

talking about *Better Farming*

Reports and articles from Halton's Farmlands and Farm Organizations

Soil and Crop Association Looks Ahead to Ambitious '56 Program

Despite the cold backward spring, the officers of the Halton Soil and Crop Improvement Association are still looking forward to initiating the projects planned for 1956. These include the following:

Vernal alfalfa and Climax timothy vs. common sorts: This project involves a test comparing vernal alfalfa, climax timothy and bromegrass with one composed of common alfalfa, common timothy and bromegrass. This test is being laid down in co-operation with Fred Nurse of Ashgrove. Vernal is a new variety developed in Wisconsin and according to Dr. W. E. Russell of the Department of Field Husbandry and other authorities, has more winter resistance, is somewhat higher yielding and harder than our Grimm and Ontario variegated strains. Climax timothy is a strain developed at Ottawa and is much leafier, consequently is much superior to the common timothy.

Variety tests with oats: On the farms of Brock Harris, Lowville; Mac Alexander, Norval and W. H. Biggar and Sons, Trafalgar, township, one-half acre blocks of each of the following varieties of oats will be tested side by side—Garry, Rodney, Simcoe and Beaver.

Fertilizer test on winter wheat: This test was laid down last fall on the farm of Brock Harris at Lowville. The purpose of this test is to demonstrate the economics of various rates of fertilizer application. Acre blocks at 0-160 lbs.-240 lbs. and 320 lb. rates were laid down side by side. Yields will be determined by a combine, during July.

Methods of Seeding: Laid down a year ago, on the farm of A. T. Woodley, the test involves some 10 or 12 different methods of sowing small seeds. According to the popular "Add", the plots varied materially both last fall and this spring. He is planning to cut and bale each plot separately in order to secure definite data on the method of seeding which produced the most hay.

Long term pasture demonstration: Another five acre block of an improved "long term pasture" is being planned for the farm of J. C. Marshall, in the Omagh district. This will be very similar to the demonstration laid down with George R. Snodgrass and Son of Acton in 1954 and with Ken Elig and Sons of Hornby in 1955. Data relative to the carrying capacity—and the amount of milk produced on each of the two later pastures will be determined by the respective co-operators.

4-H grain clubs: The Association is sponsoring three 4-H Grain Clubs and all will be trying out that highly recommended new variety, Garry. The second year club will be checking Garry against Rodney. In all 42 4-H's have enrolled in the project and we understand there is still seed of the Garry variety available for three more lads or lassies between the ages of 12 and 20 years inclusive.

Chester potatoes: This is a newly licensed variety of early potatoes. It is reported to be a much smoother variety than the old reliable Irish cobbler and also more resistant to scab. The test is also being run as a 4-H club project with some 10 members. Each club member is being supplied with a bag of fertilizer by the Crop Association.

Grain corn competition: The Halton Association is also sponsoring another grain corn competition. In short, the competitors will be out to beat Fred Nurse's record yield of 114 bus. per acre of 1955. Each competitor will be required to grow a minimum of three acres, and is at liberty to plant any variety and use any fertility program desired. The top award will again be a gold watch, donated by the Milton Milling Co. In addition, there will be \$70 in cash awards plus some bushel lots of seed corn of the DeKalb, Funks and Pioneer varieties, donated by Messrs. John C. Richardson, Spencer Wilson and Rayner Bros.

Wild carrot control: Like the weed, wild carrot, we are persistent and we are going to take another whirl at trying to kill wild carrot on our roadsides. This year Dr. C. H. Switzer, of the botany department at the O.A.C., will be co-operating with the project.

Bus trip: All being well, there will be another one day bus trip again, in early June. Just where and when has not as yet been determined, but we have every expectation that it will include some farms in Western Ontario where there is something to learn as in former years. The bus trip is open to all members of the Halton Association.

How Many Bushels Of Rodney Per Acre?

There appears to be a difference of opinion re the rate of seeding for Rodney oats. Some growers in western Ontario say Rodney's are great stoolers and that one bushel is plenty and not over six pecks. We checked with Dr. Don Hunter of the Field Husbandry Department at the O.A.C., and he agrees that in a favorable spring, six pecks per acre is enough for most of the oat varieties, but in a spring when seeding is late, there is not the normal amount of stooling taking place and therefore in a year like this, two bushels per acre should be about right.

Birdfoot Trefol: This legume continues to get a lot of favorable publicity from the Lambton county and the north-eastern States. We note the Doane Agricultural Service recommends it for permanent pastures in the north-eastern states. According to them, it is not as productive as alfalfa but it will grow on land too wet for alfalfa and maintain stand longer than ladino. They further state that blood has never been reported in animals grazing birdfoot trefol maintains a good stand for many years even when heavily grazed. It's winter hardy and survives heat and drought very well, etc., etc.



civil defence notebook

Civil Defence in a Target City

Eighth of a series of 24 articles. The mechanization of war has made cities, where factories and industrial plants are most densely concentrated, the likeliest targets in a nuclear war. Federal civil defence officials estimate that one H-bomb, with the destructive force of 5,000,000 tons of TNT, would obliterate everything in an area of about 27 square miles.

That wouldn't leave much of any Canadian city and there is, therefore, only one sure means of survival for the people living in such a city: not to be there when the bomb goes off. A basic plan of evacuation that can be adapted to any Canadian city has been worked out by federal civil defence experts. Briefly, it is this:

Phase A—Enough warning of an attack to expect so that about a third of the population can be taken out to communities up to 100 miles away. This would include children up to high school age, mothers with small children, patients and staffs of hospitals and others who have key work to do.

Phase B—Planned withdrawal of the rest of the population when attack appears certain. Every available means of transportation would be used. This requires a carefully worked out plan, for which the provinces and municipalities are responsible. A city must be divided into sectors, each with its exit route. No traffic would be allowed to cross exit routes and incoming traffic would be stopped at least 25 miles out of the city. Police and civil defence volunteers must provide the vast amount of supervision required for carrying out the evacuation.

Phase C—Civil defence authorities must instruct the public on whatever additional survival action should be taken as the bomb explodes. Everyone must remain in shelters or, if on an evacuation route, keep going until directed to shelter. These directions would be given by radio through traffic officers and civil defence wardens.

Phase D—In this post-bomb period, hundreds of thousands of people will be scattered outside the city in small communities. People may be separated from families and must be brought together again. They must be kept informed, given food, shelter and clothing and protection against radioactive fall-out, the dangerous dust from the pulverized city sitting down from the sky an hour or so after the blast.

The rehabilitation period that followed would not be handled by civil defence alone but by all government agencies and all the people of Canada.

To carry out such an immensely detailed plan, these essential steps are recommended:

A well-organized civil defence force, including auxiliary personnel for police and fire duties and wardens, about one to every 50 families to supply the vital link between the people and the city's main C.D. organization.

Development of an operational plan for evacuation. The city civil defence director should set up working teams to find solutions to every problem. Then the plan must be tried out.

F. F. Worthington, federal civil defence co-ordinator, was not exaggerating when he said, "Evacuation of a large city will work well only when a great deal of planning and testing has been done."

Changes Driftwood To Fine Ornaments
EDMONTON (CP)—Francisca Zischka, an immigrant from Czechoslovakia, is finding beauty in discarded pieces of driftwood. She turns them into lamps, wall brackets and fireplace ornaments.

"In Europe nobody cares for driftwood," she said. But while she was working at Banff she picked up her first piece of driftwood. "It was all crooked but there was so much beauty I kept it."

When she left Banff for Edmonton, she had 300 pounds of driftwood. She took her three years of experience to find a process for preserving the wood so it wouldn't disintegrate when exposed to changing temperatures, light and air. She then learned to polish her specimens.

One of the first roots she picked up reminded her of a cave. She set a white china figure into the cavity to represent a shrine and into another contour placed a Chinese figurine holding a fishing rod.

Lake driftwood is best because it is washed out and hardened by minerals after years in the water, according to the collector.

She says her hobby has one occupational hazard. "I always catch cold... because when I see the right bit of wood, I just paddle in after it and I always know exactly what I am going to do with a piece the minute I get it out of the water."

The hobby has its surprises. She once pulled out a petrified buffalo head while she was looking for wood.

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Former Korean Missionary Tells Presbyterian Meeting of Need

Mrs. W. A. Burbidge, secretary of the affiliated Explorer Group, Hamilton Conference branch, and former Korean missionary, addressed the 27th annual meeting of the Halton United Church Presbyterian at Millgrove United Church.

Speaking on her work as a missionary, Mrs. Burbidge stressed the need for clothing and food for the people in Korea.

A second speaker on this occasion was Miss Barbara Jewell, of All People's Church, of Hamilton.

Based on the topic, Who is Thy Neighbour, the worship service was in charge of the Kilbride Auxiliary. Among those taking part in the meeting were Mrs. W. N. Drown-

ridge, Georgetown and Mrs. C. Lester, president of Millgrove W.M.S., who opened the meeting; Mrs. M. M. Curdie, of Streetsville, who read the minutes; Mrs. Watt of Oakville, assisted by Mrs. A. E. Pickard, of Bronte, who conducted the in memoriam service.

The nominating report was given by Mrs. E. Wood of Palermo, and the officers were installed by Mrs. Ross Patterson of Hamilton Conference Board.

The new slate of officers consists of the following: Mrs. W. N. Drownridge, past president; Mrs. A. Harris, president; Mrs. E. Wood, Mrs. G. R. Stacey, Mrs. G. E. Gray, Mrs. James Kirkwood, vice-presidents; Mrs. F. Ball, recording secretary; Mrs. E. M. Headhead, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Ross Segsworth, treasurer; Mrs. George Brownridge, Christian stewardship; Mrs. R. Coulter, secretary of the affiliated C.G.I.T. groups; Mrs. N. McDonald, of the mission band; Mrs. N. B. MacLennan, of baby band; Mrs. Lorne Hamilton, associate member; Mrs. E. B. Clements, supply secretary; Mrs. J. Eaton, Christian friendship; Mrs. M. L. Leaner, literature; Mrs. C. Dick, Missionary Monthly and World Friends; Mrs. T. Glissen, Christian citizenship; Mrs. C. R. Livingston, press secretary; Miss A. Blanchard, candidate adviser; and Mrs. A. Kerr and Mrs. J. McNiven members without portfolio.

Tips on Touring

By Carol Lane
Women's Travel Authority

Two friends recently came to me with identical problems. Should they buy a trailer house? and I helped each make up his mind with this advice: Don't actually buy a trailer until you've had a chance to discover if you will really like trailer life.

I advised both friends either to borrow a trailer from a friend or rent one from a trailer agency and take an actual "shakedown" trip to find the answer. They did, and this is what they discovered.

Alex M—look off with his wife and youngster on a three week trip through the West, while Richard R—and his wife made a swing through Ontario.

At the end of 10 days, Alex and his family called a halt to the trailer experiment and couldn't get home fast enough. They were sick and tired of trailer living and everything that went with it. But Richard and his wife made an exactly different discovery. They loved the free vagabond life. They were crazy about it. They had discovered a new life.

The trick of taking a "shakedown" trip before buying paid off for both these couples. One couple had definite proof they really wanted a trailer, the other couple had equally positive proof that buying a trailer would have been a major mistake. Both couples thanked me warmly.

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