

Three Farms Visited In Soil and Crop Tour

"Ontario's winter wheat yield in 1953 is the highest on record" stated Dr. Don Huntley, head of the Field Husbandry Dept. at the Ont. Agricultural College, when addressing the twilight meeting sponsored by the Halton Soil and Crop Improvement Association, at Woodland Orchards on Thursday evening.

Despite busy harvesting conditions, over fifty soil and crop enthusiasts were out for the evening's program, which got under way at 7:00 p.m. at Nurceland Farm, operated by Fred Nurse, president of the Halton Association. Here the group inspected a four-acre pasture of Orchard Grass and Ladino Clover, on which Mr. Nurse turned his dairy herd of 27 Jerseys on May 6. This small acreage has carried this herd for the greater part of the season. The fertility treatment last spring included a light application of poultry manure from the Nurse 900 bird flock and also 100 lbs. per acre of 33 per cent Ammonium Nitrate.

During the brief visit this group also inspected a Pit Silo, in which is stored 250 tons of silage from a 22 acre meadow — a hedge of multiflora roses, planted in the fall of 1950 — a new 40x60 drive barn and the hay drier operated by a ten h.p. one-cylinder gas engine.

Lindale Farm

The next visit was to the farm of Maurice Beaty, Trafalgar Township. Here they saw a horizontal silo built on top of the ground in which is stored some 200 tons taken off 20 acres of meadow in early June. The large barnyard, which was cemented this past spring and an excellent pasture field were other features which interested the group during their brief stay at this outstanding farmstead.

Woodland Orchards

The final visit was at Woodland Orchards, near Palermo. Here the operator, George S. Atkins, had laid down an interesting group of silage tests. The first was a test including some 9 varieties of silage corn. Despite the late planting season in Halton — incidentally the corn at Woodlands was planted on June 20, nearly a month later than normal — the crop averages well over 6 feet at the present time. The second test involved mulching versus cultivation in various combinations. At the moment the first cultivation would appear to be the most effective — the corn in this area appears equal in growth to that which had received three cultivations during the season. The mulched plots also compared favourably with those which had been cultivated two or three times. The complete story, however, will not be available until the yields are taken later in the fall.

The final test inspected was a replicated oat variety test. Here the new variety "Simcoe" was showing up well in competition with such varieties as Beaver, Erban and Roxton.

Interesting Discussion

With local mills filled to capacity and "No Buying" signs out at most centres, the value of Ontario wheat from a feed standpoint in relation to oats came in for considerable discussion. It was pointed out by Agricultural Representative J. E. Whitelock, that even though a market could be found at \$1.50 per bushel, this means only \$50 per ton. No. 1 Western feed oats at present prices cost \$52.00 to \$53.00 ground and delivered. On the other hand a ton of wheat contains approximately 1800 lbs. of total digestible nutrients, whereas a ton of oats contains only some 1400 pounds of total digestible nutrients. N. J. Thomas of the Soils Department, Ontario Agricultural College, who operates his own dairy farm near Guelph, summed up the matter by

stating, "Anyone who normally finds it necessary to purchase feed grain, would be very foolish to sell their wheat at present prices — in any event my 500 bushels of wheat is sitting in the bin." With this logic, many other practical farmers present appeared to be in agreement.

New Menace to Wheat Crop

"Dwarf Bunt" a new fungus disease attacking wheat has made its appearance in several counties in Ontario during the past year" stated Dr. Don Huntley in his address. Dr. Huntley, who was introduced to the gathering by A. H. Martin, Director of the Crops, Seeds and Weeds Branch of the Ont. Dept. of Agriculture, paid tribute to the lovely setting in which the meeting was being held at Woodlands Orchard, and also to the Lindale and Nurceland Farms previously visited. "Personally," he added, "I would like to have stayed two or three hours at each farm." With further reference to the disease "Dwarf Bunt" Dr. Huntley pointed out that in contrast to common bunt or stinking smut, the stalk will be short but with a head of normal length. This disease is not only seed borne but also soil borne. The speaker also dealt with Root Rot and "Take All," two other fungus diseases which attacked fields here and there throughout the Province this year. "The only advice I can give at the moment is to practice a good rotation — do not grow wheat too frequently in the same field."

A. T. Woodley ably expressed the appreciation of the gathering to the hosts and speakers of the evening and thus concluded one of the most interesting field meetings ever held in the county.

—Georgetown Fair date is later this year — October 3rd.

LIMEHOUSE

LIMEHOUSE INSTITUTE LEARNS ABOUT BEES

A very instructive and interesting address on "Bees" by Mrs. Frank Chisholm of Hornby was the highlight of the August meeting of Limehouse Women's Institute held at the home of Mrs. S. Kirkpatrick recently. Mrs. Chisholm told of the queens, drones and workers, also the uses of beeswax as well as honey.

The motto "No man is ever poor who has a garden at his door" was given by Mrs. Gisby and the current events taken by Mrs. H. Norton.

Mrs. Geary was chairman for the meeting on Agriculture and Canadian Industries. Some of the topics by the different conveners were: "Use your Franchise"; "Stop worrying and start living"; "Judith, Queen of England"; "C. A. C. bulletin"; Weeds eradicated if attacked early."

Mrs. A. Norton sang a vocal solo "Pretend".

Plans were made for the short courses from the Department and an invitation to join Silverwood in their short course on Rug Making was accepted.

Mrs. Ellerby thanked the speaker, the hostess and assistants and all who took part in the program after which the meeting closed with The Queen.

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G. R. JOHNSTON

Who has been appointed chief of transport research for the Canadian National system. During nearly 24 years' service with the company, Mr. Johnston has gained a wide knowledge of the diversified operations of the railway and has made intensive studies of all forms of transportation. He served with the RCNVR in the second world war with the rank of lieutenant.

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