This is a view of the Village of Claremont, looking west along the Ninth Concession road. Native residents will recognize some of the old buildings, now removed.

Scenes From The Past In Village Of Claremont

Looking north from the intersection along the Brock Road. In the distance is a horse and buggy, an established mode of transportation in that day.

Farm Tribune

Reject Farmers Appeal For Tax Exemption

King township farmers will not be granted certain tax exemptions. Council voted unanimously Feb. 2 to reject the appeal made by King Township Federation of Agriculture presented earlier in the month.

The farmers asked that lands assessed as agricultural property be exempt from municipal costs such as police and fire protection, snowplowing, sanding and grading.

Their proposal indicated that the house, other buildings and five acres of the farm property might be taxable to cover municipal services, making each property comparable to urban properties in taxes paid.

Carl Boynton, Federation president, Douglas Hutchins and J. M. Langdon, addressed council concerning their brief, supported by a large delegation.

Three chief reasons why Council has decided not to pass such a bylaw, and summarized in a formal statement accepted by members of council are:

"We feel that it is very important that the assessment of agricultural land be settled with the Department of Agriculture and Department of Municipal Affairs before any such action be taken.

"Other rural muncipalities have not seen fit to pass such a bylaw. The thinking being that it would not be in the best interests of the municipalities.

"As this matter has been before the courts in another township for over a year and no decision has been reached as yet, we feel it would be premature to pass such a bylaw at this time."

Reeve Gordon Cook emphasized the nonfeasibility of considering such legislation. It would be premature indeed, he said.

Already York County Council's agriculture committee and the County Federation of Agriculture are waiting to be granted a hearing by the Minister of Municipal Affairs to present a brief and arguments why farm assessment, if based on market values, would be detrimental to the farmer himself and to the agricultural industry as a whole. It would also affect the small home owner.

Labour Shortage On Farms A Problem

Farm labor remains difficult to obtain, but the proportion of hired labor in agriculture is rising, according to Don Buchanan, rural labor co-ordinator of the department of forestry and rural development, Ottawa.

He suggested a farm grossing an income of less than 13,000 could not afford to hire much labor.

The farm labor conference at Kemptville was in general agreement on the point that the farm labor problem will only be solved when working conditions and wages become competitive with other employment opportunities.

And although the increasing use of farm labor reflected the tendency toward fewer farms with increased sales volume, Ron Murphy, a Lyn farm manager drew applause when he said there was a place in farming for the efficient family farm.

Clayton Wills, another farmer said the first rule of management should be to "get better before you get bigger."

Or as KAS director, Dr. Ford Stinson put it: labor must earn more than it costs.

G. H. Kidd, agricultural specialist with the Canada Department of Manpower and Immigration, Toronto, predicted the farm labor shortage will be a problem for another few years.

One thing about living within your income is that if you don't you'll eventually have to learn to live without it.

York County Milk Producers Elect Executive

STOUFFVILLE — The York County Milk Producers' Association has elected its 1967 executive although only 35 of the 500 dairymen attended the meeting due to extremely poor weather conditions.

Russel Rowntree of Woodbridge was re-elected Chairman. Carl Boynton and Francis Redelmeier were named to the executive.

Directors elected include —Ernest Crossland, Jim Darlington, George Davidson, Jim Faris, Dave Houck, Eldred King, Mel McMillan, Jim Sellers, Herb Simpson, Allan Wellman, John Wilson and Oliver Bales.

Two members of the Marketing Board were present. They informed the meeting that pooling plans with an original target date of June 1 had been re-scheduled for September or October.

EXPLAIN QUOTAS

Present handling quotas were also explained. Quotas cannot be bought or sold at the moment but a long term quota policy is expected to provide for transfer by sale. The original allocation to producers will be based on milk produced on each farm in the setting period, August 1, 1965 to July 31, 1966, and not on previous quotas.

Committee recommendations to the Board included (1) That all milk producers, including those selling to industrial plants, be on quota. (2) That quotas be saleable, with upper and lower price limits under control by the Board. (3) That all fluid producers be allotted a quota at least equal to 85 percent of his top milk price in 1966.

A full report of the York Committee's activities in 1966 can be obtained from the Department of Agriculture Offices at Newmarket.

Rural Co-Operation Needed To Curb Land Exploitation

The co-operation of rural municipalities in planning to prevent exploitation by private developers was called for by J. W. Spooner, minister of municipal affairs, during an address to an Ontario Federation of Agriculture conference.

His job is "to prevent this kind of thing happening," said Mr. Spooner. "But I will be depending on the rural municipalities for co-operation."

He said the question "is not whether to have more urban development, but rather, what kind of urban development, where, and under what conditions."

More than 140 people took part in the federation conference on assessment, taxation and land use. The meeting accepted for study by the federation resolutions from York and Peterborough counties on solutions to taxation and assessment problems.

Jack Ferguson, a former OFA president and chairman of the assessment committee, said increasing talk of the need for a capital gains tax is the most striking change in the thinking of farm people. He said it would have been inconceivable a few years ago.

There have been so many amendments to the tax legislation it looks "like grandmother's quilt." The answer might be a new act "a whole new approach," he said.

Summing up the conference he noted general agreement on several points:

A capital gains tax should be considered.

Planning should be on a province-wide basis.

Freezing the value of expropriated land until payment is made is unjust.

The present tax system does not distribute the burden of taxation equitably.

A person forced to forego his way of life and move to another area must not be made to suffer.

The gains the OFA has made have been obscured by increasing problems.

One resolution called on the province to pay at least 80 per cent of the cost of eduation to offset some of the pressure of property taxes. Farmers find their assessment higher than home owners according to sales value and "are called on to pay more taxes on property than they can bear."

Both the United States and the Soviet Union have provided films, taken in space, to the Expo 67 theme pavilion, "Man the Explorer". The two countries also have space exhibits in their own pavilions.

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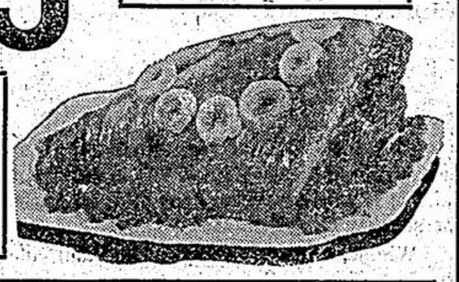

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