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News and Views For Halton Farmers

CROP LEADERS FOCUS ATTENTION ON INCREASED NITROGEN APPLICATIONS

Due to an unfavorable growing season last year and an unusually open winter, over winter crops such as wheat, hay and pasture may be in a weakened condition this spring. With this in mind the Halton Crop Improvement Association in planning their soil and crop projects for 1950, are laying down a number of demonstrations in the top dressing of meadows, with ammonium nitrate at the rate of 100 lbs per acre.

Ammonium Nitrate is a high nitrogen fertilizer containing 32 to 33 per cent nitrogen which is readily available. Present plans call for ten such demonstrations on 45 many different farms. A similar number of demonstrations are also being planned to step up the amount of Nitrogen on spring grain. In this case 50 lbs of ammonium nitrate per acre is being added to the regular fertilizer when seeding. Other demonstrations involve top dressing the spring grain at the same rate one week after seeding. We also understand they are planning to conduct at least one similar demonstration on fall wheat where it is in a weakened condition. The rate of application in this case will be at 100 lbs of Ammon. Nitrate to the acre, and will be applied when

the wheat is making green growth, possibly between April 20th and May 1st.

Interest in the application of agricultural limestone has increased materially in Halton during the past two or three years. Due to the lack of information in the subject, an experiment in cooperation with the Soils Department at the O.A.C. will be laid down in order to secure more fundamental data over a period of years. Demonstrations with agricultural limestone at 17, 37 and 57 rates are also being laid down on at least two farms. Coupled with these later demonstrations, applications of Ammo Phos, which is a high nitrogen, phosphoric acid fertilizer, will be made.

Other projects include the renovation of an old pasture field, two improved half-pasture demonstrations, an replicated test with eight different varieties of oats and a similar number of varieties of barley; one or more boys' grain clubs; as well as a follow-up on demonstrations laid down in previous years. These include sub-soiling, liming tests, and improved hay-pasture demonstrations.

SOIL SPECIALISTS RECOMMEND HIGH ANALYSIS COMMERCIAL FERTILIZERS

Manufacturers of commercial fertilizer have recently made available a number of new mixtures with higher analysis. The old standby in the mixed farming sections of Halton has been 2-12-6. Soil specialists and practical farmers are replacing this with 4-24-12 which is a cheaper source per plant unit. One ton of 4-24-12 contains as much plant food as two tons of 2-12-6. Other examples of the higher analysis fertilizers include 3-18-8 and 45 per cent superphosphate. Such higher analysis fertilizers are cheaper sources of plant food because they contain less filler and thereby cut down the cost for handling charges, transportation, bags, etc.

ECONOMY OF NEW LIQUID FERTILIZERS QUESTIONED BY MANITOBA AGRONOMISTS

The advent of commercial fertilizers in the liquid form on the market has created considerable interest. It therefore occurs to us that the following resolution passed at the Annual Conference of Manitoba Agronomists, last December should be of interest.

"Whereas a liquid fertilizer product is being offered for sale at the present time in this province, and whereas the findings of this body of agronomists indicate that nitrogen and phosphorus are the main elements to consider in fertilizer application and phosphorus, in particular, should be the basis on which to determine cost of application; and whereas the unit cost of this phosphorus element is approximately forty times as costly through the liquid fertilizer application as through the dry form of fertilizer currently in use in this province; therefore be it resolved that farmers in Manitoba be advised of this fact.

It was also pointed out that the amount of liquid fertilizer which can be applied to grain without injuring germination is very small. True, liquid fertilizers have value as a starter in transplanting and similar garden procedures, but starter solutions can be made by dissolving small quantities of commercial liquid fertilizers. To illustrate the Soils Department of the University of Saskatchewan makes this observation: As a means of comparison of cost, a commonly called 41-48 fertilizer (Ammon Phos) at approximately \$75 per ton was compared with a 5-10-5 liquid fertilizer at approximately \$5.00 per gal. In the 41-48 fertilizer each pound of phosphorus would cost \$3.00.

It should perhaps be pointed out that soil conditions are materially different in Western Canada, to those of Ontario. In Manitoba their main requirement is phosphate with limited amounts of nitrogen, while in Saskatchewan soils phosphorus has been found to be the major limiting element in crop production. These differences do not, however, alter the fact that liquid fertilizers are not an economical source of plant food for cereal crops in Ontario.

PALERMO JUNIORS APPOINT NEW OFFICERS

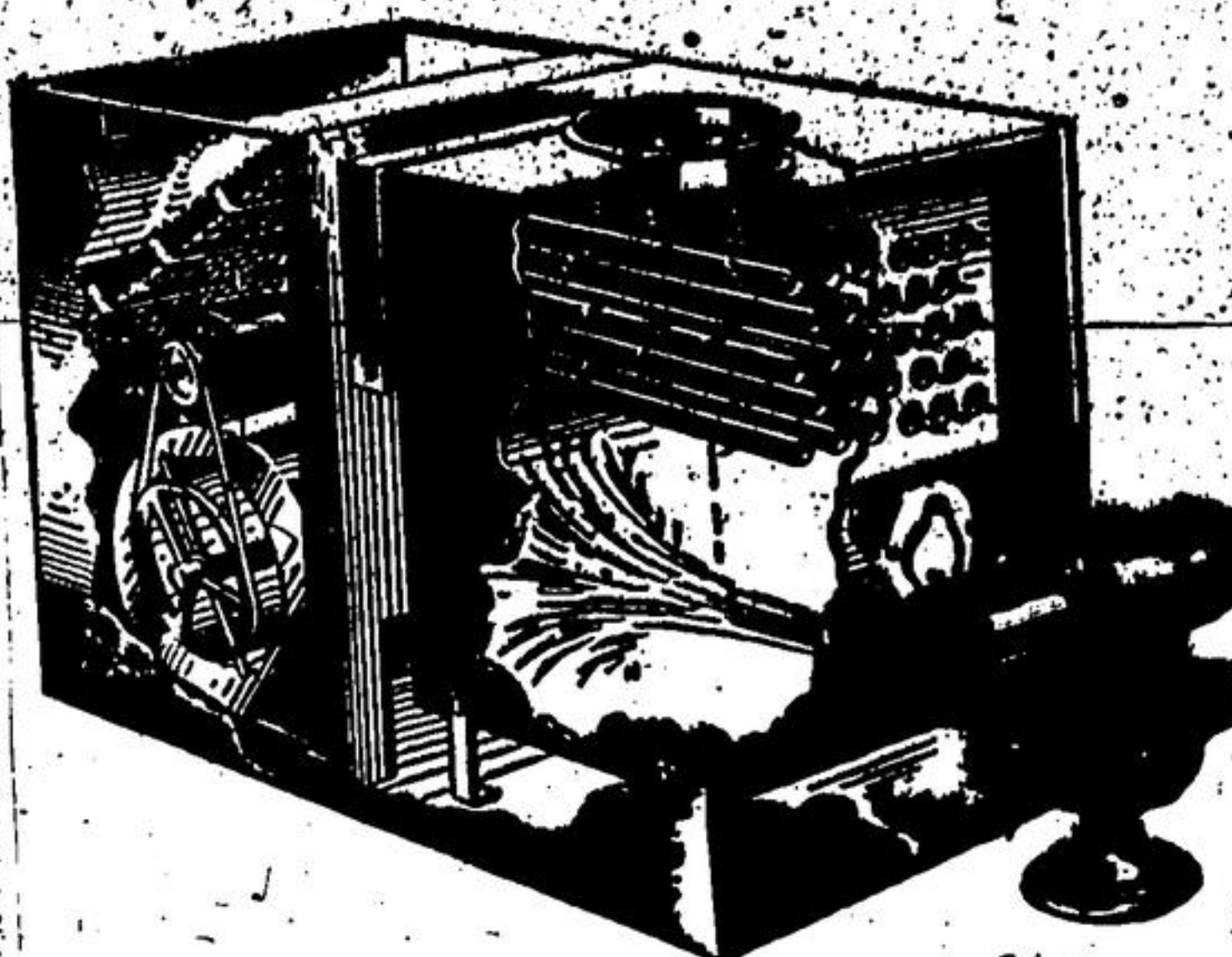
The annual meeting of the Palermo Junior Farmers was held at the home of Ford and Audrey Wickson on Thursday evening of last week. An interesting item of the evening's programme was the presentation to Evelyn Pelletterio and 'Happy' Oates, whose marriage is to take place shortly. Mrs. David Wendover of Palermo took charge of the election of officers for the Junior Institute, and Agricultural Representative J. E. Whitelock acted in a similar capacity for the Junior Farmers. The officers elected are as follows:

Junior Institute:
President—Dorcen Patterson
1st vice pres.—Lorna Lawrence
2nd vice pres.—Audrey Wickson
Sec.—Tracy Mary Smith
Ass. Treas.—Marjorie Segsworth

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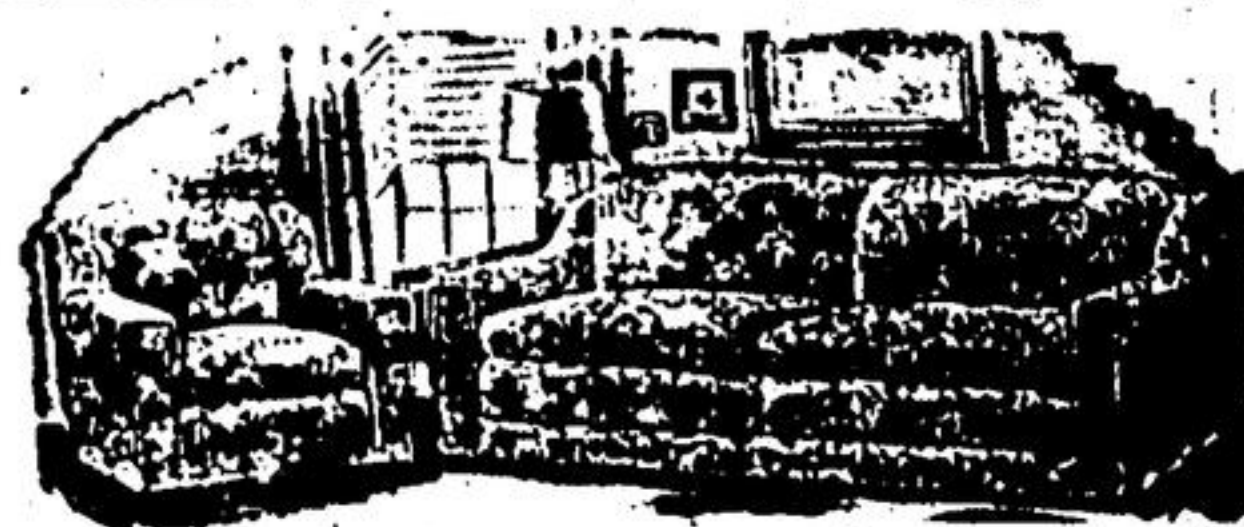
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