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NEWS AND ITEMS OF INTEREST TO HALTON FARMERS

RECORD ATTENDANCE AT PROV. ANNUAL MEETINGS

During the past two weeks the Royal York and King Edward Hotels in Toronto have been literally swarming with farm delegates from all sections of Ontario. It was the occasion of the annual meetings and conventions of the majority of the Ontario and Canadian breed organizations, Ontario Crop Improvement Association, Ontario Plowmen, Ontario Agricultural Societies, etc.

While we were only able to attend a very small percentage of the meetings and consequently heard only a very few of the papers and addresses, one could not help but be impressed by the depth, the comprehensive nature of many of the addresses, and the clear-cut manner in which many of the speakers got down to the fundamental problems of the day. In short, we personally felt that today our farm leaders have a grasp of our fundamental problems to a much greater extent than has been true at any time previously in the past 26 years—they literally and figuratively got down to earth. At both the Crop Improvement and Plowmen's conventions the general theme was "Soil Building." No longer is it a question of conservation, but rather the necessity of building up the supply of organic matter and humus which is generally admitted as being essential. J. M. Appleton, of Wallaceburg, took as his subject "The Path To Profit Is Grass Covered" which will suggest the trend of his thinking and convictions. To quote Mr. Appleton, "There is only one objective that should face every farmer and that is how to reduce costs; how to produce for less. This is the real application of science to agriculture. While all of the other complex economic problems are being worked out, year by year, the farmer will make such problems much easier of solution for all concerned if he keeps hammering away at decreasing costs. The path toward this goal is covered with grass."

Prof. G. N. Ruhnke, formerly of the Dept. of Soils but now Director of Research at the OAC, took as his topic "Soil Building with Sod Crops." In other words farm leaders, both practical and technical, today are convinced that the most practical and effective method of building up our soils in organic matter and humus is by means of grasses and clovers—it is also generally accepted that our hay and pasture crops are our most profitable crops.

We were rather interested in a conversation we had with D. H. Hart, well known Holstein breeder from near Woodstock. Mr. Hart owns and operates around 500 acres and is recognized as one of the outstanding farmers in Western Ontario. We have known Doug Hart intimately since we both attended the little red school house on the tenth line of East Zorra and consequently have followed his career with a good deal of interest. Furthermore, we always find it worth while to keep our ears open and in so far as possible our mouth closed when he is around. We asked his opinion as to the advisability and practicability of sowing grass seed with every grain crop—also, his idea on the plowing down of green manure crops as a means of stepping up organic matter and humus. In reply to our first question he re-

plied, "Oh, I've always seeded down every grain crop I sow and I never sow two grain crops in succession in the same field." We also learned that his barnyard manure all goes out on his meadows and in addition he supplements with commercial fertilizer—approximately 16 tons of superphosphate was applied to his meadows last fall. As you would anticipate, lack of organic matter and shortage of pasture and hay are not serious factors on the Hart farms. They say, "Spring is believing," so we hope next June it may be possible to conduct a bus tour to the Bartholm Farms and other points of interest in Western Ontario.

PROFIT FROM PROBLEM ACRES

On the Aul farm near Arkell, now operated by the Animal Husbandry Dept. of the OAC was such a problem field. Twelve acres in extent, the last crop was taken off in 1914. Following 1914 it just grew up in natural grass. In 1945 it carried nine 2-year-old colts for two weeks, which will indicate its carrying capacity. The field in question is a sandy loam with a gravelly sub soil. Furthermore, it is hilly and stoney. In the fall of 1945 it was plowed and reseeded the following spring at the rate of 35 lbs. per acre plus a light manure crop and 250 lbs. per acre of 2-12-10 fertilizer. The field was pastured lightly in the late summer and fall of 1946. In June of 1947, twenty steers were turned in and there they remained until Nov. 8. During this period the 20 steers put on a total of 3700 lbs. In the spring of 1948 the field was top dressed at the rate of 5 tons of manure to the acre. Twelve more steers were turned into this field on May 9, 1948 and remained there until August 23rd when they were marketed. They had gained another 2627 lbs. Prof. R. G. Knox who reported on this field at one of the Toronto meetings, presented a fund of amazing and interesting figures. In brief, the total net profit per acre for the two grazing seasons was \$98.39.

If returns such as these can be secured from a problem run down field, what are the possibilities on some of our Halton fields? Thus we have more evidence to substantiate the slogan "Grass land is Profit Land" or as "Jock" Appleton puts it, "The Path to Profit is Grass Covered."

We could not help but feel after listening to the comments and addresses of some of those practical and successful farmers, that we in Halton devote too large a percentage of our land to grain or cultivated crops. Doug Hart once stated that not over 25 per cent of one's acreage should be in grain crops. Mr. Reader, where do you stack up against this measuring stick? We are more than ever convinced after attending some of the conventions in Toronto, that if we in Halton would cut down the acreage which we now put into grain crops; seed down every grain crop we sow; sow more grass and clover seed per acre; apply our barnyard manure to our meadows and pastures and plow down more clover as green manure crops, that we would get more returns in dollars and cents from our fields; that we would over a period of years materially step up the organic matter and humus content of our soils; increase their water holding capacity and our crop would suffer less from drought in dry periods; there would be less run-off and soil

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Georgetown

Mrs. J. Valentine Was Resident Here 52 Years

A resident of Georgetown for 52 years, Mrs. Charles J. Valentine died at her home on Main Street on Tuesday, February 8th after a short illness. Born in Romeo, Michigan, in 1879 she was a daughter of the late John Roy Ross and Alice Ward. The family moved to London, Guelph and then Georgetown. Formerly Eliza J. Ross, she was predeceased by her husband in 1915. She was a member of the Order of Chosen Friends Lodge.

Mrs. Valentine leaves an only son, Charles Ross (Jimmy), three sisters, Mrs. Robert Muir of Georgetown, Mrs. Jessie Adams of St. Thomas and Mrs. Paul Colbert of Fergus and one brother, Samuel Ross of Windsor.

Archdeacon W. G. O. Thompson conducted the funeral service from the McClure Funeral Home on Thursday. Pallbearers were Graham Farnell, E. Roy Magloughlin, Clayton Allen, David Bowman, Clarence Carey and Wilfrid Breen. Interment was made in Greenwood Cemetery, Georgetown.

Floral tributes were received from: Mrs. Mary Gilbert, Mr. and Mrs. O. Herrington and family; Alliance Trimmer Dept.; the Misses Boomer, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Ross; Mr. and Mrs. Fred Armstrong; Mr. and Mrs. Robert Muir; Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Farnell; Alliance Paper Mills, Ltd.; Georgetown Fire Brigade; Georgetown Girls' Pipe

Band; Local 474, Alliance Paper; Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Shortill; Mr. and Mrs. Harry Savings; Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred Breen; Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Eason; Miss Yvonne Adams; Dr. and Mrs. Stewart Magwood; Mr. and Mrs. Robert McMaster; Eaton, Wilcox, Rich, Ltd.; Windsor; Wilma and Art Pullan, Windsor; Office and Supervision of Eaton, Wilcox, Rich, Ltd.; Murray Hill; John McDonald; Tommy Harlow; Mac Wilson; Local 481, Provincial Paper; Bill and Marg, Bill and Shirley of Windsor; Mrs. Jessie Adams; Mr. and Mrs. Walter Gray; Main Street Neighbours.

Have you tried a Herald classified ad lately? Drop in at our Main St. office or phone No. 8.

EYES EXAMINED

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8 Main St. N., Brampton Phone 539

At Georgetown office over Bell Telephone Office, the second Wednesday afternoon of each month, Phone 67W.

Memorial Service

REV. JOHN THOMAS GREEN of St. Catharines will conduct a special memorial service for the late

JOHN G. EMMERSON of Georgetown over radio station CKTB (1550 kes).

SUNDAY, FEB. 20th 9 A.M.

PRE-TEEN PARTY

OLD TOWN HALL, FRIDAY, FEB. 18th 7 - 10 p.m.

All children 8-14 are welcome and parents are specially invited to come with them. Girls, bring box lunch

Imperial Section

BRANCH 120, CANADIAN LEGION

are holding a party

Friday, Feb. 18 9 p.m.

Branch members and wives and members of the Ladies Auxiliary and husbands are cordially invited.

CARLING'S CONSERVATION CORNER



LOOK!! A GREAT HORNED OWL, ALF— WHERE? OH— I SEE HIM UP IN THAT TREE. BOY! YOU BIRD-WATCHERS HAVE GOOD EYES!!



YES—THIS SPORT CERTAINLY TEACHES YOU TO OBSERVE NATURE—THERE SHOULD BE SOME PELLETS BY THAT TREE TRUNK

PELLETS?? NOT SHOTGUN PELLETS, BERT?



NO!! NO!! NO, ALF— OWL PELLETS— Y'SEE THEY GULP DOWN RATS AND MICE AND LATER BRING UP THESE PELLETS CONTAINING FUR AND BONES

THESE OWLS REALLY HELP US BY EATING ALL THOSE PESTS, DON'T THEY?



THIS BIRD-WATCHING IS GREAT, BERT— YOU LEARN HOW VALUABLE OUR WILDLIFE IS— NO WONDER YOU'RE ALWAYS TALKING ABOUT CONSERVATION

YES— ONCE YOU UNDERSTAND NATURE YOU WANT TO PROTECT IT— NOT DESTROY IT— IT'S MORE FUN HUNTING WITH A CAMERA THAN A GUN, TOO

Owls and hawks help you by destroying large numbers of rats, mice and other pests. They help keep nature in balance—nature in balance is nature unspoiled.

Nature Unspoiled—YOURS TO ENJOY—YOURS TO PROTECT

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