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Ag-Rep Whitelock Reports On Soil, Crop Tour to B.C.

J. E. W.
The third annual tour sponsored by the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association brought together 105 folk from all sections of Ontario for the trip to British Columbia. For your "Ag Rep" it was his first trip west of Sault Ste. Marie and consequently it was an amazing revelation. Despite what one learned in school or by reading, one has to travel across Canada to appreciate Canada's tremendous resources. As one travelled by C.N.R. across northern Ontario, one sees a wilderness of trees, dotted with lakes and here and there sparse settlement.

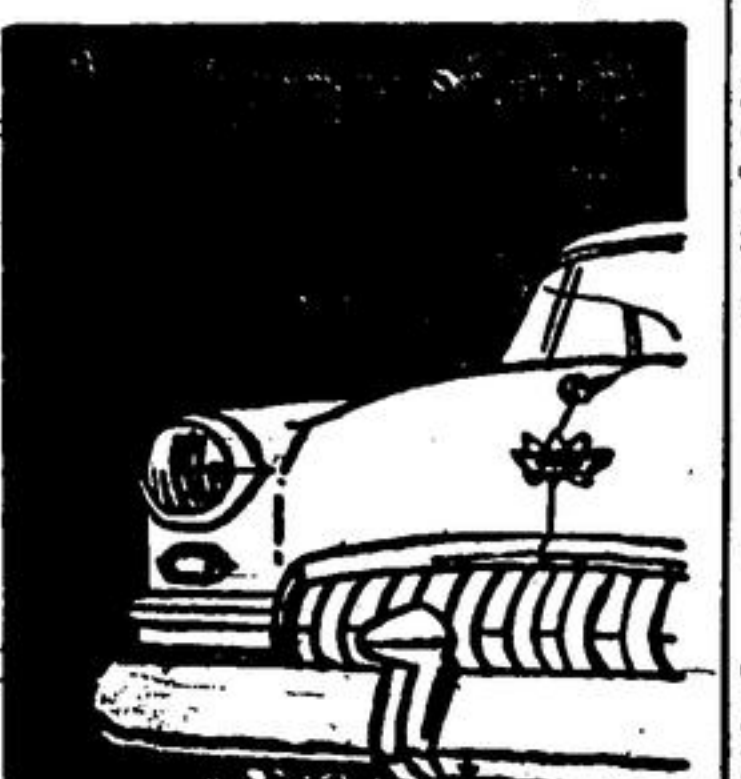
Then on across the prairies to Kamloops where our programme really commenced. Two days were spent in the Okanagan, famous for its apples and other small fruits. Here our conception of the Okanagan was rudely shattered. Primarily this is an arid area which receives only some 12 or 14 inches of moisture per year. Instead of a lush valley, we found a beautiful lake some 68 miles long, and on the steep benches or shelves which rise steeply from the shoreline, are the orchards or ranches. Irrigation is a must in the orchards and also for any cereal or hay crops. The ranch land to Ontario eyes is a barren hill or mountainside, nevertheless they report that 25 to 40 acres will carry one cattle head.

The water for irrigation purposes in the main, is piped down from lakes up in the hills, and as we recall, the cost of irrigation per acre runs around \$15 per acre per year exclusive of the necessary pipes required on the operator's farm.

Outstanding Marketing Facilities.
In the Okanagan are three main towns or cities, namely Vernon, Kelowna and Penticton — each of which have a population of approximately 10,000. All three are beautiful spots with community centres — the equal of which we do not recall ever having seen in an Ontario community of equal size.

It was our privilege to go through the Kelowna Growers' Exchange. This is a co-operative fruit and vegetable packing and shipping organization, owned and directed by its grower members. This Growers' Exchange was founded in 1905 and is now the largest apple packing organization in the British Empire and they own and operate the world's largest apple cold storage.

Scenery Superb
As one traverses this Alpine province one finds oneself at a loss for words to convey the awe inspiring grandeur of it all. Snow capped mountains, covered with trees up to the snow line — swift running streams and beautiful lakes nestle in the valleys. Man cannot help but feel small and humble.



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In the presence of such grandeur. We have all seen coloured films and slides depicting some of the highlights — nevertheless one has to see with his or her own eyes to gain an appreciation of its magnificence.

Farms in Fraser Valley
From Chilliwack, buses transported the party through the Fraser Valley which contains some 250 to 300,000 acres and represents approximately 50 per cent of the agricultural wealth of B.C. Here the rainfall, as we recall, ranges from 60 to 80 inches. Coupled with that they have a fertile soil and the crops are little less than terrific. Yields of 190 bush of oats to the acre are common. In the main it is a valley of 40 to 60 acre farms — with dairy cattle producing 65 to 70 per cent of its agricultural wealth. In addition, one sees orchards of filberts — fields of hops, raspberries and strawberries.

Twelve Cuttings Per Year
At Springbank we were privileged to see something of one of the most modern dehydration plants in North America. This plant has 800 acres, most of which is orchard grass and ladino clover. When we were there on July 12th, they were taking off their fifth cutting and expected to get another five or six cuttings at least, which would give them approximately six manufactured tons of grass per acre per season. Notwithstanding the heavy rainfall, they also irrigate, and commercial fertilizer is applied at around 1300 lbs. per acre.

50 Head of Cattle
At George DeKoning's 60 acre farm in the Fraser Valley, we found him carrying 50 head of cattle. \$5.81 is the producer price for fluid milk testing 4 per cent — \$3.50 is the price for Class 2 milk, and \$3.30 for Class 3 milk on a 4 per cent B.F. basis. In B.C. they have a seven cent differential for each point above or below 4 per cent.

On the farm in question the operator has constructed a horizontal or trench silo. This silo has a capacity of approximately 400 tons and is built of reinforced concrete with a roof over it. Incidentally, the roof is in two sections and can be raised or lowered through the use of balanced weights.

Strong on Co-Operation
At Mission City is located the Delair plant of the Fraser Valley Milk Producers' Association. This organization whose investment is five and one-half million dollars, had a gross turnover of 23 1/2 million dollars in 1956. From 1917 to the end of 1955 this co-operative dairy organization provided to the members of the Fraser Valley Milk Producers' Association, a total of \$261,319,180. It was interesting to learn that 11.24 per cent was paid as salaries and wage to the employees of the Association; 3.16 per cent for the hauling of milk in from the farms; 10.59 per cent for cans, containers and other supplies; 10.43 per cent for other expense incurred; and finally, 63.66 per cent was paid to the shipper members.

It was also interesting to learn that the capital of the association has always been provided by the members themselves. And so we might go on telling you more of this great province on the Pacific. Perhaps next week we may get the opportunity to tell you of other highlights seen in Vancouver, Victoria and last but not least, Kitimat.

Appoint Fieldman for School Safety Patrols

Lt. Col. W.E.G. Reynolds, General Manager, Ontario Safety League, Toronto, announces the appointment of Mr. Carl E. Laybourn as Field Representative to concentrate on the promotion of school safety patrols throughout the province of Ontario.

The appointment confirms the growing importance attached to the formation of school safety patrols by the Ontario Safety League, a view shared by the Department of Highways and the Attorney-General's Department. Carl Laybourn, has recently arrived from England where he was employed as divisional accident prevention organizer by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents. He was responsible for the road safety campaign throughout north-east England and his work included the formation of accident prevention councils in each town and city. On leaving the Royal Society to come to Canada there were nearly 300 accident prevention councils carrying out a continuous educational campaign in the area under his control.

During the war he was in the Royal Air Force for six years, for two years of which he was an instructor at the equipment training school. He was also in Canada for nearly two years under the Empire Air Training Scheme. In addition to promoting the formation of school safety patrols

LEGION NOTES

By Les Clark
Once again death has taken a member from the Branch, this in the person of Fred Gilmer. Fred was one of the best liked men in our Branch and had been a member since its early days. Our sincere sympathy to his family and friends. Personally, we lost someone we considered a good friend, and one who in all the years we had known him, we had never heard him speak of anyone in a deprecating way. He had been a constant member and will be missed by everyone. We couldn't help but be impressed at the funeral service Wednesday, by the high regard which those who worked for him and with him must have had. A real indication of this was in the numbers they turned out to his funeral, particularly during a difficult time, when his firm was on vacation and so many were away.

He shall grow not old, As we that are left grow old, Age shall not weary him, Nor the years condemn, At the going down of the sun, And in the morning We will remember him!

WELL, IT'S HAPPENED! The long expected deal has taken place and Branch 120, the Canadian Legion has purchased the adjoining two properties, that of the garage housing Hewson Motors, and the Liquor Store and apartment overhead. This will give the Branch ample room to expand their quarters, as well as giving them ample room for any proposed extension or growing membership. With over four hundred members, and the number steadily increasing, it is only a matter of time until something would have to be done, so this should be, by all means, the best long term arrangement that could be made.

While the purchase has been negotiated, actual transfer of the property will not be for a few weeks. We don't mind admitting that we had hoped for over five years, to see the branch eventually come to looking ahead for the day when we have five or six or even seven hundred. And it will happen, if the interest shown continues. We have only contempt for the member who says that we have reached our peak and will now decline. To anyone that far out of touch with the veteran picture around Georgetown we might point out that less than 30 PER CENT of the veterans of this district are members of the Legion. And many, many of them are only waiting to be approached by a member and shown around our hall and quarters in general. We might point out, however, this will not be carried out by the type of character who only comes around the place when he has a "gripe," or gets the idea that things are not being run to suit him. That also fits the type who has the opportunity of attending meetings, but does not do so, and then has the sheer gall and effrontery to question the decisions made by that said general meeting. Usually by questioning the intelligence of those who voted for the motion that he is not in favour of. How often we've heard that expression, "oh, a person can swing anything if he moves it, there'll always be enough j . . . k . . . ses to vote for it." We think this is just about the stupidest statement we have heard, for while on small things, where little is involved, most people go along, possibly the crowd does "follow the leader", but we have yet to see any major issue in Legion business that wasn't thoroughly discussed and argued over, and where everyone had a good chance to speak their mind. To our way of thinking, a man who develops that type of attitude, is only fooling himself and showing very little respect towards his organization or the rest of his comrades.

To get back to the building . . . it gives the Branch approximately another 5 to 6 thousand square feet of floor space compared to slightly over 3,000 we have now. But of course, we have two floors in our present building, while there is only an apartment over the liquor store. We believe that for the present nothing will be done about any expansion into the garage, and it will be rented until such time in the fu-

Canadians last year ate 32,502,000 gallons of ice cream or two gallons for every man, woman and child.

for the Ontario Safety League, He will assist in the development of community safety councils and the fostering of driver education in the secondary schools.

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ture as it is needed. We'd like to congratulate the branch on being so far sighted in procuring this property . . . true, it's a big undertaking, but usually the person or group with big ideas is invariably the one that succeeds while the other type who sits and shouts "it can't be done," or "that's not the way we used to do it!" is the party that's out of step with everyone!

A number of our local Branch members will be attending the twentieth biennial provincial convention of the Ontario Command of the Canadian Legion in St. Catharines from August 4th to August 8th. They will join more than 1,000 other delegates from 600 branches representing nearly seventy thousand Ontario Legionnaires.

Sunday, August 4th will see the parade of nearly 2,000 Legionnaires, five bands and a massed color party which will end in Montebello Park (famous for its rose garden) where a Drumhead Service will be held at 4:30 p.m. The official opening of the Convention will take place the same evening with the Service of Remembrance and Brig. Milton Gregg, VC, MC, will officiate.

The business sessions of the convention will be held in the St. Catharines Collegiate and Vocational Institute. Highlights of the convention will include the presentation of the CNIB Eye Bank, the Olympic Training Program, the University Scholarships, the Public Speaking Contest for School Children and other community projects. Foremost in the business session will be reports and some 100 resolutions on Veterans Legislation and other subjects which will be for the welfare of Canadian veterans. To indicate the scope of Legion activities in the province during the last two years delegates will hear the reports from officers along with standing and special committees such as, Provincial president, Henry Harvey of Ottawa; provincial secretary Patrick Biggs; honorary treasurer, E. K. Bunton; ways and means, Constitution and laws, poppy, public relations, housing, special pensions, organization and development, service bureau, membership, sports, imperials, TVS, citizenship, scholarship, special L.L.B. honors and awards and others.

The convention plans include the public speaking contest finals under the chairmanship of Hon. W. J. Dunlop, minister of education, on Monday evening. Entertainment for members and the convention banquet will be held in the St. Catharines Armouries which will include Honour Presentations to branch winners for 1956 Branch of the Year and Monthly Bulletins which will be followed by the Company at the Legion auditorium.

Other speakers at the convention program are the Dominion President Dave Burgess, OBE, MC, of Ottawa; the provincial president of the Ladies Auxiliary, Mrs. Margaret Richardson of Toronto, the Hon. Charles Daley, Minister of Labour for Ontario.

We'll try and give you a full report on the Legion convention in next week's column.

We were most surprised to find out how large these pleasure ships travelling to Bermuda really are. Some time ago, John "Fat Pants" Patterson, told us he was going there by boat, and naturally, we snorted. ("we" being Chub and the boys) that boats had not yet been built to carry a cargo like that. However, we admit we were wrong. He's enroute. We still think they must have knocked down a wall into an adjoining cabin to get him all in, though. Too bad that you're away last week and this, Scotty, we wanted to have you write this column, instead of writing it ahead of time, as this is being done. We are all sure your columns would have been highly interesting.

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