



FARM NEWS

Don't Throw Away Your Plow Yet

This is the title of an article recently published in "Farm Research" published quarterly by the New York State Experiment Station at Geneva and the Cornell University Agricultural Experiment Station at Ithaca. In our last week's column we attempted to give you some of the highlights of an address by Mr. Paul Fisher of Freeman on his visit to Malabar Farm, owned and operated by the famous Louis Bromfield. It therefore occurs to us that some of the highlights of the article based on their work in New York State may also be of interest.

This experimental work at Geneva, New York State, has been carried on for four years. It deals with the effects of four methods of seed-bed preparation which are compared in connection with five vegetable crops grown for processing including peas, sweet corn, carrots, lima beans and beets.

The tillage implements included a subsoil plow on which a small share just back of the regular share extended an additional 4 inches into the soil, a regular mould-board plow, a disc and a rotary tiller. The crops were rotated on the different areas, but each implement was used in the same area each year so that the long continued effect of each implement on the soil could be evaluated.

In addition to crop yields the effects of the tillage implements on the physical factors of the soil are being studied. From preliminary results which must be verified by additional data, certain interesting trends have appeared:

Relative Yields of Five Canned Crops with four primary Tillage Tools

	1946	1947	1948	1949
Subsoil Plow	87	49	91	90
Regular Plow	100	100	100	100
Disc	102	100	100	82
Rotary Plow	114	78	91	80

(Crop yields from regular-tillage plots expressed as 100)

It will be noted that to date, the yields have decreased where discing and rotary tillage were used while the yields have increased where subsoil tillage was used. Since the plots had received uniform applications of fertilizer, it was reasoned that the physical con-

ditions of the soil affected the yields. Several measurements, including moisture content, compactness, amount of air space in the soil, concentration of oxygen in the soil air and the diffusion rate were made at 4 to 8 inch depths to evaluate the effects of the different tillage implements on the physical aspects of the soil. In brief, the rotary tilled plots and the disc plowed plots showed less oxygen in the soil air, less moisture, less air space, greater compaction and poorer aeration than the subsoil-plowed and regular plowed plots.

As indicated previously this is only a preliminary report and the work must be continued over a longer period of time before final and definite conclusions can be drawn. Personally we can't help but wish that some deep cultivation such as that practiced at Malabar Farm had been combined with this experiment.

V. E. McArthur Appointed President of Halton Plowmen

V. E. McArthur of Nelson Township was appointed president of the Halton Plowmen's Association at the annual meeting of that organization held recently in Milton. Other officers and directors appointed are as follows: 1st vice-president, Harold Pickett, Hornby; 2nd vice president, Spencer Wilson, Norval; Sec. Treas., J. E. Whitelock, Milton; Directors, Trafalgar Township, Frank Hall, Leonard Lister, Jack Marchmont, J. C. Marshall, Esqueting, J. C. Cunningham, Roy Currie, Clabert McInnes, C. F. Pickett, Nelson; Glen Campbell, Geo. Readhead, Ross Segsworth, Jack Taylor, Nasagaweya, J. E. Ellenton, Jack McPhail, Hugh Warmington, Honorary Directors, Stanley L. Hall, M.P.P., Hughes Cleaver, M.P., W. E. Breckon, J. A. Dixon, Arthur Diamond, Victor Hall, J. A. Elliott, W. J. Robertson, W. A. Robinson, W. H. Robertson, M. T. McNabb.

Associate Directors, Esqueting, Lloyd Fisher, Fred Ruffell, and Harvey Nurse, Nasagaweya, Ross Gordon, Tom Patterson, Harold Ferguson, Nelson, Roy Ellenton, John Richardson, Max Featherstone, Geo. Coulson, Trafalgar, Lloyd May, Geo. Hall, Thos. Howden.

Hollywood and Bricklaying

By Lewis Milligan

A friend who had just returned from a motor tour in the United States told me of a "funny" incident he had witnessed during his little visit to Hollywood. It seems that part of a motion picture was being staged on one side of a street and the cameras and lights had to be set up on the opposite sidewalk. Electric cables were laid across the surface of the street pavement, along which motor traffic was passing to and fro. The director of the picture, fearing that the current might be affected by the constant jarring of the traffic, suggested that the carpenters, who were standing by, should lay planks on either side of the cable.

After some consultation, the carpenters decided that, according to union rules, it was not their job to lay the planks; that was the property men's job. So the shooting of the picture had to be held up until the property men were brought and the planks duly laid in position. But, with the jarring of the traffic, the planks were jostled out of position, and the director suggested that they might be secured by a few spikes. The property men, however, said that spike-driving was a carpenter's job. As the carpenters had disappeared in the meantime, they had to be brought back, and after considerable delay, the shooting of the picture proceeded.

It is a pity that this little incident was not included in the picture, as it might have provided a comic interlude. But my friend says that such incidents are quite common at Hollywood, and that the above example of strict union rules for studio employees is not as ridiculous as some others that occur in the process of making a picture. The idea, of course, is to spread out the work and provide employment for as many people as possible, even though it means that for the most part the "specialists" are standing around idle.

But such examples of inflexible union rules are not confined to the motion picture industry. In his chatty weekly columns appearing in the *Ottawa Packet*, Mr. J. H. Hale, referring to a retired local bricklayer, writes:

"Things have changed since Mr. Leonard Wainman was active in his trade. He is now over eighty. In his day he, or any other good bricklayer, would lay 1200 bricks a day. He would think there was something wrong if he laid any less. Today in Toronto a bricklayer, I am told, lays 250 bricks. Five times 250 is 1250. In other words, a bricklayer to-day takes 5 days to do a day's work. For the five days in Toronto he gets \$75 which is quite a good sum. It is not any wonder that building costs a lot these days. Other trades are more or less similar."

I showed a clipping of the above to a Toronto architect and asked him what he thought about it. He said the figures were not quite correct, but he added: "It's a wonder to me that there is any brick-building in these days. A union man will lay around 400 bricks a day. This means that, with his helper, coat of materials—brick, mortar, etc.—you can't build a brick house for less than 10 cents a brick. It is not that they can't lay more bricks, for I know of cases where bricklayers have taken on jobs by private contract after hours, when they will lay bricks far above the prescribed union limit."

Bricklaying, of course, is reasonable work, and it is only fair that the men should be paid high wages in order to make up for the slack or no work periods. But, at least, they might render a good day's work for a good day's pay, and thus get on with the job of providing reasonably-priced homes for themselves and all other workers. If there was no shortage of housing there might be some excuse for going slowly, but the principle of the thing is wrong as applied to any job or occupation, and its effect upon any able-bodied worker cannot be otherwise than degrading. There is no finer feeling at the end of a day's work than that one has done a good, honest job.

The white trillium is typical of wild wood land plants in eastern Canada.

Halton Forums Offer Suggestion Farm Community

Reports were received on the "As Others See Us" broadcast from SS. No. 1 Nasagaweya, Zimmerman, Boyne, Stone School, Mount Nemo, Town Line, Kilbride, Omagh and North Trafalgar. The question, "How could your particular farm community be made a better place to live?" brought almost every suggestion that could add to general welfare. Omagh advised, "Welcome any newcomer into our community, e.g. new Canadians." Omagh also has a unique suggestion in, "Ladies should own a canner for fruit and vegetables." We presume a co-operatively owned one is the kind they mean. This Forum also says, "We object to profane language used on the radio." Kilbride says more co-operation in the community is needed and less criticism unless it be of a constructive nature.

Town Line would like to see a doctor in the community, and "an equalization of the school tax between regular farms and small lots in the area." Stone School asks for "a proportionate share of the National Income so that rural communities can have more conveniences and more leisure time to make a fuller community life." Other things mentioned were a community hall, more cultural and handicrafts education, better support to farm organizations, more neighbourliness, facilities for sports, courses in economics and practical farm subjects, better roads, telephone service, electricity.

Nearly all the forums were interested in rural library services. Full information concerning rural libraries may be obtained from Mr. Angus Mowatt, Inspector of Public Libraries, Parliament Bldgs., Toronto. Some forums would like to know more about the Credit Union.

As to how the desired changes can be brought about, N. Trafalgar says, "Get farmers in the neighborhood out to Farm-Forum". Mt. Nemo thought donations should be made to a Community Park to further sports. Stone School says, "Patronize the Co-operatives and back the Federation of Agriculture." Zimmerman recommends farm organizations. Boyne advocates "working together on projects that will benefit the community."

Of more than 2,375,000 Canadians who paid income taxes in 1947, only 27,500 had an income over \$10,000 a year.

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