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FARM NEWS

HALTON FARMERS VISIT MICHIGAN

The 1953 bus tour sponsored by the Halton Soil and Crop Improvement Association was held on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of last week. Sixty-six Halton farm folk participated in the event which necessitated two buses.

The first point visited was the Fanshew dam, near London. There Len Johnson, Secretary of the Thames Valley Association conducted the party on a tour of the huge project and described the conservation program which has been undertaken.

While in Middlesex, the group had the opportunity of seeing something of the havoc resulting from the cyclone in late May. All of the group had seen something of the damage done in Halton by smaller "twisters" in former years. However, one has to see the wreckage in the various communities of Western Ontario to appreciate how lightly we in this County have got

off in the past.

In Middlesex alone, well over 70 barns and some 30 houses were totally demolished and many others were badly damaged. Along with the wrecking of the buildings went the destruction of avenues and groves of shade trees. In brief, it was one of the most tragic sights we have ever seen and one which we hope never to see again.

The effects of the cyclone were also observed in Sarnia. True, the business section of this city is getting back on its feet, and while the debris had been cleaned from the streets, many buildings were noted where the top storey was missing and reconstruction work was under way. The group also had the opportunity of a two hour tour through the immense Imperial Oil plant, and also a drive through Chemical Valley along the St. Clair river.

Tuesday saw the party in Michigan, where they visited five different farms. The highlight here was the farm of Frank Jacobs, near Armada. On this 120 acre farm were six upright silos and the operator is a real grass silage enthusiast. Mr. Jacobs has been using grass silage for the past 17 years, and it was the general consensus of opinion among the group, that if there is an authority on the subject, he is the man. He seemed to be equally well versed in soils, fertilizers, rotations, etc. In short it was with difficulty that our visit here was brought to a conclusion.

Another farm which aroused keen interest, was that of Huff & Son, near Romeo. Here their herd of polled Jerseys is being kept in the barn—instead of the herd being turned out to pasture, fresh grass is cut daily and fed in racks. The cattle also have the run of their loafing pens, where dry cut hay is also available. In other words Huff & Son practice loose housing with a five stall milking parlor operated by one man. Their

barn is also equipped with a hay drier for cut hay.

The final day saw the party at the Ford Museum at Dearborn, some twelve miles outside of Detroit. We can only suggest to our readers that this point alone justifies the trip. Here there is something of interest for all members of the family. However, when planning a visit, be sure and allow for at least a half day. Enroute home through Essex County, a visit was made to the sub-section at Woodslea where a study of rotations on heavy clay soils is being made—of the effect of brillum on soil texture.

In all the party covered 595 miles during the three days, and in so far as we could determine, all 66 Haltonites returned home tired, but more than satisfied with the three day program.

TWILIGHT WEED MEETING WELL ATTENDED

The first weed meeting of its kind ever held in Halton was staged on Friday evening last at the farm of Medford Pewtress in Trafalgar Township. Despite unfavorable weather conditions, some 60 were on hand for the excellent program. Stanley Young, fieldman for the Crops, Seeds and Weeds Branch of the Ontario Department of Agriculture, was the special speaker. Certainly it was a program which anyone interested in weed control could ill afford to miss.

In the County of Halton, weeds are costing hundreds of thousands of dollars annually. Municipal authorities in the County in many cases are spending anywhere from \$1500 to \$2000, annually on roadside spraying. Some are doing an excellent job and others quite the reverse. It would seem logical to us that in the future when such a meeting is being held, that Township and County authorities might well see to it, that those charged with the responsibility of controlling roadside weeds are in attendance. Chemical weed killers mark one of the greatest advances in agricultural science of the past ten years. However, it is very obvious as one goes about the County that there is a tremendous difference in the results being secured. In short \$1500 per mile in some municipalities is giving much better control or results than \$30.00 per mile in others. It would therefore seem logical to us, that it is about time that the tax payer should be inquiring, "Why?"

CHOLERA CONTROL PROGRAM CONTINUES

Latest reports from veterinarians assigned to cholera control and eradication duty in Ontario indi-

cate that outbreaks have now been definitely confirmed to date on a total of 35 premises in eleven Western Ontario counties. In each case so far, hogs passing through community sales have been the cause of the infection.

A methodical routine check of all lots of hogs sold in these channels has now been completed, and this procedure has been instrumental in detecting potential cases even before visible symptoms are evident. Efforts are still continuing, to track down the source of original infection. There are a number of possible ways in which the virus could have entered the Province and all avenues are being carefully explored.

HOG PRICES HIGHER

Hogs continued to advance sharply in price during May in both U.S. and Canadian markets. At Chicago the May average price of \$23.60 per cwt. for live hogs set a new record for the month, eclipsing the previous high of \$22.40 in 1947. The remarkable advance of \$7.00 per cwt. in Chicago hogs since December, is unprecedented and unforeseen by the most sanguine forecasters.

The Toronto hog market, following the lead of Montreal and Chicago, also advanced in May. The price of \$34.00 per cwt. for Grade A dressed hogs at the close of the month was the highest level since the first week in September 1951, when the price was \$36.25.

In direct contrast to hogs, the cattle trade continues to be featured by relatively heavy supplies and little change in prices. Beef is moving in substantial volume into retail channels now that it is priced attractively in relation to pork.

BEEF DOLLAR NOW STRETCHING

The jokes one heard not so long ago on the alleged high price of beef stock are already passed. Recent calculations by the American Meat Institute point out that in relation to earnings of industrial workers, beef prices are now at the lowest point on record, for which reliable data are available. With an hour's pay the average U.S. factory worker can now take home 2.2 lbs. of round steak compared to only 1.2 lbs. in 1929; or 2.8 lbs. of rib roast compared to 1.5 lbs. in 1929. Going back to 1914, an hour's wages would buy only one pound of steak or a little over one pound of prime rib roast.

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See cleaner hay! We'll scatter rocks and stones in the swaths, and then show you how the Ferguson Side Delivery Rake delivers none of them to the windrows!

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See light, fluffy windrows! We'll let you try to pick up hay from the windrow with a pole. You won't be able to, because there'll be no roping or tangling that so often spoils hay. And when you look at the windrows, you'll see that the rich leaves are tucked in—protected from the sun's harsh rays.

Be Sure to Come Out!
 DATE: June 20th
 TIME: 2 P.M.
 PLACE: E. Braida Farm, Just East of Acton on No. 7 Highway
Lorne Garner Motors
 ACTON
 PHONE 452
 EARL J. MCCONACHIE, Your Farm Equipment Representative