



Margin of Profit Narrow on Milk Production

Final figures for the first year of operation of the two Dairy Herd Improvement Groups in Halton were recently made available by the Farm Economics Branch of the Ontario Department of Agriculture. If there has been any thought in the minds of a percentage of urban consumers that milk producers of this province are profiteering, the following figures should dispel that idea. In the West Halton group of twenty-six producers, the average cost of producing one hundred pounds of milk was \$3.71 for the twelve month period ending April 30, 1960. During that same period producers were paid \$4.07 1/2 per cwt. delivered in Toronto that portion of their shipments used in the whole milk trade. In other words, from that price must be deducted approximately at least 30c per cwt. to cover acreage and in addition, approximately fifteen percent of the daily shipments were paid for at a manufacturing price of around \$2.50 per 100 lbs. In the West Halton group the average number of milking cows kept was thirteen, and their average production was 8,453 lbs. of milk and 331 lbs. Butterfat. In the East Halton Group of twenty-six producers, where the average number of milking cows kept was sixteen, the average production per cow was 8,391 lbs. milk and 316 lbs. Butterfat, the cost of producing 100 lbs. milk was \$3.33. In short, while the average production per cow in the East Halton group was slightly lower than in the West Halton group, there was a greater turnover or volume of business; higher gross returns per \$100. worth of feed fed; and less man labour per cow or per production of 100 lbs. of milk.

As in previous east surveys the figures reveal a wide spread in the cost of milk production. The figures which we previously quoted were the averages for the respective groups, however, we note that in West Halton the two producers with the highest net returns were producing milk at a cost of \$2.24 per cwt., while on the two farms with the lowest net returns the average cost was \$4.00 per cwt. In the East Halton group there is a somewhat similar picture—\$2.15 per cwt. on the two farms with the highest net returns, and \$3.07 per cwt. on the two farms with the lowest net returns. It is also rather disconcerting to note that the returns per man hour for that portion of the producer's time spent on his cows, ranged from a low of 13c per hour in the case of one group, and 17c per hour in the second group, to a high of \$1.12 in the one group and \$2.17 per hour in the other.

These are but a few of the interesting, revealing and astounding figures which are presented. Inasmuch as each member enrolled in D.H.I.A. work secures the figures for his own farm business, in addition to the average of the group; the two high farms; and the two low farms; we are willing to gamble that the figures for the twelve month period ending the end of April this year will show a considerable improvement. We base that statement on a recent conversation we had with Frank W. Chisholm, supervisor of the East Halton group. According to Mr. Chisholm there is keen interest among the members of his group and a good deal of systematic culling of the low producers has already taken place. We realize the figures must have come as a rude jolt to many, but it is to be hoped that they won't become discouraged. Culling out of the boarder cows and stopping out of some of the leaks which exist in every business will definitely bring results.

Prospects for Farm Labour Not Bright

In last week's column we intimated that present prospects point to full employment in industry and limited labour for the farms. As a matter of fact with the exception of the depression years that has been the picture as long as we can remember, and that goes back to the early part of the century. We have information, however, from Mr. R. M. Pym of the Department of Colonization and Agriculture of the Canadian National Railway and also from W. Davison of the National Selective Service that a fairly good supply of displaced people from Europe will be arriving during the next four or five months. These will include men of varying degrees of experience and of several nationalities—Belgian, Czechoslovak, Danish, French, Hungarian, Yugoslav, Latvian, Lithuanian, Polish, Swedish, and Swiss. All will be screened for health and security purposes. In addition there will be the usual

forwardings from the British Isles. Those requiring help in coming spring would we feel be well advised to contact one of the sources of supply in the near future.

Attendance Being Maintained At Milton Night Classes

The special Night School Classes initiated last November in Milton have now reached the half way period. According to A. T. Woodley, Chairman of the Local Committee, interest is not only being maintained but nearly everyone is highly delighted with the various courses of instruction. While illness, and other activities have interfered in some families nevertheless between 250 and 300 have been present each of the past two Tuesday nights. Inquiries are already being received concerning plans for next winter.

Reform Calendar To Have 13 Months

January 1st this year was a Sunday. Next year will begin on a Monday. Last year it was a Saturday and the year before it was a Thursday. Each year begins with a different day. So usually does each month. The present calendar, argues The Financial Post, is changeable and irregular. It is a nuisance to the ordinary man and, more important, it makes difficulties in keeping business records and making comparisons. Two reforms have been proposed. One is a perpetual calendar in which every year would start on a Sunday and every month would begin with a Sunday. There would be 13 months. The other proposal is to retain the system of 12 months but arrange the calendar so that quarters are equal with 91 days each. From the standpoint of convenience either of these systems would be a big improvement over the present one.

FINS FOR LINER

The new P and O passenger liner "Chusan" of 24,000 tons gross, has been fitted with fins designed to promote stability in rough sea. She is by far the largest vessel to be so equipped. The appliance consists of two rectangular fins 12' by 6 1/2', one on each side of the ship and projecting from the hull near the bilge. Each fin is mounted on a shaft so arranged that the fin is hydro-dynamically balanced. The forward velocity of the ship causes the water to exert an upward force on one fin and a downward force on the other. When not in use, the fin can be withdrawn into recesses within the hull line. First tests exceeded all expectations.

First Halton County Folk School Held At Campbellville, Some Speakers Heard

Ten students and two leaders spent an enjoyable four days at the first Halton County Folk School held at the farm home of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Coulter, Campbellville from January 17-21. The school was sponsored by the Halton County Farm Forum and financed by donations from most of the Farm Forums in the county, several branches of the Women's Institutes, Junior Farmer's groups and Township Federation of Agriculturists.

A quotation from Leonard Harman's article on "Folk Schools in Ontario" will tell in a few sentences what folk schools are. "The Danish Folk Schools, as we saw them, were centres of rural enlightenment. Each reflected the influence of a great teacher who built the school around his personality and around his application for a better rural life and a finer community. The schools were assisted by public funds but not directed by any department of government. They were attended by young farmers during the winter months and by young farm women during the summer. Sometimes adults of all ages come to the schools at least for learning. The schools did not educate away from the land as do some of the High Schools and Universities in Canada. They educated rural people for abundant living which most of them expected to find as farmers. The graduate of a Danish Folk School was a good farmer, an active member of several kinds of co-operatives and a man with a much-read library at home." Mr. Harman, general secretary of the United Co-operatives of Ontario, was instrumental in starting the Folk Schools in Ontario.

Roy Hergott of the Ontario Folk School Council, conducted the first session of the school and acted in the capacity of advisor throughout the remainder of the week. The following school board was appointed by the students: chairman, Mary Smith, Oakville, delegate of the Halton Junior Farmers; secretary, Wilma Johnston, Omagh, sponsored by the Omagh Farm Forum; and treasurer, Ellen Chapman, Omagh, who also was assistant to Mr. Hergott and Mrs. Coulter, who acted as house mother. Besides those mentioned above, the following were registered as students: Otha Hustler, sponsored by North Trafalgar Farm Forum; Vera May, Hornby, sponsored by S. S. 4 Esquesing Farm Forum; Mary Ferriter, Campbellville, sponsored by Nassauwagony Federation of Agriculture; Florence Armstrong and Ann Skutt, Boyne, sponsored by Boyne Farm Forum; Ralda Nelson, Hornby, sponsored by the Hornby Farm Forum; Mrs. Viola Alderson, North Trafalgar, sponsored by Coyne School Farm Forum; and Reginald Coulson, Mt. Nemo, sponsored by the Mt. Nemo Farm Forum.

The theme for study and discussion throughout the course was "How can I be an asset to my community?" and was presented to the students by various speakers as follows: "Values of community living and values of rural living" by Rev. Wm. Young, padre at the O.A.C., Guelph, who explained in detail why community living was such good fun with an uplifting influence that brought a crowd together as one. While money was an important way of measuring values, it is merely the framework of life and as we must make sure that our spiritual values are right, so they can become the foundation of a full and happy life, he said. An informative talk on the "Principles of co-operative movement" was given by Mr. Hergott who explained the origin of the organization and how it benefits the farmer to-day. "Modern trends in education" was very ably taken by M. A. Campbell, Zimmerman, who explained the Hope report as recommended by the Royal Commission on Education, of which he was a member. He told how they planned the new system with the idea of educating the body and soul, as well as the mind, thus training boys and girls toward good citizenship.

Rev. R. E. Porritt, Campbellville, spoke on "The church in the community" and left with the students many helpful ways of improving relationships with the community church, not forgetting to remind them of their duty toward God as one of His stewards and their obligation towards their fellowman. Owing to his experience in organizing farm groups, R. S. Heathcriston was well qualified to give information and lead in discussion on "Where is farm organization leading us?" and enlightened the group on many points regarding this subject. Mrs. Gordon Grey, well known columnist, urged the students to cultivate good reading habits by starting at an early age to always read that which helped to truly live and think. Her talk and the discussion on "Literature Appreciation" was well received. Mrs. Grey recommended the reading of biographies and historical books as well as good fiction to help enrich our lives and understand the different phases of life. Dr. Mather of the Halton County Health Unit, presented the history and benefits of Public Health in the community. Halton County's own Ethel Chapman, Home Editor of the Farmer's Magazine, Toronto, was present at the Folk School for two sessions. "How everyone can play his or her part in the 'Home and Community'" was the theme of her inspiring talk. Much of what she said will remain with the students, to the remainder of their lives, enabling them to create their own satisfying homes. Leatherwork was the subject chosen for handicrafts—under the direction of Mrs. Cedric Harrop, Milton. Study, devotional periods and discussion was interspersed with folk dancing, stunts, games and singing. The main feature of this part of the school was the community play party at Limestone School on Friday evening, presided by a film on co-operatives under the direction of Mr. Gordon Grey. Mr. Hergott gave a short, explanatory talk on "The ethics of square dancing" and led in many singing games, folk dancing and square dancing. The Halton Junior Farmers were guests at this play party and expressed their desire to participate in many more. Another feature of the Folk School is that work groups are formed to do the daily chores on a co-operative basis. The Folk School is non-denominational and each student is free to go to the church of his choice, thus some of the group were in attendance at three local churches on Sunday morning, and adjourned after the mid-day meal.

District Holsteins Place All Canadian

The Holstein-Friesian Association of Canada has announced that Dutchland Ring Apple Monogram Bulls received Honorable Mention for All Canadian in the class for three-year-old Holstein bulls. A committee judged the leading Holsteins in the Dominion. He was exhibited by Ross Segsworth, Freeman, Ont. Dutchland was Grand Champion at the Halton County Black and White Day held in conjunction with Milton Fair, 2nd and Reserve Senior Champion at the C.N.E. He is now owned by the Western Pennsylvania Artificial Breeding Association.

Among the animals nominated for All-Canadian consideration were Salax Prince owned by Robt. C. Alexander, Georgetown, who was Senior Champion at the C.N.E.; Lidda Graymar Beech Beale, three year old heifer, owned by Dr. Paul Hoar, Georgetown, and Produce of Poplar Row Chisfast—Maid owned by Ross Segsworth.

"SUNTONIC" APPLES

"Suntonic" is a new brand name being used for apples grown and packed in Kent, England. It is a combination of the Ministry of Agriculture's Extra Fancy and Fancy grades of the finest dessert apples. These are carefully wrapped in an attractive paper then counted into strong cardboard boxes. The new pack is reported to be well received in the large British markets this year.

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