

Reports and articles from Halton's Farmlands and Farm Organizations

Warning Against The Leafy Spurge

During past week, county weed inspector T. Bradley has reported to us the location of several outbreaks of leafy spurge. All of these outbreaks which have been located to date are in Trafalgar Township. Leafy spurge is worst weed that we can think of at the moment. Wild carrot, chicory, sow thistle, and the like can be considered garden flowers when compared with leafy spurge. It is a long lived, deep rooted perennial weed somewhat woody at the base and containing a milky fluid. According to our literature the roots extend deep into the soil, often to a depth of ten feet. It also has creeping root stalks and once established crowds everything out. When in bloom, and incidentally, it is blooming now, patches can be recognized by the characteristic yellowish-green color.

This morning we were in touch with agricultural representative Jim McCullough of Peel County, where they have several areas that are bad with this weed. They launched a county program against this weed some three or four years ago, and while they are making progress in eliminating it, it is a slow process. They have used black summer fallow, brushkill, sodium chlorate and atricide 2-4-D Ester and several other materials. According to Mr. McCullough their best results have been from using L.C. Ester of 2-4-D and spraying three to four times each year. Our readers should be on the lookout for this menace—don't let it get established.

Farm Economists Don't Agree on Future of Canada's Agriculture

We were interested to read some of the press releases on the Agricultural Institute Convention, held in Toronto last week. We also had a chat with one of our farm leaders who attended one of the sessions. It is therefore unwise to base any statements on such a limited knowledge of the discussions which took place.

However, we would judge that some of our leading agricultural economists were not altogether in agreement as regards the future of agriculture in Canada. That is only to be expected since after all, what the future holds is only a matter of conjecture based on the existing trends, factors and history. One school of thought prophesies that the time is not far distant when it will keep Canada busy, to feed her own population. That of course, is based on our rapid industrialization, coupled with increasing population and the disappearance of large acreages of our farm land out of agriculture.

Appears Logical

Certainly if one were to base one's predictions on the reported sales of farm land in Halton and adjoining counties in recent months, that would appear to be very logical and perhaps it is logical. The other school of thought feels that agricultural production in this country can still be stepped up materially, if the price incentive were sufficient.

In support of this viewpoint one might point to our hog marketings

over the past 11 years. In 1944 we note our hog marketings totalled 8,883,178 hogs. At that time as we recall from memory (which may be bad) hogs were around the \$35 mark. Last year, with the price down in the twenties we note our marketings were just over 5,900,000. Before one accepts that illustration as to what price incentive will do, one would have to study the relative marketings of other classes of livestock and also of field production for the same period.

Lack of both space and time will not permit us to go into the subject fully. Perhaps we can get the answers with less effort when Dr. H. L. Patterson addresses the Soil and Crop Twilight at the Fred Nurse farm, July 3rd.

Larger Farm Units

We also note that one of our Agricultural Journals in a recent issue was rather critical of those agricultural economists who suggested that larger farm units is a partial answer, at least, to the depressed condition of the agricultural industry. Whether one likes the idea of larger farm units or not, one must face the facts.

According to the 1951 census we find that in Ontario we had over 54,000 fewer farms than we had back in 1900. We also find that the average size of our Ontario farms was up to 139 acres. In short, there is the trend whether we like it or not. Why do we have that trend? Scarcity of farm labor has made mechanization of agriculture a must. Can one justify the investment in mechanization equipment required to operate 80 or 90 acres of tillable land?

We have in front of us the farm accounts of one of our better 150 acre units. We note that even at depreciated values there is an investment in machinery and equipment of over \$2500—and it is not a hobby farm either! To this must be added the investment in land, buildings and livestock, which even at conservative figures brings the total investment well up to the \$50,000 mark.

In the final analysis, it isn't a question of the amount of land, but of the size of the business. Nevertheless in general farming, size of business normally goes with the size

L. R. Sampson New D.D.G.M.

At the 102nd annual sessions of the Grand Lodge of Ontario, Independent Order of Odd Fellows held at Toronto June 20, L. R. Sampson, R.R. 1, Huronby, and of Milton I.O. O.F. lodge, was elected District Deputy Grand Master, Credit District 33. He will be chief officer of I.O.O.F. lodges at Milton, Georgetown, Brampton, Alton, and Orangeville.

The I.O.O.F. has a world membership of 1,450,000, with 65,000 members in Ontario.

Hold Knox Picnic At the Breezes

The Knox congregational picnic was held Wednesday, June 27, at the Breezes Supper, was served shortly after six and the games were held.

Races and the winners are: girls 5 and under, Barbara McEachern; Susan Tailfefer; boys 5 and under, John Mason, Rodney McEachern; girls 6 and 7, Christine Rock, Patricia Beerman; boys 6 and 7, David Ryder, Gary Tailfefer; girls 8 to 10, Jill Hurst, Antoinette Trysner; boys 8 to 10, Michel Roger; Gord Mason; girls 11 and 12, Ruth Spielvogel, Dorothy Rice; boys 11 and 12, John Hurst, John Beerman; girls 13 and 14, Nancy Aitken, Faye McEachern; boys 13 and 14 straight race, Bill Greer, John Hurst; ladies open, Doris Allen, Nan Hurst; men's open, Frank Cooper, Doug Davidson.

Novelty races: girls 6 and under pin the hankie, Patricia Beerman, Christine Rock; boys 6 and under drop clothes pegs in bottle, Allan McNabb, Bill Hansen, John Mason, Keith Aitken; girls 6 to 10 shoe scramble, Jill Hurst, Mary Grishow; boys 6 to 10 horse race, Gary Tailfefer and John McNabb, Lloyd Clifton and Walter Trysner; girls 10 to 16 bag breaking relay, Ruth Spielvogel, Marilyn Lemon, Nancy Aitken, Thea Trysner; boys 11 to 16 sack race, John Hurst, John Beerman.

Mixed race (adults) pie plate race, Doris Allen, Murray Scoyne; ladies race (16 and over) rolling pin race, Mrs. Beerman; mixed race (adults 3-legged race), Gladys Price, Bill Greer; men's race (pie eating), Joe Jany; open 3-legged race (children), Cheryl Price and John McNabb; Lloyd Clifton and Mary Grishow; girls open (softball throw), Anne Watkins, Elizabeth Jany, Inez McLellan.

Campbellville Man In Musical's Cast

It's from plain to fancy for Tom Foster. The young man from Campbellville is in the cast of the smash musical, Plain and Fancy, now playing at North Tonawanda, New York. A well-known winner at Halton music festivals, he is with the Niagara Melody Fair company.

Plain and Fancy opened the season of musicals including The King and I, Wish You Were Here, Call Me Madame, Kismet and South Pacific, which are being staged in a huge tent—a true theatre-in-the-round.

The show draws heavily on Canadian talent with Broadway performers highlighting the casts.

NEW DEFINITION

Prince George, B.C. (CP)—Police described a teen-ager sentenced to 12 months definite and 12 months indeterminate for assault, as a "comic book fiend."

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Hog Situation Review; Other Price Prospects

"There has been gloom over the hog situation for some time, but brighter skies now appear to be breaking through." This is the statement of Prof. D. R. Campbell, of the Department of Agricultural Economics, in the last issue of the Ontario Farm Business. According to Prof. Campbell we are consuming roughly 11 to 12 thousand more hogs per week now than we did in 1955.

While D.B.S. figures indicate that we should expect an increase of 2 per cent. in the number of hogs coming to market next fall, nevertheless in view of the increased consumption, the hog situation in Canada looks somewhat brighter for this fall than it was a year ago. This is in line with what is expected in the United States. To quote from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, "Hog slaughter will drop below that of 1955 sometime this fall and will stay below for some time to come. Hog prices in the late months of this year are expected to average higher than the relatively low prices of a year earlier."

too much wrong with the whole milk price providing a shipper has a large enough base and does not have to take the secondary price for too large a percentage of his shipment.

However, after spending a few days in Eastern Ontario the last week in May, it makes one realize just how lucky we are, at least comparatively speaking. Goodness knows, the season was plenty backward here in Halton but in the areas of Eastern Ontario where we were, they received more precipitation, and this coupled with poor drainage in many of those areas, presented a dismal picture. On top of this, to have to accept around \$2.60 for their milk at the cheese factory—well, it makes one wonder. Whether milk goes to a whole milk market, a cheese factory, a creamery or a condensery, we are all a part of the dairy industry and the financial status of each has a definite bearing on the remaining branches of the industry.

We are therefore interested to note that Canadian stocks of cheese were down 16 per cent. in May, from a year earlier. On top of this New Zealand cheese was selling at 33.8 cents per lb. in the United Kingdom in April this year, as opposed to 38.9 cents per lb. a year earlier. The U.K. dollar allocation for cheese is \$4.2 million, the same as last year. Prospects, therefore, are excellent for strong cheese prices in 1956.

Cheese and Butter

While stocks were heavier on May 1, the increased attractiveness of the cheese market will help to support the price structure in 1956.

Butter

Price supports at 58 cents per lb. until March 31, 1958, will also help to stabilize the dairy industry.

Winter Wheat

Severe storms have destroyed one-half of the winter wheat acreage in France, a country which is an important producer. We also note that storms are reported to have caused losses in other European countries as follows: Belgium 47 per cent., Holland 33 per cent., Western Germany 15 per cent. Prospects therefore for all wheat exports and strong prices appear very promising.

Beef Cattle

Usual seasonal strengthening in July is expected, states the Ontario Farm Business. If present indications of light crops are realized, marketings will be heavy this fall, and prices of both feeders and finished cattle will be much like last fall.

Dairy Products

Halton is primarily a whole milk producing area. Owing to the wide spread between the price which whole milk shippers receive on the one hand, and those which creamery, concentrated milk and cheese factory shippers receive on the other, there is continued effort on the part of the latter groups to obtain a market for their product in the whole milk markets.

Now do not misinterpret this statement—we are not suggesting that the whole milk price is too high. In our opinion there is not

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