

talking about... *Better Farming*

Reports and articles from Halton's Farmlands and Farm Organizations

Excellent Program Marks Annual Soil, Crop Association Meeting

"An excellent day's program" was the consensus at the conclusion of the annual meeting of the Halton Soil and Crop Improvement Association, held in the Milton Town Hall, on Wednesday of last week. Ross Segsworth, president of the Association, led this popular meeting under way at 10:30 a.m.

Following a brief business session, a number of local co-operators and other local farmers reported on timely items of interest. Numbered among these were the following: Chester McDowell, Hornby, spoke on his experience in seeding alfalfa and brome grass in September with the fall wheat. While the seeding of legumes in September is not recommended by our experimental stations, Mr. McDowell reports having tried it three different falls with wonderful success. Mr. McDowell attributes his success, in part at least, to having a good firm seed bed with plenty of moisture and drilling shallow with a hoe drill.

We can't help but think that another factor which helps the young seeds to winter over, is the protection provided by the wheat. In any event, we venture to suggest that many other Halton farmers will try out this idea next fall as a result of Mr. McDowell's experience.

Fyfe Somerville of Acton, who laid down a five-acre long term pasture demonstration plot in 1954, reported that despite the dry season in July and early August, the five acres had carried an average of 13.55 milking animal units and 5.03 dry animal units per day for 51 days during the season. A total of 25,600 lbs. of milk was produced from the pasture. Valuing the milk at \$3.50 per cwt., the value of the milk produced per acre during the season amounted to \$179.20 per acre.

Ken Ella of Hornby, who laid down a similar five acre pasture in 1955, also presented a most interesting report. Mr. Ella used half a bushel of early August, the five acres was pastured off. He followed the procedure in seeding recommended by the Ontario Department of Agriculture and secured an excellent stand. According to Mr. Ella, his catch this year, which was sown at 22 lbs. per acre, was slightly superior to that secured in 1954, when he sowed 40 lbs. of a mixture per acre as recommended by a commercial seed house.

The report of Harvey Nurse, Ashgrove, on his recently established loafing barn and milking parlor, also created keen interest. According to Mr. Nurse, he has not to date found that the loose housing of his dairy herd requires any additional bedding. Two men can complete the milking of his 40 cow herd in one and a half hours. His experience to date would also indicate less trouble with mastitis and a lower bacteria count in his milk than previously.

John W. Fickett, who was Halton's delegate on the 1955 "soils and land use tour", with the aid of colored slides, depicted some of the highlights of his trip through Central Western Ontario. The outstanding pastures seen—in late August, impressed Halton's Junior Farmer county president.

Others who contributed brief reports at the morning session included Tom Bradley, on the results of Halton's 1955 seed drill survey; inasmuch as a summary of this was included in a recent issue, no further details will be given here. Art Bennett spoke on the 4-H Grain and Potato clubs sponsored by the Association and J. E. Whitelock, who presented an illustrated progress report on the wild carrot control plots laid down by the Halton Association.

Strong Advocate of Mouldboard Plow

The guest speaker of the day, Professor T. H. Lane, of the Soils Department at the O.A.C., presented a fund of information based on experimental work pertaining to tillage, tillage equipment, relative costs for power and resulting crop yields.

In the experimental work referred to, the following equipment was

involved: mouldboard plow, one-way disc and disc plow; one-way disc and mouldboard plow; T.N.T. plow; one-way disc; rotovator; rototiller and heavy duty cultivator.

While pointing out there is a place for all types of equipment—to illustrate, Prof. Lane pointed out that where erosion was a problem, the heavy duty cultivator in their experience had reduced erosion by as much as 75 per cent. On the other hand, they had not found any significant difference in yields of corn, oats, hay or such cash crops between the different types of equipment had been used.

From the standpoint of cost for power, the mouldboard plow was still the most economical. The work at Guelph, Ottawa, in Great Britain and U.S.C., would also indicate that increased depth of plowing has not given increased yields. Proper soil structure, stated Prof. Lane, is the important factor in determining crop yields.

The speaker also stressed the importance of crop rotations in maintaining proper soil structure.

The lengthy discussion which followed Prof. Lane's address indicated the keen interest of his audience. The thanks of the gathering was ably expressed by M. C. Beaty, to Prof. Lane and others who contributed to the excellent day's program.

The winners of the lucky door prizes were Fred Agnew, Arthur Coulson and Brock Harris, all of the Lowville district.

Other pleasing features of the day included: the presentation by Dr. C. A. Martin of the Milton Milling Company's golden wheat to Halton's 1955 grain corn king, Fred Nurse of Ashgrove; Mr. Nurse's report on how he grew his 114 bus. crop; a brief message from John Carter, Fergus, district director on the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association.

The election of 1956 directorate resulted as follows: president, E. Ross Segsworth, Burlington; vice-president, M. C. Beaty, Milton; secretary-treasurer, J. E. Whitelock, Milton.

Directors—Trafalgar: C. H. Lawrence, Lloyd Towell and J. H. Willmott; Esquimaux: John M. Bird, T. J. Brownridge, Fred Nurse and Mac Sprawl; Nelson: Brock Harris and W. E. Brecken; Nassagaweya, R. A. Hurren, A. R. Service and E. F. Ward; Acton district: Calvin Aitken.

Family Honored By Regiment

MONTREAL (CP)—Two general officers of a well-known Montreal family were honored recently at the armory of the Fusiliers Mont Royal. Pierre Forget became the regiment's new honorary colonel in an impressive ceremony.

Col. Forget follows in his father's footsteps. Sir Rodolphe Forget, noted Quebec financier, was named honorary colonel of the Fusiliers in 1910.

Present at the ceremony was the new colonel's mother, Lady Forget, and a number of other military officials and dignitaries.

Ceremonies at the armory included a parade and inspection by the colonel, followed by a dinner for the officers and men and their wives.

Col. Forget, whose family goes back some 10 generations in Quebec history, said in his address, "I grew up with this regiment and you might imagine how proud I am to serve as honorary colonel."

In World War Two 890,915 Canadians served in the armed forces:

Halton Debaters Defeat Lincoln By Close Margin

Wednesday evening of last week saw Halton Junior Farmer debaters in action again on two fronts. Their affirmative team of Mac Sprawl and George Greenless met Lincoln's negative team of Irwin Muir and Floyd Frick at the Trafalgar Memorial Hall.

On the same evening over in the Smithville High School, Halton's negative team of Roy Ford and Lloyd Vivian met Lincoln's affirmative team.

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Says Report Cards Not Entire Story Of Child Progress

VANCOUVER (CP)—School report cards should be replaced, or at least supplemented by, private parent-teacher conferences, says Dr. Samuel Laycock, noted Canadian educationist.

"Report cards as we know them do not tell parents the true story of their child's progress in school," he said in an address here. "They also tend to fill some children who are capable of top marks with a fear of parents who do not understand."

"These cards are based on the theory that all children are equally bright, which they are not."

The proper understanding and development of a child can only be solved from private conferences of parents and teachers, Dr. Laycock said. Some schools are already using the method with marked success.

Teachers and parents are tied together in developing youth. Certainly these conferences will take time, but it will be more than worth it. It will pay great dividends.

Many parents found it difficult to understand in the cold white and black of report cards, why their child doesn't have as high grades as another. "The report seems to the child to be a Gestapo-like record of his faults."

Dr. Laycock discouraged the "competition" of report cards. Each child is an individual with individual talents and abilities and should be treated as such.

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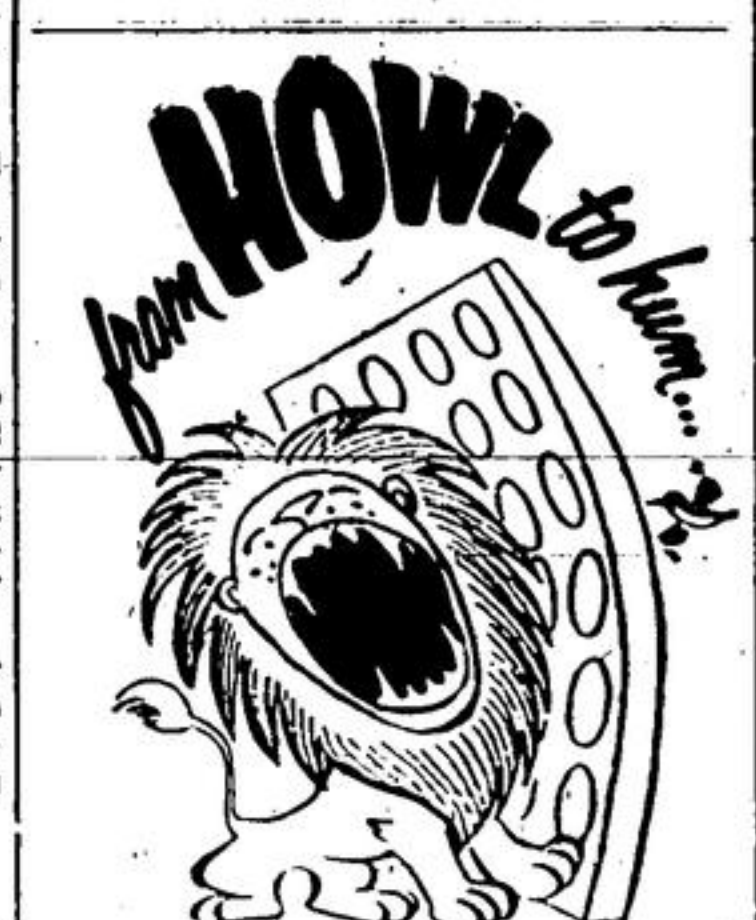
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MARKETING PROBLEM

Announcement by the federal government that some assistance would be given hard-pressed farmers in the form of bank loan guarantees for farm-stored grain will be generally applauded. Unfortunately such artificial stimuli are no answer to the real problem of the grain farmer, which is the marketing of his products.—Peace River (B.C.) Record-Gazette.

PAINFUL TASK

The complexities of the Tax Rental Agreement arouse misgivings in the minds of those who pay taxes. Under the present system, filing of income tax is a painful task to those who fill in their own as do most workers. But if they have to fill in provincial as well as federal tax forms, the headaches will be worse than they now are.—Fort Macleod (Alta.) Gazette.



JUST AS BAD

A large friendly dog bounded up to the little boy and began licking his face. The boy burst into tears. "What's the matter?" asked a passer-by. "Did he bite you?" "No," sobbed the boy, "but he tasted me."

BUSY TELEPHONES

ST. JOHN'S, Nfld. (CP)—The Avon Telephone Company estimates St. John's has an annual average of 1,400 calls per person, compared with an average of 400 on the mainland. Shopping by telephone accounts for a big proportion.

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