

talking about... *Better Farming*

Reports and articles from Halton's Farmlands and Farm Organizations

Prof. G. Raithby Discusses Zero Pasturing Ways

Tuesday evening of last week saw the sixth in the series of 12 three-hour lectures being sponsored by the Halton Soil and Crop Improvement Association. Seventy-seven farm operators are signed up for this popular series.

Prof. Geo. E. Raithby, Head of the Animal Husbandry Department at the O.A.C., was the special speaker. The intriguing subject was "Zero Pasturing and the Future of the Dairy Industry in Halton."

Zero Pasturing is of course the comparatively new idea of confining the farm herd in a relatively small area and of bringing the forage to the herd where it is fed in bunkers. As we interpreted Professor Raithby's remarks, it is a practice which is applicable under certain conditions but also has its disadvantages. In short, it offers the possibility of securing increased yields off a given area and there is less loss of pasture at certain seasons.

Along with this, there is some evidence that the practice provides for more uniform production with some reduction in supplemental grain feeding. It also reduces the amount of feeding required and eliminates some of the difficulties on certain farms in connection with the watering of the herd.

On the other side of the picture, it was also pointed out by Professor Raithby that such a practice necessitates highest labor requirements and more costly equipment. There is also some difficulty in maintain-

ing a uniform quality of feed. Furthermore, in wet weather it is difficult to get away from "buddling" in the paddock—particularly around the feed bunkers. Accumulation of manure in the small paddock is another problem.

John McDougall, manager of Lazy Pat Farms, at Palermo, who has practiced zero pasturing over the past two seasons, also contributed to the discussion. Mr. McDougall stated that under their conditions the practice has worked out exceptionally well.

All in all it was a very interesting and enlightening two hour session. The next topic in the series comes on January 10, when Prof. Ralph Campbell, head of the Department of Agricultural Economics at the O.A.C. will discuss marketing, marketing schemes and their advantages and limitations in general agriculture.

Township Roads Parking Banned By Esqueving

A special meeting of Esqueving township council was held at Stewarton on December 6 for the purpose of discussing a by-law to prohibit parking on the township roads which interferes with snow plowing and sanding operations. All members were present and Reeve Bird presided. Considerable correspondence was read and discussed.

The by-law to prohibit parking on the township roads during certain seasons was duly read and passed.

Halton's Farm Organizations Lay Plans for Annual Meetings

Plans for the annual meetings of numerous Halton farm organizations are well under way. As a matter of fact, by the time this appears in print, two or three of them will be over.

During the current week, on Thursday at Stewarton, Halton Federation of Agriculture's annual will be held. The annual meeting is actually being held in the morning, followed by a pot luck dinner at noon. Federation officers have been fortunate in securing as their guest speaker, Halton's own M. M. Robinson, who always brings a stirring message.

On Monday evening of this week, the Burlington Fruit and Vegetable Growers' Association staged their annual meeting in conjunction with a banquet in the Appleby United Church. We note they have been successful in securing as their guest speaker, Hon. F. S. Thomas, Minister of Agriculture for Ontario. Perhaps in our column of next week we may be able to give our readers some of the highlights of his address.

Soil and Crop Annual
The Milton town hall, Wednesday, December 28, will again be the scene of the annual meeting for Halton's popular Soil and Crop Improvement Association. Here the session will get under way at 10:30 a.m., with lucky draw prizes for those on time.

The morning session will include short, snappy reports from a number of Halton co-operators. Following the noon-day luncheon, which will be catered by the Scotch Block W.I., there will be the announce-

ment of the awards in connection with the Grain Corn Competition sponsored by the Association. The presentation of the gold watch donated by the Milton Milling Co. will follow. The winner grew 114.5 bus per acre of shelled corn at a 15 per cent moisture content.

The special speaker for the afternoon session will be Tom Lane, of the Ontario Agricultural College's special soil advisory service. Those who heard Mr. Lane's address recently in Brampton, speak highly of his practical grasp of tillage and power requirements on different soil types. His address is based on experimental work conducted in recent years at three different centres in Ontario by the Departments of Agricultural Engineering, Soils, and Field Husbandry.

Dairy Breeds
The week of January 9 will see all three of Halton's dairy breed organizations holding their annual meetings. The Jersey Club will start it off, with a dinner meeting in the Stewarton Hall, on January 10. J. W. Fawcay, Brampton, who is a member of the Ontario Jersey Club's special Milk Marketing Committee, will be the special speaker.

The Holstein Club will stage their annual the following day at the Trafalgar Hall, when they hope to have C. D. Graham, deputy minister of agriculture for Ontario, as their special speaker.

On Thursday of the same week the "Golden Guernsey" breeders will meet at Stewarton. A well known radio farm commentator is expected to be their special speaker.

Geo. Readhead Elected President Of Halton Plowmen's Association

Another successful year in the history of the Halton Plowmen's Association was brought to completion on Friday evening of last week. It was the Association's annual meeting, presided over by J. Spencer Wilson, president of the Halton association for the past two years.

Secretary J. E. Whitelock's report revealed that the Junior Match held on the Harvey Nurse farm in early September brought out the largest entry in some years. The same was true at the Senior Match held on the J. J. Thistlewaite farm in late October. Here a total of 60 ridges were turned.

Some interesting pictures in color, taken at the two events, plus a film entitled "Romance of Two Hemispheres" rounded out the evening's program.

The election of officers for the coming year resulted as follows: President, George E. Readhead; first vice-president, Leonard Lister; second vice-president, Clebert McDowell; secretary-treasurer, J. E. Whitelock.

Directors:
Esqueving—Roy Currie, J. C. Cunningham, A. Neilson, Stanley May; Associates—Clifford Wrigglesworth, Lloyd Fisher, Tom Hunter, Trafalgar—J. C. Marshall, J. W. Picket, Lloyd May, Thomas Howden; Associates, Frank Hall, Keith Merry, George Hall, Nelson, H. Taylor, Roy Ellenton, J. E. Ellenton, Glen Campbell; Associates: Erwin Gunby, Hugh Warrington, Fred Agnew.

Nassagaweya—J. R. McPhail, Ross Gordon, Robert Hurren, George Swann; Associates: J. L. Chisholm, Jack Turner, Harold Ferguson.
Honorary Directors: Stanley L. Hall, H. Picket, Victor Hall, J. A. Dixon, C. F. Picket, E. R. Segsworth, W. E. Brecken, J. A. Elliott, W. J. Robertson, M. T. McNabb, V. E. McArthur, and W. H. Robinson.

Silverware Doubles As Decorations

A Christmas gift of silver-ware can be a two-fold gift—or perhaps even three-fold—for the lucky person who receives it. This is so because many pieces of householdware have a second and third use, making them as versatile as they are beautiful. Many of them, too, can be put to use in handsome holiday decorations as soon as they are received.

The simple gravy boat, for one thing, can lead a more than double life by looking pretty as a holder for fruit centrepieces, or perhaps at this time of year, it will look festive when filled with a mixture of tiny pine cones, Christmas tree balls and fresh holly. Flank the gravy boat with the silver-ware, which you have tied a be-ribboned pine cone and nobody will care whether you never use this pretty silver piece for gravy again.

A vegetable dish is a vegetable, been a record year for the bank assets had increased by 16 per cent, and 35 new branches had been opened.

The same is true of the silver-ware whose life you may have as serving after dinner mints. A small bunch of grapes trailing over the side of the compote and decorated with brightly colored leaves will add a dramatic touch to a small dinner table set for two or to a side table in the living or dining room.

So, don't hide your silver-ware when it is not in use for the single purpose for which it was named. Give it double or even triple use—by letting it have a chance to do one or two of the many extra duties that readily come to mind once you give thought to your silver-ware's useful possibilities.

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Upturn in Business Exceeds Forecasts

Although an upturn in business had been expected in 1956, the surge forward which actually occurred was beyond the forecasts of the most sanguine. H. L. Enman, president of the Bank of Nova Scotia told the shareholders at the bank's annual meeting in Halifax. In looking to the future, he pointed to what he called Canada's "built-in growth," the sharp increase in the number of children under the age of 15 who will be the working force and the buying public of the sixties. F. W. Nicks, general manager of the bank, told the meeting that the bank assets had increased by 16 per cent, and 35 new branches had been opened.

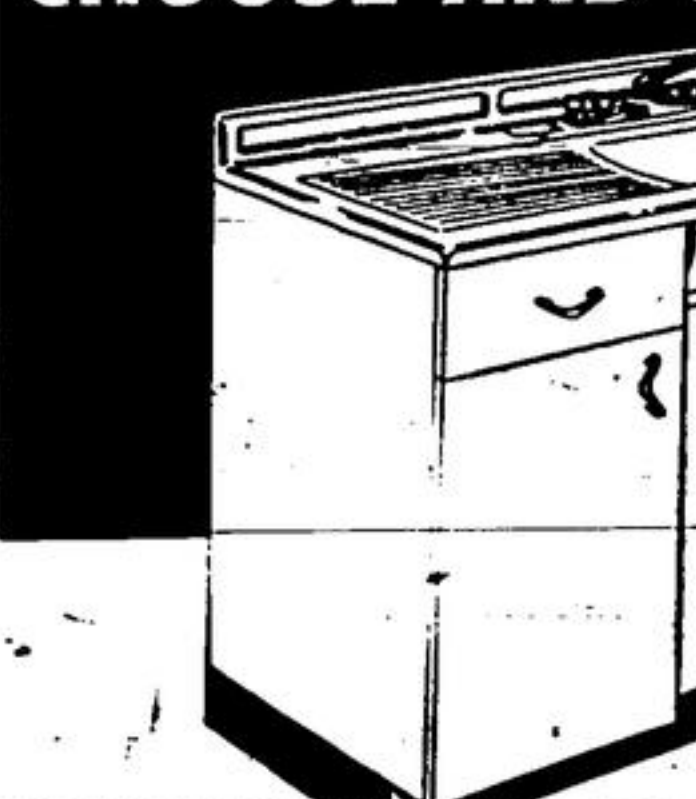
Pointing out that the gross national product had risen to a new high of \$26 billion, Mr. Enman declared the progress Canada was making in industrialization. Fourth trading nation in the world, she is now among the first 10 industrial producers with a manufacturing output of three times the pre-war level.

Tell Year's Weather By Christmas Signs

Country people in Britain still watch the sky on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day for signs of change in the weather, for there is an ancient belief that the weather at this time is a strong portent for that to come throughout the year. "Wise and cunning masters of astrology," we are told, "are found that a man may see and mark for the weather of Holy Night how the whole year after shall be." When Christmas night was clear and starry, it was taken that the year's crop of fruit would be a plentiful one. On the other hand, if Christmas night was foul and windy, the year to come would be "very scant." But if the wind arose at the rising of the sun, then "it betokeneth great dearth of cattle and leasts this year." And if the wind arose at sunset "it signifieth trouble to some among the kings and great lords."

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