

Young Dutch Farmer Returns After a Year

as written in the
Guelph Daily Mercury

One year ago, May 8th, when 24-year-old Ted Dauma arrived from Holland, to work on the 200-acre district farm of Mel and Margaret McCullough he knew two words of English — "yes" and "no". Last Friday, when the young Dutch farmer said goodbye to his friends and employees, before returning to the Netherlands, his speech vividly reflected results of 12-months' exposure to "English as she is spoken in Canada."

But besides acquiring a second language (which he admits is easier read than written) the ambitious visitor from Friesland quickly learned Canadian farming techniques and operations, which where practicable, he hopes to apply on his family's 40 acre farm near the Dutch village of Friesland (population 800).

At home, Ted said the Daumas (father, mother, a daughter and one son besides himself), grow sugar beets, potatoes, and some grain. Their dairy herd of 15 Holsteins produces milk which is sold at the village dairy, and from there transported to larger centres. The price of milk in Holland? About 27 cents a quart, as in Canada.

Surplus Cheese

When Ted left Holland, dairy men there were worrying about the surplus of cheese. "We are making too much cheese, and other countries can sell cheaper," explained the eldest Dauma who is very interested in dairy farming.

"In our country," he continued, "there are also red Holsteins. Not very many but a few." Then, he quipped, with a shy smile, "Perhaps, here in Canada, you would not like RED Holsteins very well. Admittedly, this was grist for speculation. Reluctantly, international politics were nudged aside, and returning to agricultural topics, Ted explained he was one of 60 young Dutch farmers sent to this country for the purpose of learning about Canadian farms and their operations from soil cultivation to harvesting.

Work and Learn

The work and learn scheme was sponsored by the government and farm organizations in Holland. Members of his party found employment on farms across Canada, with Ted the only one of his group to settle near Acton.

Did he find farming conditions different in Ontario? "Many more machines and larger than in my country. In Holland, still some people do the work of machines, and we use many more horses on our farms than in Canada. Dutch farmers work harder and for longer hours. But things are changing and some farmers are getting machines.

On farms of small acreage like his father's, Ted admitted excessive mechanization besides being expensive is not practicable. Seeding was in progress at the McCullough farm, and the departing operator stole a fond glance at the seeder stalled in the sunny driveway.

Seeding Over

"In Holland now, in my part of the country, the planting will be all over," he observed. Comparing soil textures, he explained because of its proximity to the sea, the farmland near his home village is wet and heavy, and harder to work. Scooping up a handful of cultivated top soil, Ted shook his head. "This is fine land. Good for growing, and easy to work."

When Ted came to McCullough's on his visitor's visa it took a while to adjust to the different conditions in his new working environment. On the farm at home, most of the chores were performed by hand. There was a team of horses, and basic equipment of small type machinery. The McCullough farm is equipped with three tractors, and completely mechanized from milking machines to threshing combines.

Out of earshot, Mrs. McCullough disclosed later: "Ted learned very quickly. Besides being willing, he was eager, and interested, and loves farming. We'll miss him."

With Admiration

With an admiration for Canadian farms, what other impressions will Ted Dauma carry with him to Holland? "Ask him about hockey," prompted Mrs. McCullough.

Ted's smiles was spontaneous. "That is a fine game, for me I like it. I listened to all the games this year, and I was hoping those Maple Leafs would win. I think maybe next year." In Holland he added, "we play only field hockey."

With Ted Dauma's return to Holland, the Maple Leafs are short one faithful fan. And Mel and Margaret McCullough lost an assistant who shares with them a traditional love which overleaps national boundaries, and translates the same meaning in every language; that is: love of the soil, respect for the processes of nature, and the basic qualities of the farmer in sought Holland.

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Suspect Vandalism as Snow Fence Destroyed

Some forty rolls of snow fence, the property of the Ontario Department of Highways went up in smoke last Wednesday night in a blaze just north of the old paper mill believed to have been set by vandals. The loss was estimated at close to \$800. The firemen had to make two trips to the scene of the blaze.

When they first arrived the brigade segregated the good rolls from those beyond saving, however, they had hardly returned to the station when the fire bugs reappeared to ignite the remaining rolls. Fifty feet of Bell Telephone cable running above where the fence was stored was also claimed by the flames. Suspects have been picked up by the OPP and are being questioned in connection with the senseless damage.

The firemen were summoned to the fire at 8:45 p.m. approximately a half hour after dousing a minor fire of unknown origin which occurred about a mile south of Ashgrove in a stump fence. Krausy was driving west on the highway at about 8:30 p.m. when a tractor-trailer in an oncoming line of traffic pulled out to pass. He swerved the truck into the north ditch rather than tangle head-on with the transport, however his fragile cargo was sacrificed in the

plunge. Both driver and truck escaped serious harm in the accident investigated by Cst. Ron Rankine. **ELECTRIC WIRE STOLEN FROM PLAZA** Police are investigating the theft of 2,500 feet of heavy duty electric wire taken last Wednesday from a construction hut at the new shopping plaza. The wire is valued at \$300. The police said that the thieves gained entry to the hut by breaking a padlock off the door. Two night watchmen who patrol the area were eluded by the burglars.

Glass Lines Ditch as Truck Dodges Transport Dieter Krausy, of 377 Sunnyside Ave., Toronto, suffered a shattering experience Thursday night

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