

# talking about... Better Farming

Reports and articles from Halton's farmlands and farm organizations

## Agricultural Outlook for '56 Given By Ont. Livestock Commissioner

The highlight of the day and a half we spent at the 1956 Ontario Soil and Crop four-day convention was in our opinion the address by W. P. Watson, Ontario's livestock commissioner. As usual, Mr. Watson spoke on "The Agricultural Outlook for 1956." Here is a digest of Mr. Watson's outstanding address.

"In 1955 Canadians exported more, imported more, produced more, consumed more, earned more, spent more and saved more than in any previous year. Although all classes of society shared in this record performance, they did not share equally in the rewards derived therefrom. The total amount received from the sale of farm products was slightly higher in 1955 than in 1954, but the net farm income was lower because costs, which have been steadily rising since 1951, reached a new peak last year. With few exceptions, prices of farm products were about the same as during the previous year."

Exports of wheat, cattle, beef, pork and cheese were lower; in fact, with the exception of wheat, amounted to a very small percentage of the total production of the products. Thus the greater part of Canada's revenue from exports was derived from such non-farm products as base metals, lumber, chemicals, iron ore and newsprint. This decline in the export of agricultural products is a natural consequence to the expansion which has taken place in Canada during the post-war years.

In 1945 this country had a population of 12.1 million people; ten years later, the population had increased to 15.6 million—an increase of 30 per cent. During the same decade, there was no significant change in the number of cattle or hogs. Hence the production of animal products has not kept pace with the rise in population, a situation which places livestock producers in the position of being less dependent upon export markets for their returns.

forecast is predicted, on the knowledge that the cattle population is higher and that more cattle were purchased for further feeding. Canadians could absorb these extra cattle if other classes of meat were in normal or below normal supply. However, all indications point to the fact that beef will receive plenty of competition for the consumer's dollar from other classes of meat, particularly pork.

Mr. Watson concluded his address by suggesting that we make 1956 a do-it-yourself year in agriculture.

**Spent 25 Per Cent. on Food**

Despite the fact that the human population has increased, the amount of wheat consumed, annually remains fairly constant—about 160 million bushels per year. Canadians have been in the habit of spending about 25 per cent of their incomes on foods. Statistics will probably reveal that they spent about the same percentage in 1955, but that more of the total was spent on items that are considered to be luxuries.

According to most prognosticators, the present wave of prosperity is likely to continue throughout 1956. New homes are being built in large numbers; many industrial concerns are increasing their capacity; and public works, the most notable one being the St. Lawrence Seaway, are under construction. In this period of international tension, there is a keen demand for Canada's nickel, copper, uranium and iron ore, while exports of lumber and newsprint appear likely to continue at a high rate.

With Canada's labor force fully employed at high wages, livestock producers can expect a strong domestic demand for their products. However, the actual strength of that market will depend upon the answer to the following question: Will the demand be great enough to absorb all that is produced? An analysis of production prospects should provide a clue to the answer.

Cattle—According to present prospects, cattle marketings will be higher in 1956 than in 1955. That

**Hogs and Dairy Products**

Recent surveys indicate that there was an increase of 13 per cent in the number of sows which farrowed between June 1 and Nov. 30, 1955, over the same period in the previous year. These pigs could be marketed between December 1, 1955 and May 31, 1956. Marketings are therefore likely to average 120,000 per week during these months. In Mr. Watson's opinion, it is reasonable to assume that marketings will be at least normal during the last half of the year and that marketings for the 12 months will exceed those of 1955.

**Dairy Products**—Although the human population has increased by 30 per cent in the past 10 years, milk production has only increased by two per cent. However, there has been a significant switch in the form in which milk is marketed. Fluid milk consumption has registered a substantial increase and now accounts for over 30 per cent of the total. The construction of new towns in our hinterlands has opened up new markets for processed milk.

Consumption of butter has remained fairly constant—about 310 million pounds per year. As a result of these adjustments, less milk has been available for cheese, the production of which has declined to about 80 million pounds per year—a very small quantity when compared with wartime production. Domestic consumption of cheese per capita has increased materially, hence practically all of our production is now being consumed at home.

**Prospects for Prices**

All indications point to the fact that the 1956 meat supply will be in excess of the needs for our normal requirements. Consequently, prices for livestock will approximate those prevailing in the United States, or in the case of hogs, the floor price, if it is higher than the American price. Canadians and Americans are consuming more and more meat. Due to this remarkable increase in consumption, there are no embarrassing surpluses of meat in storage. Consequently, prices should strengthen as soon as supplies begin to ease off—a situation that is bound to develop sometime in 1956.

And now for a final word about the dairy situation. The support prices policy for butter is subject to review annually, the present arrangements expiring on April 30. Inasmuch as the government has not announced its intentions, no one can predict the price of any dairy product with any degree of accuracy.

Producers should bear in mind that Canada may be an expensive country in which to produce dairy products, but the price of dairy products is higher in Canada than in any other country in the world, with the possible exception of the United States. Prices cannot go much higher without incurring the risk of imports. Even if the support price is maintained at the present level, producers have a responsibility to do everything

## Hog Assoc. Head Also to Speak at Halton Seed Fair

Last week we announced the Hon. F. S. Thomas, Ontario's Minister of Agriculture, as the guest speaker for Halton's Seed Fair on Saturday, March 24. A few days ago we learned from Rev. A. R. Servier, Massawogawa, who is also Secretary of the Halton Hog Producers' Association and a director of the Halton Soil and Crop Improvement Association, that Charles McInnis, president of the Ontario Hog Producers' Association, had also agreed to speak at the same meeting.

This will give Halton Seed Fair two of the top speakers in Ontario's Agricultural circles. The officers and directors of the Halton Soil and Crop Improvement Association now have their work cut out to get out an exhibit in keeping with their program.

## District Directors For Shorthorn Club

Smith Griffen of Acton and George Leslie of Rockwood were named directors of the Wellington Shorthorn Association at their meeting in Arthur, John Hardie of Moorefield was named president.

Dr. T. J. Jones, principal of the O.V.C. addressed the joint meeting of the Hereford and Shorthorn clubs preceding the elections.

## OBITUARY

### Active in Community Affairs Many Years

Erin township lost a revered member of the community when Andrew John Lindsay died on Friday, January 20 in Guelph General Hospital, in his 90th year.

Mr. Lindsay was born on lot 8 on the seventh line and lived and farmed in the district all his life. He was active all his life in affairs of the community and served in many capacities in the life and business of the township, as clerk of the court for 20 years, tax collector, assessor, clerk and licensing commissioner for East Wellington.

Mr. Lindsay was predeceased by his wife, Eliza Cole, 11 years ago, one daughter, Ina, Mrs. Fred Shortill and a brother and sister. He is survived by Ray of Delhi, Eva (Mrs. W. Harding) Limehouse, Ola (Mrs. J. Stewart) Port Credit, his son and daughters, three grandchildren, and two great grandchildren, and one brother, S. H. Lindsay.

The funeral service was at the United Church, Erin, and interment was in Erin cemetery.

Honorary pallbearers were all past Reeves of the township of Erin. Active pallbearers were Norman Ridler, Norman Sinclair, Elmer McKinon, Ernie Teeter, C. G. Graham and Jim Delaney.

## Canada's "Timmy" For 1956



## Markham Boy Canada's "Timmy" For 1956 Easter Seal Campaign

A bright-eyed, crew cut 12-year-old youngster who was born with a spina bifida condition and today walks with two canes after three operations and several months in a wheel chair, will be Canada's "Timmy" for 1956.

William Martin of 222 Martin St. in Markham, Chris' father is employed as an engineer with the Bell Telephone Co. and is currently working in Northern Quebec on the McGill Fence project. Chris had his first operation when he was three weeks old and last summer underwent two more. He now walks quite well with the aid of a short brace on each leg and with the help of two canes.

As symbol of all the crippled children in Canada who benefit from the work provided by the annual sale of Easter Seals, Chris Martin, pupil of Markham public school, is looking forward to being the chief guest at the Sports Celebrity dinner, February 2, which will officially open the annual sale of Easter Seals.

His sojourn in hospital last summer prevented him from attending the Blue Mountain camp near Collingwood which is owned and operated by the Society. However, the two summers previous he attended and is looking forward to going again this summer. "It's really nice at camp," says Chris, "it's real great to be in a place where all the kids are the same and nobody is different."

Chris is anxious to meet Johnny Podres, left-handed pitching star of the Brooklyn Dodgers, at that dinner, because "Brooklyn is MY team." That very wish reveals the kind of lad who becomes the 10th boy chosen to represent Canada's handicapped children during the campaign.

In Ontario the campaign is conducted by the Ontario Society for Crippled Children in association with more than 210 service clubs. The Easter Seal Campaign finances the program of treatment and training directed by the Society. Chris will never admit that his condition has ever prevented him from doing anything.

An only child of Mr. and Mrs.

## Men Teachers Hear Reports of Assembly

Fifty members of the Halton Branch of District 9 of the Ontario Public-School Men Teachers' Federation met at the H. Wigglesworth school in Georgetown on Tuesday, January 24, to hear reports of the Provincial Assembly held in Toronto last month. Reports were given by W. Nediger, Oakville; D. James, Oakville; W. Kinrade, Georgetown; M. Mayes, Burlington; J. Kobzev, Oakville; A. Balfour, Oakville; M. Acheson, Burlington; H. Henry, Georgetown.

The meeting was in charge of president A. A. Balfour of Oakville. A short address was given by the newly-elected governor, Bob Hopkins of Brant. A salary policy implementation committee was set up with J. Lott of Milton as chairman.

## Household-Budgeting Film Shown to Circle

The January meeting of the Friendly Circle was held in the school room of the United Church on Wednesday evening, January 18 with president Mrs. Vera Bean presiding. Items of interest in the business session included plans for the annual spring tea and fall bazaar.

During the devotional period Mrs. Helen Waterhouse read an article from The Old Philosopher entitled "The Crown and the Book" which outlined the acceptance of the Bible by the ruling monarchs of our empire and the place it takes today.

An interesting and enlightening address on Household Budgeting was brought to the meeting by Mr. Hood and Mr. Bailey of the Household Finance Corporation who highlighted their remarks with an accompanying film.

A hilarious skit, Pay-off Take-off, was presented by the executive wherein skilful husbands answered thought provoking questions and won for their admiring wives fabulous prizes and long desired trips to points of interest including Starvation Corners and Burlington Beach.

Box lunches proved delightful with an air of mystery.

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## Surprise Centre

### VALENTINE CAKE

Not anywhere near as expensive as it looks, because the Cherry Creme filling and frosting are one recipe made with evaporated milk!

This economical form of pure milk saves pennies while it enriches your cooking. Desserts taste creamier, soups are richer, gravies turn out smooth as velvet. Evaporated milk is useful dozens of ways. Keep it handy, and be a better cook.

**Cut a 1" slice from the top of an egg cake. In cake, cut through 1 1/2" hole in top center. Pour mixture into hole. Bake 10 minutes. Turn out on inverted bowl and serve with sauce.**

**Milkshake, pour 1 1/2 cups evaporated milk into refrigerator freezer tray. Beat in top mixer. Pour into 1/2" depth. Turn into chilled bowl and serve with sauce.**

**Beat in 1 cup, graded lemon rind and 1/4 cup lemon juice. Gradually beat in top mixer. Pour into 1/2" depth. Turn into chilled bowl and serve with sauce.**

**Chill, folding occasionally, until mixture holds its shape. Spoon into trough in cake. Bake 10 minutes. Turn out on inverted bowl and serve with sauce.**

Many wonderful recipes! Write for Mark's Freezer's new Evaporated Milk Recipe Booklet.

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