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NEWS AND ITEMS OF INTEREST TO HALTON FARMERS

NORVAL JUNIORS HOLD ANNUAL RALLY

T. R. Hilliard, Junior Extension Fieldman of the Ontario Department of Agriculture, was the guest speaker at the Annual Rally of the Norval Junior Farmers held in the new Esqueving Community Hall at Stewarttown, on Tuesday evening, of last week. Mr. Hilliard delighted the large audience with his resume of Junior Farmer activities throughout Ontario. Another pleasing feature of the evening was the presentation by John Bird, President of the Esqueving Agricultural Society, of a number of trophies won in connection with the Special Seed Show sponsored by Norval Junior Farmers at the Georgetown Fair last September. Those receiving trophies included Miss Ismay Kemp, and Messrs. Floyd Alexander, Geo. C. Wilson, Floyd Bridgen and Bob Alexander. Neil Van Vliet, President of the Norval Junior Farmers was the able chairman of the evening's programme which also included vocal selections by the Messrs. Viola Bridgen and Jean Chester, and an instrumental by Donald Garbutt. A dance to music supplied by May's Orchestra rounded out another of those most enjoyable evening's programs staged by Norval Junior Farmers.

Erosion taking place over the fence was more evident to each of these men than that occurring on his own farm. It is a situation heard many times.

That there is plenty of erosion on nearly every farm, despite what some of our farmer friends try to tell us, goes without saying. One has only to look at the colour of our streams after a rain—compare our crop yields today with those of fifty years ago. Statistics reveal that in each ten year period with the exception of fall wheat, our yields of grain, roots, corn, etc. are lower than in the previous decade. Just recently, within a period of a week, we talked to two different farmers—one in the lower end of Nelson Township and the other in Esqueving township in the Georgetown area.

The Nelson Township farmer planted a fairly large acreage of husking corn—it swart worth picking, yet on the same farm he had an acre or two of grain corn on some land which had not been cropped at least during the lifetime of the present generation. This latter land produced a great crop of corn with ears a foot long despite the drought conditions which existed in that area this past season.

The Esqueving Township farmer broke a few acres of virgin land this past year. This along with another section of the same field which has been cropped about eight years was also put into grain corn. The contrast in yield between the two areas in the same field sown at the same time under the same conditions was almost unbelievable. Why this difference in the yields on different parts of the same farms—almost entirely due to the difference in organic matter content. And yet day after day and year after year we see truck load after truck load

of manure going out of the mixed farming section of this county down to the fruit and vegetable areas at the front. Is it logical to even suggest guaranteeing prices based on cost of production to such farmers? Last September we had the privilege of hearing Hon. John Bracken address luncheon on Farmers' Day at the CNE. During the course of his address as we recall, Mr. Bracken stated that the average production per acre in North America is 2500 calories; while the China is 5500 calories; Hon. Mr. Bracken also pointed out that the per capita consumption in North America is 10,000 calories; and in East Asia 2700 calories. The point is, North America, a comparatively new country is depleting the soil resources very much more rapidly than the people of China.

We would do well to bear in mind the message of Charles E. Sweet entitled "Our Soil." "The Soil is the Heritage of our Nation. We, who call ourselves the owners of the Soil, are only its custodians for a brief span of time." "The soil is our most priceless possession—and our greatest responsibility. Freedom has never flourished in a hungry and impoverished land."

God grant us the intelligence to respect our soil, and the will to conserve it in all ways, so that when our period of Stewardship is done, we may pass on the Soil with its Fertility and Fruitfulness undiminished. Thus our children's children shall not know want and their nation will remain the land of plenty and the home of freedom.

We do not need to point out that that message does not tie in with the practice of selling manure—nor the practice of plowing up hill and down dale.

It also means that more of our farmers should grass down their waste runways—it also means, that if we wish to preserve this Canada of ours for future generations we must get back to some of the good old farming practices of 35 or 40 years ago. In short, most of our farmers, whether they realize it or not, are mining their farms. How many today plow

down a good crop of clover as green manure. It may mean a longer rotation, particularly on our hilly fields, so that our fields remain in meadow or pasture which are soil building crops for a longer period of time. With this programme must go increased tree planting on our more rougher, more unproductive fields. Germany we are told has 27 per cent of the total acreage in timber. In Halton and surrounding counties have we more than 5 per cent in bush which is not pastured?

Much more could and should be said but we will try and content ourselves for the moment by referring you to two comparatively new books on the subject, "The Road to Survival", by Wm. Vogt, and "Our Plundered Planet", by Dr. Osborne.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Whitmee have returned from a visit in Colingwood with Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Whitmee.

Mr. and Mrs. E. D. Sheley of Birmingham, Michigan, spent the week-end in town with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John O'Neill.

SO YOU HAVE NO EROSION!

"I haven't any erosion on my farm but you should see my neighbour's fields," remarked "Alf Jones" at a recent farm meeting. This statement was not original with Jones for not more than five minutes before I had listened to the "neighbour" tell about his drainage ditch which was plugged with top soil from the Jones farm. The "neighbour" hastened to explain, however, that his fields had no erosion.

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