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Total Value of Agricultural Production in Ontario Will Exceed Value of 1935 Crop

HIGHER PRICES TO MORE THAN COMPENSATE FOR REDUCED YIELDS—LATE RAINS GREAT HELP TO ROOTS AND PASTURES—A GENERAL REVIEW OF AGRICULTURAL CONDITIONS THROUGHOUT THE PROVINCE

The intense drought which was experienced over most of Central and Western Ontario was terminated about mid-August, since which date rains have fallen over most sections of the Province. It is now possible to size up fairly accurately the extent of loss caused by the drought. Fall wheat, rye, main hay crop and first cutting of alfalfa were only slightly affected, having almost reached maturity before the drought became severe. Yields of all these crops were practically normal for the Province as a whole, the less than average yields for hay in Central Ontario being counterbalanced by above normal yields in other counties. The preliminary estimate of the production of spring grains places the average yield for the Province at 29.2 bushels per acre for oats, as compared with 36.0 bushels in 1935, barley at 27.1 bushels as against 32.2 bushels, and mixed grains at 29.5 bushels as compared with 36.5 bushels a year ago. The aggregate reduction in the yield of spring grain from 1935, as shown by the first estimates, amounts to slightly less than the 20 per cent. decline forecast in last month's Crop Report. These crops—fall wheat, fall rye, spring grains and hay and clover crops—comprise approximately 75 per cent. of the value of all field crops produced in Ontario, and from the above mentioned yields it will be seen that the effects of the drought, while severe, were far from disastrous.

The condition of late crops at the end of August was the lowest of any year since 1922, when condition figures were first established. Rains during the last week of August and in September over practically the entire Province will, however, prove beneficial to pastures, roots, potatoes and corn. Dry beans suffered heavily from drought in South-western Ontario and the anticipated yield this season is only 12.8 bushels per acre as compared with 18.1 bushels last year. Buckwheat germinated very poorly and the condition figure at the end of August was placed at 63, the long time average being represented by 100. Practically two-thirds of the corn for husking crop is grown in Essex and Kent. In these two counties early planting corn represents approximately one-half the crop, and yields should be well up to average. Corn for husking and roots are considerably below average in Central, Western and Southern Ontario, and farmers producing fluid milk who depend upon these crops for a considerable portion of their winter feed supplies will, in most cases, experience considerable difficulty in keeping milk production up to normal.

The condition of pastures at the first of September was the lowest on record with a condition figure of 58. In Central Ontario, from which the fluid milk supply for the City of Toronto is derived, pastures were the worst in the Province and most dairy farmers have been stable feeding their herds for weeks. The second cutting of alfalfa on many farms was used for feeding live stock and winter hay supplies were also fed freely, which will make it imperative that hay be fed very carefully this winter so that the present supplies, which are considered sufficient for the Province as a whole, may not run out. Second growth of oats, which is most unusual, is providing some green feed. Many farmers will have to purchase grain at prices already 75 per cent. higher than a year ago and likely to reach 100 per cent. before the winter is over. Unless the price of fluid milk is advanced the cash income of dairy farmers will show a considerable reduction from last year.

The production of butter in August was approximately 15 per cent. below that of August, 1935, while the production of cheese, which for the first seven months showed an increase of 20 per cent. above the same period last year, amounted to 13,504,000 pounds in August this year as compared with 13,431,000 pounds in the same month last year. Farmers supplying milk to cheese factories are striving very hard to maintain the flow of milk in order to profit from the prevailing high prices for cheese. At Belleville, cheese was selling for 14½ cents per pound on August 15th this season, as compared with 9½ cents per pound at this same date during the preceding three years.

Higher prices for field crops are expected to more than compensate for the reduced production this year, and the total value of agricultural production in 1936 in Ontario is expected to exceed that of the year 1935.

Value of Fattening Poultry for Market

Evidence of the value of properly fattening market poultry was well demonstrated recently in districts of Quebec. In these districts the producers crate or pen fatten their young cockerels before marketing and as a result a good percentage of the birds were made to qualify for the Milkfed class and brought a premium of two to three cents per pound which is offered for Milkfed birds over Selected.

Proper fattening is an important part of any poultry marketing program. There is no kind of poultry to which this applies more forcefully than to young cockerels of broiler weights marketed during the summer months. The market generally becomes somewhat over-supplied with small, unfinished birds during June, July and a part of August, which are difficult to move into consumption and are not suitable for export.

Consumption of poultry can be increased on the home market by selling the top grades, and premium prices are offered for such quality. The export market will absorb large quantities of Milkfed chickens weighing from two to four and one-half pounds per bird. By producing to meet the requirements on the home and export markets it should be possible to avoid any glut of dressed poultry.

Skilled Ploughmen at Cornwall Ploughing Match

If unforeseen duties do not interfere, it is hoped that His Excellency the Governor-General of Canada will visit the International ploughing match which will be held at Cornwall, Ont., on October 6, 7, 8 and 9 inclusive. The match is open to the whole world, and already celebrated ploughmen from different parts of Canada, particularly from Quebec, and from the Eastern United States, have intimated their intention to compete in the various entries. During the four days some exciting and exacting contests in the high art of skilful ploughing are expected both with horse-drawn and tractor ploughs.

The ploughmen and their friends, together with prominent visitors, will be the personal guests of the united counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry, and everything has been done to make the four-days meeting a success by J. A. Carroll, secretary-manager of the Ontario Ploughmen's Association, East Block, Parliament Buildings, Toronto. Reservations for the comfort of visitors have been made, and up to the present every indication points to an attendance far beyond former years. The field in which the ploughing contests will be held is in the district described in Ralph Connor's books, particularly in the "Man From Glengarry," which a few years ago was a "best seller" and still is in demand.

An important part of the meeting will be the exhibition of all kinds of machinery and home accessories and conveniences.

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HIGH CUT PLOWING

Method Defended By Experts As Highest Development In Arts of Plowing
DRAWS BIG CROWDS

Toronto, Sept. 28.—Is high-cut plowing nothing but "kid-glove nonsense" or does it represent the highest development in the art of plowing? Some plowmen swear by it; others swear at it!

A medium-sized controversy was raging here last week on the eve of the 24th annual International Plowing Match being held at Cornwall, Ont., from October 6 to 9, as to whether high-cut plowing had a legitimate place on the recently-issued program. Criticism had been directed at officials of the Ontario Plowmen's Association, sponsors of the match, to the effect that inclusion of this class made no contribution whatever to the advancement of the plowman's art. The general tenor of the complaints, according to J. A. Carroll, Secretary-Manager of the Association, was that this type of plowing was "unpractical, useless, and unsuitable for cultivation."

Mr. Carroll pointed out that this class for the past 12 years had not been included in championship competition, but had been listed as an "exhibition" feature. "It is included on this year's program," he said, "simply because a great many people want to see it. Invariably it attracts the largest audience of any event in the match."

Chief defendants of high-cut plowing as an International Match program item were Clark Young of Milliken, treasurer of the Ontario Plowmen's Association, and James McLean of Richmond Hill, a director. Both are former champions and have served as match judges in Canada wherever plowing is considered an art.

"I maintain that high-cut plowing is both necessary and desirable at any 'International,'" declared Mr. McLean, "simply because I consider it the highest form of plowing art. Any man who can hold a high-cut plow can handle anything in the plowing line."

High-cut plowing, he said, was the settlers in Canada who brought it over with them from Britain. The development of modern implements and methods had made this style out-of-date, as it was used primarily for hand-sowing. Although it was much slower than present-day methods, Mr. McLean said, it was still possible "to grow as fine a crop on a high-cut plowed field."

Referring to some complaints received about the length of time contestants were allowed to "dress" their work both in high-cut and other classes, Mr. Young remarked: "If I send a horse to the Royal Winter Fair, don't you expect me to brush him up a bit and maybe fix him up with a ribbon or two? Why shouldn't man take just as much pride and pains with his exhibition plowing as he does with his exhibition stock. Plain, everyday plowing can be seen on any farm in the Fall, but those who come to an International Match expect to see a show."

Both Mr. McLean and Mr. Young agreed that invariably the winner of the high-cut plowing class was in the first rank of the practical plowing classes, and that when speed classes had been tried, it was found that high-cut plowmen were leaders in that class.

The fierce feminine radical in college is the one who never has heard a handsome he say: "I adore you."

Here and There

Famous officers of the Canadian Pacific Railway and Sir John A. Macdonald, Prime Minister of Canada, arrived at Revelstoke recently and held a series of historic meetings. Among them were Donald A. Smith, George Stephen, James J. Hill, Van Horne and Shaughnessy, names associated for the past half century with the construction of Canada's first transcontinental railway. The party actually comprised a group of film players portraying the historic characters in the tense board-room sequence of "The Great Barrier", Gaumont British picture depicting the strenuous railway construction days fifty years ago.

Says Gene Sarazen, one time world's champion golfer, writing of the Banff Springs Hotel course at the famous resort in the Rockies:—"That course of Banff is everything you said. Miss Helen Hicks and I played it against two guests at the hotel and we were beaten. With a huge gallery it may seem funny to hear we simply couldn't keep our minds on the game—the scenery was simply too much."

The smallest attendance in history, only seventy-six students, is reported at Peterboro Normal School this year. The scarcity of situations for prospective teachers has undoubtedly a great deal to do with the small attendance.

But so many who feel tolerant are merely tolerant of those who agree with them.

The naughty man doesn't hate reform; he merely hates to be reformed by people no better than he is.

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