

Addresses by John F. Clark Feature Two Dinner Meetings

Last week saw three important dinner meetings held in the city. Each organizational meeting was highlighted by a banquet and in each case, the ladies of the sponsoring organization served delectable suppers of delicious food which brought forth eloquent tributes to the culinary art and the very delicious and efficient manner in which they looked after their guests.

Acton Agricultural Society
The first of these gatherings was held on Monday evening of last week in the Sunday School room of the Acton United Church, where the officers and directors of the Acton Agricultural Society entertained their "better halves".

Among the guests who brought feelings and congratulations were Stanley L. Hill, M.L.A.; Reeve Wallace of Erin Township and Mayor W. H. Cook of Acton. The highlight of the excellent program chaired by president William Thompson was the illustrated travelogue presented by John F. Clark of the Agricultural Societies Branch of the Ontario Department of Agriculture, Toronto.

Mr. Clark, who was introduced by Ray Everdell, delighted his audience with his colored slides depicting highlights of his trips to Japan, Hong Kong, Burma, France, Belgium, Holland and Great Britain. Seldom if ever has it been our privilege to hear an illustrated address so vividly portrayed.

Mr. Clark's amazing knowledge of the historical and religious background of the scenes depicted

along with his fluent and eloquent delivery, made it an evening long to be remembered, as was pointed out by Mac Sprawl, who ably extended the appreciation of the audience to Mr. Clark.

Other pleasing features of the program were the introduction by 4-H club leader Nino Braida, of Russell Murray and James Attkin, top club members in the Acton 4-H Forage Club in 1958, and the presentation to Ab Robinson of the Diploma for Meritorious Service to Agriculture by J. E. Whitlock, Milton.

Haltom Jersey Club
The 19th annual meeting of the Haltom Jersey Club was held in the Esquimaux Community Hall, Stewarstown, on Tuesday, January 13.

In the unavoidable absence of the president, the meeting was ably chaired by vice-president Ernest Davies, formerly of Palermo, and now of Guelph, R. R. 4. Following the bountiful banquet catered by the members of the Ashgrove W.A., Mr. John F. Clark of the Ontario Department of Agriculture, Toronto, duplicated his delightful illustrated travelogue of the Far East and Europe which he had presented the previous evening at Acton.

The Jersey fraternity, like those of previous years, were to say the least, thrilled with Mr. Clark's presentation. This was indicated by past president Wm. Featherstone, who extended the appreciation of the gathering.

Other Speakers
The Haltom club was honored by a brief message from the president of the Canadian Jersey Cattle

Club to the person of Haltom's own Maurice C. Beatty. Mr. Beatty reported that the Jersey Association had had a good year with an increase in both registrations and transfers. Along with that, sales of both Jerseys and Jersey milk were up in 1958.

Others who spoke briefly included Col. Barley Bull, of Brampton; Melvin McCullough, president of the Haltom and Peel Guernsey Club; Kenneth Elio, Haltom director on the Ontario Jersey Club directorate; and J. Allen Francis, associate agricultural representative for Haltom, who gave an excellent report on 4-H Jersey Calf Club activity in Haltom during the year.

Mrs. M. W. Staples of Guelph, R. R. 2, was the recipient of two presentations — first, certificates emblematic of premier breeder and premier exhibitor awards at the 1958 Haltom Parish Show which were presented on behalf of the club by M. C. Beatty — and a silver tray for the winning progeny of dam at the same show — this latter gift being presented on behalf of the Milton Milling Co. by George Swann of Milton.

Officers and directors elected for 1959 are as follows: president, Ernest Davies; first vice-president, Bruce Nixon; secretary-treasurer, J. Allen Francis. Directors: Esquimaux, Mac Alexander, Ken Elio and Eccles McClure; Trafalgar, M. C. Beatty, Wm. Featherstone and W. H. Devlin; Nassagawaga, George Hewer and Duncan Moffat; Wellington County, Fred Moore.

Other speakers included the president of the Canadian Jersey Cattle

100 Holstein Breeders Hear Ralph K. Bennett

Ralph K. Bennett, head of the merchandising section of the Livestock Products Division of the Marketing Service of the Canada Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, was more than lived up to his reputation as an outstanding speaker.

Introduced by J. Allen Francis, associate agricultural representative for Haltom county, Mr. Bennett gave a masterly display as he reviewed livestock trends and the outlook. "We are living in the North American economy, the best market in the world," stated the speaker.

"Prices of agricultural commodities," he added, "are in a chaotic condition."

No World Prices
One might say that world prices do not exist — to illustrate, it was pointed out that in Canada, butter was 64¢; in United States, 58¢; in Australia, 51¢; in New Zealand, 37¢; in the Netherlands, 34¢; in Denmark, 27¢.

It was further pointed out that Danish bacon Grade A is being laid down in Great Britain at 18½¢ — in other words from these examples, it is clear, stated the speaker, that there is no relationship in the prices of agricultural products in one country as compared with another.

"In other words," stated Mr. Bennett, "prices are no longer set in relation to a world market but depend on the support program and the import policies of the various countries."

When the support price for corn in the U.S. was \$1.30 the tendency was to hold corn and not to feed it. However, when the U.S. reduced support of corn to around \$1.00, the U.S. mid-westerner expanded hog production and commenced to market his corn through the medium of hogs.

110,000 Hogs Weekly
It was also pointed out by the speaker that Canada marketed an average of 110,000 hogs weekly during the period January to September 1958 — since then, marketings had jumped up to 150,000 hogs weekly, which in turn had forced the price down to the support level and today the government is buying and storing pork. Looking to the future, Mr. Bennett stated, "With lots of grain in Canada and lots of corn in the

United States, we'd better be prepared to have hog prices at or near the floor price."

Turning to cattle, the speaker pointed out that "The only time we get the top price in North America is when we import." In 1951, it was pointed out that in the U.S. one-third of their cattle were being raised in the seven mid-southern states.

Hit by drought, production dropped back and it was not until the fall of 1957 and spring of 1958 that they got sufficient moisture and they commenced to restock their ranges.

Importing Beef
That, he added, is what forced the price of calves and feeders up in Western Canada in 1958 and as a result, purchases were reduced by eastern Canada buyers and today we are importing beef. Certainly beef cattle operations present the brightest outlook for the immediate future.

The speaker also reviewed "Vertical Integration" and as we interpreted his comments, while admitting that it may have some disagreeable aspects, he is of the opinion, that it is not only here to stay but presents the only real satisfactory answer to the "farm credit problem" so that farm operations may increase their size of business.

These are but a few of the thoughts thrown out in what was considered by the audience to be the best address of its kind heard in Haltom or anywhere else for some little time.

Data Presented
At the business session in the morning, some interesting data was presented by George F. Drennan, Holstein fieldman for West Central Ontario.

Forty-six Haltom Holstein herds were on R.O.P. in 1958, and of this number, stated Mr. Drennan, 40 of those herd owners were each testing 10 cows or more. The average production of those 40 herds was 10,774 lbs. milk and 405 lbs. B.F., making a B.C.A. average of 97 for milk and 100 for fat.

The top producing herd in Haltom for both milk and fat with over 20 animals on test (22) was that of G. Leslie Peer and Son, with a B.C.A. of 117 for both milk and butterfat. In the group with under 20 an-

imals on test (18 Johnson Neelds was top with a B.C.A. of 113 for both milk and butterfat.

"We must get our nights a little higher," stated national director D. S. Duntun of Brampton, as he discussed the proposed amendment re registration of bulls in the future.

Incidentally the proposed amendment was approved by the meeting.

Others who contributed to this outstanding program included Martyn Heslop, club sales agent, whose report revealed that he had sold 160 head for 35 breeders in

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John F. Clark, on 4-H Holstein Calf Club activity in 1958; W. R. Tovell, who presented premier exhibitor and premier breeder awards to Barbara Y. Royle and Pelletier Bros. respectively; and Melvin McCullough, president of the Haltom and Peel Guernsey Club, who extended an invitation to those present to attend the special "Recognition Night" to George H. King and Son of Trafalgar on January 23.

The election of the officers and

directors for 1959 follows: president, W. R. Tovell; first vice-president, J. H. Taylor; second vice-president, T. H. McGee; secretary-treasurer, John W. Pickett.

Directors: Esquimaux, Ernest Davies; Charles Austin, Ward Stewart; J. W. Carney, T. H. McGee, Ford Wickson; Nassagawaga township, John Kitching; Burlington, Fred Bell, Brock Harris, J. H. Taylor, Don Peer; Trafalgar township, Hugh Beatty, Ralph Ford; J. C. Marshall, W. R. Tovell.

Miss Barbara Pickard Haltom Representative At Junior Conference

Haltom's entry in the Ontario Junior Farmer Public Speaking Competition was Barbara Pickard. The competition was held on Saturday, January 10 in the King Edward Hotel, Toronto.

Barbara was one of 27 contestants representing various counties in Ontario. The material covered in her address centred around the migration of rural young people to urban occupations. Although Miss Pickard stated there should be a natural movement of young people from the farm, it was unfortunate that agriculture was not receiving the top young people.

Competition Finals
On Saturday evening approximately 1000 spectators gathered in the Crystal Ballroom, for the final public speaking competition.

The five finalists were: Sandra Doig, R. R. 1, Dublin, Huron County; Janet Boreen-Garrett, Benfield, R. R. 2, Middlesex County; "Let's Take a Look at Ourselves," Howard Herle, St. Agatha, R. 1, Waterloo County; "We are Fortunate People," Walter Mulkewich, Waterford, R. 5, Norfolk County; "The St. Lawrence Seaway," Jane Newman, Dunville, R. 9, Halton County; "Never a Dull Moment."

The winner of the competition this year was Howard Herle of Waterloo County.

Vocal Competitions
The winners of the various vocal competitions were presented during the evening's program. In the mixed quartette competition, the winner was Ontario County South Simcoe was awarded first place in the ladies' trio competition. In the male quartette competition, Victoria County was awarded first standing.

During the day, five county choirs took part in a choir festival. The Ontario County Junior Farmer Choir represented their

Nearly All Forums Claim Contract Farming Harmful

Ontario farmers have had a fairly substantial experience already with contract farming, to judge from reports from farm forums across the province, on the second forum broadcast of the series on vertical integration in the farming industry.

While approximately half of the groups reporting had had no direct experience, they still had knowledge of the results and effect of the system as experienced by friends and neighbors. The other half of the forums reported experience on contract farming, chiefly with broilers, canning crops, hogs and some grains.

Most Opposed
When answering the question, "How has it affected you?" there was a similar attitude of mind was evident among the groups when answering the third question.

"How has it affected the man under contract?" There was some acknowledgment of advantage for young men starting in farming, and as a means of providing some capital or credit, but in the main the answers to this question also were quite deflatory.

Shilo farm forum in Lambton County had this to say: "We feel it is going to take our independence if we contract all farm products, in years to come maybe also our land that our forefathers carved out of the woods."

was no hesitation on the part of nearly all the groups in reporting the effect to be definitely detrimental. Only a handful of groups reported no effect.

All others had plenty of reasons why they thought the system had been detrimental, most of which could be summarized in the statement that contract farming had caused over-production, causing prices to drop, hogs and poultry being specifically mentioned in a substantial number of cases.

"Spoiled the market for us," said one forum. "Destroyed the poultry industry," said nearly a dozen others. Some groups emphasized that the system had seriously affected the economic position of the small farmer.

Advantage for Young
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