

EQUITY IN ALL COUNTY TAXES IS AIM OF ASSESSORS' ORGANIZATION

Through the efforts of the assessors of the various municipalities of Halton County, an association was formed on January 31, 1951, known as the Halton County Assessors' Association.

All assessors in the county became members, and procedure was set up for conducting a monthly meeting. These meetings were arranged that each month a different municipality played host to the association and in this way assessors of all municipalities were able to get first hand information concerning the problems faced by the individual assessors by conducting tours throughout the municipalities. At the first meeting J. Gibbons, assessment commissioner of Georgetown was elected chairman with W. Johnston, assessment commissioner of Burlington elected as secretary. Minutes and records of discussions were kept.

In 1952 P. L. Spurgeon, assessment commissioner of Oakville was elected chairman and F. W. Crump, assessment commissioner of Acton, as secretary.

As these meetings moved from one municipality to another, a great deal was learned about the individual problems of towns and of townships in relation to other municipalities and much valuable information was exchanged in the subsequent discussions.

The constant aim of the association is to produce a more uniform and efficient assessment policy within the county and will go far towards bringing about a satisfactory and equitable county equalization. With the help of the Halton county

assessors, assessment systems in all municipalities are now well on the way to a uniform procedure in all phases of assessment. This is an important step in the right direction for final equity throughout the county.

Now that all municipalities have been visited and tours conducted throughout the municipalities the association have turned to another procedure for future meetings. A guest speaker will be in attendance to discuss assessment difficulties with a view to broadening the knowledge already available to the assessors. The Department of Municipal Affairs have already supplied a capable speaker, Mr. Cade, who presented a very interesting paper on the uniform preparation of the roll.

The association is endeavoring to improve assessment — that will in turn reflect on the tax bills, as "equity" is the theme of the association and with equity in assessment, the ultimate result is equity in the amount of taxes the tax payer is required to pay.

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Too Many Chicks

Ontario poultry leaders are very much concerned about Canada's top heavy surplus of eggs and of poultry. That was very evident at the recent meeting of the Poultry Industry Committee of Ontario.

This Committee, which over the years has given good leadership to Ontario's poultry industry, is made up of hatcherymen, poultry officials of both the Dominion and Ontario Governments, feed manufacturers, processors and the trade generally.

Apparently all members of the Committee were agreed that farmers had purchased too many chicks in 1951. Egg production up to the end of March is 6% higher than the same period in 1950 and 20% over the same three months in 1951.

According to S. C. Barry, Chief of the Federal Poultry and Live Stock Branch, eggs in storage are now 183,000 cases compared with 70,000 cases a year ago. He estimated that eggs marketed through egg grading stations by the end of the year will total 3,120,000 cases. This represents an average of 104,000 cases a week for the 30 weeks as against an average consumption in 1951 of 82,000 cases a week.

In poultry meat, Mr. Barry noted 32,000,000 pounds in storage on March 1st against 14,000,000 pounds in 1951. F. A. Wiggins, well-known authority in the trade, stated that judging by the rate of consumption to date, there is poultry in storage to last till some time next year. He estimated that the holders of the thirty odd million pounds in storage would take a loss of seven cents a pound or \$2,000,000.

In view of this picture it was a surprise to learn that prospects point to more chicks and turkeys being hatched in 1952. According to F. A. Curran, Ontario has just equalled the set of last year up to March 15. All other provinces, however, reported substantially more chicks than last year with heavy increases in the prairie provinces.

Apparently prospects point to a particularly heavy increase in turkey production, which certainly looks all wrong in view of the amount in storage and other factors in the meat industry. Needless to add the embargo against our cattle going to the United States, the increase in marketings of hogs all have a very direct influence on the demand for poultry and eggs.

Altogether the outlook is very gloomy—many folk are inquiring when the embargo is likely to be lifted. We do know that there is a law on the United States Statutes which prohibits an import from any country where there is an outbreak of any contagious animal disease for one year after such an outbreak has been cleaned up.

Under normal conditions one might anticipate a modification by United States authorities but with a presidential election in the offing we cannot help but question the likelihood of any change in the embargo situation, until after that event takes place. However, there is an old saying that things always look darkest before the dawn, so perhaps the powers that be may find a solution in the form of other markets for some of our surpluses. In the meantime it would appear to be wisdom not to put all your eggs in one basket.

Keen Interest in Farm Pond Policy

On Friday evening last, when we were writing this column, twenty-eight applications had been received for the subsidy on farm ponds, provided jointly by the Halton County Council and the Ontario Department of Agriculture.

While \$2,000 is available for this project sponsored by the Halton Conservation Committee, nevertheless if each of those approved receives the maximum grant of \$100 there is only sufficient money to subsidize 20 ponds.

Applications as received in the form of a "Request for Farm Pond Survey" are being sent forward to the Department of Agricultural Engineering at the Ontario Agricultural College. There is the possibility that some of the sites may not be suitable and also that some of the projects will cost less than \$200. In the latter case, in as much as the grant is to cover 50% of the cost the maximum grant of \$100 will not be paid, which would permit more than twenty Halton farmers receiving financial assistance under the policy.

In the meantime if there are others who are interested we would suggest that they make their application in person to the Agricultural Office in Milton.

Test Graham Holme Plows Following the bus trip to Ohio, sponsored by the Halton Crop Improvement Association in 1950, several Halton farmers purchased "Graham" plows and have utilized

them on their respective farms. It will be recalled that this is an implement which resembles a very heavy stiff-toothed cultivator more than anything else and which has received much publicity, as a result of the writings and addresses of Louis Bromfield. It is, of course as yet too soon to determine if the implement has a place in Halton County agriculture.

At a recent meeting of the Halton Crop Improvement Association it was recommended that tests be laid down on several farms in the county, whereby the work of the Graham plow could be checked against that of the Mouldboard plow. Such test would, of necessity have to be conducted for a period of at least five years before any very definite data could be secured.

We anticipate that a start in this connection will be made next fall. If it materializes we do know that the project will be followed with a great deal of interest by many Halton farmers. Farm operators in Halton are already interested but hesitate to invest money in equipment which as yet, has not been proven under Halton and Ontario soil conditions.

DEAD STOCK

HORSES - CATTLE - HOGS

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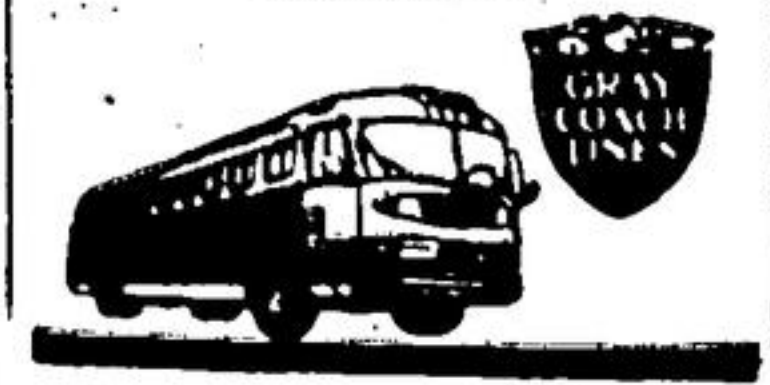


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Holstein Sale Has \$281 Averages

The Glendol herd of pure bred Holsteins owned by W. H. Tolson, Georgetown, Ont., was dispersed at the Oakville Sales Arena with 20 head bringing \$10,432 for a general average of \$281.

R. W. Drinkwater, Jarvis, Ont., paid the top price of \$360 for Glendol King Apple Grace, an 8-year-old cow. Mr. Drinkwater also paid the second highest price of \$375 for a 7-year-old and her baby calf. The \$375 figure was also reached on the bid of Sam F. McClure, who secured a 3-year-old heifer R. Hewson, Mono Road, bought a 7-year-old cow at \$370. J. H. Gilpin, Terra Cotta, bought four head for a total of \$1,155.

Twenty-five milking females averaged \$214; one bred heifer \$228; 6 open heifers \$218 and 5 heifer calves \$166.

It was interesting to note the large crowd of breeders on hand for this event, the Sales Arena being crowded and standing room at a premium. This came from all sides and the 20 head offered went to no less than 20 different buyers.

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NOTICE

To Ontario Producers of Eggs and Poultry

The Ontario Farm Products Marketing Board has received a petition for the approval of a proposed marketing scheme for eggs, under the provisions of the Ontario Farm Products Marketing Act.

A vote by ballot has been arranged so that the Board can determine the opinion of producers on this proposal. If you are 21 years of age or over and have produced and sold eggs during 1951 and/or are producing and selling eggs in 1952, you are eligible to vote. Any member of a family engaged in the production and sale of eggs is eligible, if 21 years of age or over, but only one member of such a family is entitled to vote.

Each producer of eggs and poultry who wishes to vote will be required to declare his eligibility and to register with the returning officer at his polling station before receiving a ballot. Your Agricultural Representative is the Chief Returning Officer for your County or District.

Voting will take place on April 17, 18 and 19, 1952, between the hours of 10 a.m. and 9 p.m. In the County of Halton polling stations will be located as follows:

- Home of C. Lawrence Bell, at Nelson, Lowville School, Nelson Township,
- Home of Alfred Bridgen, Hornby,
- Home of Wm. R. Norton, Foot of Silvercreek Hill, No. 7 Highway, Esqueping Twp.
- Stewarttown Township Hall
- Nassagaweya Township Hall,
- Dent's Store, Trafalgar,
- Agricultural Office, Milton.

Vote as You Like - - But Vote

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- ✓ A TRACTOR, COMBINE, TRUCK or other mechanical equipment?
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- ✓ A NEW HOUSE, BARN, SHED, or other out-buildings? Or the alteration and repair of your present buildings?
- ✓ A HEATING OR WATER SYSTEM? This includes furnaces and boilers, water heaters, built-in sinks and tubs, and repair and modernization of your present system.
- ✓ THE CLEARING AND BREAKING OF NEW GROUND? Or any of the following: fencing, drainage, roadwork, tiling, pumping, and diking installations?
- ✓ A FARM ELECTRICAL SYSTEM? ... Installation of a new or used system or modernization of your present one?
- ✓ ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT? ... A milking machine, cream separator, refrigerator or pump?
- ✓ FRUIT TREES? ... To replace faulty ones; to increase or vary your fruit harvest; or to start an orchard if you're other than a fruit farmer.



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