

## ONTARIO FARM SERVICE ENDS

HAZEL MACK  
in the Family Herald & Weekly Star

### FARM NEWS

#### MINISTER ANNOUNCES PRICE SUPPORT COST

Finance Minister Abbot's statement in the House of Commons on March 27th was the first official indication of the probable cost to the Canadian Treasury of the 1952-price support programme for cattle and hogs, although substantial surplus holding still remain to be disposed of.

After twelve years of great usefulness to the Ontario farmer and fruit grower, the Ontario Farm Service is being terminated this year. Started as a way-measure, it grew from nothing to a large organization in a few months directed by Mr. Alex MacLaren, well-known Georgetown man. In 1946, a year when labour was still scarce they had a staff of over three hundred looking after three thousand, three hundred and eighty-one farm workers scattered all over the farms of Southern Ontario.

It isn't generally remembered that the Ontario government had a farm service in the first world war too and at the beginning of the second world war, some of the workers turned up again though most of the applicants were boys and girls. Each year since, the healthful, pleasant work has attracted young people from the cities who are going to miss sadly the opportunity to work a few weeks each summer in the country. Applications have already come in to Miss Pearl Burdard, Personnel Director at 9 Richmond St. East, Toronto, Ont., from those in distant areas who want to begin work this coming May.

All is changed now, however, and the popular slogans heard so often during the war years "Lend a hand on the farm" and "We can't win if we don't eat," are all but forgotten.

A glance at any of the Ontario papers during the war years reminds the readers how desperate the situation was for the farmers who had good crops and couldn't get help to harvest them. Every day papers said: "thousands needed to harvest the food crop." And certainly many, many thousands answered the call for the Burlington Gazette in March 19th, 1944, stated that the boys and girls in the farm service had made \$500,000 or half a million dollars the previous year.

Sponsored by both the Dominion and Provincial Governments, and supervised by the National Council of the YMCA the Farm Youth Training Project as it was first called was of great practical aid to the growers. They were so badly needed that in April, 1944, students were allowed to leave school if their standing on their year's work was good enough. But only on condition that they work at least thirteen weeks.

At the beginning the boys and girls were called Farmettes and Farm Cadets. By 1942, they were being called "Farm Commandos." The girls were wearing uniforms of green wool with red and green crest on the sleeve. There was a summer uniform with short sleeves for "walking out" of royal blue. Everything was done to interest and encourage the farm worker.

Gradually, however, the demand for their help lessened. In 1952 there were six private camps and ten co-operative. In 1946, there were fourteen private camps and twenty-five cooperative.

As the farm workers were predominately young people, particularly young girls it was right that the YWCA should have been asked to supervise the camps. It was a big undertaking. Camp sites had first to be approved by the Dept. of Health, and the Fire Marshal.

The campers and staff had to have health certificates before coming to camp. Then there was water to be tested, accident insurance for each camper and good first aid equipment for each camp.

While the Farm Service helped the farmer, it helped as much in a different way, the youth of Ontario for the farm workers came either from the city or further north. This was an opportunity to study nature that they never had before and be paid too. A chance to learn something of agriculture, how food is produced, harvested and prepared for shipping.

Working for awhile in the country, the city youth gains wisdom and a new respect for farmers that was not possible in a school room.

The art of growing things becomes a science and not an unpleasant job. One survey made during the war years showed that there were three times the number of urban students to one of rural schools. So without the farm service, there are going to be a good many boys and girls who won't have a chance to earn a bit of money and have a little holiday at the same time. Not only this but many from Northern Ontario and Quebec won't have the chance to get acquainted with others their own ages and so make interesting friendships. Such experiences make for better citizenship and are good for the country as a whole. So all things considered, it is to be regretted in many ways that as useful an organization as the Ontario Farms Service is to be discontinued.

#### CELEBRATE 42nd ANNIVERSARY

Mr. and Mrs. E. Lorusso celebrated their 42nd wedding anniversary on Monday at their home on Victoria Street. It was a double celebration as it was also the eighteenth birthday of their son Donald.

Georgetown residents ever since their marriage, they have a family of nine children, six of whom are married, and eleven grandchildren.

ling charges. At March 31st the Prices Support Board still held something over 70 million pounds of canned pork and 10 million lbs. of pork cuts. What further losses will eventually be realized on these products cannot yet be determined. The upward trend in pork markets since the close of the year has already enabled the Board to dispose of its surplus pork holdings to better advantage than at one time appeared likely.

#### DIFFERENCE

"I was told to stop in here and buy either a camisole or a casseroles, but for the life of me I can't remember which."  
"Well, sir, if you'll tell me what kind of a chicken you propose to put in it, perhaps I can help you."

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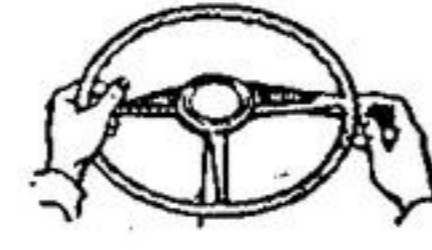
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