

Farmers Produce All-Time Record

Ontario's farmers in 1950 produced the largest volume of agriculture products in gross value in history, Agriculture Minister Thomas L. Kennedy reports. Total value of agriculture products is placed at \$1,274,357,000 or almost \$150 million more than in 1949 in which year agriculture production was valued at \$1,126,321,000.

Production of hogs was valued at \$104 million compared with \$185 million in 1949; cattle and calves were valued at \$106 million compared with \$180 million; poultry and eggs had a value of \$114 million, an increase of \$21 million over 1949 and field crops were valued at \$447 million, compared with \$423 million in 1949.

Tobacco production is estimated at \$63 million, an increase of \$8 million over 1949; honey and wax rose to \$4,300,000 from \$2,375,000.

"Creepy" Alfalfa To Spook Pastures

A new alfalfa variety with a true creeping-root system has been developed at the Swift Current Station in collaboration with the Dominion Forage Crops Laboratory at Saskatoon. The plant is drought-resistant and judging from preliminary tests, promises to be hardy enough to maintain itself on western pastures, even if heavily grazed.

The creeping-root alfalfa will be seeded next spring on 15 agricultural stations in western Canada, including stations in the Yukon and North-West Territories. The object is to establish mixed permanent pastures of alfalfa and crested wheat grass or bromine grass that will persist under severe grazing, dry weather, and severe winter conditions.

This development will introduce the first perennial forage legume to meet the stringent requirements of the drier prairie areas, provided of course the plant lives up to the high expectations held by scientists who are most enthusiastic over its unique creeping-root system and preliminary performance.

Heating bee hives in the spring has not proved advantageous at Ste. Anne de la Pointe Experimental Station, Que., where the 3-year average yield of honey per colony from spring heated hives has been 107 pounds, as compared with 132 pounds per hive with unheated colonies.

Robt. R. Hamilton
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THE HISTORY OF ASSESSMENT AND MUNICIPAL TAXATION IN ONTARIO

Third in a series of eight articles
By GEORGE W. JAMES

If we live in a municipality in Southern Ontario which is part of a county set-up for administration purposes, we are charged on our local tax bills for such items as County Rates, High School Districts, Township School Areas, etc. If we live in a municipality in Northern Ontario, we are sometimes charged for the last two items and in addition for the maintenance of the District Home for the Aged.

Now the amount we pay for these things is based on the assessment of our property. The total assessment of our municipality is supposed to be equalized with the assessment of the other municipalities which share such services as roads, schools, health units, etc., with us. In other words, if our

Corporation of the Town of Acton BY-LAW No. 961 ACTON

Of the Corporation of the Town of Acton to provide for the closing within certain hours of retail gasoline service stations, gasoline pumps and outlets in the retail gasoline service industry as defined in the Industrial Standards Act.

WHEREAS pursuant to The Factory, Shop and Office Building Act, an application has been presented to the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Acton praying for the passing of a by-law requiring the closing on certain days of the week during certain hours as hereinafter in this By-law more particularly set forth of Retail Gasoline Service Stations, Gasoline Pumps and Outlets in the Retail Gasoline Service Industry as defined in the Industrial Standards Act;

AND WHEREAS the Council is satisfied that such application is signed by not less than three-fourths in number of the occupiers of Retail Gasoline Service Stations, Gasoline Pumps and Outlets in the Retail Gasoline Service Industry (as defined in the Industrial Standards Act), to which such application relates;

THEREFORE the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Acton enacts the following:

1. By-law No. 943 is hereby repealed.
2. By-law No. 951 is hereby repealed.
3. Save as hereinafter provided, all Retail Gasoline Service Stations, Gasoline Pumps and Outlets within the whole of the Town of Acton in the "Retail Gasoline Service Industry" as defined in the Industrial Standards Act, shall be closed between the hours of seven of the clock in the afternoon of each Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday and seven of the clock in the forenoon of the next following day, during the whole of the year.

4. Save as hereinafter in this By-law otherwise provided, all Retail Gasoline Service Stations, Gasoline Pumps and Outlets within the whole of the Town of Acton in the "Retail Gasoline Service Industry" as defined in the Industrial Standards Act, shall be closed and remain closed between the hours of ten of the clock in the afternoon of each Saturday and seven of the clock in the forenoon of the next following Monday.

5. Notwithstanding the provisions of Sections 3 and 4 hereof, the Town Clerk may, after approval thereof by the Council, issue permits authorizing the retail gasoline service station, gasoline pump or outlet as so defined for which it is issued to be and remain open notwithstanding the by-law, during the part or parts of the day or days specified in the permit.

6. (a) Permits issued pursuant to the provision of Section 5 hereof shall not exceed in number for any particular calendar week one of the aggregate number of retail gasoline service stations, gasoline pumps or outlets as so defined according to license records of the Town Clerk; such permits shall be issued for one week in regular rotation.

(b) Every such permit shall be for remaining open between the hours of seven of the clock in the afternoon of each Monday to Friday inclusive and seven of the clock in the forenoon of the next following day and between the hours of ten of the clock in the afternoon of each Saturday and seven of the clock in the forenoon of the next following Monday.

7. Save as otherwise provided in The Factory, Shop and Office Building Act, the occupier shall be responsible for any breach of the provisions of this by-law.

8. Any person convicted of a breach of the provisions of this by-law shall forfeit and pay at the discretion of the convicting Magistrate a penalty not exceeding (exclusive of costs) the sum of Fifty Dollars for each offence and in default of payment of the said penalty and costs forthwith the said penalty and costs or costs only may be levied by distress and sale of the goods and chattels of the offender; and in case of the being no distress found out of which such penalty can be levied, the convicting Magistrate may commit the offender to the Common Gaol of the County of Halton, with or without hard labour, for any period not exceeding twenty-one days unless the said penalty and costs (if any) including the costs of the said distress and of the committal and conveyance of the offender to the said gaol are sooner paid.

9. THIS BY-LAW shall take effect on and from the Twelfth day of April, A.D. 1952.

Read a first time this 19th day of February, 1952. Read a second and third time and passed this 1st day of April, A.D. 1952.

B. D. Rachlin, Mayor
J. McGeachie, Clerk

New Sweet Clover Takes To Moisture

A new easily-germinating variety of sweet clover has been developed at the Saskatoon Forage Crops Laboratory which will make farmers less hesitant in seeding larger areas with this forage crop. The new variety produces seeds which are easily permeable to moisture and will therefore completely germinate in the year of planting, thus eliminating the hitherto inevitable sweet clover infestation that persists for many years in fields planted with this crop.

A large percentage of the seeds of the currently-grown sweet clover varieties is "hard" and not easily permeable to moisture. As a result, no more than about 10 per cent of the planted seeds germinate in any one year. The bulk of the seeds remains in the ground to germinate in successive stages over an indefinite number of years, so that an area, once seeded with sweet clover, never will become quite free of this crop. Its presence under these conditions, no more desirable than that of a weed, becomes a double headache when the farmer plans to seed the sweet clover infested area with certified seed-yielding alfalfa, for instance.

Prior to an amendment to the Assessment Act in 1943, if the county council could not arrive at a proper equalization of assessment themselves, they were required to appoint valuers every five years to value 5 per cent to 8 per cent of the properties in each municipality. These values were then reduced to a common ratio, e.g. 50 per cent of value and this determined the equalization of assessment for county rates or school purposes where such school areas covered more than one municipality or parts of more than one municipality.

This system did not prove satisfactory as the municipalities operated on different methods of valuation generally on a "guess" method and the percentage valued was only a small fraction of the total number of properties and therefore in many instances quite misleading.

To overcome this and to institute a standard system of valuation in the county, the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry in 1943 made the first appointment of a County Assessor under the authority of the 1940 legislation. Since that time, 25 other County Assessors have been appointed, two of them commencing their duties. This leaves 12 counties which have not as yet made appointments. While legislation was enacted in 1950 to permit the municipalities which comprise the Territorial Districts in Northern Ontario to pass by-laws requesting the appointment of District Assessors, so far no appointments have been made.

Duties of Assessor
The duties of a County Assessor are to supervise the work of the various assessors in his county and to standardize the methods of preparation of the assessment rolls. He makes a report by June 1st of each year to his county council and this report forms the basis of the equalization of assessment as set by that council.

This report is of necessity only the basis and may be amended in any way or rejected. Part of the figures shown in the report are taken from the assessment rolls prepared by the municipal assessors in the previous year and the recommended figures for the purpose of equalization may have little or no similarity to the local assessors' totals. While the county council prepare their equalization by-law immediately following the County Assessor's report, the county rates or levies based on these figures do not appear in the local tax bills until the following year. A lapse of two years is thus found between the time your local assessor visits your property and the time you pay county rates based on such assessment.

Re-Assessment A Chore
It is found that the County Assessor requires from three to five years to complete his work of re-assessment in a county. This period is determined by the number of municipalities in the county and the co-operation given by the local municipalities.

The weakness of the county assessment system being the highest form of supervised assessment, lies in the fact that high school districts and township school areas overlap in many cases into adjoining counties with different methods of valuations. Possibly the solution is supervision by the Provincial Government in an endeavor to institute a common basis of valuation and assessment.

(In next week's article you will be told of the provisions of the Assessment Act which governs the basis of your own assessment.)

IRON CURTAIN SECRET

In East Berlin they're telling about Premier Stalin's efforts to find out what the man-on-the-street really thinks, about him. Carefully disguised, Stalin went in to a Moscow saloon and struck up a conversation with a Russian worker. After a few drinks, he casually asked the worker how he really felt about Premier Stalin. The worker looked around the room fearfully, then beckoned his drinking partner to follow him out of the saloon and down the street. When they were out of sight and earshot of eavesdroppers, the worker looked around once more to be sure no one was listening, then whispered softly into Stalin's ear: "I'm in favor of him" — The Reader's Digest.

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AUTO - biographies

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(To be Continued)

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Thank You

Acton and District for the warm welcome we received on the opening of the Acton Meat Market last week. We sincerely appreciate your patronage and regret that we were unable to fill all the orders. You can be assured that this week we will have a complete stock on hand. Congratulations, too, to Mrs. E. Masters, 27 Park Ave., the winner of the delicious 15 pound turkey. The winning ticket was drawn by Miss Janet Brennan, R.R. 4, Rockwood.



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