

Reports and articles from Halton's Farmlands and Farm Organizations

Edwin Harrop and H. Craig Reid Appointed to Maple Breeders

The Maple Cattle Breeders' Association is definitely big business. This was revealed at the annual meeting of the Halton branch of the Association, which was held in Milton last week.

A total of 47,352 cows were inseminated in 1955 and the total receipts for the year amounted to approximately one quarter of a million dollars. In their study there are 38 bulls, 14 of which are Halsteins, five Jerseys, three Ayrshires, three Guernseys, six Herefords and seven Shorthorns. Four of the beef bulls are polled. It was interesting to learn that in the past year the conception rate was 82.5 per cent, the first insemination. This is higher than that secured normally by natural service.

That the officers and directors of the Association have done an excellent job over the years is evidenced by the fact that at the annual consignment sale of daughters of the Maple stud, the 55 head brought an average of \$444.00, the fourth highest average for a consignment sale in Canada in 1955. That over the 10 year period they have been able to maintain a \$5.00 service fee is nothing short of amazing.

Only Three Per Cent Attend

Personally, we can think of no other service which has not increased its charge for equal service since 1945. Another amazing, and yes, a most disturbing fact is that only three per cent of the 7500 members are sufficiently interested to attend a meeting of the organization of which they are a member. When we saw the attendance at last Tuesday's meeting of the Halton branch of the Maple Unit—well, to say the least, we were disturbed.

We are neither a member nor an officer of the organization—but here is an organization which has done a tremendous job—maintains a top insemination in the county, who is giving 100 per cent service and then some, and yet out of well over 400 members in Halton, only about 15 are sufficiently interested to come to a meeting once a year to learn what is being done about their quarter of a million dollar business. We saw the same sort of attendance at the annual meeting of the Halton Federation of Agriculture—another organization which the farmers of Halton need today far more than at any time in the past 15 years.

Real Estate Boom Effect?

We couldn't help but wonder if the real estate boom has affected the thinking of some of our farmer friends. Certainly when we hear of some of the "Agreements of Purchase" which some of them are reported to have signed, well, we're beginning to wonder. We realize that our farmer friends are busy—most of them without any help other than their good wives—but will someone tell us why there is always a crowd at a farm sale? After all, 75 per cent at least go to these sales with no thought of making a purchase and yet when an important meeting of their own organization comes along—"Oh, I was too busy."

Folks, it just doesn't add up. One could almost be justified in stating, "It's no wonder agriculture is in a squeeze in contrast to the rest of our economy; when farm folk generally do not take any more interest in their own organizations than was evidenced at the two meetings referred to previously."

Elect Jean Peterson Head Of Halton Junior Farmers

After attending the annual meeting of the Halton branch of the Maple Cattle Breeders' Association, it was a real inspiration to drop in for a few minutes, the evening of the same day, at the annual meeting of the Halton Junior Farmers.

The hall was well filled and what a job that county executive has done the past year under the leadership of John W. Pickett as president. Certainly the 1955 executive of the Halton Junior Farmers maintained the high standard of recent years. Last Friday evening saw the annual banquet of the Halton Juniors in Trafalgar township memorial hall.

This was the final function at which John W. Pickett presided. The program included group singing under the leadership of Ralph Cunningham and Ruth Wilson. The introduction of head table was handled by Wilma Sinclair and the thanks to the ladies catering by Marie Marshall.

The toast list included one to the Junior Institute, proposed by Elmer Bird and responded to by Kathleen Stanley; another to the Junior Farmers, proposed by Joan Wrigglesworth and responded to by Mac Sprowl. The newly elected president, Jean Peterson, introduced the guest speaker, Myrtle Stewart, president of the Junior Farmers' Association of Ontario. Following this came the thanks to the speaker by Roy Ford.

The final item on the program before the dance was the presentation of the public speaking and debating awards and the past president's pin. George E. Elliott, Q.C., Milton, made these presentations. The trophy for public speaking went to Bill Kelly of Ormish, while the four debating trophies were won by Roy Ford, George Greenlees, Mac Sprowl and Lloyd Vivian.

These four young men are meeting the Carleton foursome in the finals of the inter-county debating series, at the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, on Friday, March 16 at 6 p.m. The subject is "Resolved that the problem of low incomes in Agriculture can be better met by government research and extension aimed at lowering costs of production than by a policy of price supports."

It is a tough subject, folks, but nevertheless one which should be of interest to all farm folk, so come up and give the boys a little support. Halton's affirmative team of Mac Sprowl and George Greenlees will be meeting Carleton's negative team in Massey Hall and Halton's negative team of Roy Ford and Lloyd Vivian will battle it out with Carleton's affirmative team in Memorial Hall.

New officers who will be heading up Halton Juniors in 1956 are: president, Jean Peterson; first vice-president, Earl Wilson; second vice-president, Roy Ford; secretary, Wilma Sinclair; treasurer, Joan Wrigglesworth; press reporter, Kathleen Stanley.

Versatile Surgeon Expert Wood Carver

EDMUNDSTON, N.B. (CP)—Dr. P. C. Laporte is busy developing "a Canada style" of wood carving and at the same time is writing and illustrating a book to encourage other enthusiasts of the centuries-old art.

"Carving is a pastime," says Dr. Laporte, a surgeon who heads the Federation of Canadian Woodcarvers and last year taught 56 residents of this northern New Brunswick city the elements of carving.

"You can teach a person to cut wood in 12 lessons," he says. "But you can't teach artistic sense, that must be developed individually."

"Anyone who can write can draw and anyone who can sharpen a pencil can carve."

Dr. Laporte, whose pet theory is that the more carving tools used, the greater will be the skill, set his classes to work on relief motifs—outlining the object to be reproduced and gouging away the wood.

Of the 56 students who attended classes, 30 were between 10 and 15 years of age.

Dr. Laporte's varied interests include carpentry, painting, sketching and choral work.

Presbytery Meeting Report Is Heard At Ebenezer W.M.S.

Mrs. William Early was leader of the devotional period at a recent meeting of Ebenezer W.M.S. The business was Mrs. Arthur Norrish. Discussion leading from the story of the prodigal son, was entered into heartily by all present. Furthering of the Gospel, welcoming back into the church of the wandering, forgiveness of an ever loving Father—God, were thoughtfully discussed.

Three periods of silent prayer, for home and community for the church's home missions, and for overseas missions were held.

A report of the Presbytery meeting was given fully by Mrs. Shinn. It was an uplifting account and will bear fruit in the drive to welcome new members into the church.

The study book edited by Mrs. W. MacLean held the members interested as they were told many historical facts about the Indians who once were the sole inhabitants of our country. These people are being helped by the church today.

Following immediately, the W.A. began by reading of letters of thanks. A sale which requires to be catered for was mentioned but further arrangements were postponed to a later meeting. Matters touched upon were a new quilt, a much-required coffee urn, and a children's vacation school in the church for two weeks in the summer.

Farm Forums Favor Freer World Trade When Tariffs Is Topic

The great majority of Ontario farmers are in favor of freer world trade judging by the reports of 301 Forums who discussed the topic, Trade and Tariffs on March 5.

Asked if they thought Canadian farmers should support the type of program being advanced by the general agreement on trade and tariffs, nearly 85 per cent of the groups answered, like Whitefield in Dufferin, that they thought the idea was good. Warrham Forum in Grey made it a bit stronger when they said: "GATT is a step in the right direction and we think they should be encouraged to work for freer trade."

Lurgan Forum in Bruce say that if 35 countries controlling 80 per cent of the world's trade support this type of program, it must be OK, providing they all live up to the program.

However, there were a small percentage of the Forums, who, like S.S. No. 4 Darlington in Durham County, say they do not agree with the lowering of tariffs or free trade on farm products. Mono Center Forum in Dufferin County say Canadian farmers should not support this type of program because, as in the case of potatoes, the quantity used by each country should be taken into consideration.

For their second question the Forums are asked what problems they see in this policy. Kirk Ridge in Dundas Co., after favoring GATT pointed out that subsidized agriculture will find it hard to meet foreign competition without making adjustments.

Cameron Point Forum in Victoria County think the escape clause in GATT is one of the biggest problems. Caradoc Center in Middlesex County agree, but add that price supports and free trade are ideas which would likely conflict.

Would Turn Marshes Into Cattle Ranges

SACKVILLE, N.B. (CP)—A newspaper editor proposes that this bustling college town be turned into a cow town. Of course, this has nothing to do with the college.

C. W. Moffat of the weekly Sackville Tribune-Post sees New Brunswick as a potential range for good cattle. But instead of prairies, the cattle would thrive on marshlands.

He told a Board of Trade meeting that 25,000 acres of marshlands could support 20,000 head of cattle and make the Tantramar region of New Brunswick the greatest prime beef centre of the Maritimes.

The federal and provincial government spent \$50,000 reclaiming marshlands during the last few years, he said, and this is promoting "one of the greatest industries we could hope for."

Archaeologists' research shows that at approximately 1,500 B.C., a strictly Stone Age civilization existed around Montlach, Sask., similar to the ancient Yuma tribe of the southwestern U.S.

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Conservation Committee Urges Continuance of Farm Pond Policy

The annual meeting of the Halton Conservation Committee met in the Agricultural Office in Milton on Tuesday evening of last week. This committee, which is made up of the members of the county council on agriculture and reforestation of Halton County Council, plus one or two representatives each from a number of Halton farm organizations, dealt with the question of whether or not to recommend the continuance of Halton's farm pond policy. Halton's reforestation program and the county weed problem.

Incidentally, the committee is recommending to county council the continuance of the farm pond policy for 1956. While a total of 162 applications have been received under this policy, there are many folk who have taken no action since the site for their proposed pond was approved.

There are a number of others who have not got their ponds fenced to turn livestock, as required under the policy. Perhaps they are not interested in the \$100 subsidy. In any event, for 1956 subsidies will be paid on approved ponds in the order completed, irrespective of whether the application was filed in 1953, 1954 or 1955.

In short, if you are interested in a pond, be sure to get your application in immediately.

Zone Forester C. R. Groves presented a most interesting report on reforestation work conducted in Halton in 1955. Halton now has 1246 acres in county forests. Of this some 37,300 trees were planted last year. It was also reported that some 25,000 trees were planted on privately owned land, using the county tree planter. Today six Halton land owners, who are planning to plant some 40,000 trees, have made application for the use of the tree planter.

Reference was also made by Mr. Groves to nine school wood lot meetings held in the county last fall. These were attended by some 500 pupils and 30 teachers from 24 schools. Thomas Bradley was also present to ask for some guidance in his fight to control the county weed menace. George Currie was re-elected as chairman of the county conservation committee, with A. R. Service as vice-chairman and J. E. Whitelock as secretary-treasurer.

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