

FARM NEWS

LIVESTOCK COMMISSIONER SEES BRIGHT FUTURE FOR ONTARIO

The annual meeting of the Halton Crop Improvement Association attracted well over 300 to the Milton Town Hall on Friday of last week. The popularity of this progressive organization grows year by year. Originally the hall in the Farmers' Building in Milton used to accommodate their gatherings. Some two or three years ago they moved to the Court House. Last year they filled that auditorium to capacity. Last week they packed the Milton Town Hall, and now the officers of the Association are wondering where to go next in order to accommodate those who wish to attend. This year they commenced their programme sharp at 10:30 a.m. with 150 in attendance for the morning session and what a programme they had. Following the excellent lunch catered by the Scotch Block Women's Institute, there wasn't a dull moment until they adjourned a little after 4:50 p.m. President C. F. Pickett was the capable chairman for the excellent programme, which twelve local cooperators, in addition

to the feature of the day — an address by W. P. Watson, popular Live Stock Commissioner for Ontario, in which he spoke on "The Agricultural Outlook for 1952." Each of the local farmers' reports is worthy of an article and perhaps we may be able in some future issue to present some of the highlights of their interesting and valuable reports. However, for this week we shall have to be content simply to list the names of those who made contributions to the excellent programme. These were: as follows: George S. Atkins, Bronte; Hugh Beatty, Milton; Walter Tves, of Oranagh; J. H. Willmott, of Milton; Brock Harph, Milton; Fred Nurse, Georgetown; Gordon Leslie, Acton; H. Sampson, of Rockwood; Clebert McDowell of Hornby; A. T. Woodley, Milton; Cameron Wilson, Milton and W. E. Breckon of Freeman.

Now for a few of the highlights of the Watson address — in his introductory remarks Mr. Watson stated "The farm income in 1951 was the greatest in the history of this country, being between two and a half and three billion dollars. In referring to the grain crop, he stated "There is more grain in Canada at the present time than at any time in our previous history with the possible exception of 1943 when we had an accumulation due to war conditions. "Last fall" he added, "We had a potential 567 million bushel wheat crop — a greater crop than in 1928 — a 507 million bushel oat crop — an increase of 182 million bushels over 1949 — a three hundred million bushel crop of barley or 86 million bushels more than in 1949." In referring to weather conditions in Western Canada which prevented the harvesting of part of the crop he stated "80 per cent of the crop was harvested in Manitoba and 65 per cent in Saskatchewan and Alberta and the greater part of the balance will be harvested in the spring and will make feed." "It is difficult stated Mr. Watson, "to understand why grain prices should be so high — some of our industries have not expanded or kept pace with the expansion of this country. We have no more box cars than in pre-war years" he added "and with our boat accommodation largely being used for transportation of iron ore the amount of grain which can be brought down by boat even when navigation is open is limited. Despite the tremendous grain crop in Canada there is not much likelihood," stated Mr. Watson, "of feed grain being any cheaper until we

see what the prospects are for the 1952 crop." "The United States," he stated, "is worried about a potential feed shortage. Its live stock population is up and its crop was not as great as anticipated."

Turning to live stock, Mr. Watson pointed out that cattle marketings were 10 or 11 per cent lower in 1951 and our cattle exports were also lower which indicates one of two things — either there are fewer cattle in the country, or more cattle being held for breeding purposes. "It is my opinion," stated Mr. Watson, "that cattle prices are likely to remain high despite the present undertone." "Our cattle prices" he added, "will follow United States prices — in 1951 we exported the equivalent of 300,000 head." The outlook for hogs is not so bright — "We are," said Mr. Watson, "going to be in an export position on hogs and present prospects for finding an export market are not so good." "In the first five months of 1951, we marketed 93,000 hogs per week — for the next three months, 72,000 hogs per week but during the last three months our weekly hog marketings in 1952 are likely to be up 10 to 12 per cent over the same period in 1951. Most of this increase" added Mr. Watson, "will come from Western Canada. There are a lot of people who are not satisfied with hog prices but we must not overlook the fact that hogs are about 3 cents per pound higher now than they are in United States and for most of last year the Canadian price was 4 to 8 cents per pound higher than in any other country in the world. Our only guarantee for 1952 is a floor price of \$32.50 for Wiltshire delivered at seaboard, which is the equivalent of \$26 to \$27 per cwt. in Toronto dressed weight."

Dealing with the dairy situation, he stated "We produced 16 billion pounds more milk with 500,000 fewer dairy cows than in 1945. In other words, our cow population is down 11 per cent and our milk production only 6 per cent. We have weeded out some of our lower producing cows this past few years, and in addition pasture conditions were more favourable in 1951. Due to our increased population in Canada, we are consuming a higher percentage of fluid milk. Our butter production, stated Mr. Watson, is down, but there is a big increase in Concentrated Milk Products. In 1951 we consumed about 92 per cent of our concentrated milk products in contrast to some 50 per cent five or six years ago. At the end of the year, he added, we were in a deficit position — in short we produced less, in terms of milk, than we consumed. True we exported 24 million lbs of cheese and exported 8 per cent of concentrated milk products but on the other hand, pointed out Mr. Watson, we imported 15 million pounds of butter and 10 million pounds of various types of cheese. The outlook here, added Mr. Watson, would point to plenty of fluid milk with less cheese and butter in 1952. Great Britain can be written off as a potential customer for very much of our agricultural products, due to lack of dollars. Quoting Winston Churchill, Mr. Watson pointed out that Great Britain does not intend to live on charity — therefore, the only possible solution would appear to be loans and if these materialize, the picture might be changed.

Turning to labour, Mr. Watson reminded his audience that labour is demanding more money and consequently there is a strong likelihood of labour having more money to spend. True, due to the change over to the production of implements of war, there is more unemployment at the moment than a year ago, but the picture is likely to change once their new production program gets under way. Furthermore, due to Old Age Pensions, there will be 26 million dollars more money to spend each month than previously. In other words, he pointed out, "Buying power will be greater." This additional expenditure can only come from one source — the people of Canada and that can only mean rising taxes. Summarizing, Mr. Watson predicted that the income of most of our people will be a little higher than a year ago — in the case of labour in the form of higher wages — in agriculture, from increased output rather than increased price. Our net in agriculture is not likely to be much higher in 1952 due to increased costs for labour, etc. However, the farm people of this province are resourceful enough to deal with the situation if they know the facts.

In extending the thanks of the gathering to Mr. Watson, Edwin Harrop of Milton referred to the speaker as "Prophet Watson" and complimented him on his usual comprehensive, logical and masterly review in presenting the agricultural outlook for 1952.

MCCLEARY GETS SHERIFF'S POST

Appointment of S. A. B. McCleary of Oakville as Halton's deputy sheriff has been announced. Mr. McCleary replaces E. E. Yates, who resigned recently. He has been president of Halton Progressive-Conservative Association.

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Is. 1-18
Rev. E. R. Peterson in charge

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the Estate of John Wesley Armstrong, late of the Town of Georgetown, in the County of Halton, Paper Maker, deceased.

The creditors of John Wesley Armstrong, late of the Town of Georgetown in the County of Halton, Paper Maker, deceased, who died on or about the 7th day of November, 1951, and all others having claims against his estate are hereby notified to send by post, prepaid or otherwise to deliver to Kenneth M. Langdon, Georgetown, Ontario, Solicitor for the undersigned Administratrix of the estate of John Wesley Armstrong, paper maker, deceased, on or before the 1st of February, 1952, their names, addresses, descriptions and full particulars of their claims and the nature of the securities, if any, held by them and that immediately after the 1st of February, 1952, the Administratrix will proceed to distribute the estate of the said deceased amongst the parties entitled thereto, having regard only to the claims of which the Administratrix shall then have notice.

DATED this 28th day of December, 1951.

Letitia Hazel Armstrong, Administratrix
by Kenneth M. Langdon, her solicitor,
Georgetown, Ont.

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