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APRIL 30th to MAY 3rd

THE LEGISLATURE IN SESSION

Jean McIntosh

Last week's session of the legislature began quietly enough, but before the week was out members had become involved in two major rows. One was over a charge made by the Hon. Mr. Dunbar, the Provincial Secretary, that a prominent labour leader, Dr. Eugene Forsey, had once been a Communist. The other was stirred up because of CCF leader Donald MacDonald's attack on the new detention centre for girls at Galt which he termed a 'juvenile Bastille'. Mr. Dunbar has been challenged by more than one person to repeat his charge outside the House. (Members of the Ontario legislature are immune from legal action over statements made on the floor of the House); and Major John Foot, the Minister of Reform Institutions defended the new building under construction at Galt as necessary for the handling of incorrigible inmates.

Not quite as sensational, but far more important were several pieces of legislation which shared the political limelight with these events last week. Speaking to the Legislature's health committee, Premier Frost declared that Ontario's hospital insurance plan when put into effect would be the best on the continent. It is expected that the proposed plan will provide complete care for something less than current Blue Cross rates.

One of the serious faults of the private plans is that the chronically ill are not able to receive benefits. Many private policies also contain clauses which specify waiting periods before coverage becomes effective, and clauses which give the company the right to terminate coverage whenever the policyholder becomes too great a risk. (Those who reach the age of pension and retirement are perhaps the hardest hit by this provision.) Ontario's plan will have none of these undesirable features. Municipalities will also get some needed relief when the Province assumes the whole responsibility for hospital costs for indigents.

An important step was taken in connection with Ontario's highways when a master, twenty-year plan, which took two years to prepare, was tabled in the Legislature by Department of Highways Minister Allan. This report was praised by both the Liberal and CCF members of the opposition. A great deal of the money and the work proposed in the plan would go into the building of multi-lane, controlled access highways in the more heavily populated areas of the province. We town dwellers should in future be able to reach places like Hamilton and Toronto without risking our necks and fighting our way through traffic jams.

A separate study will have to be made of municipal roads which make up 71,000 of the 82,000 miles of highways in Ontario, although this report commends an immediate increase of \$3,600,000 in subsidies for municipal roads. At least 1,400 municipalities will share in the benefits of the increased subsidy.

A skirmish developed between Conservative MPP's at Queen's Park during a discussion of the highly controversial question of fluoridation. This issue which cuts across party lines was brought before the legislature because the Ontario government is planning to introduce legislation to protect the municipalities which have already proceeded with the fluoridation

FARM NEWS

Al Francis, OAC '49 New Associate Ag-Rep.

J. E. W.

A recent release by the Hon. W. A. Goodfellow, minister of Agriculture for Ontario, announced the appointment of J. "Al" Francis, as the associate agricultural representative for Halton and Peel counties, to take effect on May 1st.

Mr. Francis, a native of Renfrew county, is a graduate of 1949 of the Ontario Agricultural College. He served as assistant agricultural representative in South Simcoe, and for the past five years as associate agricultural representative in Hastings county, with headquarters at Stirling. While he will commence his new duties on May 1st, we understand that Mr. and Mrs. Francis and family will be moving to Milton on or about June 1st.

We note in the same release, the transfer announced of W. S. Carpenter, Extension Specialist in Fruits and Vegetables in the Toronto-Hamilton District with headquarters at Oakville, from that centre to the Niagara Peninsula with headquarters at Vineland Station. It is our understanding that Earl Muir will remain an extension specialist in this area, and that he will be assisted during the coming summer by Stanley J. Leuty, of Cooksville.

FARM NEWS

David Wilson Best Actor in Festival

J. E. W.

David Wilson, president of Milton Junior Farmers, won the 'Best Actor' award at the fourth annual inter-county drama festival held in the war memorial hall, Ontario Agricultural College, on Tuesday of last week. An interested audience of six hundred was in attendance for the event, which attracted entries from the counties of Huron, Peel, Waterloo, Wellington, and Halton.

Adjudicator Mrs. Marianne Johnston of Stratford selected as her winning play, the one-act comedy entitled "The First Dress Suit," presented by the Clinton Junior Farmers, of Huron County. For the Best Actress award, Shirley Dyer of the Eramosa Junior Farmers in Wellington County was the selection. Halton County was represented by the Milton Junior Farmers, in their presentation of "The Monkey's Paw," a drama in three scenes. Members of the Milton cast, in addition to Dave Wilson, were: Jean Peterson, George Greenlees, Jack O'Connell, Gordon Harris, with Stuart McFadden as director. While they did not receive the top award, they nevertheless gave a fine performance and in our opinion, gave the winning group a tight run for their money.

of their drinking water. The new law will make it legal for a municipality to put the question of fluoridation to a vote once it receives a petition to this effect from 10 per cent of the population. At the present time a decision is being awaited from the Supreme Court of Canada with regard to the legal action which was taken by Forest Hill Village in successfully challenging and preventing the fluoridation of drinking water in Metropolitan Toronto.

Requests have come from many sources during the past few years for the Government to set up a Labour Committee to examine all aspects of the present Labour Relations Act. The Legislature has now set up such a committee and it will be enabled, like the Toll Roads Committee and the Committee on Air Pollution, to sit between Parliamentary sessions. It will also be empowered to call any witnesses and summon any documents it might need to carry out its investigation properly. Without doubt the committee will be asked to consider many briefs from those who represent industry and labour in Ontario.

Those MLA's who do their work conscientiously are under rather a heavy strain at this time. Committee meetings begin at ten in the morning. The Legislature convenes at two in the afternoon and at least one night last week members sat until 20 minutes to one in the morning. Why the heavy schedule at this time? The latest word is that Premier Frost expects this third session of the twenty fifth legislature to prorogue on or about April 3rd.

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FARM NEWS

Halton 4-H Clubs Organize for 1957

J. E. W.

It takes more than fog and treacherous roads to dampen the enthusiasm of Halton's 4-H Club members. Friday evening, April 5th saw them congregating at the Court House, Milton. It was organization night and they filled the county building to overflowing. Agric. Rep. J. E. Whitelock assisted by A. T. Woodley, chairman of Halton's 4-H club leaders' council and a battery of leaders took on the job of organizing seven clubs on the one night. Indications point to 1957 being an even greater year in 4-H Club work in Halton than 1956 and that is saying a good deal.

The following is a list of the clubs organized with their officers: Halton 4-H Holstein Calf Club—(41 members) — President, Don Taylor; vice president Bill Marshall; secretary treasurer, Mary Lou Taylor.

Halton 4-H Beef and Dual Purpose Calf Club (37 members) — president, Lynne Coulter, vice-president Tom Hunter, secretary treasurer, Bill Robinson.

Halton 4-H Jersey-Guernsey Calf Club (14 members) president, Nora Beatty; secretary treasurer, Lewis Stull.

Halton 4-H Swine Club (12 members) — president, George Greenlees; secretary treasurer, Lynne Coulter.

Halton 4-H Potato Club (16 members) — president, Philip Shepherd vice president, George Greenlees, secretary treasurer, Lorna Woodley.

Halton 4-H 2nd Year Grain Club (12 members) — president, Wm. C. Robinson, vice president Tom Hunter, secretary treasurer, Don Taylor.

Halton 4-H 1st year Grain Club (10 members) — president, Ron Lee, vice president, Ralph Cunningham; secretary treasurer — Ron Coverdale.

The final club to be organized will be the Acton 4-H tractor maintenance club, which is under the sponsorship of the Acton Junior Farmers. This club will hold its initial meeting during the current week with agricultural engineering der Mac Sprowl in charge.

The seven clubs organized at Milton are being sponsored by the Esquering and Halton agricultural Societies in cooperation with the Holstein, Jersey and Guernsey Breeders' Clubs; the Halton Soil and Crop Improvement Association and the Halton Hog Producers Association.

We understand from A. T. Woodley, chairman of the club leaders' council, that applications for enrollment are still rolling in. Other Halton young people who were unable to attend the initial meetings, should contact the agricultural office in Milton, at once. May 1st has been set as the final date for acceptance of further applications.

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