

## SOME OBSERVATIONS ON THE REPORT OF AGRICULTURAL ENQUIRY COMMITTEE

(DR. D. JAMIESON, M.P.P.)

We clip the following from this month's issue of The O.A.C. Review, a monthly magazine published at Guelph in the interests of Agriculture. The article follows a request by that publication for a synopsis of a recent address delivered before O.A.C. graduates on the agricultural conditions throughout the province as found by the Agricultural Enquiry Committee:

A thorough discussion upon the floor of the Legislature, in the press and at meetings of public bodies as the Canadian Council of Agriculture, Boards of Trade, and conferences of manufacturers followed the report made by the Ontario Agricultural Enquiry Committee appointed a little over a year ago. The representative opinion thus called forth was marked by an entire absence of petty or sectional criticism. On the contrary, from all quarters came the constructive suggestion that if the recommendations contained in the report have the values attributed to them for advancing the condition of our farmers and of Canadian agriculture in general, these recommendations should be promptly and practically followed up. The recommendations were not offered and have not been received anywhere as a panacea for all economic ills.

I said in the House during discussion of the Report that I had also received personal letters of commendation from leading farmers, manufacturers, packing house operators, professors of universities and others. One letter which I quoted came from a gentleman prominent in the Liberal Party and well known as one of the most far-seeing business men in the province. I mention this to make clear again that the Committee does not assume to have discovered any political panacea, for in a word, this prominent Liberal said it is now up to the Government, aiming solely at the economic improvement of agriculture, to take action along the lines suggested.

There is not much the matter with our farmers as growers and producers. There is, however, a great deal that can be accomplished in regard to processing and marketing the chief lines of their production. It is plain to all who observe that the marketing of products of every kind is the most serious present problem confronting this country. The moment I speak of processing and marketing, in connection with agriculture, I am on the topic of co-operation, and I may as well say it at the outset that, so far as co-operation is concerned in Ontario, the movement so far has largely been fortuitous and spasmodic and consequently not always successful. Not only so, but I have found not a few business men still inclined to look upon co-operation as a progressive novelty introduced professionally into this country by Mr. Aaron Sapiro. That is a great mistake. Your well informed readers will expect me to deal with the movement as one of vital importance, and allow me to present its development preferably in the calm and well considered verdict of the British Tribunal after a complete survey of co-operation had been made throughout the world and particularly in the British Empire. The British Tribunal opinion is nothing less than a straight recommendation to the Imperial Government, and in my opinion makes the self same appeal to all governments in Canada whether federal or provincial.

The Tribunal Opinion declares: "The organization of the farming community on co-operative principles makes it far more possible for the voice of the primary producers to be heard and their interests to be directly represented, while, for the producers themselves, it provides a group formation through which information of market requirements and methods of improving crops and stock can be readily disseminated."

"State assistance to agriculture is more effective and economical where the agricultural community is co-operatively organized than where it remains in a condition of dominant individualism; and, if for no other reason, the State would be justified in assisting the growth of agricultural co-operation, by which it will be enabled the more effectively to promote its educational and other services."

"The beneficence of this principle applied to agriculture can indeed only be realized by the personal experience of the social and educational as well as the economic effects of the movement. A study of co-operation as it is extending today in other countries reveals possibilities of great significance. There is the beginning of developments which are international in their importance, and relationships such as could only exist between groups of different countries organized on common principles and with kindred ideals."

In face of such a statement from such a quarter the question may well be asked whether the members

of the great British family having everything within themselves cannot, to their economic advantage all round live more within themselves?

I hope I have been too long in public life and in business to remain either a restrictionist or a dreamer; and I think I am within the mark in saying that, so far as we in Canada are concerned, our chief economic advantage in future will be reaped from empire trade. But I am now more particularly discussing the economic advancement of Canadian agriculture.

At the present time when the Government of Great Britain is inviting co-ordinated effort within the British family, what are the political and trade signals displayed by our great neighbors in the United States? They too are earnestly studying and applying the principles of co-operation to the various lines of agricultural industry, and I may add that with every facility government both state and federal can afford, the producers of the United States are making rapid progress in the field of co-operation. But the United States has at the same time been building its tariff wall higher and higher, so that imports agricultural as well as industrial, except what they actually need and must have, are practically shut out of their market. Canada, of course, is the country mainly affected along its transcontinental boundary by the overshadowing agricultural tariff wall. And it is rather instructive for us to observe that there is no difference of policy between their two great political parties in respect to the tariff. So true is this that the legislative and administrative recommendation of President Coolidge's Agricultural Conference covered tariff matters without any trace of that nice caution which our Ontario Committee exercised at all our public hearings in regard to this topic. The tariff is still a political question in Canada. It has ceased to be such in the United States. There it is no longer regarded either as a party or political matter.

The policy of tariff-protected production of the agricultural as well as other industries of the United States is not only expressed but stressed by the President's Conference in its declaration of "a balanced American agriculture by which production is kept in step with the demands of domestic markets and with only such foreign markets as may be profitable."

There is the whole policy of our neighbors to the south. There is no political difference whatever of opinion among them concerning its wisdom. The domestic market is to be preserved for their own producers. Foreign markets are to be invaded if profitable to those producers. The phrase "balanced agriculture" has been interpreted in the Canadian press as implying a policy of limiting agricultural production solely with a view to holding all commodity prices at a high level; but I do not apprehend that our Ontario market gardeners, fruit growers, bean growers, poultry and hog raisers and indeed our farmers generally need to be sanguine that the end is in sight of their long sustained struggle against unfair U.S. competition in the Canadian market with the handicap of a low tariff on our side and a high tariff over there.

The Ontario Committee, like the Coolidge Conference, found that its work demanded a special study of the development in recent years in all countries of the world of producers' marketing organizations looking to orderly and economical distribution, with observance of grades and standards for the various agricultural products of the country. The Ontario Committee also found that although the principle of agricultural co-operation has made fitful and uneven headway in the different provinces of the Dominion, largely from the example of other countries, co-operative marketing organizations in our country have had little government encouragement. I will go so far as to say that Ontario is perhaps the most backward province in this respect. The Committee made a survey of co-operative legislation and achievement in the various provinces of Canada from the Atlantic to the Pacific; and while there was no space in the Report for reference to this part of the work, it naturally led up to the main recommendation of a National Export Marketing Commission for the orderly distribution of our agricultural surpluses other than grain. Herein lies the best solution of some difficult problems as presented not only by farmers but by manufacturers and labor representatives as well. We found this recommendation anticipated in a measure not only in Britain, which is our great export market, but in other countries of Europe. The self same idea was adopted by the Coolidge Conference in the proposal of a Federal Co-operative Marketing Board, with this difference, that the Ontario

recommendation proposed definite representation of the federal and provincial governments as well as organized agriculture.

First must come the development of the proper types of co-operative organization to suit our Canadian community. Here as well as in the United States, in Denmark, Germany, and other countries, it is fundamental that leadership be developed in every field of co-operative enterprise, whether production, distribution or transportation. It is in the way out of such an era of depression as we are coming through that signal opportunity invariably is found.

The recommendation in the Report of the Committee concerning the creation of a National Export Marketing Commission has been well received by the general public and by the business community in Canada. Since the Report was issued, I have observed that this recommendation is in closest harmony with a carefully worked resolution of the Conference held at Wembley July last and with the declaration of Sir Daniel Hall, technical adviser to the British Ministry of Agriculture, that until agricultural co-operation gets a full trial, we cannot know what the British Empire can achieve within itself.

The recommendations of the Report are also in line with important economic developments taking place in other countries and more or less allied to the great co-operative movement. The creation of a National Economic Council in France, for instance, has the same object in view, one that all leading nations are aiming at in bringing representatives of different economic groups together to study conservation of the resources and essential energy of the whole country. Present day conditions undoubtedly point to the conclusion that it is impossible for any one occupational class, to live to itself; that we are interlocked in our relations with one another; that the problems of every class are common problems all round. We are in duty bound to seek to understand each other's viewpoint and try to be fair and helpful one to another. By a united effort, our aim as Canadians is to put our splendid young country where it belongs in the forefront of all lands on this earth.

With the view of working out this spirit of harmony amongst all classes, the Ontario Committee called a Round-Table Conference to which we invited farmers, manufacturers, retail and wholesale merchants, cattlemen and stock yard interests as well as representatives of the transportation companies, labor organizations, bankers and others. We certainly found a ready response and a broad spirit of co-operation which has penetrated the business community in a notable manner and inspired many declarations in favor of mutually helpful relations between the agricultural and manufacturing interests.

It is not too much to say that the investigation carried on by the Ontario Committee regarding railway rates has been an influential factor in precipitating the present discussion of the railway situation and of showing the necessity of doing something worth while in the direction of economy so that the rates may be lowered. The investigation of the Committee in this field can hardly fail of further effect. The Report showed, and Senator G. D. Robertson, who defended the scales of wages paid to railway labor, admitted, that inasmuch as the Canadian National Railways continue to function with heavy operating deficits, the burdens of rates will continue to fall more heavily on the farmers and producers of Ontario than on those of more sparsely settled provinces. There is no practical purpose to be served by inviting criticism of railway manage-

ment without indicating ways and means of retrenchment. This I think the investigation of the Committee did indicate, not in respect to certain scales of wages only, but also in the unexamined field of the salaries of officers. It is outside of my province perhaps to express an opinion as to whether real retrenchment is possible in the direction of Sir Henry Thornton's hope for co-operation between the two great railway systems, or, as others hold, by the merging of the systems under one management. But this much is clear as applied to either system that when earnings fall short of requirements, corresponding economies must be insistently demanded from the responsible railway executives. The railway executives go upon the easy assumption that high rates is the only recourse. Their responsibility in management should be held up to the railways of Canada by the people, by the shippers who suffer from high transportation rate and especially by the farmers whose transportation costs are wholly out of proportion to the value of the tonnage they contribute to the carrying companies.

Before I close, I must make a brief reference to Hydro for the farmers of Ontario. The report necessarily dealt with the Hydro situation as it is, but it indicated so much in respect to developments in the near future that I was able to recall in the House how, in 1911, I had the honor of moving the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne, at a time when rural depopulation was seriously talked about and when it was desired that farm life should if possible be made more attractive. On that occasion, I said there were three things which would contribute to this end and prophesied they were coming. They were good roads, rural mail delivery and telephone connection. They have all come, and I am now going



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### WAVE LENGTH

In radio work, we begin by giving the length of a European unit of length, universally accepted in radio, accurate however, and just in miles, yards, feet, inches.

There is however, an out-different way of designating waves, which for everyday use, as well as for scientific purposes, is much more useful. This way designates the waves according to frequencies, i.e.—the number of cycles or oscillations that they go through in one second, that is, the number of cycles per second runs up into pretty large figures. The frequency is generally given in kilocycles, which are units of cycles each.

The following is an illustration of how the frequency of a wave is a better term to use than the wavelength.

Suppose that a person says, "I received a wave of 300 meters." This is not a logical or a correct statement, as 5 meters differs around 200 meters represents 8 times the separation that 5 meters difference does around 600 meters. If the person had said "his receiver had separated two stations which were, say 3.5 kilocycles apart," the statement would have meant something, because 3.5 kilocycles represents the same separation in meters what the wave length happens to be.

Practically all call books are giving both the wave length in meters and the frequency in kilocycles for each station. Even the newspapers, in their published program generally give the number of kilocycles in parenthesis after the wavelength.

In the writer's opinion, it is a matter of time before the waves are more generally expressed in kilocycles than in meters. If you wish to keep up-to-date in radio start using the term "kilocycle" preference to meters.

To find the number of kilocycles when the wave length is given in meters, divide 300,000 by the wavelength.

### Broadcasting Operator's License

Until recently, the operator of a broadcasting station was required to pass the same examination to obtain the same license as a commercial code operator.

A new license is now authorized which is for the operators of broadcasting stations only. The examination for this new license is just as severe as for the old commercial licenses, but is more on the special requirements of a broadcast station operator. In the code requirement, for instance, the applicant for the new license needs to receive but 1 word per minute against the 5 words per minute which were previously required. The theoretical part of the examination is more severe, however, and the applicant must make a grade of at least 75 per cent to receive a license.

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### RADIO QUESTION

Mr. Sherrill will be glad to solve problems. Write him, care of the Editor.

L. E. B. says: "I have just completed a 2 tube tickler regenerative set using 201A tubes. The set does not oscillate very strongly, however, and will not work well at all of some waves. Can you give a hint as to what the trouble is?"

Ans.—You do not mention using a by-pass condenser across your battery and the primary of the amplifying transformer. The lack of such a condenser would cause trouble.

### ACROSS CANADA AND BACK

The wonder trip of the coming summer will be conducted by Dean Laird of Macdonald College, to Victoria, B. C., and back.

Inspired by the success of the trip to Victoria last year, on the occasion of the Teachers' Federation meeting at that point, and filled with patriotic motives for everyone to see their own country, the Dean has arranged for a special train of standard sleeping cars to leave Toronto on July 20, visiting Port Arthur, Fort William, Winnipeg, Regina, Moose Jaw, Calgary, Banff, Lake Louise, Vancouver thence steamer to Victoria.

Returning, the trip will be via the Okanagan Valley, Nelson, the Kootenay Lakes, Windermere Highway, the most charming and awe inspiring trip it is possible to conceive with stops at Radium Hot Springs, Vermilion River and Storm Mountain Bungalow Camps—another day at Banff, then Edmonton, Saskatoon, Devil's Gap Bungalow Camp, near Kenora on the Lake of the Woods.

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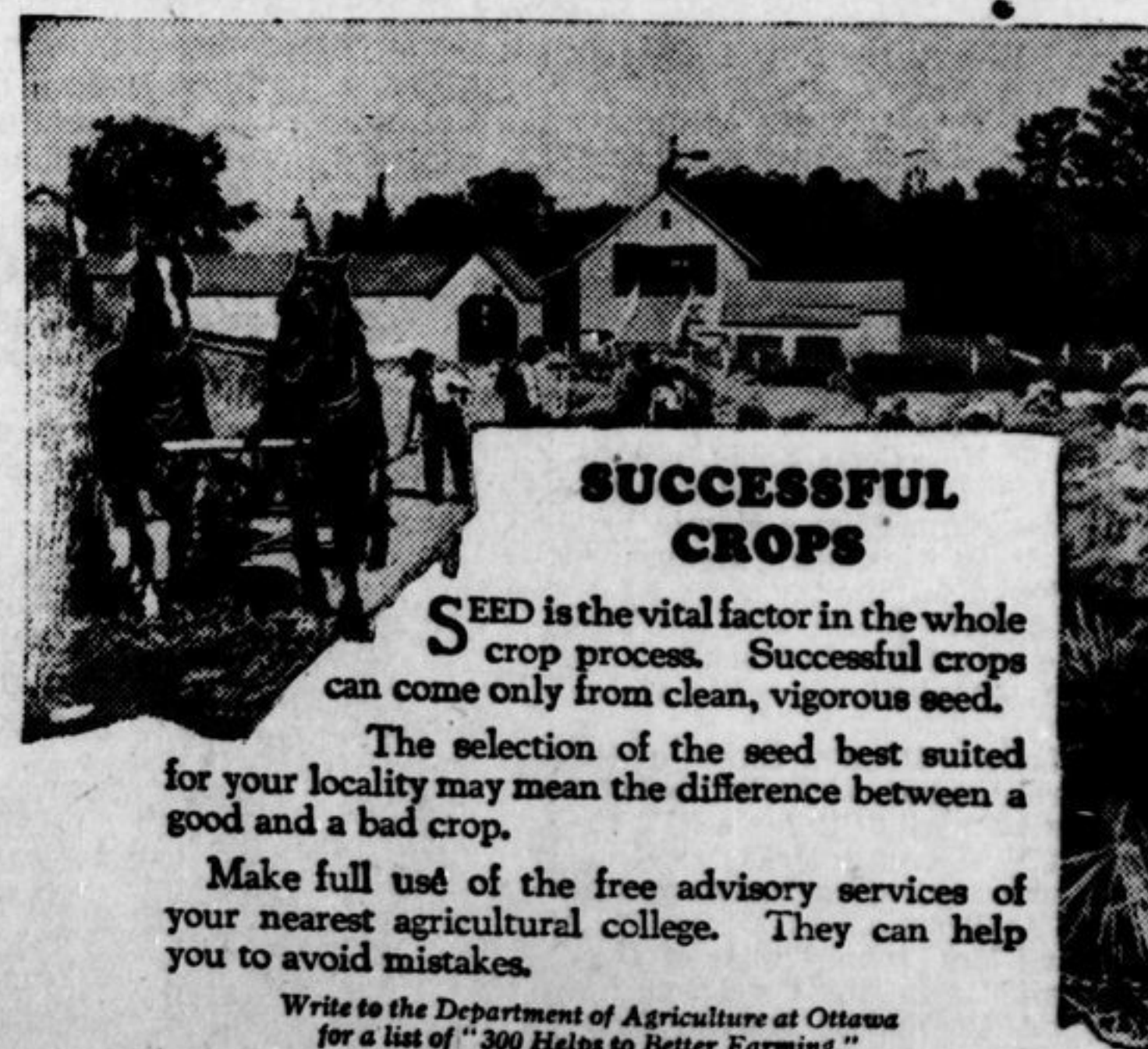
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