

Reports and articles from Halton's Farmlands and Farm Organizations

## Farming Business or Way of Life Discussed In Economics Article

Last winter the Junior Farmers of Ontario, in their intercounty debating league debated "Resolved that farming today should be considered as a business and not as a way of life."

Undoubtedly much can be said on both sides of the question. However in this brief article we do not intend to uphold the merits of either side of the question—but we were interested to note in a recent issue of "Farm Business" an article entitled "The Use of Capital on Ontario Farms" by P. W. Wright of the Ontario Agricultural College.

At the outset, Professor Wright states: "Commercial farming has, for a number of years, been developing into the category of big private business. The reasons for the change are many and include such things as higher land values, improved practices, extensive mechanization and more stringent market requirements."

**Distribution of Capital**

At the beginning of this century, investment in land and buildings represented as much as 80 per cent of the total capital in the farm business. Of the remaining 20 per cent, live stock investment represented about 15 per cent, and farm machinery the other five per cent. As we study the graph which accompanies the article, we note this pattern in the distribution of the farm capital remained pretty much on this basis until 1941.

In the decade which followed (1941-1951) there is a big change in the picture. The major changes have been in increased numbers and quality of live stock per farm and a

great increase in mechanization. By 1951 the investment in land and buildings had dropped below 60 per cent and the balance of the capital investment in live stock and machinery.

Just how the distribution is today in 1955 we do not know—in any event, the situation in Halton and the immediate district surrounding Toronto and Hamilton would not give a true picture for Ontario.

**Fixed and Variable Expenses**

This change in the intensity of farming may also be seen in the changing pattern of farm expenses. In 1926 fixed expenses, that is, taxes, interest on indebtedness and depreciation represented 39 per cent of the farm expenses.

By 1950 the fixed expenses had dropped to approximately 20 per cent of the total expenses and the variable expenses (rent, hired labor, feed and seed, repairs, fertilizer, gasoline, etc.) now represented nearly 80 per cent of the total. In short, the increase in the proportion in variable expenses emphasizes the current trend toward greater production.

**Investment Per Worker**

Current investment figures for these well run commercial farms show an almost uniform figure of \$20,000 per man. This contrasts with many industrial farms having capital investment of about \$5,000 per worker or less. It is perhaps unnecessary to point out that if it were necessary for the young farm operator to acquire the full amount or even a large part of the sum required in farming before starting in farming there would be few, if any, new farmers.

## Crop, Soil Contest Shows High Yield Of Grain Corn

The results of the Grain Corn Competition, sponsored by the Halton Soil and Crop Improvement Association, were just received. When the competition was organized last spring, 16 Halton growers made entry. The competition called for a minimum of three acres and no restrictions were placed on variety, cultural practices, etc.

The last week in October, two rods of one row, at each of four points in each field were picked and weighed. Ten average ears from each competitor's field were then sent to Guelph to determine percentage moisture; shelling percentage and finally the yield of shelled corn per acre on a 15 per cent moisture basis. The top yield is 114 bushels per acre; in second place is 113.9 bushels; in third 104.3.

The average yield of the group was approximately 85 bushels per acre. The moisture content varied all the way from 23.8 per cent to 40.2 per cent. The winner will receive the Gold Watch donated by Milton Milling Company. The presentation will be made at the annual meeting of the Halton Soil and Crop Improvement Association, in late December, at which time a complete report will be presented.

## AUCTION SALE IN TOWNSHIP OF ERIN

**Of 31 Holstein Cattle, Brood Sows, Young Pigs, Hay, Grain, Etc.**

The undersigned has received instructions from

**PETER TIMMERMAN**  
To sell by auction at the farm, lot 17, con. 3, Erin Twp., situated on 17 Sideroad, 1½ miles north of Ospringe, 1 mile west of 24 highway, on

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 1955**  
Commencing at 2 o'clock sharp, the following:

**HOLSTEIN CATTLE**—The herd consists of 17 mature cows, all young; Holstein cow, due time of sale; 2 Holstein cows, fresh with calf at foot; cow, due in Jan.; 2 cows, due in early winter; 11 cows, in full flow, bred in July, Aug and Sept. This is a good herd of cows, all hand milked and artificially bred to Reg. Holstein bulls from the Maple Unit Breeding dates given on day of sale.

**YOUNG CATTLE**—4 Holstein heifers, ready to breed; 5 yearling heifers; 4 yearling steers; 3 young calves.

**BROOD SOWS**—York sow, with 12 pigs at side; York sow, with 11 pigs at side; York sow, with 9 pigs at side; York sow, with 8 pigs at side; York sow, due before sale day; 3 young York sows, ready to breed; 4 thrifty chunks; York boar, 14 mos. old.

**HAY AND GRAIN**—400 bus. of heavy mixed grain; 45 tons of choice mixed hay.

**TERMS**: Cash with clerk on day of sale.

WM. A. GIBSON, Auctioneer, Phone Guelph 743w, Fred Baptie, clerk. b-19-2

**TELEVISION AND RADIO SERVICE** by **R. W. GRANT** PHONE ACTON 594 Collect Located at **WATSON'S MUSIC STORE**

## The Economics Of Irrigation, Its Advantages And Limitations

This was the topic of the discussion at the second of the series of agricultural meetings being held in the Milton public school, each Tuesday evening, Professor Hugh Ayres, of the Department of Agricultural Engineering, at the Ontario Agricultural College, was the discussion leader.

Data was presented showing the results of the investigational work being carried on at both Guelph and Ridgetown, during the past three years. Information presented showed increased returns from irrigation on pastures. It was pointed out by Prof. Ayres that in an average season, one acre of pasture requires 150,000 to 200,000 gals. of water for irrigation purposes. This would appear to limit irrigation to those farms having the advantage of a good stream. It was however, pointed out by Professor Ayres, that ponds can be utilized as a source of water, providing strong enough springs are available to feed such ponds. The systems described by the speaker entail a capital expenditure of anywhere from two to three thousand dollars.

Lyle DeVries of Esquesing Township was in the audience and gave the group the benefit of his experience in the irrigating of pastures over the past two years. Mr. DeVries stated that his experience tied in very closely with the data presented by Prof. Ayres. On the DeVries farm, the installation is considerably smaller than those described by Prof. Ayres and the initial cost was kept down to around \$1100.

All in all, it was a most enlightening meeting on the subject and was in line with the high standard established at the first meeting by N. J. Thomas.

## Splendid Sale Of Holstein Cattle

Hays Sales Arena on Wednesday of last week saw the dispersal of two of Halton's top Holstein herds, those of Frank G. Stark and Son, and W. S. Hall and Son. Their fellow Halton breeders will be happy to learn that the general public appreciated the high quality of the herds being offered.

Buyers were present from South America, the United States, as well as from various parts of Canada. Unfortunately, we haven't many details on the Oakhall herd, other than the top female, a Highcroft daughter, which sold at \$775.

In the sale of the Sunnybank herd there were 29 lots and the average price received was slightly over \$390. In the 29 lots there were 17 cows and 11 heifers over one year old but not bred. The top animal was the "Very Good" 11 year old cow, Sunnybank Righto Jane. It is a bit of a coincidence that Jane was sired by a herd sire purchased by Mr. Stark from Mr. Wilfred Hall and that bull in turn was sired by old "Righto"—a bull which all Halton Holstein breeders will well recall.

Those who have had the privilege of visiting the Sunnybank herd during the past year or two will recall that Antony daughter in the Stark herd. This cow had the misfortune to have under trouble and lose a quarter. Notwithstanding this fact, we understand she was sold privately, prior to the dispersal sale, at a four figure price. The buyer is a man who really knows his cattle and is a top showman—he is also a member of the directorate of the Halton Holstein Club—guess who?

The open-heart method is employed for most of Canada's steel production.

**HISTORIC SCHOOL**  
VICTORIA (CP)—A plaque has been placed by the provincial department of trade and industry to mark the site of British Columbia's first common school, built in 1853.

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## Most Travelled Family of Bell(s)



**WHEN IT COMES TO TRAVELLING**—by telephone wire that is—you'll go far to match the accumulated record, of the five Martin sisters of Montreal. Reading from left to right, Marguerite, Raymonde, Lillian, Yolande, and Huguette, all work at the Bell Telephone Company of Canada. They share a mutual interest in providing fast, courteous Long Distance Service to thousands of telephone customers. Marguerite, an assistant chief operator, was the first to join the company, ten years

ago. She must have said some nice things to her sisters about the Bell! Huguette, the youngest, completed the quintette just over a year ago. We like having more than one member of a family sharing in telephone work. It says more forcefully than we ever could that "The Bell is a good place to work." We think, too, that as long as we have employees like the Martin sisters, you'll have the kind of telephone service we want you to have always. **THE BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY OF CANADA**

## CLEARING AUCTION SALE ERAMOSIA TOWNSHIP

Of Livestock, Tractor, Truck, Implements, Hay, Grain, Household Goods, Etc.

The undersigned has received instructions from

**GEORGE ORESKY**  
To sell by auction at the farm, lot 12, con. 4, Eramosa township, situated on the fourth line, half mile south of 24 highway at Stone church, on

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1955**  
Commencing at 12 o'clock noon the following:

**COWS**—Reg. Shorthorn cow, 7 years old, with calf at side, pasture bred, to calve in March; grade Shorthorn cow, with calf at side; pasture bred, to calve in March; 8 Hereford cows, with fat calves at side, ready to wean, pasture bred, to calve in spring.

**YOUNG CATTLE**—5 Hereford heifers, ready to breed; part Jersey and Shorthorn heifer, ready to breed; 8 fat calves from 500 to 600 lbs.; reg. Hereford bull, 19 months old, a choice bull bred by R. J. Hamilton, Rockwood.

**PIGS**—Reg. Yorkshire sow, bred Oct. 3; 2 York sows, bred in Oct.; York sow, bred Oct. 15; 3 Tam sows, bred Oct. 15 to 20; York sow, with litter ready to wean by sale day; 2 young York sows, bred Oct. 30; York boar, 1 year old; 10 thrifty chunks, about 100 lbs.; 70 thrifty shoats about 11 weeks old.

**HAY AND GRAIN**—30 tons of choice mixed baled hay; 200 bus. of wheat; 700 bus. of choice mixed grain; 19 ft. of silage in a 12 ft. silo; 200 lbs. of cattle mineral; pig mineral.

**TRACTOR, TRUCK, IMPLEMENTS**—McCormick Deering Farmall H tractor, in perfect condition; McCormick Deering 3-furrow tractor plow; Fleury Bissell tractor disc; John Deere tractor cultivator, good as new; McCormick Deering 15-disc fertilizer and grain tractor power lift seed drill, new this year; McCormick Deering tractor mower, 7' cut; Massey Harris binder, power take-off, 7' cut, like new; Cockshutt drop head hay loader; New Idea 4-bar side delivery rake, new; dump rake; Cockshutt no. 4 manure spreader; 6-section harrows; Olaco rubber tired farm wagon; flat hay rack 8x16; bench sleighs; heavy tractor trailer with dual wheels; fanning mill; 2000 lb. scales; turnip pulper; turnip sower; scuffer; stone boat; Hanson tractor sprayer, 50' spray; quantity of wood; lumber; fence posts; steel troughs; steel self-feeders; large steel tank; chimney tiles; electric fences; International three-quarter ton pick-up truck, with stock rack, 1952 model, good as new; 2 set of team harness; breech-

## Henhouse Requires Ample Ventilation

Saskatoon (CP)—Installation of a ventilation system in the henhouse is essential in good poultry management, says A. R. Wood of Luverne, Minn.

Mr. Luverne told the annual convention of the Canadian Federation of Hatchery Associations, western section, that a good ventilation system results in increased egg production and less diseases in the flock. The system involves more than a fan placed in the wall.

One thousand laying birds give off 55 gallons of water daily. A ventilation system capable of removing 432 pounds of moisture a day must be installed in a hen house.

A continuous-duty, two-speed motor, enclosed and equipped with ball-bearings, is basic for a good ventilation system, he said. New air should be distributed slowly and evenly but it is no problem in a well-planned system to remove 18 pounds of moisture an hour from a hen house.

Engineers and architects have the highest annual average income in Canada.

**HOUSEHOLD GOODS**—Gurney cooking range, like new; kitchen table; kitchen chairs; kitchen cabinet; 4 bedsteads, springs and mattresses; chesterfield suite; mirror front wardrobe, like new; solid oak child's crib, like new; 10 gals. of red barn paint.

**TERMS**: Cash with clerk on day of sale.

No reserve as the farm is sold. All articles must be moved by Nov. 30.

Hot lunches served.

WM. A. GIBSON, Auctioneer, Phone Guelph 743w, Albert Gray, Wm. J. Hunter, clerks. b-19

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ANNUAL

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Army Recruiting Station, 90 Richmond St. W., Toronto, Ont. — Telephone Em. 6-8431—Local 276  
No. 7 Personnel Depot, Wolseley Barracks, Oxford & Elizabeth Sts., London, Ont. — Telephone 4-3601—Local 135  
Army Recruiting Station, 230 Main St. W., North Bay, Ont. — Telephone 456  
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