

NEWS AND ITEMS OF INTEREST TO HALTON FARMERS

by J. E. Whitelock

GARDEN BRIGADE AND GRAIN CLUB MEMBERS TO HOLD ACHIEVEMENT DAYS AT ACTON FAIR

On Friday and Saturday of this week many Halton folk and in addition many others from the surrounding district will flock to Acton for the big Annual Fair. In order to boost their hall exhibit the Acton Fair Board under the leadership of President Howard Switzer this year sponsored a Garden Brigade for the young ladies of north Halton, and a Grain Club for the young men. Altogether it is anticipated that approximately forty young people will have either their garden produce or grain on display. In connection with the young men's garden club, the Acton Society supplied each of the twenty club members with two bushels of Certified No. 1 Beaver Oats free of charge. One of the club members, namely Geo. Burkholder of Freeman, is reported on good authority to have threshed over 50 bushels to the acre from his 5 acre plot. In so far as we can learn this constituted a record for 1947 in George's section of the County.

FLOW TEAMS SELECTED FOR INTERNATIONAL

On Wednesday of last week, Halton Junior Farmers with the co-operation of the Halton Plowmen's Association selected the members of the horse and tractor teams to represent Halton at the big International to be held near Kingston Oct. 14 to 17 inclusive.

The local event was held on the farm of A. T. Woodley, near Milton. The special coach and judge of the day was Geo. Hostrawser of Brampton, who is a former champion tractor plowman of a few years ago. In the inter-county events at the International each county plow team is made up of two young men under 20 years of age.

Notwithstanding the dry condition of the soil some very good ridges were plowed at the Woodley Farm. The young men selected to represent Halton in the inter-county events are as follows: Inter-County Walking Plow Class—Jack Ferguson and Gordon Ferguson, both of Nassagaweya Township; Inter-County Tractor Class—Wm. Brain, Noyal, in Equestrian Township, and Keith Merry, Hornby, of Trafalgar Township, with Charles Hunter of Georgetown, as reserve. Incidentally each member of the winning county team at the International will be awarded a trip to the 1947 International Live Stock Show at Chicago, and also basic expenses of one year at the Ontario Agricultural College. Such basic expenses will include tuition fees, board and lodging and an allowance for books.

NEW SPREADER ON MARKET FOR DISTRIBUTION OF AGRICULTURAL LIMESTONE

Halton clay soils for the most part are from moderately to slightly acid having a pH. of from 5.4 to 6.2. Applications of agricultural limestone should therefore prove beneficial. During recent years a number of tests with agricultural limestone have been laid down by the Halton Crop Improvement Ass'n. In conversation recently with both Victor J. Lawrence of Merton, and Cecil Lawrence of Sheridan, we learned that excellent results had been secured from the tests conducted on their respective farms. In view of the fact that agricultural limestone can be secured at a nominal price per ton, and in view of the fact that the Ontario Department of Agriculture gives financial assistance on the cost of transportation either in carload lots or truck loads, it is perhaps a little difficult to understand why more agricultural limestone is not being applied to the acid soils in Halton. In answer to our query Agricultural Rep. J. E. Whitelock stated that in his opinion the failure to make greater use of lime is due to shortage of labour combined with the lack of satisfactory equipment with which to apply limestone to the land. We also learned from Mr. Whitelock that recently a new type of lime spreader with tractor hitch had become available. It was Mr. Whitelock's opinion that if a few of these spreaders were available in Halton on a custom or rental basis, the application of agricultural limestone would become a general practice. We also learned from the same source that since such spreaders had become available in certain districts of Haldimand and Wentworth Counties, there had been a great increase in the amount of limestone being applied. Truckers who are interested in adding a profitable side-line to their present business might be well advised to investigate the idea of securing one of these new lime spreaders and offering a custom service.

THE FARM LABOUR PROBLEM

Farmers do not need to be told that they have many problems. In so far as we can determine, however, their greatest single problem is lack of satisfactory farm labour. The bright lights, shorter hours and what appears to be bigger wages in the cities and towns have pretty well drained all available help from the farms. Actually when the cost of board, laundry, and other incidental expenses are taken into consideration, we question if a big percentage of urban labour is any better or as well off financially at the end of the year as the farm worker.

When discussing the situation recently with Agric. Representative J. E. Whitelock, he admitted that the situation was drastic, and further, that the Agricultural office at Milton had not been able to cope with the situation. "We have endeavoured," he stated, "to investigate all available sources." These included British immigrants, Polish veterans, Dutch immigrants, Western farm hands, and Toronto Commandos. During the past year, he stated, we have placed upwards of sixty Polish Veterans on Halton Farms. These men, according to Mr. Whitelock are for the most part proving very satisfactory, despite the difficulty of language. Some organizations and individuals would appear, he added, to be giving some of these men bad advice which is causing some unrest. In further explanation he pointed out that Canada was the first country in the world which was prepared

to open her doors to these men, and had it not been for Canadian farmers they would still be in Europe. These men were brought to Canada at the expense of the Governments of Canada and Great Britain, on the definite understanding that they would agree to remain in Canadian agriculture for at least two years. Now efforts are being made by certain individuals and organizations who are supposedly working in the interests of the Polish Veterans, to have the two year period reduced to one year. They base their argument on the fact that Dutch settlers are brought to this country on a one year contract. They forget, however, that the Dutch immigrants are paying the cost of their own transportation to Canada and further that they themselves agreed to the two year contract before leaving Italy or Great Britain. "Nevertheless, I am of the opinion," stated Mr. Whitelock, "that the great majority of these men will make good Canadian citizens providing they do not receive too much of the type of leadership which has been described."

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The Dutch immigrants appear to have real possibilities, stated Mr. Whitelock. He added however, that the great majority are married men with families and unfortunately we haven't too many satisfactory farm workers' houses. One of the solutions of the farm labour problems would appear to be the erection of satisfactory farm cottages, but that, he added, is impossible under present

Leslie - Aitken Wedding

A pretty autumn wedding took place on Saturday afternoon, September 20th at 3:30 o'clock at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew J. Aitken, when their eldest daughter Annie Isobel was united in marriage to Gordon Alexander Leslie, only son of Mr. and Mrs. Joel B. Leslie, R. R. 3, Acton. Rev. J. M. Anderson officiated at the ceremony which took place on the lawn beneath an arch of evergreen trimmed with pink and white streamers and white wedding bells and baskets of gladoli.

The bride, given in marriage by her father, was lovely in a gown fashioned with white satin bodice and floor-length skirt of nylon net. She wore net elbow length mittens. A coronet headdress trimmed with white forget-me-nots held her shoulder-length veil. She carried white roses and fern and wore as her only ornament a double strand pearl necklace, the gift of the groom.

Miss Edna Aitken, her sister's bridesmaid, wore a petal pink floor length gown with brocade bodice and nylon net skirt. She wore a pink flowered headdress and carried pink roses. Little Nancy Aitken, niece of the bride, as flower girl, was charming in turquoise blue taffeta with net overskirt. She wore a blue flowered headdress and carried a nosegay of sweet peas and cornflowers. She wore a gold signet ring, the gift of the bride.

Mr. Elwood Johnston was best man for his cousin.

Following the ceremony a reception was held. Receiving with the bride couple was the bride's mother in navy accessories and corsage of pink roses. The groom's mother assisted, wearing a powder blue dress with accents of pink, matching blue hat and

conditions. In conclusion Mr. Whitelock stated that if anyone can come forward with a practical solution to the present farm labour situation, he or she would be making a great contribution not only to agriculture but to our whole Canadian economy.



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pink accessories with a corsage of pink roses.

A buffet luncheon was served. The bride's table was attractive with a three-tiered wedding cake, pink and white sweet peas and tall pink candles in silver holders.

Later the bridal couple left for a motor trip to the United States, the bride travelling in a lime green wool suit, brown accessories and wearing a corsage of tallman roses. On their return they will live on the groom's farm, R. R. 3, Acton.

Edwip Cripps Dies

Funeral services for Edwin Cripps, 76, who died at his home on Mill Street, Acton, on Tuesday, Sept. 18, were held from the Johnstone and Rumley Funeral Home on Friday. Services were conducted by Mr. W. W. Joyce and Mr. A. M. Gratten. Burial took place in Everton Cemetery.

Mr. Cripps was born in Eramosa Township, the son of the late Alex and Fannie Cripps. Before moving to Acton twenty-four years ago, he had been a farmer in Eramosa Township for thirty years. Since moving to Acton, he had been well-known as a

carpenter. He was a member of Acton Baptist Church.

Fifty-three years ago he married Sarah Jane Moore, who survives him. He is also mourned by four sons and four daughters: Stanley, Cecil, Henry, all of Acton; Alger of Georgetown; Tiffie (Mrs. McIntyre) of Toronto; Sadie (Mrs. Welch) of Toronto; Edna (Mrs. Welch) of Englehart; also surviving are 27 grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

Pall bearers were: Messrs. Fred Cleave, William Couling, R. L. Johnston, D. Orippe, R. Patterson. Eight grandchildren and one great grandchild acted as flower bearers.

Friends came from Georgetown, Harrison, Guelph, Fergus, Galt, Hanover, Duncan and the surrounding district to be present at the funeral.



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