

**PORTUGUESE CLAIMS COUNTRYMAN DISCOVERED AMERICA**  
 The Portuguese Consul, A. de Oliveira Aguiar, has advanced an interesting argument that Corte-Real actually discovered America nineteen years before Columbus landed here, though Achille G. Verena, left, student of

**PROGRAMS DRAUGHTED AT O.A.C. AT GUELPH**

Exchange of Ideas Between Ontario Representatives and Indiana County Agents Bring Out Many Interesting Things; Importance of Definite County Program Emphasized.

The Agricultural Representatives were welcomed to their twenty-second annual conference, held the last week in June in the O. A. C. by Dr. G. I. Christie, President of the Ontario Agricultural college. In an address full of optimism regarding the future of agriculture, the Representatives were characterized as true missionaries of agriculture who had a great opportunity to inculcate in the minds of old and young of their counties, something of the dignity of their calling, and in giving leadership in the best and most up-to-date practices of agriculture. The Agricultural Representative service now covers every county and district in Ontario and helps link up the work of the O. A. C. the experiment stations and the different branches of agriculture with the numerous farms on the concessions and sideroads. There is no end to the lines of work which may be followed, and many of the men in charge of the counties find the days and weeks all too short in which to accomplish work which they have outlined. Each county affords problems different from other counties, but at the annual conference a special endeavor is made to give consideration to the numerous problems from a provincial standpoint. Director of the service is R. S. Duncan, with J. E. Whitelock and M. C. Phail as assistants.

Every Representative endeavors to become familiar with all phases of agriculture in his county, and to render what service he can to advance the standard of agriculture. The training of leaders, especially among the young people, is meeting with pronounced success, and many successful young farmers today have profited much through short courses and junior farmer activities in the county. The heads of the departments at the O. A. C. and the heads of Provincial departments of Agriculture, as well as many of the men engaged in special field work, attended the conference and were called on to explain the line of service which their particular department offers to the farmers through the Agriculture Representatives. A visit of county agents from the state of Indiana, U.S.A., was a new feature injected into this year's conference, and exchange of ideas and methods of carrying on extension work was of mutual benefit.

The addresses during Wednesday afternoon were particularly stimulating and inspiring. New ideas were presented as county agents from Indiana told of their problems and how they were approached or as speakers from Ontario outlined the various phases of their work. A comprehensive review of Agricultural Representative work in Ontario from its inception in 1907 to the present time was given by R. S. Duncan, Director of the Service. Step by step the work has grown, rendering a great service to agriculture in its every aspect. It was pointed out that Ontario was the first place on the continent to adopt this system of agricultural training. There are numerous projects undertaken. The Representatives' program embraces the farm, the home and the community. Dr. G. I. Christie, President of the O. A. C. reviewed the various lines of work carried on by the different departments of the College, and proved beyond a shadow of doubt by what has been accomplished in field, laboratory and class-room, that the O. A. C. is and will continue to be the greatest institution of its kind on the continent, if not in the world.

The importance of concentrating as one or two major projects was strongly emphasized by speakers from both Indiana and Ontario. G. R. Green, Representative in Oxford County, outlined three projects that had been undertaken and by charts and maps proved that results beyond expectation had been obtained. There were live stock improvement, poultry development and seed cleaning. The aim

running through the projects was to couple all educational work with economic work and let them develop together.

H. E. Abbott, President of the County Agent Association in Indiana, briefly outlined agricultural work in that state, and in many respects it is very similar to that in Ontario. Each agent has his major projects, and in a majority of the counties it is boys' and girls' club work. Second in importance is introducing legumes more extensively into the cropping system, and the third most important work is dairying. The strictly grain farmer is losing out, and growing of legumes and marketing them through live stock are factors in stabilizing agriculture. Soybeans are rapidly gaining in favor as a hay and concentrates for live stock, and as a soil builder. County agents follow programs of work planned by or asked for by local people. M. K. Derrick, another county agent, also discussed the work of Indiana, and emphasized the importance of measuring all farm crops in terms of calories rather than pounds and bushels, as it is the actual food value which counts rather than the quantity. Reference was made to the rise and fall of farm values between 1914 and the present time, when it stands at 85 as compared with 100 in 1914. In 1920 land values were 200 per cent. higher than in 1914, making it very difficult for many when values dropped.

**Weed Control Methods Considered**  
 The question of crop improvement was discussed from several angles, and it was made clear that every effort would be made to effect a clean-up as soon as possible, and that weeds on farms must be cut. Sow thistle control was considered and experiments on control measures, over a period of years, will be undertaken in order to determine the best and most economical system of cropping or cultivation to cope with the situation. The importance of more power and heavier cultivating implements for weed control were emphasized. Professor I. E. Howitt contended that on many farms implements in use were not suitable to contend with the present weed menace. Tests are being made with several chemical weed killers to determine their effectiveness.

**Programs and Projects**  
 A day was given to the discussion of programs and projects, and how best to serve the respective counties or communities to best advantage. The importance of a full realization of the problems and a well-defined plan of attack were emphasized. While the work differs widely in the different counties, yet there is a unity of purpose. A splendid system has been worked out whereby each Representative makes a county analysis or businesslike statement of county conditions and from this a development program is drafted covering a period of years. Then a carefully thought out program is prepared for the year, and a work calendar by months is drafted. Having a definite plan makes possible continuity of work in the county toward a purpose.

Committees on live stock improvement, agricultural engineer-junior extension work and programs and projects, had met previous to the conference and prepared reports for consideration and discussion. The committee on engineering recommended that more short courses in farm mechanics be held during the coming winter, and that the course be made as practical as possible. Besides work with tractors and motors, it was suggested that there be practical work in remedying binder and knottor troubles, lining up cutting bars of mowers, adjusting of plows and other implements, the lacing of belts and making of halters, etc. In previous courses much interest was taken in this line of work, and it is believed advisable to extend it as far as possible. Emphasis was laid on rural sanitation and home conveniences. It was recommended that Representatives endeavor to stage demonstrations on the installation of septic tanks so as to show that the work can, in many instances, be done by the farmer himself. Dr. Christie inquired as to why more farm homes were not equipped with sanitary conveniences and the general opinion was that the cost of material and cost of installation were the main obstacles.

Some reported that there was difficulty in getting plumbers to work in the country, and this brought forth a suggestion that a short course might be held at the O. A. C. to train young men in installing water and sanitary equipment in the farm homes. Consideration was given to farm machinery and its relation to weed control. The use of skimmers on plows was advocated, but in one county it was claimed that a skimmer had not been used for many years, and some implement dealers did not know what they were. Many new inventions are being tried out, but Dr. Christie suggested that for demonstrations an endeavor should be made to show the farmer how he could make better use of the implements already on hand rather than depend on the introduction of new machines. It was the consensus of opinion that there were implements on many farms that if properly adjusted and overhauled would give valuable service.

Soil improvement work was discussed by Dr. Harcourt of the Chemistry Department, who referred to the soil survey work as the foundation of proper understanding of the soil. The work which the chemistry department is doing was briefly outlined, and results of

fertilizer experiments given in detail. Ample proof was given that on many of the soils fertilizers paid a good profit, but in order to use fertilizers intelligently there must be an understanding of soil conditions and crop requirements. Results of several years' work were given to show the increased yield by the use of different material and how there was a carry over to the next and possibly the second or third crop. For instance, with wheat following canning peas there was as high as 64 per cent. increase in the wheat from fertilizer on the peas, compared with the check plot. With potatoes the profit over cost of fertilizer per acre where nitrogen, phosphoric acid and potash were used increased from over \$60 per acre where 200 pounds were used to as high as \$122 per acre where a thousand pounds were used. In this case 2 per cent. nitrogen added to the phosphoric acid and potash gave marked results. Dr. Harcourt mentioned that some thirty-five to forty experiments were being conducted on pasture land to demonstrate that it is possible to greatly increase returns from the hundreds of thousands of acres of land that are in grass. The committee on live stock improvement brought in a lengthy re-

port dealing with phases of live stock work.

A. P. MacVannel outlined the method of procedure followed in organizing Prince Edward County under the restricted area. The importance of having the support of many of the good farmers was emphasized and also of getting the members of the council in sympathy with the project. Dr. W. Moynihan, of the Health of Animals Branch, Department of Agriculture, contended that one of the difficulties encountered in T. B. eradication was to get everyone to cooperate in removing reactors and in thoroughly disinfecting the stable. It was sometimes hard to get the owners to make as thorough a clean-up as possible. There is the danger of getting cattle breaking into the field or accredited herds coming into contact with infected animals.—The Farmers Advocate.

**In Lullaby Land**  
 The following previously preserved extract from a love-letter written home to his wife by a soldier on active service will evoke tender memories in thousands of former service men:

"Don't send me no more nagging letters, Lettie. They don't do no good. I'm three thousand miles away from home and I want to enjoy this war in peace."

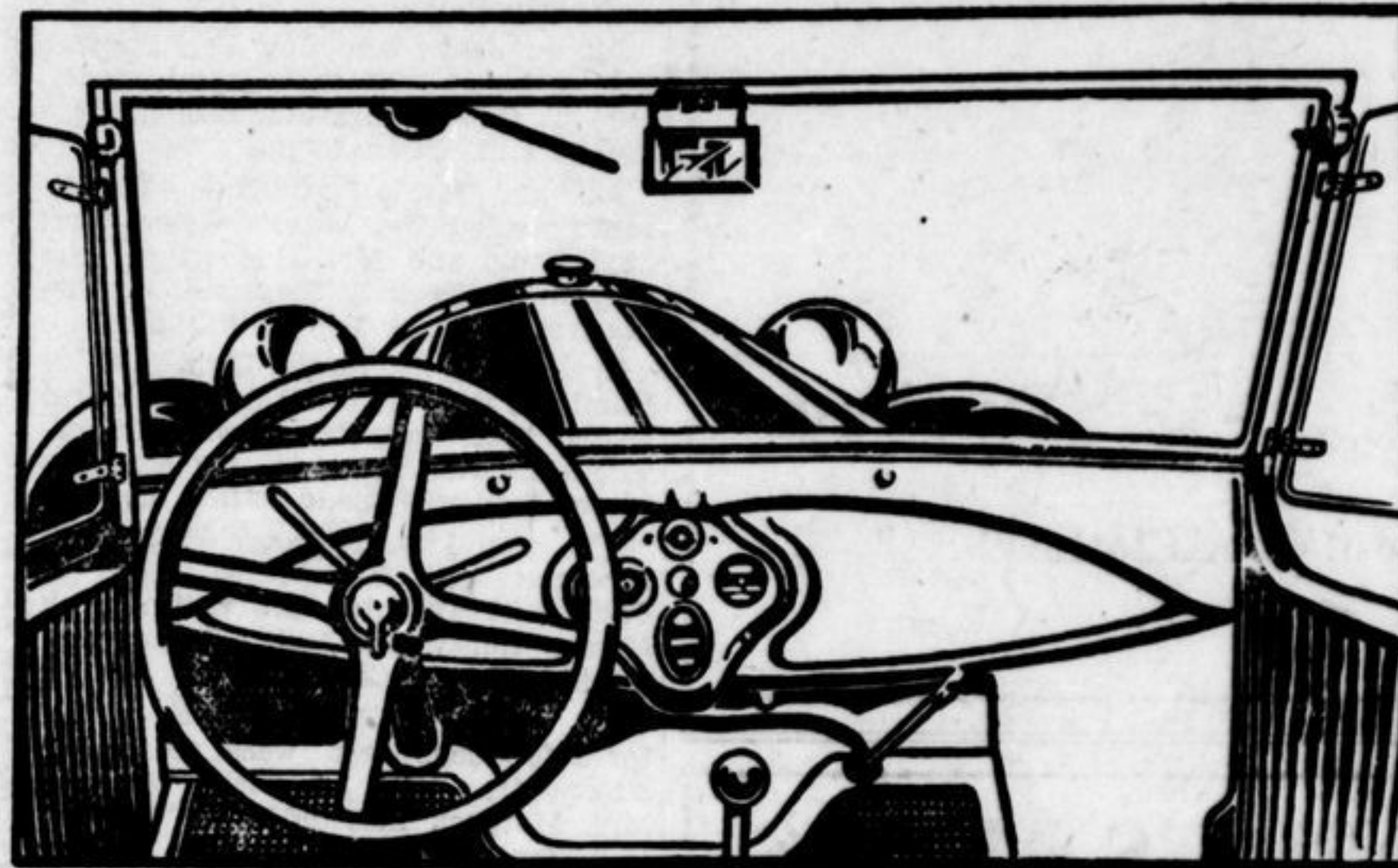
A Scots piper, as he played his all-gold instrument of music, walked up and down the roadway.  
 "Do you know," said a bus driver of a stranger passing on the curb, "why they walk up and down when they

play?"  
 "No," said the pedestrian pausing to hear the driver's explanation.  
 "Because," he said, "it's harder to hit 'em then."  
 There is so much harping afterwards that marriages must be made in heaven.

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