

NEWS FOR THE FARMER

FARMING OPERATIONS BUILT AROUND TRACTOR

In present-day farming one thing which seems thoroughly established is that farm operations and farm work are now built around the tractor.

Where 30 years ago the tractor was a form of supplementary power to that of the horse, relieving the horses on the farm of such heavy work as plowing and perhaps such jobs as pulling the corn binder at silo filling time, the tractor now is the main source of power.

Where horses are kept at all they are kept as a source of supplementary power, or, in sections where roads are not plowed in winter, they are kept for winter hauling. Such areas are becoming fewer every year.

USE TRACTOR UNITS

Perhaps the most noticeable thing in the newer lines of tractor tillage equipment is the adoption of tractor mounted units. This development is not confined to two-plow tractors but is evident up to the three-plow size. The advantages are apparent and need hardly be enumerated to present day tractor farmers.

Trailing implements are really a thing carried over from the days of horse farming. The tractor is big enough and has enough weight to carry implements of considerable weight even when they are suspended from the three-point hitch at the rear of the machine.

Tractor mounted equipment can be built for less money because of the absence of running gear to carry it. It is more easily hitched and unhitched. Transporting such implements along highways and from field to field is much simpler and faster and in the field working into corners and around obstructions is greatly facilitated.

The new hitches on many makes of tractors are masterpieces of ingenuity. With them one implement can be unhitched and connections made to another without the operator leaving the tractor seat. Many, if not all of the new conveniences connected with tractor mounted implements are made possible by hydraulic lifting and pressure equipment.

USE FINGER TIPS

Instead of adjusting depth of plows and other tillage machinery by long levers and expenditure of considerable energy, hydraulic equipment makes all manipulation of the implement a matter of finger tip control. It is now possible not only to lift implements out of the ground and to drop them to the ground but they can be

so regulated that the weight of the tractor can be used to hold them to proper depth in hard soil. Another ingenious form of tractor mounted equipment is that in which harvesting machines, such as corn pickers, cotton pickers, sugar beet harvesters, loaders for canneries and other, similar equipment is not built on, and carried by the tractor. Again hydraulics are used to good advantage in this development.

TAKEN FOR GRANTED

Farmers have taken this development so much for granted that they are inclined to forget the importance of the tractor in farming. With the new developments and with the other possibilities of this versatile power plant, it is now possible to do things never thought of as farm work.

With such attachments as earth moving blades and drainage plows the tractor will do a good job of road building, grading of lanes, making good drainage ditches and even digging trenches for tilling. With "umble-bug" scrapers the farmer can build his own farm pond and, to pay for the attachment, build a few more ponds for his neighbors.

If this land is of such nature that the fields must be terraced to control soil erosion the tractor and one or more of his standard tillage implements can be used to do the job. Building terraces around farm houses also is a much needed improvement that can be readily done with the tractor and simple earth moving attachments.

The thousands of farmsteads need this kind of attention to help beautify surroundings and make possible effective landscaping is gradually becoming recognized by their owners.

CAN PICK STONES

Still other jobs which may be undertaken because of the versatility of the tractor are such almost forgotten jobs as stone-picking, a job folk have many Ontario farm folks have not had time for many years. Perhaps the larger hard heads were removed in a quick trip over newly seeded fields in spring, but the systematic trips with team and wagon over hay meadows in the spring have long had to be abandoned because of lack of help.

Today stone pickers are making their appearance and, no doubt, they will be seen at work soon in the stonier sections of this and other provinces.

Snow plows and snow blowers also are now perfected, to the point where they will do a good job in making possible

essential winter transportation on the farm and between the farmstead and the nearest plowed highway.

Today's farmer needs to be more of a mechanic than anything else. He must learn to be systematic in the maintenance of equipment. He must have a farm shop with good lubrication equipment and at least the tools needed for general maintenance and overhaul of tractor operated machinery.

Early Plow Tied To Horse's Tail

The mouldboard plow was not known before the 15th and 16th centuries when the Dutch and Flemish made considerable improvement in construction of the wooden stick of the Greeks and Romans which only stirred the land.

It was another century before the plow was to receive that scientific form and perfect adaption to the end required, which it now possesses,

said Vol. 1, No. 1 of the Canadian Agriculturist in 1949.

England, and more particularly the Scots were responsible for the greatest technical improvements. The early plows used in England were crude and imperfect as in any country, however. The answer

"It could hardly have been otherwise for, by the law of the ancient Britons, no man was allowed to hold or guide a plow until he was able to make one," said the agriculturist.

"The driver was required to make traces and these were to be formed of withes of twisted willow."

This word "withes" is the origin of the modern word, "whippletree" or "whiffletree" as many people call it. "Whippletree" is the corruption of "withen tree" by the Saxons and withes of willow of the Britons.

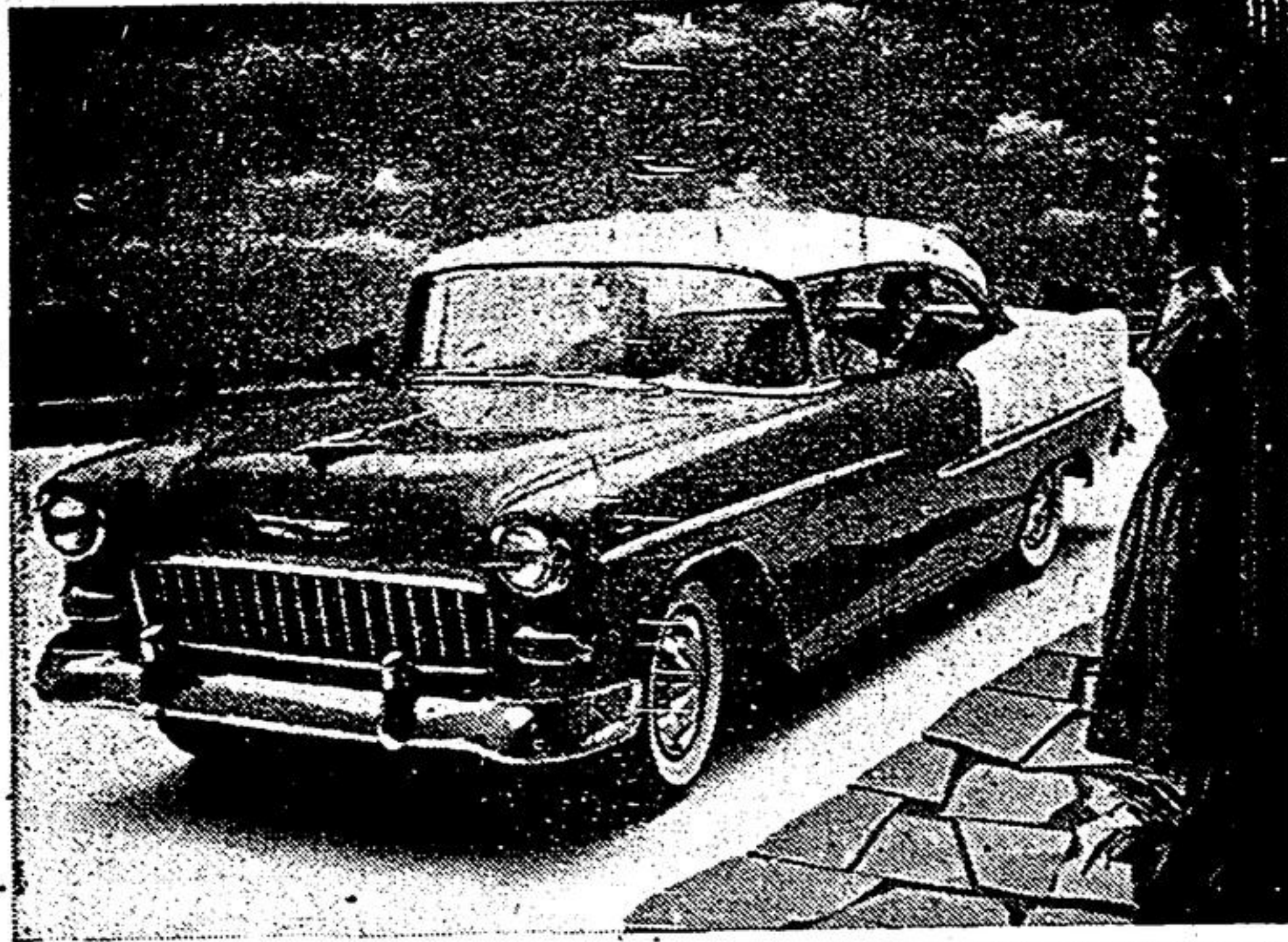
For pulling the plow, "Our Saxon ancestors adopted the barbarous practice that prevailed in one period in Ireland—that of fastening their horses to the plow by their tails," said the farm magazine.

"This absurd and cruel custom became so extensive that an act of parliament forbade it in 1634."

This was the same act that also forbade pulling of wool yearly from living sheep instead of clipping or shearing.

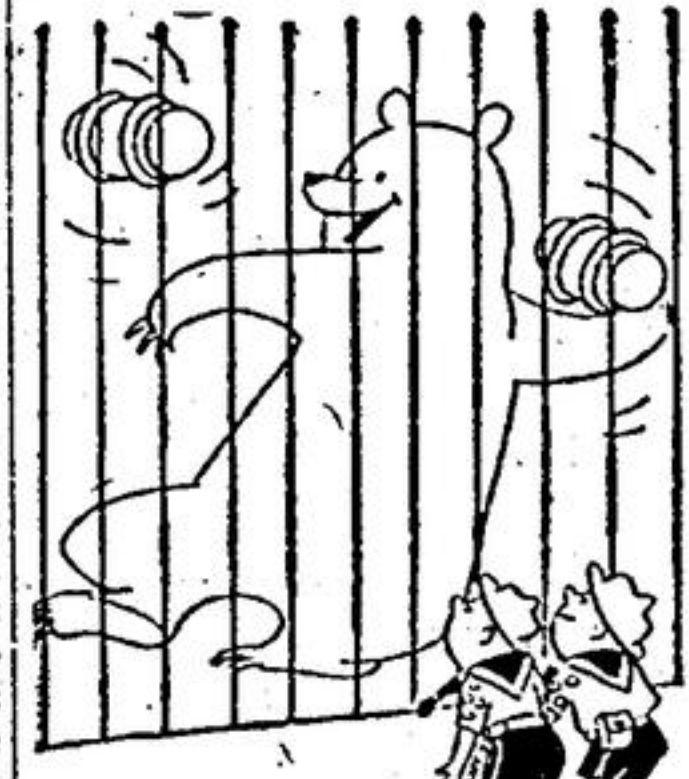
However, the book said it was nearly 200 years before the Irish stopped breaking the law.

It's fall cleaning time, when all the trash is removed from the attic just before some of it is put back.



The futuristically designed 1955 Chevrolet, offering for the first time, a high-output 162 horsepower V8 engine as well as a more powerful six cylinder "Blue Flame" economy-leader, was announced across Canada today. Greatly increased comfort and driving qualities stem from re-engineered frame and suspension

are enhanced by the first "dream car" styling in the low price field. The Bel Air Sports Coupe (above) illustrates the broad, low grille and hood treatment, greatly increased vision through the new sweep-sight windshield, and the "feet" look imparted to all 14 body styles by the longer, lower lines of the new models.



Beat for Punishment

ALASKA'S GIANT Kodiak bear plays rough. But the people who run the Bronx Zoo have found the perfect toy for him. It's an aluminum beer barrel, which in his playful moments he can bang, bounce and generally maltreat without serious damage. Having seen barrels (filled) being tossed around trucks, we can understand why brewers have turned to these rugged, attractive containers. Another reason, of course, is that aluminum is an excellent protector for food and drink, preserving their purity and flavour indefinitely. Aluminum Company of Canada, Ltd. (Alcan).

CEDAR GROVE

Cedar Grove will be a long time forgetting the short, unwelcome visit from Hazel. It was incomprehensible that our harmless little stream could swell to such a frightening, ferocious torrent. The Woodland Park bridge completely disappeared and the bridge on the tenth was smashed beyond repair. Huge trees lay across roads, houses and barns completely uprooted by the violent wind. The damage in the Park was terrible. The gate, the picnic grounds, much equipment and three cottages succumbed to Hazel's madness. There was not enough left of one cottage to know where it had stood; another had a living room tossed into the trees. The hydro and telephone poles all around the village were either knocked over like match-sticks or were leaning drunkenly on wires lazily choosing a moment to drop to the ground. Cattle, fences, equipment and acres of land were lost in the seething rush of the Little Rouge. It was fast, dreadful destruction but it wasn't the Don or the Humber, so we were thankful.

When the wind blew itself out and the water subsided, it was surprising, as it always is, how quickly the people gathered and organized to right the wrong. The farmers sawed up the trees to clear roads and free houses; barricades appeared at the washouts to prevent unknowing motorists from driving into the river. The hydro was working again in a very short time—a credit to the hardworking gangs who re-

paired the system. Charlie Croucher, in the midst of repairing countless fences, took time to erect a very efficient, catwalk across the river at the washed out bridge. The children crossed this and got to school on Monday. The army engineers arrived to look and measure and they tell us we'll have a Bailey bridge on the tenth in about a week.

So things are settling down again in Cedar Grove but Hazel's havoc will be vividly remembered years from now when we recall, "Back in '54 a hurricane called Hazel..." On Friday evening, Oct. 29th, Cedar Grove C.C. will answer your many requests for a Hal-oween dance. It will be a really gay square dance in the schoolhouse. The music has been arranged and we hope to have Cam Kennedy, your old favourite, to call off. There will be lots of fun and lots of dancing, so come early and stay late.

Ever since man invented the wheel and learned how to start a fire, he has been becoming increasingly dangerous. Stone Age man speaking: "Now that the other side, too, has learned how to make the terrible weapon of war, the bow and arrow, we'll have permanent peace as nobody will dare start a war."

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