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1955 Birth Totals Set Hospital Record

Peel Memorial Hospital set up another new record for births in the year just concluded. The number for 1955 was 1187, an increase of 56 over the 1954 total of 1111.

As predicted the race between the boys and girls finished almost neck-and-neck. Of the ninety-five babies born in December, 54 were females and only 41 males. This gain of thirteen for the girls, gave them a total for the year of 582 as compared with 585 for the boys — a remarkably close finish in the light of the big lead taken by the boys earlier in the year.

And now for the "human race" in 1956. In New Year's day the girls outdistanced the boys 2 to 1, but the young men did a quick comeback and on Monday, January 2nd three boys were born and no girls. Included in this number were twin boys born to Mr. and Mrs. Ross Dowell of Terra Cotta.

—Now that 1956 is upon us, why not check and see if your subscription is up to date?

Asia's First Penicillin Factory



Asia's first penicillin factory, at Pimpri near Poona, India, is now well on the way to reaching its present production target of 1,000 pounds a month. Production began last March. Plant was set up with aid of the United Nations Technical Assistance Administration, World Health Organization, and U.N. Children's Fund. Also with their aid, 13 Indians so far have been trained abroad in penicillin production. Seen here is a locally-trained technician making biological test in laboratory of potency of the penicillin produced.

Kiwanians Buy Audiometer For P.S. Hearing Tests

Members of Oakville Kiwanis Club at their weekly dinner meeting held recently were told by president Gordon Snyder that the club's "nut" campaign had proved "an outstanding success."

Although figures weren't final, returns received up to that time were not far short of \$2,000, indicating that the net profit on sales would likely be in the region of \$700. This will enable the club to realize the objective behind the campaign — purchase of an audiometer to test the hearing of public school pupils throughout Halton county.



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FARM NEWS

Conflicts in Agriculture Bring Forth Some Facts

J. E. W.

"Conflicts in Agriculture" was the title of an excellent address by S. H. Lane, of the Dept. of Agricultural Economics, at the short course in marketing and cooperating held at the Ontario Agricultural College last week. The panel discussion which followed on "Whom shall farm organizations serve?" hinged around the same subject. As chairman of this panel, we found it a difficult one on which to draw definite conclusions. Conflicts in Agriculture fall into three main categories:

1. Conflicts between Agriculture and the National Economy.
2. Conflicts between agriculture and other individual groups in our economy.
3. Conflicts between various groups within agriculture itself.

The statement is often made that what is good for the rest of the economy, or conversely, what is good for the nation as a whole, is bound to be good for farmers. While it cannot be denied that prosperity is mutually beneficial to agriculture and the rest of the economy and conversely that depressions are mutually disastrous, it does not follow that the benefits of prosperity or the hardship of depression, will be shared equitably by all groups.

This is a big subject and we shall not attempt to develop it here. Suffice it to say, Canadian economics historians who have studied the national and agricultural policies of Canada, have concluded that national policies have been designed, primarily, to foster the development of the industrial and commerce sectors of our economy. In short, what has been done for agriculture was done for the benefit of industry and commerce, and not specifically for the benefit of farmers.

Conflict Between Agriculture and Labor

Theoretically, agriculture, labour and management should be each vitally interested in the welfare of one another. In practice, there does not appear to be very much evidence of concern for the "other fellow." The outcome of the bargaining between labour and management can affect farmers' incomes in two ways.

1. Changing the price which farmers pay for the things they have to buy.
2. Changing the price which farmers receive for the things they have to sell.

Labour unions argue higher wages mean more spendable income in their hands. As this income is spent, it will increase the demand for all goods and services on the market and thus prosperity will be maintained.

Be that as it may, the farmer is interested in how much of this extra income is used to purchase farm products. Many would contend that labour is already reasonably well fed before the wage increase is granted and consequently is unlikely to spend much more of the increase in wages on food. In other words wage increases in industry, though they may increase the demand for food to a certain extent, will not likely increase it sufficiently to affect the resulting increases in farm costs.

Conflict Between Agriculture and Industry

Most farmers are very familiar with this conflict. For many years they have been aware that as buyers they must buy from a relatively small number of large producers. As sellers of farm produce, they must sell to a relatively small number of dealers, who in turn sell to a smaller number of processors. In short, farm leaders maintain that farm operators buy and sell in a monopolistic market in which the bargaining advantage is always against them. Hence the reason for the growth of farmer-controlled marketing boards and agencies. In brief, they are an attempt to give farmers more equal bargaining power with their prospective customers.

Conflicts Within Agriculture

These may be classified as follows:

1. Regional Conflicts.
2. Conflicts between the desire for more security and the desire for more economic freedom.
3. Conflicts between efficient business-like farmers, and farmers who consider farming mainly as a way of life.

Regional conflict is a very common type of conflict in Canadian Agriculture. There is the conflict between the apple producers of Nova Scotia, Ontario and British Columbia—there is the conflict between Western and Eastern livestock producers—there is the conflict between the soybean producers and the dairy producers, and so we might go on to give other illustrations. However, we have already far exceeded our limitations for space. Suffice it to say it was in our opinion a most illuminating address and discussion—and one which we feel all Halton farmers would have found of interest.

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