



Win safety award

Mr. I. L. Jennings, vice president of the Aggregate Division of Standard Paving and Materials Ltd., presented the I. L. Jennings Award to the employees of the Stouffville Plant of Consolidated Sand and Gravel Ltd., at a banquet held Feb. 13 at the Sleepy Hollow Golf and Country Club. The award is presented annually to the division of the company working the most accident-free man hours. The Stouffville Plant completed an accident-free year in September of 1969, and operations have continued since that time without a mishap. Dean Wagg (right), of Queensville, wet mill operator at the plant, accepts the award on behalf of the employees.

—Peter Harris

Farm Productivity said 85%

Productivity in the Canadian farm machinery industry is about 80 to 85 per cent as great as productivity in the United States, a researcher for the royal commission on farm machinery believes. Christopher J. Maule, economics professor at McMaster University, said earlier estimates

that Canadian productivity was only 68 per cent of U.S. are "a statistical illusion." The difference, he said, "is due to differences in the way in which shipments are valued when they are reported by the companies to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics in Ottawa and the Bureau of the Census

in the United States." The "value added"—estimates of the value of the work and materials added to raw or semi-raw goods—is valued lower in Canada than in the U.S. Mr. Maule warned that the same situation may not apply to other industries than farm machinery.

Automatic OFA tax levy may be on the way out

The automatic tax levy used by rural municipalities to support the Ontario Federation of Agriculture is on the way out. This will be the case if a complete restructuring of the Federation is carried out according to agreement reached at the latest meeting of the OFA executive and marketing boards.

The restructuring will eventually do away with the automatic tax levy popular in some countries and townships.

Mr. Hill, president of OFA, is counting on individual memberships to carry the OFA banner ahead. He is banking the future of the OFA on farmers buying a membership in the organization.

"I want an organization controlled by farmers," he said in an interview after the meeting. "We want an OFA that is not controlled by government, by commodity boards, by co-operatives or anyone else but farmers."

"I think an individual membership is the only solution. If a man puts his money on the line \$25, then he is going to be an active member and that's what we want."

Many objections to the plan were voiced by marketing board members.

Some felt a voluntary membership fee would fail and suggested an automatic checkoff on all farm products to finance a strong federation with funds to do all the work that is necessary.

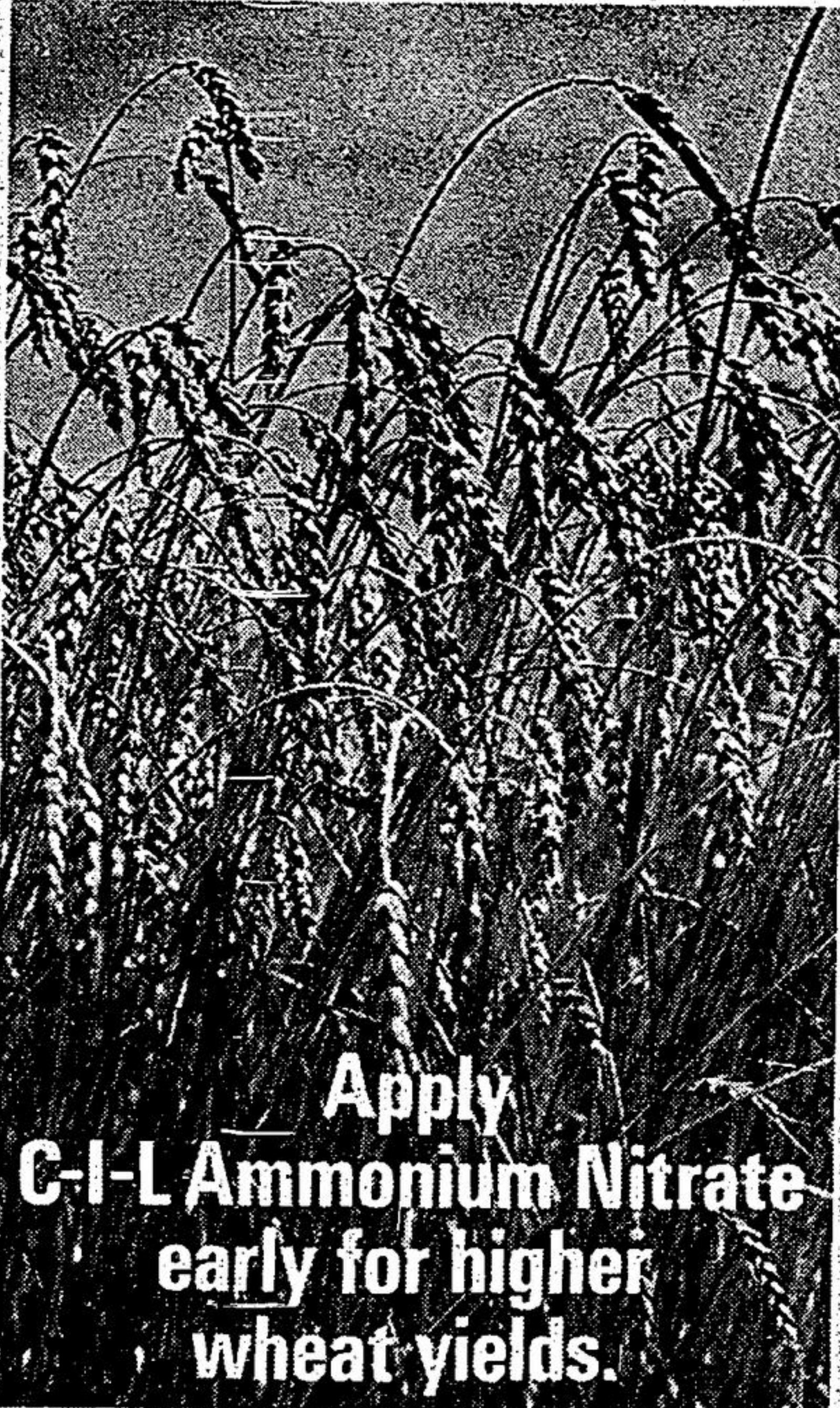
Ontario farmers rejected an automatic checkoff when a vote was taken for a general farm organization in June. "It must be a voluntary membership. That's what farmers said last June and we must work within this framework," said Mr. Hill.

The proposal by the federation would allow the marketing boards and commodity groups to form a commodity council within the

framework of the OFA. Mr. Hill was asked if the commodity council was being given too much autonomy within the federation.

The proposal on individual membership was challenged from the floor a couple of times, most seriously by one man, who said the membership fee would make the federation the same kind of organization as the former Ontario Farmers Union, now affiliated with the National Farmers Union.

"What's wrong with that?" said Mr. Hill. "I have never had any argument with the objectives of the farmers union; just its methods."



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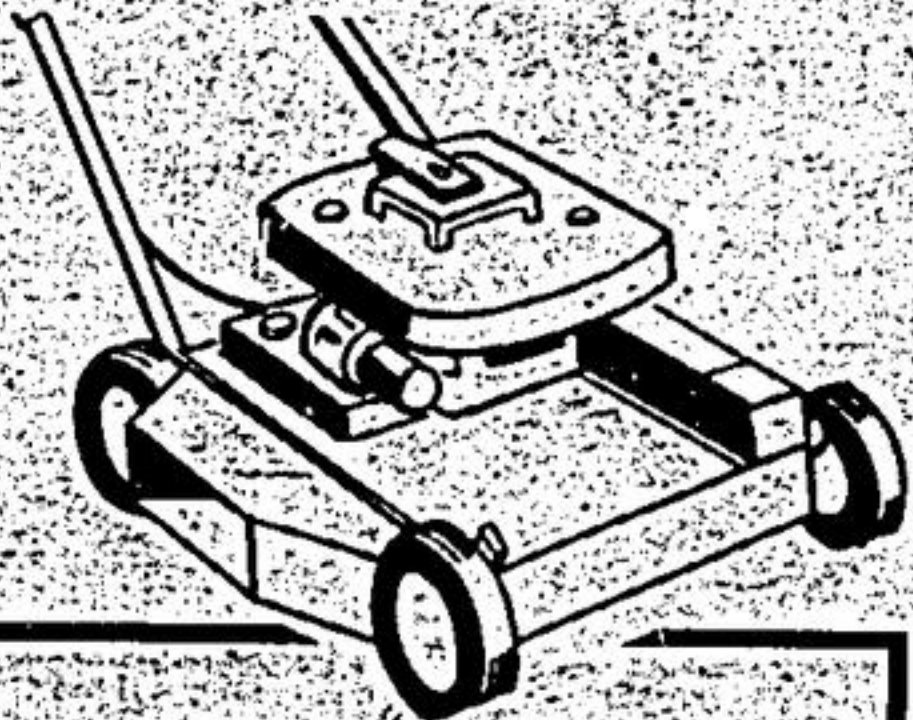
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