

Reports and articles from Halton's Farmlands and Farm Organizations

## Real Estate is Big Topic Of Spring Conversation

Wherever two or more farm operators congregate these days, the general topic is real estate, options, agreement of sale, etc. The late spring has had to take a very minor or conversational position because farming incentive is almost something of the past, at least below the escarpment.

And well it may be, because reports from the Queen Elizabeth come in terms of anything from

\$1,000 to \$2,000 or more per acre. In the Snyder's Corners area of Trafalgar township, \$1,000 per acre also seems to be the prevailing figure with \$500 to \$800 as far north as the Hornby base line. Is it any wonder that farming incentive is at a low ebb?

What these farms are being purchased for, no one appears to know, but speculation would appear to be the immediate objective.

## Halton Agriculture Survey in '13 Makes Interesting Observations

A few days ago we came across an interesting thesis entitled "An Agricultural Survey of Halton County." This was written by George Wilson back in March, 1913. George, whose home was on the Lakeshore Highway east of Bronte, was then at his graduating year at the Ontario Agricultural College. At the present time he is the director of the Fruit Branch of the Ontario Department of Agriculture, and resides in Oakville.

However, to get back to the thesis in question. Under the heading of "Transportation," we quote: "In this connection it might be well to mention a scheme now well under way for constructing a concrete road from Hamilton to Toronto, a project which, if carried out, would be of untold value to the whole country traversed. Committees have been appointed to investigate the financing of the road, and to inquire into the type of concrete road best suited to the prevailing conditions."

son township. Along with that we have at least two pipe lines crossing the county and more in the offing.

We wonder what the next 40 years will bring? Will highways be more or less out-moded and our landscape dotted here and there with landing strips for aeroplanes?

**Labor Problems Not New**

Mr. Wilson also writes in 1913 of the advances in the use of labor saving equipment and farm labor. Here is an extract we find of interest, and we quote:

"But, 40 years ago that would be back in 1873 agricultural implements and machinery were not used or near as much as they are today. With the aid of these labor saving devices, one man is enabled to accomplish much more work than heretofore, hence, for some works there is not the same need for men. Again, with all the labor saving devices procurable, desire as they may to farm intensively, the farmers are prohibited, their efforts being frustrated by the scarcity of labor and the high price of the said labor. If labor were more plentiful more help would be utilized on the farm and to great advantage. The wages paid throughout the county approximate on the average \$25.00 a month and board."

"At the time of writing the counties of Wentworth, Halton, Peel and York have agreed to contribute \$150,000, Hamilton \$25,000, and Toronto \$125,000. The Ontario Government has been asked to contribute \$300,000 and to maintain the road at a total sum, \$600,000, it is estimated will construct 100 miles of concrete road necessary."

Our first reaction was, how far would \$600,000 go towards constructing a similar highway today? Then our thoughts turned to the highway developments which have taken place in a short period of 43 years. In contrast to 1913, when the county had no highways, we now have the Lakeshore or No. 2, the Queen Elizabeth and Dundas Street or No. 5, across the front—we have No. 7 across the northern end of the county and No. 25 running lengthwise of the county.

**Not Weeds New Problem**

Again we take the liberty of quoting from another section of Mr. Wilson's excellent report: "The injurious weeds, said to relate, are making headway in Halton. Here and there one discovers a farmer who is trying his utmost to eradicate these pests and just across the fence, his neighbor is allowing his weeds to reproduce and spread. It's encouraging, isn't it? Scarcity of farm labor, of course, is to a great extent the cause of this neglect. The most serious weeds to be encountered and combated are: ragweed, mustard, ox-eye daisy, mullein, false flax, Canadian thistle, couch grass and perennial sow thistle."

The writer has heard very similar stories on weeds related in recent years. But we really have made progress—apparently back in 1913, they hadn't heard of wild carrot, chicory, bladder campion, leafy spurge, to mention but a few of our present day varieties.

## Burlington to Pay 25 Per Cent Cost of New Nelson High School

Nelson council has given two readings to a debenture by-law that would split the cost of the proposed high school with township residents paying 75 per cent, and Burlington 25 per cent. Estimated cost of the new school, including furnishings and equipment, was set at \$1,200,000. The by-law now goes to Toronto for approval before receiving final passage.

The Toronto Metropolitan idea of forcing the government to pay for such frills as auditoriums. "If we didn't build an auditorium in the new school we might have pupils refusing to go to it and instead wanting to go to Burlington."

Trustee Robinson assured council the board had purchased its site on New St., although there was no indication of its exact location. He asked council to provide a new 66 foot road to the school. Under the by-law, Nelson's share of the debentures was \$287,000.

## Oakville's Snow Cost Comes High

Snow during the past winter cost Oakville taxpayers \$5,334 and all they got out of it was a little sand and slippery streets. While papa pays the cost, in taxes, mom as usual benefits, the sand coming her way, generally being tracked in during the spring thaw, and particularly during housecleaning time.

Mr. Robinson said all the pupils who would attend the new school would come from Nelson, which had been divided into three zones: No. 1, from East Flamboro to the Guelph Line and below the Q. E. Way; 2, Guelph Line to Trafalgar Line, below the Q. E. 3, above the Q. E. It was anticipated that 400 students from zone 2 would attend the school which is expected to open next September.

"When we went to Toronto we asked approval for a school to accommodate 600 students," Mr. Robinson said. "The Department told us it should be 800 because we would be filled in five years. It is cheaper to build on a five-year basis than on two years, besides, grants would be better in five years we'll have to build an addition to the school at the present rate of growth."

"We will be overcrowded in Burlington next September and we have to be ready to be receiving to frills, he suggested more municipalities should go along with

## Brief History of 'Ag. Rep.' Service In This County

1957 will see the 50th anniversary of the Agricultural Representative service. A few months ago we were requested to write up something on the Halton County office since its inception back in 1914. Frankly, we haven't got the job done, but periodically we have delved back into office records and we have come across some interesting information.

The "Rep." office was opened on June 1, 1914, in Burlington, with H. R. Hare in charge. When "Bunny" enlisted for overseas service, W. E. Strong took over. He was followed by R. R. Fleming in late 1919, and in the early part of the next year, the office was moved to Milton.

Then on June 1, 1927, came D. A. Andrew, who remained only one year. Then came Alex P. MacVannell for a two year stay, to be followed by A. G. Kirstine for a four year term. The writer succeeded the energetic "Shorty" on October 1, 1934. As you know, we are still here—but how much longer, if the present trend in real estate deals keeps up, we are beginning to wonder.

We came across a rather ambiguous and interesting statement in the annual report of the office for the year 1917. It referred to a tractor rental policy which the Ontario Department of Agriculture sponsored at that time, in connection with the war effort to increase food production. Here is the statement in question, and we quote:

"The Tractor Company has used us on the square at all times. They have been slow in sending out repairs and they have had a tendency to bill us for repairs we never purchased." Can you figure that one out?

## Nelson Desires Bill Rescinded

Nelson council has decided to request the Ontario legislature to rescind its bill awarding about 60 acres of township land to the City of Hamilton along with the annexation of Hamilton Beach and a strip of Burlington. The action of council was based on the complaint of Cr. Walter Chadwick that the township council "did not even receive a letter from the government asking for a resolution to be put through," nor was such action ever taken.

Sponsored by Cr. Chadwick, the council decided to have Reeve Harold Adkins write Hon. William A. Goodfellow, minister of municipal affairs, who was responsible for the provincial legislation, putting through the annexation of the Beach area, asking him to rescind the action which they took in connection with attaching a piece of Nelson on Hamilton Bay to the City of Hamilton.

"We did not even receive a letter from the government asking for a resolution to be put through, when the government decided to make the change, and we certainly cannot understand the action of the government in putting through a bill of this type, taking from one municipality and giving to another, without giving the municipality a chance to discuss this matter with them," the resolution said in part.

## SEE W. H. DENNY State Farm Agent FIRST for all THREE!



Call W. H. DENNY ACTON 39 Brock St. Phone 455

## Hog Information Drive In Progress in Halton Now

An extensive "information campaign" to explain the achievements and future plans of the Ontario Hog Producers Marketing Agency started in Halton last week as part of a province-wide campaign involving 5,000 volunteer workers.

In Halton, 35 canvassers are calling on about 410 hog producers. Ed Davenport, county chairman, reports the canvassers are being well received.

This information program is a joint project sponsored by the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, the Ontario Hog Producers' Association, other commodity groups, and other farm organizations.

The 5,000 Ontario door-to-door

canvassers include some from Halton. Of the 40,000 to 50,000 Ontario hog producers to be visited, many live in Halton County. In order to complete the province-wide campaign by the end of this month, and at the same time make it effective, plans are organized so that each canvasser will only visit 10 or 15 farmers.

The canvassers will not only discuss the Hog Producers' Marketing Program, but they will also distribute a pamphlet especially prepared by the Ontario government dealing with hog management and hog quality. The idea is not only to acquaint producers with the marketing programs, but to make sure they are quality conscious.

In answer to the question "Why is such an information campaign necessary," the following answer is given: Although there is compulsory legislation and the complete support of the government, in a democratic country it is not law nor government which really gives support to a program, it is public opinion. The objective of the association is to fully inform hog producers about the objectives and accomplishments so that they themselves can judge the virtues of a full-fledged marketing program.

## Esquering Buys Truck, Holds off Hospital Grant

Regular meeting of Esquering Township Council was held last week. Members were all present and Reeve Linham presided.

Bradford Clements and George Brown addressed council regarding insurance for township employees. The tender of Mavela Motors for a one-ton truck was accepted at a price of \$2,383 including spare tire, according to tender, and subject to the approval of the Department of Highways.

The treasurer was instructed to pay the following accounts: Bell Telephone Co., \$20.15; Halton Registry Office, \$2.38; The Municipal World, \$3.34; Town of Georgetown, two fire calls, Service and Switzer, \$100; Arthur Scott Motors Ltd., \$8.17 (charged to Esquering Fire Area No. 1); Town of Milton, two fire calls, Gillies and Switzer, \$100 (charged to Milton Fire Area No. 2); Acton Free Press, notice re fire calls, \$3.32 (charged to Acton Fire Area No. 2).

Alvin Anderson, James Carney and Spencer Wilson were appointed to the Hornby Community Park Board.

The clerk was instructed to write to the Milton District Hospital Board and inform it that Esquering will take no action regarding a contribution toward building a hospital in Milton until such time as Dr. Agnew has made his report to the County Council.

A by-law to permit the use of the fire truck owned by Esquering Fire Area No. 1 for mutual aid calls was read and passed.

## Another Select Cape Cod Dwelling

SIX ROOMS, consisting of large living room, modern kitchen with ample cupboards, two bedrooms and bath on first floor, second floor being completed with two bedrooms and bath, with linen closets and clothes closets in each. Large basement with warm-air oil furnace, large lot, well landscaped, with flowers and shrubs. Schools and safe playgrounds close by. Owner moving.

A FULL ACRE on the Churchill Highlands, three miles north of Acton. Good view with permanent built into side of hill, winterized for living, temporary partitions built. First floor well waterproofed, to act as roof. Chemical closet and washbaths. Just right for a man with a mechanical bent to build his home and own the painless way. On good open road, suitable for the commuter, or anyone having a housing problem.

**F. L. WRIGHT**  
REALTOR APPRAISOR INSUROR  
20 Wilbur St. Phone 95



## PROCLAMATION DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME IN ACTON

Whereas a number of municipalities in the district about Acton are adopting a uniform time for the adoption of Daylight Saving Time, and in order to avoid confusion in travel and business, the Council of the Corporation of Acton has passed a by-law establishing the period for the observance of Daylight Saving Time in Acton, from

**SUNDAY, APRIL 29th, 1956**  
AT 2.00 A.M. TO  
**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30th, 1956**  
AT 2.00 A.M.

Citizens are requested to comply with this by-law and adopt the time from the dates specified.

E. G. TYLER, Mayor



**Acton JERSEY DAIRY**  
Don Timmings, Prop.  
PHONE 242



## Today's Living is measured in Kilowatt-hours

In this year, 1956, Ontario Hydro's Golden Jubilee, the modern home is not only light-conditioned, but work-conditioned by electricity. Electrical servants, many of them fully automatic, have made possible a higher, more comfortable standard of living for all. They cook; refrigerate; wash; dry; iron; polish and clean. It is difficult to name a routine household task where electricity cannot, in some way, be of assistance.

Truly, today's living is measured in kilowatt-hours and these are servant-hours. No matter where we look, electricity is at work making life easier and more enjoyable. Hydro will continue to provide an adequate supply of electricity to meet the power requirements of the province. power that means better living for all in Ontario.

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