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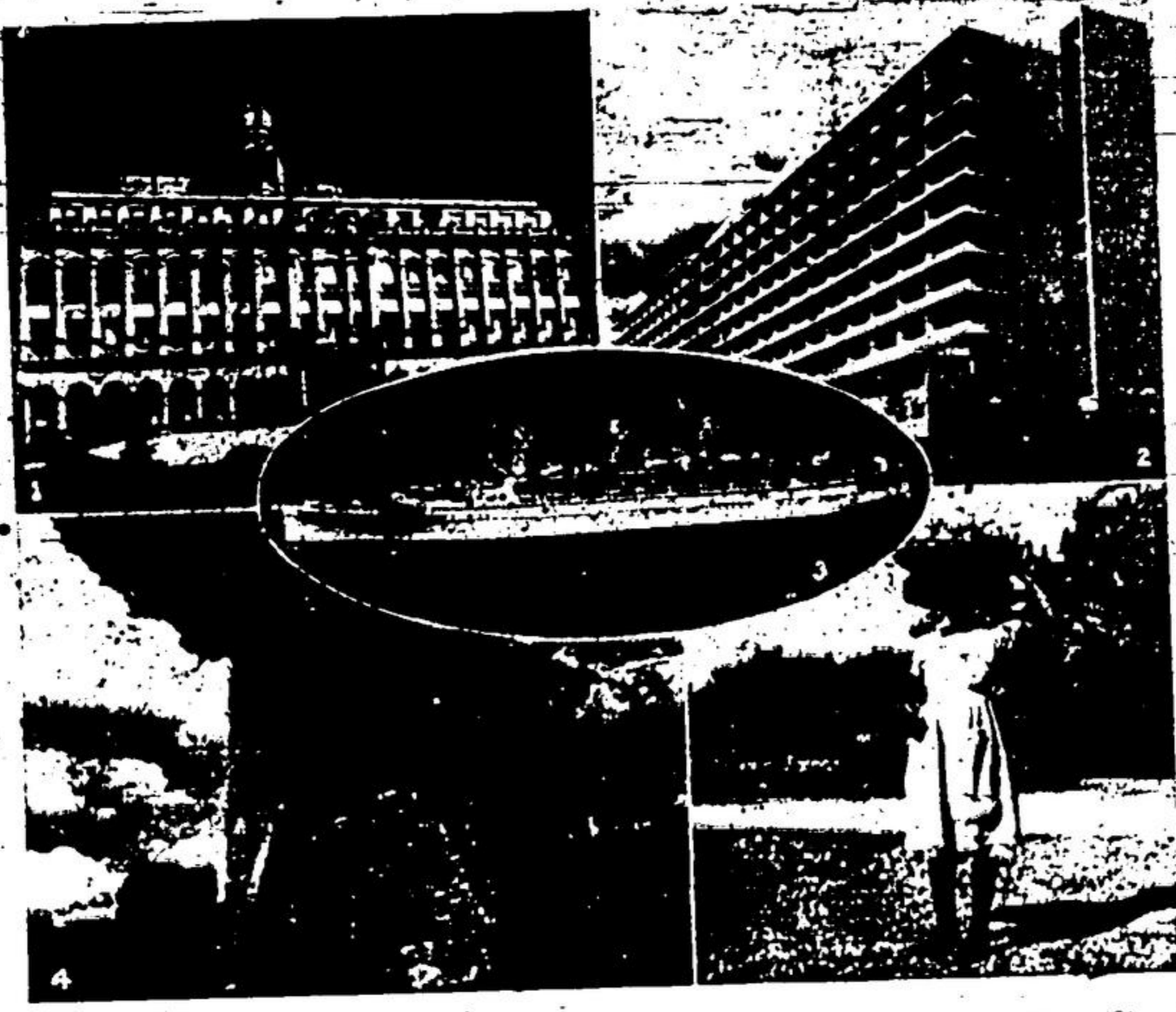
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**TROPICAL BLEND:** A mid-winter glimpse of the new and the old, the mystic charm of the Caribbean Isles, their customs, their buildings and their people, is in store for many Canadians who will be making one of the three cruises aboard the Empress of Scotland, flagship of the Canadian Pacific fleet, from New York to sunny South America and the storied Spanish Main this

winter. Two 17-day cruises will leave New York on January 29 and March 9, while an 18-day cruise will leave there Feb. 17. Among the ports of call on the cruises are St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands; La Guaira, Venezuela; Trinidad, Curacao, Panama, Jamaica and Havana, Cuba. Pictured above are some of the sights to be seen enroute. (1) The ornate President's

Palace at Havana; (2) a strikingly modern hotel at Panama; (3) the 26,300-ton Empress of Scotland, a floating hotel on the cruise run, complete with two swimming pools; (4) the ruins of Old Panama, not far from the Canal; and (5) a typical West Indian native carrying succulent tropical fruits to market.

**FARM NEWS**

**Fred Nurse President Soil, Crop Association**

Dr. D. N. Huntley, head of the Field Husbandry Department at the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, was the special speaker at the annual meeting of the Halton Soil and Crop Improvement Association, held in the Milton Town Hall on Wednesday. Dr. Huntley spoke on crop production, dealing specifically with choice of crops in relation to present day needs; new varieties and strains of both cereals and legumes, etc. The auditorium was well filled for this thought provoking address, which will ensure the speaker of another invitation to Halton in the near future.

Perhaps the highlight of the outstanding day's programme, which got underway at 10:30 a.m., were the short reports from some eight local co-operators. A brief summary of these will be of interest.

**Dates of Seeding**  
In this test J. H. Willmott, Milton, R. R. 4, reported sowing his small seeds (red clover and alfalfa) on his winter wheat at four different dates, namely January 2, Feb. 5th, March 31st and May 1st. Owing to the excellent moisture conditions which prevailed in April, May and June of 1953, all dates of seeding gave excellent results. Mr. Willmott, however, is sold on the advisability of sowing small seeds on winter wheat in the early part of the winter. President-Fred Nurse, who presided over the meeting, reported that on his own initiative, he himself had tried out a similar test. In his case the earlier seeding gave much the better result even in a year when the rainfall for April, May and June totalled 10.8 inches.

**Erosion is Serious**  
"Erosion is Serious" was the title of the report given by Art Bennett. This was based on results obtained from a one year's research project at the OAC Hydrological Station, Guelph, a station which was established in 1952 on a co-operative basis between the Departments of Agricultural Engineering and Soils.

The projects under study include (1) measurement of soil and water losses on a 7 per cent slope; (2) collection and analysis of weather data; (3) irrigation investigations.

Some startling results have been revealed — 7 tons of soil eroded from one acre in May, 1953 — 9 tons of soil and 1.6 inches of water lost from the same plot in the period May to August. This plot was seeded with oats, up and down slope. Mr. Bennett contrasted this to another plot on the same 7 per cent slope where the upper half of the plot was seeded to oats, seeded across the slope and the lower half of the plot was in hay — here there was only a trace of water run-off and no soil "run-off" detected. "Why the difference?" asked Mr. Bennett. It would seem from the 1953 results that strip cropping and across the slope cultivation will do much to control soil erosion and water losses. For further details of this amazing and most interesting project, we would suggest that you secure a copy of Circular 186

at the Milton Office of the Ontario Department of Agriculture. This circular is put up in a very attractive form complete with charts and pictures.

**Conservation and Land Use Tour**  
Don Matthews, vice president of the Halton Junior Farmers, reported on a highlight of the special course on Conservation and the Land Use Tour, sponsored by the Ontario Department of Agriculture, in which he participated this past summer. Mr. Matthews dealt with a visit made to the Alfred Leatherbarrow farm at Elora. This particular operator, with limited capital, took over a badly run down farm in 1946. This farm, stated Mr. Matthews, is very rolling and the soil type, chiefly blow sand. As a result of grassland farming, etc., the operator has been able to increase the production capacity of the farm 500 per cent. At the time we were there, reported Don, the farm was carrying around 50 head of beef cattle, 100 hogs, a laying flock of 1200 and 1000 pullets. Grass silage is a specialty and is fed not only to the cattle but to the poultry and market hogs. Reference was also made by Don to the farm records kept at the Leatherbarrow farm—the conveyor belt which conveys grass silage from the trench silo to the feed rack or manger in the loafing barn, etc.

**Stacking Grass Silage**  
Fred Bell of Burlington, R. R. 2, reported on their experience in stacking chopped grass silage. Utilizing snow fence, he reported that after filling their upright silo, they built a stack about 22 feet in diameter and 12 feet high. Paper was used on the inside of the snow fence — cut straw and agricultural limestone on top. Mr. Bell reported little spoilage on top but stated that the air got into it rather badly on the sides and resulted in a loss of nearly one-quarter of the silage. The stack, however, carried their 60 head of Holsteins until the latter part of December and under the conditions which existed in 1953 — when due to weather conditions it had been impossible to make hay, the experiment had been worthwhile.

Additional reports by four other co-operators will be dealt with in a future article.

**Enforcement of Weed-Control**  
Following a review of the weed situation by Agricultural Representative J. E. Whitlock, the meeting requested that the committee on Agriculture and Reforestation of the Halton County Council enforce the Weed Control Act in 1954 in Halton County.

**Panel Discussion**  
Chaired by J. E. Whitlock, a panel composed of Dr. D. N. Huntley, Professor N. J. Thomas, Wilfred Schneller, New Hamburg, vice president of the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association; George S. Atkins and W. E. Breckon dealt with a multiplicity of soil and crop problems. This type of programme as usual was popular with the members of the large audience, who took advantage of

the opportunity to fire questions at the panel members.

**Fred Nurse President**  
The newly elected directorate for the coming year is as follows:  
Past President — C. F. Pickett  
President — Fred Nurse  
Vice President — Ross Segsworth  
Sec. Treas. — J. E. Whitlock

**Directors:**  
Esqueping — F. J. Brownridge, John M. Bird and Robert Miller, Nassagaweya — J. H. McPhail, Robert Hurren and W. R. G. Johnson.  
Nelson — Fred Bell and W. E. Breckon  
Trafalgar — George S. Atkins, M. C. Beaty, C. H. Lawrence and J. H. Willmott.

**Acton District — Calvin Aitken, Plan For Seed Fair**  
At a meeting of the newly elected Board of Directors, Saturday, March 13th, was selected as the date for the annual county seed fair. Owing to the fact that the auditorium of the Milton Town Hall is being used as a classroom to accommodate the overflow from the Milton Public School, present plans call for exhibits being received the previous evening.

**FORMER RESIDENT'S SISTER DIES**

Sister of a former Georgetown resident, Miss Deza Reaman, 76, died at Woodbridge the day before Christmas.  
Miss Reaman was the eldest daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Michael Reaman, Her brother, Bert, who lives in Kincardine, was a railwayman in Georgetown several years ago. She also leaves a brother Ewart in Montana and three sisters, Mrs. J. W. Boddy, Woodbridge, Mrs. N. Radel, Los Angeles, California, and Mrs. J. A. Fraser, Woodbridge.

Next public holiday will not be until Good Friday, in April.

**HALTON COUNTY LIBERAL Association ANNUAL MEETING**  
TUESDAY, JAN. 12  
Milton Town Hall  
8.00 p.m.  
ALVIN P. CADEAU, President of the Ontario Liberal Assoc. will speak

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\$ 20 .....	\$ 500

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