FARM NEWS

From Halton's Farm Lands

Weed Inspector on Job

Recently we had a chat with Thomas Bradley, Halton's new County Weed Inspector. Mr. Bradley along with a number of municipal officals from the County, recently attended the Weed Conference at the Ontario Agricultural College. It was pointed out at the Conference, that as a result of research since 1927, it has been established that the most effective time to kill most weed infections is in the month of May, and early June. It has also been established, states Mr. Bradley, that the most economical and efficient method of killing weeds is by spraying.

We were somewhat surprised to learn from Mr. Bradley, that no less than 200,000 folk in Ontario are effected by hay fever in most cases caused by the pollen from weeds. No one likes weeds in the first place, they are unsightly they are a factor in lowering moisture supplies and lowering the fertility level. Consequently they reduce crop yields and lower the quality and value of our crops. To all these sins must be added the effect on the health of our human population. It was no surprise to learn from Mr Bradley, that it is the intention of those charged with the responsibility of weed control to do a better job in 1954.

Education Needed

While the Ontario Weed Control Act provides Weed Inspectors with complete authority to have weeds destroyed and the cost of same charged to property owners as taxes, or the alternative of court action most citizens agree that such measures do not kill weeds nor solve weed problems. In short, stated Mr Bradley, in the final analysis education is the most effective remedy. To this end he hopes to secure the co-operation of the property owners, members of municipal councils, road superintendents and citizens generally, in taking action immediately to prevent the unsightly messes of former years.

Indiana Roadsides Clean

We were also interested to learn from A R Coulter of Lowville, who recently returned from a trip to the State of Indiana, that down there the farms and the roadsides are clean and tidy in comparison to ours here in Ontario. All of their farm buildings are painted — most of them white, stated Mr Coulter, who was most enthusiastic in his praise of the general tidiness of the farmsteads, including freedom from weeds.

Surely what they can do in Indiana we can do in Ontario and more particularly in Halton County. As we see it, it means co-operative effort, so if you receive a call from our new County Weed Inspector just remember he is there not primarily to lay down the law or hail you into court, but to help you get some of the weeds under control. As we intimited in a former article "Rome wasn't built in a day", so we can't expect to eliminate our weed problem in a year it is going to take time but let us make 1954 remembered as the year Halton really made a start in eliminating weeds which at the present time are costing us millions of dollars annually and also endangering the health of our citizens.

4-H Tractor Club Organized

Attendance was disappointing at the Milton 4-H Tractor Maintenance Club organization meeting However, 11 interested members signed up

H E Wright District Agricultural Engineering Feildman explained the Tractor Policy, with the assistance of local Club Leader John Picket distributed manuals, record cards and safety booklets Mr Wright presented an interesting talk on Safe Tractor Operation and concluded with several slides depicting some "hazards and 'donts" connected with tractors and tractor operation and maintenance.

Officers elected were as follows, President Lynne Coulter RR 3 Campbellville Vice President Don Johnson Milton RR 6 Secretary Arnold Howden Milton RR 4 Other members include Andy Stoll Milton RR 5 William Price Campbellville RR 1 Earl Dunn Hornby RR 2 Bill Speck Hornby RR 1 Merv Collins Milton RR 2 George Greenlees Campbellville RR 3 George Hume Milton RR 6 Paul Ford Milton RR 4 Additional members will be accepted. Any interested person should contact one of the above members or the Ontario Department of Agriculture Milton.

Milton Junior Farmers are the local sponsoring organization but members of the Tractor Club need not be members of the Junior Farmer Club

Junior Farmer Executive Meet

Don Matthews president of Halton Junior Farmers Association presided for the regular monthly meeting of the Halton Junior Farmers executive held at the Department of Agriculture office on Monday last. Correspondence was read by Secretary Joan Peterson and financial reports on the Junior Farmer Banquet, Junior Farmer Drama Festival and Junior Farmer 'At Home' were presented by Treasurer Wilma Sinclair.

Plans were finalized and committees appointed for several coming events

Church Service

The Annual Junior Farmer Church Service will be held in Grace Anglican Church Milton

David Pelletterio, past president of the Junior Farmers' Assn. of Ontario, will deliver the sermon. The Halton Junior Farmer Choir which recently attended a Provincial Choir Festival at London, has again resumed practice and under the direction of Mrs. Geo Newell, Milton, will lead the singing and present special numbers. Various other officers will assist with the service. Parents and friends from town and country are cordially invited to help fill the church.

Sports Day—Lowville Park

To select teams for the Guelph Sports Day in June and to declare County Championships, Halton Junior Farmers will hold a local Sports Day later this month at Lowville Park Boys' and Girls' Ball Teams have been entered by Acton, Milton, Norval and Palermo Junior Farmer Clubs and the same Clubs have entered tug-of-war teams.

Competitors to represent Halton in other Competitions at O A C Girls' Basketball, Rifle Shooting and Square Dancing will be chosen by special committees at separate events prior to the Guelph meet.

Live Stock Judging Competitions

A date has been selected by County Board for the Junior Farmer Annual Live Stock Judging Competition Announcements relative to this competion are being mailed from the Agricultural office, Milton, and should any interested person not receive one please inquire An interesting feature each year is the team competition where some of the older boys coach younger boys prior to Competition day The winning team receives one of the judging Trophies We understand some coaches are already at work.

Presentation of Awards and dance the same evening in the Milton Town Hall Judging competition Trophies and Prizes, and Sports Day Trophies, will be presented in conjuction with the dance. An added feature here will be a square dance competition between the North Halton Square Dance set and Milton square dance set, with the winners to have the opportunity of representing Halton in Provincial competition.

English Visitor

Halton Junior Farmers will be privileged to play host to Miss Daphne Yeates, one of our English "Young Farmers" who are spending three months in Ontario as guests of the Ontario Junior Farmers' Ass'n. and Ontario Department of Agriculture. International exchange visits among young farm people are increasing, and seem to be an excellent way of creating a better understanding and a broader outlook for every one involved. Miss Yeates is scheduled to stay in Halton from June 19 to June 29th. Arrangements for her visit have not been finalized.

Little Seeding Done in Halton

The continued wet, backward weather is tough on the farm morale While we know of a few farm operators on the higher, earlier fields who have been on the land in fact we know of one who has finished seeding, on the other hand the heavier clay loams of the County are as yet untouched Fields plowed out of sod are really getting grassy

All in all it is a rather discouraging picture However, if weather conditions permit, there is still possibility of fair crop providing favourable weather follows in June and July

On the other side of the picture, the fall wheat and meadows look excellent Furthermore, we still maintain hay and pasture on our clay loam dairy farms are our most valuable crops That doesn't mean we should not grow some spring grains — in the first place livestock farms need straw for bedding our soils need the organic matter, and then there is the question of weed control rotations etc.

Not Enthusiastic about Grain Corn

Despite the flurry in grain in Halton some 10 years ago we have never been able to get very enthusiastic about grain or husking corn on our Halton clay loams perhaps that is because we don't know how to grow it True grain corn will produce more total digestible nutrients to the acre than cereal grains If we are to feed it to our dairy cattle and hogs it means more concentrate to balance it up and we question if we are any further ahead financially in the end As a cash crop it definitely offers greater possibilities, as we see it, than oats or barley

Our greatest objection to grain corn on our heavier soils, is that in the past, too many of those growing the crop, failed to get it picked in time to get the land fall plowed, and that in our opinion is a must on our clay loams However, in a year like this grain corn is worthy of consideration providing the grower knows where he can get a custom picker, and providing he selects a variety which will mature in this area or zone.

When we tried out grain corn a few years ago on our clay loams, two mistakes were made in our opinion First, most growers selected too late a variety, and we didn't use sufficient fertilizer Sam Newell, at Milgrove, has proven that if commercial fertilizer and plenty of it is used, it pays off on corn.

Elect New Officers For Limehouse W.I.

The May meeting of Limehouse W I was held in Memorial Hall last week, opening with the W I carol and the Lord's Prayer

Mrs J. Ellerby conducted the installation of officers as follows. President, Mrs K Sanford, 1st vice president, Mrs Newton Ruddell, 2nd vice president, Mrs J Roughley, sec.-treas., Mrs J W Noble, district director, Mrs W Mitchell

The roll call, "What the W I has done for me" brought many interesting replies Secretary-treasurer reports were given, correspondence read and bills passed. Reports were given on Flower and Fruit fund, Hall Board, Library and school gardens Mrs C Jones gave a report on the activities of the April Finance Committee

Four delegates were appointed to attend the District Annual: Mrs. A. J Smethurst, Mrs S Kirkpatrick, Mrs James S Noble, Mrs. John W. Noble

Mrs Mitchell brought a report of the last District Director's meeting at Milton and Mrs Newton Ruddell gave a list of current events Mrs. Roughley's paper on the motto, "It is not how long we live but how we live that matters" was interesting.

A paper on the W I Ode was read by Mrs Ellerby reminding all of the W I Collect and its beautiful prayers

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Daily output in the Canadian steel industry is now 10,771 tons was 9,155 tons a year ago.

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