

# "Mixed Farming Best" Says Fred Wicks, Sec'y York C'ty Agriculture



Though other farmers may be specializing more and more in one or two crops, Fred Wicks, Stouffville, secretary of York County Federation of Agriculture, still believes that mixed farming is best.

On his 100-acre farm he has dairy and beef cattle, hogs, poultry and field crops.

"I don't like to have all my eggs in one basket," he says. And besides there is more flexibility in mixed farming, he adds.

He is currently preparing to switch completely from dairy to beef cattle in case the dairy in Markham where he ships fluid milk converts to bulk haulage.

To make bulk haulage worthwhile, Fred says he would have to increase his dairy production to the exclusion of everything else. "And then the dairy could shut off your milk shipments any time."

Even a 10 cent premium for bulk cooled milk wouldn't induce him to install the expensive equipment and make the necessary renovations and convert to a dairy farm.

"But I'm not a model farmer," he insists. "When you work for the Federation you sometimes have to neglect your own business."

In his work as Federation

secretary he spends about 20 hours or two full work days a week. He attends all the township Federation and commodity group meetings he can and helps township groups plan their programs.

One aim of the county organization is to encourage each of the local groups to plan a definite project each year. The life of the Federation lies in an active program, Fred asserts.

Projects such as the Vaughan Township Federation's current flower garden contest, maintain local interest in the organization, he says.

One complaint he has about his work is the lack of opportunity to discuss common problems with fieldmen in other counties. At the annual fieldmen's conference at Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, "too much time is taken up by the top brass," he says. There ought to be an opportunity for fieldmen to talk things over among themselves, he adds.

Fred has been interested in farm organization work for the last 20 years "because of the inequality between farmers and other groups in the community."

He was a director for several years of the Toronto Milk Producers Association (when he

## FROM PARLIAMENT HILL

By Michael Starr  
M.P., Ontario Riding

Another motion to go into Supply was introduced on Monday, April 30, and the Conservative Party submitted an amendment for the consideration of the House, which urged the government that immediate consideration should be given to measures to assist the municipalities of Canada to meet their mounting financial problems, and in particular the immediate introduction of legislation which would provide for the exemption of all municipal councils and school boards from the payment of excise taxes, including the 10% sales tax, and which would further provide for payment to municipalities of the equivalent of full municipal taxes. An amendment to this amendment was made by the C.C.F. Party in the House, endorsing this amendment, and adding that consideration should be given to legislation to provide for Federal aid to education without interfering with provincial control thereof.

This debate lasted for two days, according to the new rules of the House. When the vote was taken on both the amendment and sub-amendment, they were both turned down by the government. In taking part in the debate, Finance Minister Harris rejected these demands, and said that tax exemptions generally are undesirable. He said that the best type of tax is one with no exemptions. The financial problems of municipalities were emphasized by all those participating in this debate from the Opposition side. They were described as the place where in fact democracy finds its greatest strength. They are the closest forms of administration to the people. However, all of these pleas and presentations were of no avail.

The Special Committee on Estimates has completed its work on the Dept. of Labour with the exception of the two clauses relating to Unemployment Insurance. These have been deferred until May 15th, or soon after, in order to give the Unemployment Insurance Commission an opportunity to rectify and bring about a solution to some discrepancies now existing in the Act. The Minister of Labour is expected to make a statement in the House of Commons in respect to these adjustments on or before May 15th.

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to the taxpayers of the oratory of Members of Parliament comes from a Liberal Member who indulges in it rarely. He has announced that by his calculations the high cost of speeches in the Commons runs to about \$1800 per hour. His opinion is that it is not worth it. He further stated that he doubted whether he had heard one speech this session that was worth \$1800 an hour.

There is a great deal of talk at present that a solution to the Trans-Canada Pipelines, as far as the government is concerned, may be found in the arrangement whereby the Federal Treasury would provide funds for an immediate start on the long-stalled Trans-Canada Natural Gas Pipeline. Even though the Prime Minister denies this rumour, it is being drafted under which \$80,000,000 may be loaned to the sponsors of this line to build the Alberta to Manitoba leg this year. This amount would be in addition to \$53 million the government plans to put up to co-operate with Ontario in creating a \$115,000,000 Crown company to finance construction of the 675 mile Northern Ontario link. Whatever the amount of the loan, it is certain that it will provide more ammunition for critics of the government's pipeline planning. It will be argued that the private company is asking the public to take an even larger share of the risks meanwhile retaining control of the venture.



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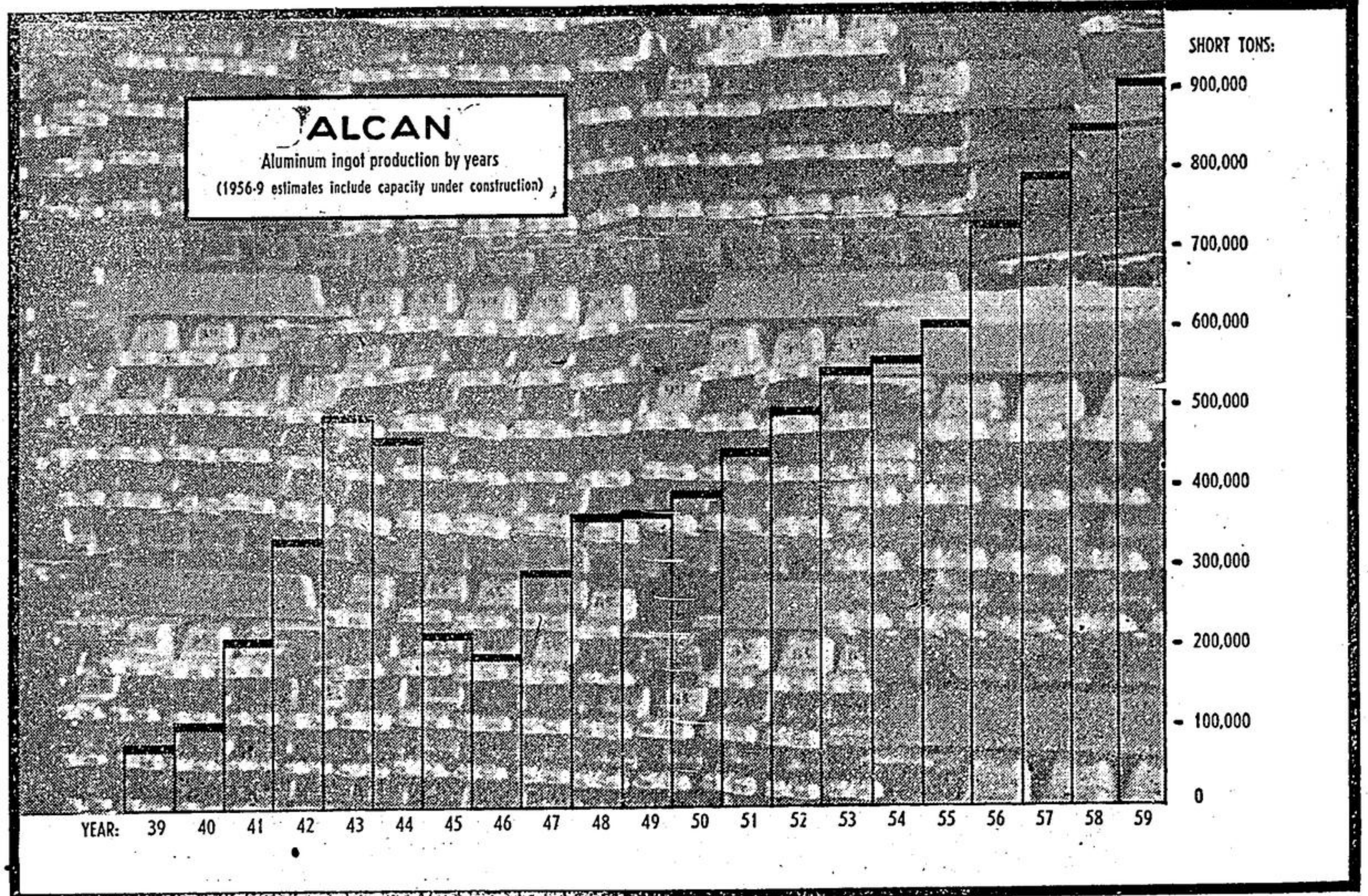
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