applied per acre.

W. E. Breckon reported on the seed situation on behalf of the Seed Marketing Committee of the Ontario Crop Improvement Ass'n. Mr. Breckon pointed out that U.S. authorities are planning to take 20 million acres out of cultivation in 1950 and consequently the demand for grasses and clovers is in keen demand in addition to being in short supply. This speaker urged local farmers to secure their requirements at the earliest possible date. He furter intimated he would not be surprised to see timothy sold at 40 cents per pound next spring. The meeting was also advised that seed oats were likely to sell next spring at $1.35 to $1.50 per bushel with 25 cents per bus. additional for registered seed, while the suggested prices for seed barley were $2.10 to $2.25 per bus. plus 25 cents additional per bus. for registered seed.

However, the highlight of the afternoon's excellent programme was the address by Mr. Paul Fisher, on his visit to Malabar Farm owned and operated by Louis Bromfield in the state of Ohio. This farm, consisting of several hundred acres was taken over by Mr. Bromfield some eight years ago. Mr. Fisher described it as a veritable "Garden of Eden", built out of a wilderness of weeds and badly run down soil. "It was the best farm I have ever seen", stated Mr. Fisher, "and I don't believe half of what I saw." He related that Malabar Farm is largely in sod no corn being grown and only a comparatively small acreage of grain. Forty-two hundred bus. of fall wheat were reported to have been harvested this year from 70 acres. Spring grain yields were reported at from 90 to 100 bus. per acre. Due to the increased organic matter and fertility of Malabar farms it has been possible to reduce the rate of seeding by one-third. Today Mr. Bromfield's mixture is 8 lbs. of alfalfa, 5 lbs. of brome, and half a pound of Ladino clover per acre. Mr. Fisher stated the farm equipment being used at Malabar Farm were the one way disc, the Seaman Tiller and a hydraulic stiff toothed cultivator which stirs the soil to a depth of twelve inches. In short, it was an amazing and astounding story which Mr. Fisher presented to his keenly interested audience. It was announced at the meeting that Louis Bromfield is to address the annual banquet of the Ontario Crop Improvement Association, in Toronto, on January 19th. Tickets are already in keen demand and any of our readers who are interested in hearing this noted author and farmer would be well advised to place their order immediately at the Agricultural Office, in Milton.

Dr. Ford Stinson, recently appointed head of the Department of Soils at the O. A. C., was an unexpected visitor to the Halton meeting. In his brief address Dr. Stinson congratulated the Halton association on having the most active and comprehensive soil building programme of any County in Ontario "bar none".

The election of the directorate for 1950 resulted as follows:

Trafalgar Township, Frank Hall Streetsville, J. H. Willmott Milton, C. H. Lawrence Sheridan, Wm. G. Booth, Milton.

Esquesing Township, Robt. Miller, T. J. Brownridge, John Bird, C. F. Picket, all of Georgetown.

Nelson Township, V. E. McArthur, Milton, W. E. Breckon Freeman, C. L. S. Palmer Freeman.

Nassagaweya Twp., Arthur Diamond, Rockwood, Lloyd Crawford Campbellville, Jack McPhail, of Campbellville.

Erin and Eramosa, Wallace Swackhammer, Acton.

Auditor, H. C. Morris, Milton.

Agricultural Producers Await Announcements to be Made at Dominion-provincial Agricultural Conference

It is to be hoped that the Dominion Provincial Agricultural Conference which went into session on Monday of this week will result in some definite announcement concerning British contracts for Canadian Agricultural Produce in 1950.

Perhaps by the time this appears in print those announcements will have been made and the air cleared. Local hog and poultry producers are particularly concerned. True, Canada fell short of filling her 1949 bacon contract which called for 160 million pounds. In so far as we can determine our shipments to Great Britain in 1949 are likely to range between 50 and 60 million pounds. While this represents but a small fraction of Canada's pork production, nevertheless a surplus of even this amount could be most embarrassing and have a disastrous effect on hog prices. It is anticipated that hog marketings in Canada during 1950 will be slightly higher than for the preceding 12 months. Consequently Canada definitely needs a contract for 70 or 75 million pounds in 1950 to ensure continuance of anything like present prices. However, let's hope for the best and await the pronouncements at Ottawa.

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REAL ESTATE At the same time and place there will be offered for sale subject to a reserve bid the following dwelling houses situated on Vimy St., Acton. This is a quiet street in the South part of Acton, near the water tower. A good place for retired people.

PARCEL I The rough cast house and garden at 16 Vimy St. This dwelling has a full basement under the main dwelling. There are four rooms down stairs. Three bedrooms and bath room up stairs. The town water pipes are ready to be connected.

Terms on Parcel I 10% of the purchase price on day of Sale. Balance when possession is given, or 50% may be left on a mortgage bearing interest at 5% per annum to be paid in monthly installments of $50.00 per month till the total is paid. The purchaser is to have the privilege of paying any amount above the said monthly payment or may make a total payment at any time.

PARCEL II—The neat six room rough cast cottage and garden at 12 Vimy St. The kitchen stove with water front and hot water tanks are included in this offering.

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Terms on Furniture—Cash

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