

FARM NEWS

Are Halton Farmers Seed Grain Conscious?

In most fields of agricultural endeavour Halton farmers rank at or near the top. A recent release by the Crops, Seeds and Weeds Branch of the Ontario Department of Agriculture makes us wonder if Halton farmers generally appreciate the value and importance of good seed. The information is based on a seed drill survey made this past spring by our County Weed Inspector — the analysis was made by the Plant Products Division of the Dominion Department of Agriculture. Frankly we are amazed and shall we say perturbed by the results revealed by the survey. Here is the picture — only 39 per cent of the samples

graded No. 1; 17 per cent grade No. 2; 12 per cent grade No. 3 and 32 per cent or nearly one third were rejected or not fit for any grade. No, the samples were not taken out of the drills of just the most careless farmers in the county. We note among the list, men who are generally considered among our best farmers — men who use only top sires — who have good herds of livestock — men who are careful about their cultural practices — who try to keep down weeds, etc. Here for example is a pound of mixed grain taken which contained 24 perennial sow thistle — 24 chicory, 16 wild oats as well as 376 other weed seeds — not so good. Here is another one pound sample of Beaver Oats which contained 32 Field Peppergrass — 400 Chess; 648 Plantain seeds and in addition some Foxtail and Wild Buckwheat. Among the small seeds we note one in which an ounce of an alfalfa-timothy mixture, contains 18 Twitch Grass seeds and 28 Bladder Champion seeds — 2 Docks, etc. And so we might go on and reveal other reports equally as bad. Our readers may be interested to know that similar surveys were also made in nine other Central and Western Ontario Counties. In contrast to Halton's 39 per cent Grade No. 1, we note Oxford with 61 per cent Grade No. 1, Brant with 55 per cent Grade No. 1. Only Peel and Norfolk counties ranked below Halton from the standpoint of percentage grade No. 1 and the margin was very close. We further notice that only 20 per cent of the Halton samples were plant cleaned and of these 57 per cent graded No. 1. In Oxford on the other hand 62½ per cent were plant cleaned and of these 68 per cent graded No. 1. The only conclusion we can arrive at is that our fanning mills must be in bad shape. Surely this winter would be a good time to check over those screens and replace those that are in bad shape. What would be even better still, if your mill is in bad shape, would be to have your seed grain cleaned at one of our central cleaning plants or buy Grade No. 1 seed from someone else. After all the difference in price between feed grain and No. 1 seed grain is not a great deal. Needless to add we do not like presenting Halton farmers in this light — as we intimated previously we are not accustomed to so doing. In future may we suggest that it will pay dividends "To know what you sow."

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Infectious Rhinitis Widespread in Swine

Infectious Rhinitis in recent years has become one of the most serious problems facing the hog producer. The disease is apparently wide spread, because Agricultural Representatives in all parts of Ontario are being asked for information about the disease and recommendations for its control. The most serious effect of rhinitis is that it slows up growth and pigs are unthrifty. One of the first indications of the disease is the tendency on the part of the nursing pigs to frequently sneeze in quick succession. In other words it is a disease of the nasal passages. As the disease develops the nose often becomes crooked or pushed up, causing difficulty in eating. Needless to say such pigs take weeks and months over the normal period to get them off to market. White Rhinitis seldom causes a pig to die the disease may weaken it to an extent that another disease may develop and death be the result. In serious cases the affected pigs may even blow blood from their nostrils. Unfortunately as yet, no positive method of treatment has been developed against the disease. Every precaution should therefore be taken to prevent introduction of the disease into the swine herd. Consequently it is well to remember that all pigs showing signs of rhinitis are liable to transmit the disease to nursing pigs, also that pigs from litters where rhinitis is present despite healthy appearance may give the disease to healthy litters. Needless to add, pigs from infected premises frequently carry the infection when taken to clean premises. According to our authorities at the Ontario Veterinary College, when an outbreak of rhinitis occurs, brood sows that were mature before the outbreak, will not carry the infection. In conclusion, may we suggest the advisability of never buying weanling pigs unless you know that the herd from which they originated is healthy and free of this scourge.

ILL HEALTH FORCES TREASURER TO RESIGN

Necessitated by ill health, J. W. Moffat has resigned as treasurer of Nassagaweya Township after serving in that office for more than 27 years.

Peel County Votes Repeal Of Temperance Act

Reversing a 1947 vote when the Canada Temperance Act was retained in Peel by a 577 majority, the county voted last week to revoke the statute which had been in effect since 1914. Majorly for revocation was 2804. The county will now be governed by the Liquor Licence Act and the Liquor Control Act. Under the new laws, four Peel municipalities — Toronto Town, Toronto Gore, Port Credit and Streetsville — may have brewers' warehouses, liquor stores and wine shops, established at the discretion of the Liquor Licence board. Beverage rooms cannot be opened until another vote is taken and a three-fifths majority obtained. In Brampton, Bolton, Chingquacousy, Caledon and Albion, no outlets can be opened until the Local Option by-laws are repealed by three-fifths majority in the respective municipalities.

Civil Authorities Guests At Lorne Scots Banquet

Lt. Col. John K. Barber, attending a banquet of "D" Company, Lorne Scots at the Alton Hotel recently gave a speech in which he stressed cooperation and comradeship between army men and civil authorities. Conforming with Colonel Barber's talk, representatives of the police and fire departments were guests at the banquet.

See Santa Saturday!



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