

Isn't This Weather Terrible?

J. E. W.
That is the greeting we get wherever we go—town and country alike. We can't help but wonder occasionally when some of our urban friends comment on the weather, just what they would say if they had a barn full of livestock—the mows and granaries pretty well empty, and not a seed in the ground, as we write this column. Those who till the soil just have to be optimists and to have a great philosophy on life or they just wouldn't farm. Night and morning, 365 days in the year, those chores have to be done. Is it any wonder that some of our farm operators do a bit of "beefing" when they see some of their friends and neighbours doing an eight hour shift in industry for a pay cheque which, at least, seems entirely out of line with the returns from agriculture. Farming is definitely getting to be "big business" and yet it is still a way of life—otherwise there wouldn't even be 15% of our people on the land. However, in the final analysis we can't help but recall a story in one of the old school readers of our school days. It concerned an old gentleman who was noted for his sound judgment—so much so that he was frequently called in to act as an unofficial magistrate or judge of local disputes. After hearing both sides of the argument and carefully weighing the evidence, he would sum up his judgment by stating, "There's much to be said on both sides"—and that, we think, applies pretty well to rural-urban arguments. Nevertheless, with farm capital requirements pyramiding; farm operators in a price squeeze; and more and more farms being operated on a part time basis, we are inclined to agree with those economists who predict larger farm units and fewer farm operators and along with this the disappearance of our surpluses with the possible exception of wheat. However, again "Much might be said on both sides of the question."

Suggestions for Late Planting

Because of the difficulty experienced through continued wet weather many farmers may find themselves faced with the problem of altering their usual cropping programme. In some areas that can be done much more easily than others. Furthermore, with the seed grain already purchased and in most cases treated with a chemical which makes it unsafe for livestock feeding, it is just about out of the question to switch to other earlier varieties at this date. As we see the picture, we've got to trust to Providence that we'll not only get seeding weather soon but that we'll get favourable growing conditions once the seed is in the ground. Those who operate lighter, more loamy soils might well give consideration to planting some grain corn in place of some of the oats or barley. One important factor here is to select a hybrid early enough for the area and in any event in our opinion grain corn should be in the ground not later than the first week in June. Buckwheat is an old standby in late seasons and more of it than normal may be sown this year. The Silver Hull type is the most commonly grown but the Rough Hull, if it can be secured, has given high yields in late planting. Then we come to millets, which may be seeded at almost any time during June. In addition to being suitable for emergency hay, they will yield profitable quantities of seed when allowed to ripen. According to the Field Husbandry Dept. at the Ontario Agricultural College, the common Hungarian millet has given an average yield of approximately 40 bushels per acre over a 30 year period. The Siberian or Empire millet, the Japanese Barnyard millet and the Pross millets have also given average yields of over 30 bushels per acre. Since we wrote our last week's column, fall wheat has picked up tremendously. Pastures and hay crops have, by and large, made comparatively little growth and many livestock men may be faced with a shortage of grass. According to the Field Husbandry Department, a mixture of oats (2 bushels) and peas (1 bushel) per acre or oats at 3 bushels per acre make the best emergency hay crops for seeding up to the first of June. Millet at 20 pounds per acre is the next choice and is valuable if the seeding must be made in mid or late June. Emergency pasture may be supplied with oats (2 bushels) and Sudan Grass (20 lbs.) or straight Sudan grass at 25 or 30 pounds per acre.

MRS. VICTOR TEDDER VISITING IN BRITAIN

Mrs. Fred Laws will be spending the next three months at Applewood Acres, where she will visit with her son Victor Tedder.

Mrs. Victor Tedder and her mother, Mrs. Fred Ward, Brampton, are away on a trip to Britain, and will be spending their time in the Northampton district.

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New Holy Cross Priest Fluent in Six Languages

Father Anselm Spacey, new pastor of Holy Cross R.C. Church has an interesting background and is possibly Georgetown's top linguist. He speaks six languages fluently, and has a smattering of others, and there will be few people in Georgetown whom he cannot address in their native tongue. Father Anselm is a native of Prague, Bohemia, was educated in Hol-



land, France and Italy, has been a seminary teacher, conducted missions in various parts of Canada and the States, and served as an army chaplain with three countries during the war. He studied philosophy in Holland, his theological work in France and took post-graduate work at the Gregorian Pontifical University, Rome, where he received his Ph.D. degree in history. He spent seven years in the army, serving at various times as a padre with the British, French and Czech armies. He was ordained a priest in France in 1935, and taught for three

years in a seminary at Dinard, Fr. A member of the Capuchin Fathers religious order, Father Anselm came to Canada in 1948 and made his headquarters in Blenheim until he came to Georgetown. Father Anselm speaks English, French, German, Italian and his native Czech and Slovak tongues. He becomes first priest of the new Holy Cross parish, succeeding Father Vincent Morgan, priest here for fifteen years while the local church was associated with Acton where Fr. Morgan will continue. He is making his home in the large house beside the church, the former home of the late Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Buck, which has been purchased by the church for use of the resident priest.

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