

FARM NEWS

Some Future Predictions
On the Halton Farm Scene

J. E. W.
Now that the presidential election is over in the United States, perhaps conditions on this continent will return to a more normal trend. It is generally realized that conditions in the U.S. have a very definite bearing on the economic pattern here in Canada.

Voters' List 1956

MUNICIPALITY OF THE
TOWN OF GEORGETOWN
in the County of Halton

Notice is hereby given that I have complied with section 9 of the Voters' List Act, and that I have posted up at my office in Georgetown, Ontario, on the Twelfth day of November, 1956, the list of all persons entitled to vote in the said municipality for Municipal Elections; and that such list remains there for inspection.

And I hereby call upon all voters to take immediate proceedings to have any errors or omissions corrected according to law, the last day for appeal being the 19th day of November, 1956.

JOHN D. KELLY,
Town Clerk

It is therefore of interest to note that leading U.S. agricultural economists make the following forecast for that country in 1957.

(1) Farm labour supply will become smaller and more costly... will quicken the trend to more efficient production; (2) Farm Credit will get tighter. U.S. farm operators will need a sound, well-planned operation to get loans; (3) Farm income from livestock is in the improvement stage. Big splurge in meat production is past. Eggs are having a shake-out and prospects for next fall are looking up; (4) Farm land values will continue to edge up with cheaper types of land making the biggest gain. In short, these factors, do not point to a fast return to big profits, but they do indicate that the farm economy is on a broader and sounder base.

What About Halton?

Whether or no there will be a repeat performance of the early 1956 land buying spree, no one knows. Rumour would have it that in some cases, options are being allowed to lapse and in other cases that tentative purchasers are asking for an extension of time on the closing date.

From a layman's viewpoint, it is difficult to understand what is going to be done in the immediate

future with all of the farm land in Halton which has been purchased or optioned. The prices reported precede such land remaining in agriculture.

The most unfortunate aspect, as we see it, is that the speculative activity of 1955, 1956 has put the "asking price" of farm land in Halton to a point where it makes it impossible for bona fide farmers who would like to increase the size of their farm acreage, to carry out their plans. It also virtually makes it impossible for the great majority of our potential good young farm-operators, to establish themselves in this county.

Certainly the speculative real estate activity in Halton in 1956 has definitely had a reaction on farming incentive. While unfortunate, it was only to be expected. Personally, we can't help but think, there is still going to be a lot of farming done in Halton for some years to come.

If we are correct in that assumption, what plans should we make for 1957? Here we are in an area, where industrial activity creates strong competition for labour. The alternative would appear to be increased mechanization. But can we justify that increased investment in farm machinery on the majority of our Halton farms? Perhaps the alternative, is increased use of custom equipment or a greater application in the principal of co-operative ownership or use, of farm machinery.

Can we increase our output or volume of business on our existing acreage? Is there any way of com-

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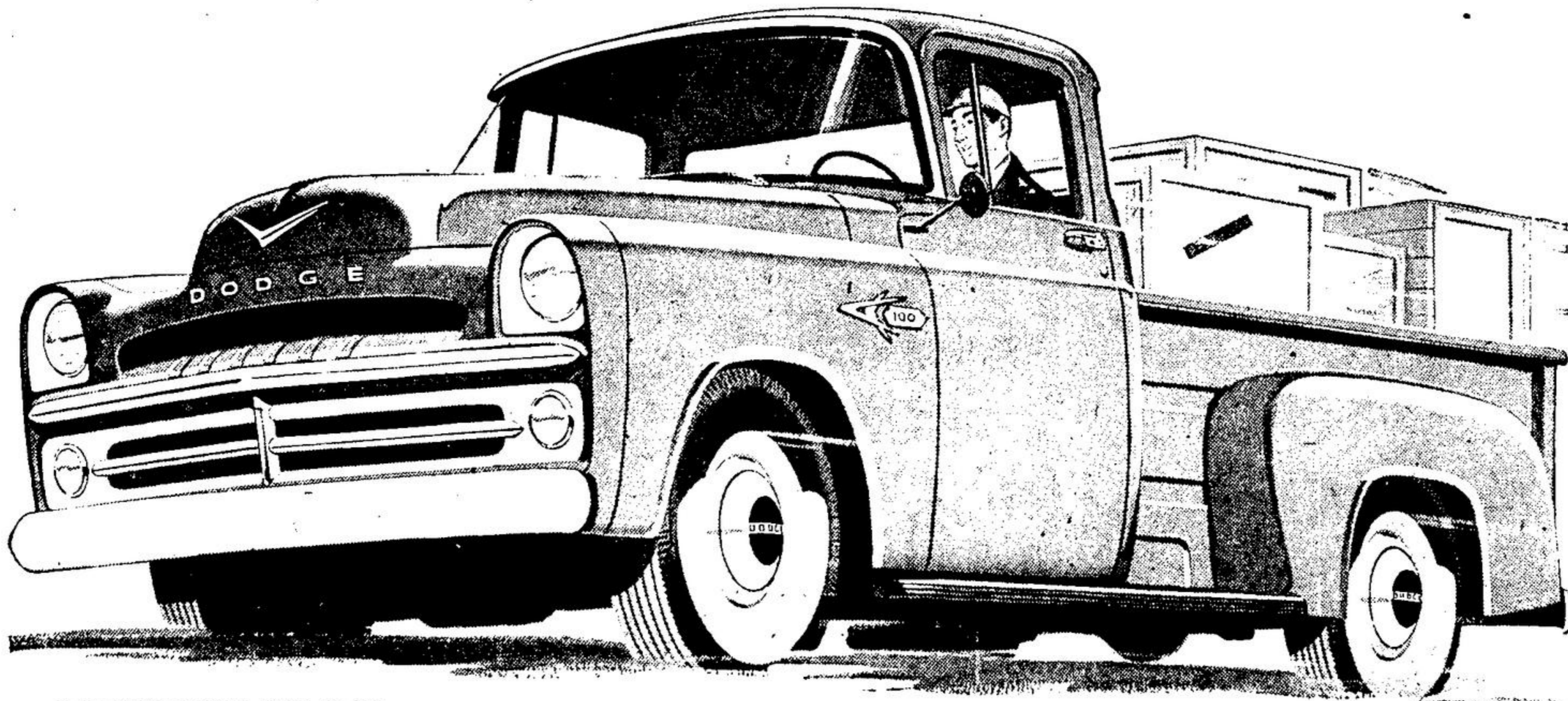
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batting or meeting the price squeeze in which we find ourselves? Frankly, we do not profess to have all the answers, but first and foremost we think, the leaders of the Federation of Agriculture and the Farmers' Union should make an even greater effort to get together. We all know what happens in a divided household — in short, in our humble opinion, there is no place for two such organizations in the field of agriculture. Secondly... (some would say firstly) our changing economy demands more attention in the field of farm management.

Hay and Pasture
It is generally admitted that in the general farming areas of Halton, our hay and pasture crops are our most important crops. That being so, is there a tendency of many Halton farms to leave our meadows down too long? Should we shorten up our rotations? Do any of our fields need lime?

If we don't know, this is the time of year to take our soil samples — sample boxes and general instructions are free for the asking at the agricultural office in Milton. This is the time of year too, in our opinion, when the lime can be best spread out on that plowed field which is to be seeded down next spring.

Then with bulk coolers coming up, what are we doing about weeding out the low producers? Every dairyman, should be on some cow testing plan. For the average dairyman the Dairy Herd Improvement Plan has much to commend it. It not only takes the "guess" out of determining which should go to the stockyards but also in deciding which heifer calf should be raised as a potential herd replacement. Along with that, DHIA provides the best farm management study of the dairy business, that we have to date.

Incidentally, with a number of dairy farms in Trafalgar and Nelson going out of agriculture, there is an opportunity for the first time in years, to enroll in this work. Application forms can be secured at the agricultural office in Milton, and now is the time to do it, in order to avoid disappointment.

Seed Grain
With most of our spring grain badly weathered and with the new varieties, Garry and Rodney, giving an outstanding performance in 1956, the demand for seed grain, particularly these two varieties, is likely to be quite strong next spring. Under the circumstances, anyone who has either of these varieties, even though they are badly weathered, would be well advised to send a pound sample away to the Plant Production Service, 86 Collier Street, Toronto, and get a grade including germination. Where anyone is going to get seed grain next spring that isn't weathered is a question. So if you have grain which has the possibilities of making seed — now (not next spring) is the time to look after it. A sixty bushel crop instead of a 40 bushel one, is one of the ways to help meet the cost price squeeze.

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