

NEWS AND ITEMS OF INTEREST TO HALTON FARMERS

Agricultural Conventions Attract Record Attendance

The Annual Livestock, Plowmen's Crop and Agricultural Society conventions held in Toronto the first two weeks in February attracted record crowds. Many Halton farm leaders were in attendance at the various sessions. At the Ontario Jersey meeting, Bill Featherstone, representing Featherstone, Brookwell-known Jersey breeders of Trafalgar Township, was the recipient of a superior Production Certificate for their cow, Almonte, Gentle Fern, that has produced a total of 127,488 lbs. of milk and 6,953 lbs. fat in 12 lactations. His brother Jack, past president of the Halton Jersey Club was honoured by being appointed a member of the executive of the Ontario Jersey Club. M. C. Beatty also of Trafalgar Township, and another Halton Jersey enthusiast, whose herd has come to the forefront in recent years, was appointed as a director for the Ontario Jersey Club on the Ontario Cattle Breeders Association.

The Holstein-Friesian Association of Canada as usual, had a crowded auditorium at their annual meeting. Harry W. Hays of Trafalgar Township, as the representative of the Halton Holstein Club was elected as one of the ten Western Ontario breeders on the Dominion Holstein executive.

Another prominent Halton Holstein breeder, E. J. Mengler, of Graymar Farm was in the limelight with two certificates, one for his former herd sire Armac Sylvanus Pathfinder, recently declared an "Extra" sire as a result of the outstanding records made by his daughters in the Graymar herd, and the other for the achievement of Graymar Bessie Pathfinder, in producing 27,519 lbs. milk, and 1,175 lbs. fat.

J. H. Willmott, prominent Hampshire breeder, again of Trafalgar Township, was appointed to the executive of the Canadian Sheep Breeders' Association, while at the meeting of the Ontario Clydesdale Association, Bert Perry, popular manager of Valley Crest Farm,

Trafalgar Township, was appointed to the Clydesdale executive.

The annual meeting of the Ontario Crop Improvement Association with its 55 county or district branches scattered over the Province, had a four day convention with a programme that included sessions from 9:00 a.m. until midnight daily. Two members of the Halton Association, namely W. E. Breckon of Freeman, and J. E. Whitelock, Milton, were numbered among the speakers on this programme. At the annual banquet of the Ontario Association, Cecil Breckon of Freeman, and A. T. Woodley of Milton, and 4th prize winners in the Inter-County Wheat Competition open to fifty bushel club members at the 1947 Royal, received cheques of \$50 and \$40 respectively in recognition of their achievement.

MAKING HAY, THE MODERN WAY

One of the many addresses at the convention which would have been of interest to all Halton Farmers was that of Douglas N. Hart, well known Oxford County farmer. Mr. Hart, who operates a large dairy farm near Woodstock, has had experience in haymaking using almost all types of machinery and methods. A few of the highlights of his address are as follows:

"The secret of making good hay is to cut it early and cure it quickly. Under modern conditions it must be done with a minimum of labour. We all want machines to save our backs, particularly at a heavy job such as making hay."

"There is no doubt in my mind," he stated, "that the best hay from the first crop is that cured on tripods. It is very difficult to cure early cut June hay any other way."

"The further pointed out, "the labour requirements are too high for putting this hay on tripods unless the reversed hay loader is used and the tripod built in a circular sheet-iron cage where it can be dropped on the ground when complete."

"This method," he stated, "has been used successfully in some places in Eastern Ontario. After the tripods have been cured for about two weeks they can be hauled to

the barn with a buckrake." Curing hay in cocks, stated Mr. Hart, should be a thing of the past except for very small acreages. He pointed out they take moisture from the ground as well as from above when it rains so the resulting product is not good enough except in fine weather, and besides the labour required is too great for the modern farm.

The hay loader and one man rack, stated Mr. Hart, possibly still has a place, where it is not necessary to put too much hay in one mow. In large mows there is great danger, he stated, from spontaneous combustion with windrow cured hay and also the resulting product is not good enough unless it is stored loosely. He further pointed out that this method does not lend itself to mechanization but the overhead for equipment is much lower.

Mr. Hart is not too enthusiastic about the field harvester, which takes the hay from the windrow, chops it up and blows it into a wagon that in turn is unloaded into another blower that puts the hay into the mow. The main reason Mr. Hart does not like it is because his dairy cows do not like chopped hay—it is too much like stems and dust. He did however point out, that this method permits the highest mechanization with a low cost per ton for hauling.

The buck rake has some possibilities, stated Mr. Hart, where the distance from the barn is not too great, the gates are wide, the lane straight, and the operator a good mechanic. This method has a lower overhead than some others.

The pick-up baler, he stated, saves the leaves in better form than the blower, and puts the hay in a convenient package to transport and handle. It is nice to feed, and conserving of space. The weaknesses according to Mr. Hart, who has had six years experience with this machine, are that there is a high overhead for machinery, wire or twine, and early cut hay does not bale as well as later cut. The baler tends to bale too tight with resulting spoilage when the hay is a little tough, as in the hollows of the field, and too loose on the high spots where the hay is dry.

Mr. Hart has also made use of the forage harvester which cuts the hay and elevates it into a wagon in a green state. It was hauled to the silo and blown in. He is of the opinion that more of our first crop hay should go into the silo, and more of the second crop used for hay when the weather is usually more satisfactory. With some adjustments, Mr. Hart still has hopes for this machine.

Another machine used on the Hart farm this past year was the haymaker, which cuts the hay and then runs it through a pair of heavy rollers and breaks the stems and permit faster and more uniform drying. The hay cut with this machine, he stated, was decidedly better than the rest of the field that was cut with the conventional mower. With a hay-maker, an automatic baler and a bale elevator, hay can be handled quickly with a minimum of labour, but there is, stated Mr. Hart, a capital investment of over \$5,000 that will require a large acreage to justify.

Mr. Hart concluded this informative address by stating, "Some day our hay-making problems will probably be solved."

HALTON JUNIORS ON THE AIR

The second broadcast of the Halton Juniors for the 1947-48 season will be over CHML, on Saturday, February 21st, at 8:45 p.m.

The subject of their broadcast is to be, "In Price Control What We Want" and the members of the panel participating under the direction of Cameron Wilson and Jamey Kean will be as follows: Doris Brownridge and Douglas Currie of Esquesing Township; Jack Marchmont and Lloyd Pickering, of Trafalgar Township.

Holds Original Deed to Amaranth Farm

Mr. Walter Gray of town has in his possession an interesting legal document in the form of the crown deed to the Gray homestead, of which he is the owner, situated on the east half of lot 14, con. 6, Amaranth Township.

The deed was issued to James Downing in 1852, the recital stating that he was "the assignee of Alexander Jackson, a settler under the Regulation, July 6th, 1804." Amaranth was in Wellington County at that time and the deed was given under the hand and seal of the Earl of Elgin and Kincardine, then the Governor General of Canada, or as the document recites "Governor General of British America, and Captain General and Governor in Chief in and over our Provinces of Canada, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and the Island of Prince Edward."

The farm came into the hands of Mr. Gray's grandfather, the late Robert Gray about 1856, and from him it passed to his father, William Gray and then to the present owner.



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SEEK HELP FROM CANADIANS TO HELP WORLD RECOVERY PLAN

From the pockets of Canadians \$10 million is being sought by the Canadian Appeal for Children to assist children whose lives have been blighted by war in Europe and Asia. The Appeal seeks to purchase articles of food and clothing, along with medical supplies to assist these boys and girls on the road to health. Nor is education being neglected. A considerable amount will be spent on books and school supplies while libraries, too, will be assisted. The Canadian Appeal for Children commenced February 9th. Similar appeals will be conducted simultaneously in 26 other countries.

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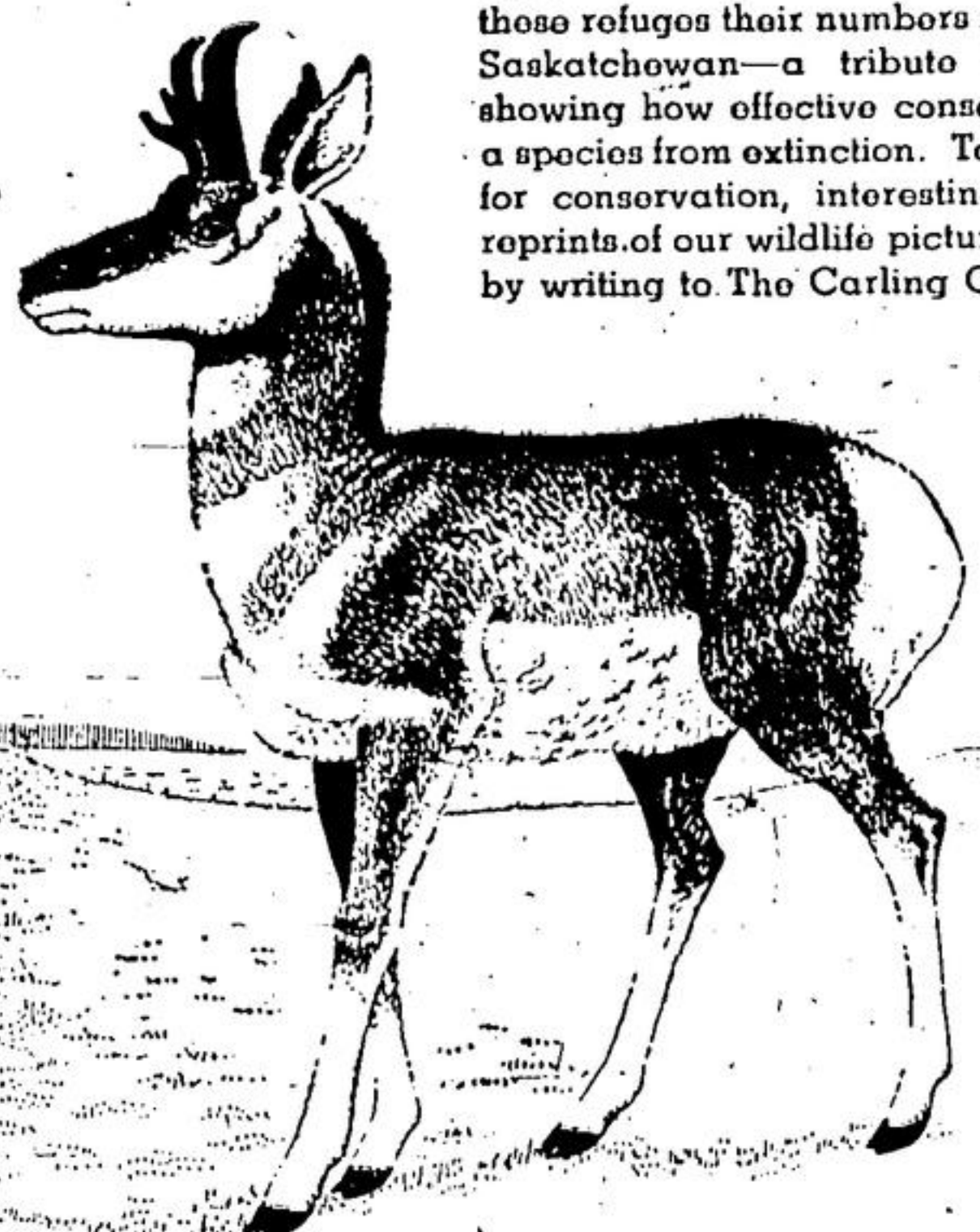
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A new lease on life ...



At one time the Prong-horned Antelope ranged from Alberta to Mexico in numbers comparable with those of the Bison. But over-hunting threatened the survival of the "Prong Horns" until vast sanctuaries were established for their protection in Alberta and Manitoba. In those refuges their numbers increased and they have since spread into Saskatchewan—a tribute to far-sighted conservation authorities, showing how effective conservational measures can be in preserving a species from extinction. To promote public understanding of the need for conservation, interesting authoritative literature and full-colour reprints of our wildlife pictures, without advertising, are available free by writing to The Carling Conservation Club, Waterloo, Ontario.

On the other hand, protection was not established in time to save the Cuban Tricolour Macaw from fading into oblivion. It was hunted mainly for food and became extinct around 1864.



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