

## HERE'S NEWS FOR THE BUSY FARMER

### Dairy Food Promotion To Commence in Sept.

Dairy Farmers of Canada advertising set-aside will be collected in Ontario during the month of September, according to E. Rie Kitchen, Secretary-Manager of the national producers' organization. The normal June set-aside, which proceeded as usual in the rest of Canada, had been postponed in Ontario to coincide with the Ontario Stabilization Plan that was to have started in August but was subsequently postponed. Mr. Kitchen states that agreement has been reached between the dairy producer and operating groups in Ontario to carry the set-aside forward with vigor during the month of September. The set-aside of a cent-a-pound butterfat finances the national advertising program in support of dairy foods. Ontario producers set-aside more than \$143,000 in 1954 as their contribution to the national advertising budget of \$367,000.

In view of the fact that milk production is down normally in September, Mr. Kitchen points out that the co-operation of all branches of the industry in Ontario is imperative if this province is to maintain its contribution to the national budget. In a joint statement, A. Steel, President, Ont. Dairy Producers' Council and W. H. Hoiles, President, Ont. Milk Producers' Co-ordinating Board, have pointed out to all operators and producers the valuable job of dairy food promotion provided by the national program. It was their conviction that it was their conviction that the special September set-aside should receive strong support from all branches of the industry.

### End of Bushel Measure Urged

Just maybe, the bushel as a unit of measure may go the way of the horse. At least it will if important leaders in the U.S. grain industry have anything to say about it.

Seems there's a drive on now to switch over to measuring grain and similar products in 100-pound units instead of bushels. Proponents claim the changeover could save millions of dollars by eliminating conversion calisthenics.

Here's an example of what they mean: Farmer Brown takes a truckload of grain to the local elevator and is quoted the current price on a bushel basis.

But his loaded truck is weighed in pounds, emptied and weighed again. The difference is the net weight of the grain. This is divided by a fixed ratio of pounds per bushel, depending on the kind of grain. The result is multiplied by the price per bushel to find out how much Brown gets.

Says Earl M. Ellis, general manager of a Chicago feed manufacturing firm, "The extra

### Plough Coulters

Today, there are several types of coulters on the market, and the choice may be as important as change of plough or adjustment, says J. G. Kemp, agricultural engineer, Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa.

Although the knife edge has been replaced by the rolling coulters, the former is still a handy piece of equipment in stony land or for heavy roots, but surface trash limits the extent of its use. A knife edge will allow a plough to penetrate where other coulters will hold it out.

Today, most tractor ploughs are equipped with rolling coulters because of superior trash handling ability. The larger the diameter of the coulters, the greater the amount of trash it will mount and cut.

A clean job of ploughing can be done if a jointer is used, but a jointer may be a source of trouble in heavy trash. One combination offered has a rolling disc jointer to meet this problem. However, the jointer itself is not self-cleaning in sticky soil.

Three coulters, the notched, wavy edge and concave disc have been designed in an attempt to give positive turning and cutting action. They all work very well in heavy trash and are also adaptable to soils of low resistance where a standard straight disc tends to drag. The notched and wavy edge are difficult to sharpen and have a shorter life than the standard coulters. The coverage of a concave disc is not so complete as other coulters with jointers.

As an added note, ploughing of cornstalks can be made much easier by travelling in the same direction as the corn picker.

### Ontario Farm Land Area Is Shrinking

Ontario farm land is being consumed for other purposes at a rapid rate. The trend has been more noticeable in recent years.

Prof. A. C. Robertson of the department of agricultural economics at the Ontario Agricultural College points out the province's farm acreage has decreased by 469,000 acres since 1901. The number of occupied farms has decreased by 50,000 in that period.

In spite of all the reduction in acreage, and in the number of farms, the total farm value—land, buildings, machinery and livestock—is three times what it was in 1901. Today Ontario farms are worth \$2,547,969,000, compared with \$932,483,000 in 1901.

Much farm land is used up in the natural development of larger cities, and all the services they demand. Highways, power lines, pipe lines, airports, industrial sites and residential areas all encroach on some of Ontario's best farming areas.

There is also a loss of farm land to conservation authorities, district and county forests and to erosion by lakes and rivers.

Any reduction in farm land area should increase the demand for farm land. As farmers leave the highly taxed areas near cities, they create new demand for land further away. They also leave part of a market unfilled and more distant producers should benefit in filling this market. Other factors also increase farm value. For instance, a new highway nearby may open the area to suburban development.

With the possibility of six million people in Ontario by 1961, each farmer should realize that his farm is becoming increasingly important, says Prof. Robertson. This increase in population should improve domestic markets and mean less reliance on foreign outlets for primary products.

### Film Council News

With the beginning of the school term in sight, it is a good time to decide if you are going to take advantage of the films that the National Film Board have in stock.

Many teachers now realize what a help the films are in teaching many subjects. The children seem to be able to grasp the lesson more readily when it is demonstrated by films than by an hour of talking.

Our films are varied and cover every imaginable subject from mice to atoms.

Anyone interested in the films may write to any of the following:

Mrs. C. Keevil, Claremont  
Mr. E. Sulman, Port Perry  
Mrs. Deeming, Myrtle  
Mrs. W. Carter, R.R. 1, Pickering.

### Barefoot Farm Boy

## Activity on the Farm Always Hit Its Peak When Threshing Time Came

Threshing was about the only operation that had to be done by a custom operator on our farm—or any early farm. It was about the only task that could not be done by exchanging work with our neighbors.

There was a limited number of threshing outfits in a farm district. They were operated by custom threshermen. The machines would be kept busy from wheat threshing in early August until the last mow in the district was threshed out about Christmas time.

Except for special occasions of emergency or convenience, the outfit would go from farm to farm in rotation.

The equipment was the separator and a horsepower to run it. The separator and horsepower were each pulled around by a team of horses owned by the thresherman. These two teams were hitched to the horsepower during actual operations, along with other teams supplied by the farmer and his neighbors.

The horsepower is fairly difficult to describe. Possibly some of you may have seen the one in operation at the International Plowing Match at Breslau last year. They are real museum pieces now.

Gear System Gave Speed To Line Shaft

Possibly it would best be described as being a large wheel laid horizontally on the ground with five elongated spokes about 20 feet long. Five teams of horses were hitched to the spokes and walked round and round in a circle.

A system of reducing gears on the underside of the wheel were connected to a line shaft. One revolution of the big wheel would speed up the line shaft to about 200 revolutions.

The horses could walk one around the machine in a minute so that they would be driving the line shaft at about 200 revolutions a minute. This, of course, could be increased to whatever speed was required, by using different size drive pulleys.

It was no mean sight to see five teams travelling in close formation around and around the machine. They were driven, or perhaps I should say kept going, by the driver standing on a small wooden platform in the centre of the revolving machine. With a long whip he could reach each horse that needed a little stimulation.

As the platform revolved with the machine the driver had to keep lifting one foot, then the other in a kind of walking motion in the opposite direction in which the horses and machine were travelling.

This was so he could keep an eye on all the teams. They used to say that the driver's own horses never did their share of the work.

He kept up a continuous chatter to the horses, "Yip, yip, yip. Come along, come along," interspersed with a lip noise no

word in English can express. But even after 65 years I think I can give a fair reproduction of it.

The threshing outfit would try to arrive at a farm to give a half or full day's run. If it came late in the afternoon, the crew would work that night until they had it set up ready to go at 7 a.m. the next day. Floors Were Cleared

And Bins Prepared

The crew of three boarded on the farm during threshing operations. Housewives did not appreciate these visitors. They did not and could not make any attempt to keep their clothes and bodies clean. They were black most of the time and made a sorry mess of the beds and bedrooms they occupied.

Threshing required a lot of advance preparation. The threshing floor of the barn had to be cleared of the previous months' accumulations. The granary and bins had to be made ready for the grain.

In the house the womenfolk were busy for days baking up bread, buns, cakes, pies and a host of other good things. The pride of the average housewife was to provide plentiful and tasty meals for the threshers. It would be the subject of year-long gossip in the neighborhood if any farmer and his wife failed to provide plenty of food on these occasions. The meat alone a gang of 12 to 15 hungry men could consume was appalling. On occasion I saw father butcher a calf or a sheep in preparation for the threshers.

During these preparations I used to become so excited I could hardly eat. Homework got short shrift.

I would wait expectantly for the first sound of the machine to approach. Incidentally, the coming of the threshing machine could be heard a long distance and the clatter of the loosely packed straw-carriers on the top of the machine had a sound all its own, distinguishable from any other noise produced by wagons on the road.

It would be a most regrettable occasion if the coming of the threshing machine was delayed past my bedtime and I had to forego the excitement of seeing the arrival, the placing of the big machine on the barn floor and the horsepower unloaded in position outside.

A brief description of a separator, as a threshing machine was called, might not be amiss. As the name implied, its purpose was to separate the sheaves of grain into three main classes.

Most important of the classes was the grain itself but straw and chaff were also important. Keeping the grass and weed seeds separate from the grain was also important.

The general design and principle of the threshers have not changed in the last 75 years. The newest machines today, however, have a series of kni-

ves that cut the bands on the sheaves, the separated grain is thrown or blown into the granary, the straw is cut and blown by a cutter to the farthest part of the mow and the chaff is separated and blown to another part of the barn if desired. And it is likely the modern barn has a ventilating system to get rid of the choking dust.

Machine Spilled Grain Into Bushel Baskets

I remember in the machines that used to visit our place the grain was delivered from the side of the machine into bushel baskets. Depending on the crop yield, one or two men carried the baskets to the granary.

The straw was not blown onto a stack or into the mow but was carried on a mechanical contraption to the edge of the mow where several men had to fork it back and tramp it.

The chaff, together with all the dust, dirt and smut was blown out the back of the machine by a fan. The rear end of the barn became so thick with dust that you could hardly see a person near you.

Removing the chaff was one job you couldn't even ask your best friend to do. When threshing was going on at your place you could count on one or two days of pure misery.

A gang of about a dozen neighbors came in to help at threshing time. The host designated to each the task for the day. Usually the young active fellows were chosen to work in the mow to carry the sheaves to the machine. One particularly active man was chosen as band cutter. On him and the men in the mow depended the volume of work done.

The actual feeding of the machine was done by the threshing crew who accompanied the outfit. They were so expert that they could handle any quantity the mow gang threw at them. Middle aged men were chosen to handle the straw.

The bill of fare, as I remember it, at noon dinner was hot roast meat, potatoes, a couple of kinds of other vegetables, a couple kinds of pickles, bread, butter, apple butter, maple syrup, fresh apple sauce, pudding or pie or both with tea or coffee. The supper would vary, probably with cold meat, mountains of fried potatoes, with a good general assortment of everything else.

Yes, threshing was the event of the year, a time everybody but me was glad to see past and gone. I still love to reminisce and even now can recount much detail of a threshing-bee. Would that I once again could sit down to a table loaded with all the delicious food. But now lacking the appetite and energy that accompanies youth I would not find it any more satisfying or tasty than the good meals we have been enjoying in modern times.

Threshing by horsepower gave way to the use of the steam engine between 1880 and 1890. Some farmers, including my father, fearing danger of fire, used the horsepower after the use of the engine had become general.

It was not until 1887 that a steam engine was used on our farm.

The treadmill was not used extensively and then only for a specific operation. It was installed permanently in one location for such jobs as pulping turnips, cutting straw and maybe grinding grain. We never had one on our farm.

Most people know the principle of this machine. An animal is led onto an inclined platform and must keep walking or fall down. As the animal walked, the platform kept revolving and thus supplied power to a shaft on which a pulley was attached. The pulley was belted to the machine to be driven.

Horses were generally used on treadmills. However, some were made smaller and operated by dogs. I recall on several occasions on a farm near Hespeler seeing a dog operating a treadmill which supplied power to turn a churn. For most of his power, however, the farmer depended upon the circular horsepower. I often wonder why it disappeared so quickly from the farm scene. Possibly it was too cumbersome and farmers were glad to get rid of it when something less awkward came along in the form of the steam engine and the tractor.

U.K. Cattle Shipped to Canada

Canada bought 174 head of British livestock in the second quarter of this year. It was announced recently in London by the U.K. Livestock Group. The total figure for both Canada and the United States was 192—an increase over the total of 184 for the same period of 1954.

There is a Forest of 3,000 acres in Bellefontaine, France, that has been continuously managed and harvested for over a thousand years, and still produces a good living for many people.

## HIGH SCHOOL Re-opening

The Stouffville District High School will re-open on Tuesday, September 6th, at 9 a.m. The only supplies needed for the first day are a pencil and a memo pad, and students are advised not to purchase any texts beforehand.

The school buses will follow last year's routes until registration has been completed.

Mr. Robbins will be at the school Saturday, September 3rd, from 9 to 12 and from 1 to 4 to interview any students or parents who may wish to see him before school formally opens.

### Buttontville News

Correction, please — the Buttontville W.I. meeting will be held in Buttontville Hall on Thursday of this week, August 18, at 8.15.

The church service for the Victoria Square Circuit was held at Brown's Corners United Church last Sunday morning. The speaker was Professor John MacPherson of Victoria College. Mrs. George Hooper was the soloist and gave a beautiful rendition of "How Lovely Are Thy Dwellings".

The service will be held in Headford Church next Sunday morning at 11 o'clock.

Mrs. James Miller and Jamie spent last week at a cottage with the Horton family. Jim brought them home in time to attend a wedding Saturday afternoon.

Sunday School at Brown's Corners church next Sunday morning will commence at 10 o'clock.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Craig have returned from a motor trip which took them to the Adirondacks. John and Janet visited Mr. and Mrs. Lauder Hamilton at Colgan.

Sympathy of the community is extended to the Wellman family of Headford who sustained the loss of a husband and father last week.

Mr. and Mrs. James Rodick and their three nephews, John and Jimmy Jackson, and John Rodick spent last weekend at the Grants cottage near Dorset.

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