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Must Insure Adequate Income For Farmer Meeting Told

Delegates to the annual meeting of the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association were told today that serious consideration should be given the current farm situation by farm organization in co-operation with all levels of government which would ensure an adequate return to agriculture and the farmer.

Speaking on the topic, "Focus on Agriculture," Everett Biggs, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, said that while the farmer and government must give serious consideration to the current situation, the development of long-term policy was essential to the continued welfare of the industry.

"First of all we must make sure an assured and adequate income, not only based upon fair interest for their large capital investment, but an income that would be more on a level with other segments of our economy," said Mr. Biggs.

The Deputy Minister said that it was recognized that such planning went beyond one Province, and that action taken by provincial marketing organizations and the Ontario Department of Agriculture could be nullified or made ineffective by Dominion-wide situations or other considerations.

"I am convinced that we can get a better public understanding of our industry, and I am convinced that, through this, we will get better financial returns for our Ontario farmers, and help overcome the entirely unrealistic and unfair situation which has developed," said the Deputy Minister. "A situation where the farmer's costs have progressed in pace with the general buoyant economy, which has resulted in markedly increased costs which have tended to not only wipe out all of his profits in some cases, but which in all cases has more than trebled over his increased income."

Mr. Biggs pointed out that following World War II and up until about 1952, the farmer experienced an expanding economy.

"Then it changed, and he has been in a cost-price squeeze which has been getting tighter ever since," he told the meeting. "I am advised that since 1947 beef has gone up 25 per cent to the consumer, and down 13.8 cents to the producer. Wheat was \$2.00 per bushel to the farmer, and bread 17 cents to the consumer. Since 1947, the production per farmer is up 147 per cent, and the production per industrial worker up 37 per cent. Since 1951, the prices farmers receive have gone down 13 per cent, while the farmer's costs have gone up 13 per cent. During this decline of food prices to the farmer, food to the consumer has increased by 12 per cent."

Recalling that Hon. Wm. A. Stewart, Minister of Agriculture had said that there was no place in our present thinking and economy for a philosophy of cheap food which has been placing the farmer in an untenable position, Mr. Biggs said that he too would like to reiterate the feeling of the Minister.

"There is no place for a cheap food philosophy in our present economy," said the Deputy Minister. "Too many people, for too long now, have embraced a food philosophy which is not in the best interests of agriculture or our economy. That is one of the thoughts that we should keep in mind in our future planning."

Expressing some disappointment of the annual review of the Economic Council of Canada, Mr. Biggs had hoped that some concrete suggestions would have been made, rather than general observations which saw agriculture as continuing on the same pattern as post war years up until 1970.

"I must confess that I was disappointed in this report in its treatment of agriculture, and I feel that it is about time that there was a dynamic and clear presentation of the importance of agriculture and food in our national economy, and a change in the thinking of far too many people that time will correct the ills of agriculture. We must ensure that these ills do not become so chronic that they are insurmountable."

Mr. Biggs suggested that it would be money well spent to retain a team of the best brains in the country to develop a long term plan which would give full recognition to the needs of agriculture.

A shipboard day is divided into six watches, each of eight hours duration.

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On The Farm Front...

TIME TO ORDER FERTILIZERS FOR '65 CROP

(A. A. Wall, Agricultural Representative, York County.) This is fertilizer ordering time for many farmers. It's a good time for it because there are still some early delivery discounts, and all analyses are available now as well.

There isn't too much new in fertilizers this year. The trend to high analysis materials gets stronger all the time. Triple Superphosphate is a good example. Its strength is 6% as compared to the normal 20% and it cuts the lifting and handling job alone by better than half. Other good materials like 18-46-0, 16-20-0, 11-48-0, Ammonium Nitrate, Urea, and Ammoniate of Potash should get full consideration in all fertilizer orders. As a rule, these supply plant food cheaper than the standard mixed ratios and less handling is a factor too. Their biggest advantage is for crops like corn, potatoes, vegetables, and hay and pasture where heavy rates are needed.

On spring grain, standard ratios still do the job fairly well. The new series of analyses with 8% nitrogen like 8-16-16, 8-16-8, or 8-16-0 are often better than

the 5% nitrogen series. The extra nitrogen is especially good for barley, and on many soils it will boost oat yields too.

Another thought on fertilizer ordering is that there should be something for hay and pasture fields. There is more and more evidence that extra fertilizer is needed to get top forage yields. Most tests on alfalfa, for example, show that heavy rates of potash are needed and often phosphate as well. Needs of 60 to 100 lbs. of actual plant food for both nutrients are common. Even without a test, putting on 0-20-20 or 0-21-24 at around 300 lbs. is a good bet. Triple Super or Muriate of Potash would be equally good. I find that it's usually a lot easier to spot a fertilizer miss in a hay field than it is in a field of spring grain.

We all felt a little blue around the office last week with the passing away of two former Agricultural Representatives for York County, J. C. Steckley and R. J. Rogers laid the foundations in this county for extension work and got a great many farm projects started which are still being carried on to-day. Their work will be remembered by the farm people in York for a very long time, and we will miss their many enjoyable and helpful visits to our office.

AHOY!

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DON'T PROTESTANTS Believe In Confession?

But Protestants don't believe in confession, do they? Bob asked a friend who was a leader in a nearby Protestant church.

"Why, of course, we do, Bob. What makes you ask that?"

"There's no confession in the Protestant church, is there?"

"No, there isn't. But that doesn't mean that we don't believe in confession. We believe that every person must confess his sins. The Bible says, 'If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He (God) is faithful and just to forgive us our sins.' (1 John 1:8,9)

"But you don't have any priests. To whom do you confess?"

"No, we don't have priests in the sense you probably mean, Bob. The Bible says that every 'born again' Christian is a priest." (Revelation 1:6)

"Then do you confess to one another?"

"We can. The Bible tells us that we should confess our sins one to another when we have wronged one another. But there is a big difference between confession and forgiveness. The only One who can forgive sin is the One against Whom we have sinned."

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RINGWOOD

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Piper spent Sunday with his brother, Ken and family of Peterborough. Miss Stella Larocque and Miss Gloria Patterson were guest-speakers at the missionary prayer meeting held at Mr. and Mrs. Walter Piper's on Wednesday evening. They represent "The Northern Missionary Fellowship" a mission to Indians.

The "Excelsior Class" ladies group celebrated their 35th anniversary by entertaining former members and friends on Thursday evening with a social program in the church basement.

Mrs. A. Summerfeldt is home again after several weeks in hospital following surgery.

Mrs. Harry Kennedy is convalescing after an operation on her knee.

A house cat has been known to reach the age of 27 years.

It seems that a pig was lamenting to the cow about how unpopular he was. "People are always talking about your gentleness and your kind eyes," said the pig. "Sure, you give milk and cream, but I give even more. I give bacon and ham. I give bristles. And they even pickle my feet! Still nobody likes me. Why is this?"

The cow thought this over for a minute and then said, "Well, it may be because I give while I'm still living."

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