

# The Canadian Champion

Vol. 106.—No. 45.

MILTON, ONTARIO, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 1966

Second Section

## Federation of Agriculture's 25th Anniversary

"Learning to live in a land of plenty" will be a major challenge for the farmers of Canada in the next 25 years, former Halton Agricultural Representative J. Allen Francis warned a crowd of 200 who helped Halton Federation of Agriculture celebrate its 25th anniversary Friday evening.

The Federation staged a dinner and entertaining program in St. Paul's United Church Christian Education Centre, Milton, on Friday evening to pay tribute to the H.F.A. leaders of the group's first quarter century and prepare for the next 25 years.

Mr. Francis, who left his position as agricultural representative for Halton two years ago to enter a mixed farming venture in northern Ontario, helped the Federation review the past, present and

future of Halton's farming in a few well chosen words and a talk called "Back and Forth".

He reviewed that 25 years ago a farmer produced enough to feed himself, his family and eight others. Today he produces enough to feed his family and 25 others. "By 1981 that same farmer will be feeding himself and 60 others," the speaker suggested, and research and automation will help him do it.

Mr. Francis opened his talk by praising the Federation's officers over the past quarter century and reviewing how in 1941 when H.F.A. was formed farmers were in the middle of the second world war, farming had gone through a period of economic depression, prices were spiralling and mech-

anization of farming was just beginning. It was a period when many farm organizations were founded to help the farmer produce all he could to help win the war.

By 1947 the veterans were all home and the rural population crept up as did membership in farm organizations. After 1947 the trend toward moving off the farm to urban centres began, and while many smaller farm groups died, the county groups were strengthened.

He recalled the fight against the inroads made by margarine, and suggested "this battle was only the start of many big battles the farmer will have to face in the future."

The big splurge toward research into farming began in the 1950's and he suggested "since 1950 more agricultural research was conducted each year than in thousands of years before 1950."

Food surpluses began about that period, but he warned, "I would rather have that than to live in a country that faces riots because of lack of food."

### "Adapt . . . Change"

"Adaption and change" are the keywords of good farming, Mr. Francis continued and he urged the agricultural people to adopt new farming methods found by research as soon as possible. "The farmer must adapt research to his own farm program as soon as possible—don't wait until you are forced to make a change." He recalled an excellent quotation that fits the situation: "Do not be the first to take on the new or the last to discard the old."

For the future, he saw less agricultural land and fewer farmers producing more food for the nation. Mr. Francis suggested profits would be lower for the farmer but the prices would be better for the consumer, and agricultural-

ists would have to depend on volume, not margin of profit, to make a living. He also predicted the use of more high protein food and suggested one-quarter fewer hours of farm work would produce about one-quarter more product.

"It is likely you'll be able to buy a tractor with enough nuclear power packed in it to last the lifetime of the bearings," he quipped, as he foresaw larger farms and larger machinery to offset the numerical loss of farmers, he predicted a "stronger rural community than at the present time . . . a new type of rural culture combining the best of the rural and urban societies."

"Some civilizations never learned to live in a land of plenty . . . your organization can, in the next 25 years, give a great deal of leadership in learning to live in a land of plenty," he concluded.

The speaker was introduced by H.F.A. past president Jack Taylor, and thanked by third vice-president Chester Early.

Denzil Lawrence, who chaired the dinner and program, was one of the Federation's nine past presidents honored by the gathering. Charles Huffman, president of the Ontario Federation, presented Past President's pins to Paul Fisher (1941-50), A. R. Service (1952-53), William R. Hume (1954), R. L. Davidson (1955-56), Jack H. Taylor (1957-58), Mac Sprowl (1959-60), Clifford Brown (1961-63), and Denzil Lawrence (1965-66). A bouquet of flowers was presented to Mrs. M. J. Brown as a tribute to the leadership of her late husband who was president in 1951.

### Entertainment

Halton Junior Farmers provided the evening's entertainment. The ladies trio which won provincial honors, Ruth and Wilma Mason and Joy Hayward, sang three numbers accompanied by Mrs. G. Newell. Earl Burt sang several songs accompanied by his guitar.

The Acton Junior Farmers directed by Leon Duffield presented a comedy play "A young Man's Fancy" with Joy Hayward, Earl Burt, Don Swackhamer, Brian Bessey, Pat Manes and Judy Britton taking part.

Reviews History Charter president Paul Fisher

of Burlington spoke at length, reviewing the group's early history and activities of H.F.A. in its early years. Mr. Fisher also helped to form the Ontario Federation. He recalled the group's purchase of land for Lowville Park was prompted by the Federation's feeling that farmers ought to have

more recreation and recalled "we had a lot of fun there".

Several civic dignitaries attended the dinner, including municipal representatives from Milton, Nassagaweya, Oakville and Burlington, Halton M.P.P. George A. Kerr and Warden H. H. Hinton of Acton.



—Staff Photo

HALTON FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURE held a dinner and program in Milton Friday evening to celebrate the group's 25th anniversary. One highlight of the evening was the presentation of Past President's pins to former president, by Charles Huffman, president of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture. Shown at the presentation, left to right, are A. R. Service, Jack H. Taylor, William R. Hume, Denzil Lawrence, R. L. Davidson, Clifford Brown, Mr. Huffman, Paul Fisher and Mac Sprowl. Another former president, M. J. Brown, is deceased.

## Federation Changing to Keep With Times Promotes Many Projects in Past 25 Years

Halton County Federation of Agriculture — the "direct line" to both federal and provincial governments for 1,200 farmers in the county, celebrated its 25th birthday on Friday night.

Formed when the county was truly agricultural in 1941, the Federation has continued to serve and assist farmers throughout the past quarter century and has weathered the storm of change which has reduced the number of commercial farms in the county by about 1,000.

To help mark the Federation's 25 years of service, The Champion spoke this week with Denzil Lawrence, president of the Federation since 1964, and Mrs. Lawrence, a former member of the executive of the Ontario Federation.

Speaking of some of the most important achievements of the Federation, they pointed out:

- The vast majority of commodity groups in the county were organized through the Federation.

- During World War Two, a war service committee was set up within the Federation and food surpluses in the county were sent to needy areas.

- The Federation was one of the first groups in the county to recognize the need for conserving land and purchased the area now known as Lowville Park and called it Halton Community Centre.

- It submitted many resolutions to the Ontario Federation of Agriculture which approved

some of them and forwarded them to the governments for action.

- It held giant field days which promoted goodwill among the farmers of the county. In 1947 students from 42 schools competed in a giant field day and included in the activities were enough ball games to keep six diamonds busy for the better part of a day. The Federation also sponsored Garden Parties and horseshoe pitching contests, as well as helping to sponsor the annual Dairy Princess Competition. At least two scholarships of \$100 each are given by the Federation each year to Halton students attending agricultural schools. It also helps with the organization of the Rural Learning Leadership Course and the Farm Management School.

- The Federation has acted as the voice of commodity groups through the Ontario Federation and has kept intact its direct line to both the federal and provincial governments. Mr. Lawrence pointed out that Roy Coulter of Lowville was on the executive of the O.F.A. when the giant wheat deal with Russia was worked out.

During the past few years, the Federation has been going through a period of transition. "Like everything else," Mr. Lawrence stated, "we're going to have to update our thinking and take a good look at ourselves. The O.F.A. has done this and we'll be having a zone meeting later

in the month and we'll be doing it."

Throughout the years, there have been changes and the local constitution has been altered to assure representation from all parts of the county. In Nassagaweya Township, where the number of farms have been reduced drastically in the past few years, the township organization has disintegrated and in Burlington, a similar situation has developed. Now reliable workers are appointed to the Halton executive from the areas and they join with representatives from Oakville and Esquesing, all the farm organizations in the county and all the commodity groups, to form the executive.

### Broad Coverage

To recognize just how many people the Federation represents, it is well to point out that some of the boards with representation on the executive include the new-

ly formed Milk Marketing Board, the Hog Producers, the Fruit and Vegetable Growers, Wheat Producers, Egg and Fowl Producers, Halton Co-Op Medical Services, Halton Co-Op Supplies, Halton Plowmen's Association, Halton Soil and Crop Association, C.I.A. Insurance and the Federated Women's Institutes. In other words, Mr. Lawrence notes, "Nowadays, if you're a farmer in Halton, you're a member of the Federation."

To meet its expenses, the Federation receives an annual grant of two-fifths of a mill from Esquesing and Nassagaweya Townships, and from Oakville and Burlington.

Although the Federation has dropped its sponsorship of some programs like the garden parties and the field days, it is still active and Mrs. Lawrence suggested, "now it's chiefly an information bureau which gives direction on request and can and does car-

ry the ball for the farmers to the government.

**Preserve Farm Land**  
Looking into the future, the Lawrences suggested, "Agriculture seems to be losing a voice — it's high time that society starts preserving agricultural land, because in 25 years there might not be enough food grown in this part of the province to meet the demand." Another problem that has to be looked into is the formulation of closer relations with the consumers so that both the farmers and the consumers can recognize the problems that affect each other.

During its 25 years of existence, the Federation has had only nine presidents. Paul Fisher, elected president in 1941, remained in office for 10 years until 1950. M. J. Brown (deceased) was the second president. Other presidents included A. R. Service, William Hume, R. L. Davidson, Jack Taylor, Mac Sprowl, Cliff Brown and Denzil Lawrence.



—Staff Photo

ACTON JUNIOR FARMERS entertained the 25th anniversary banquet of Halton Federation of Agriculture with a comedy play, "A Young Man's Fancy". The juniors will be presenting the play again this Saturday evening at the Halton Junior Farmers drama festival in Milton. Seated in front are actors Brian Bessey, Don Swackhamer and Pat Manes. Seated behind are director Leon Duffield, Judy Britton, Joy Hayward and Earl Burt.

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