

# AMONG THE FARMERS

Federation Of Agriculture Newsletter

Highway Safety Week should be of particular concern in our province this year. Our record for the first eleven months is a sad one and a lot of it must be charged off to factors other than a bad luck and accidents. There are many parts of Canada where there is much greater density of traffic and where it moves rapidly, yet without such high percentage of fatalities. Safe driving depends on willingness to conform to regulations, on courtesy and on the willingness to recognize the fact that driving requires skill, knowledge of basic rules and regard for the rights of others.

The holding of a driver's license is looked upon as a right by nearly everyone from sixteen years of age. It should be a privilege and difficult as this may be to bring about there are probably large numbers of people who by reason of lack of skill, physical impairment and attitudes should not have a license. The Federation of Agriculture in its County meetings has recommended that a point system covering driver infractions be set up. The Federation believes that in this way the chronic traffic offender can be spotted before he causes really serious harm and in time for correction.

There are probably few perfect drivers, certainly nearly everyone can be better. A great deal of trouble appears to lie with the young, the old, the discourteous, those who persist in drinking and driving and a small percentage bordering on the lunatic fringe. Common sense and

common courtesy would have saved the lives of many of the twenty-five persons who met death on the highways during the last eleven months.

**ONTARIO PROBLEMS**  
The farm situation does not stay quiet for long in Ontario. With such a varied agriculture, so much production and a demanding domestic market, situations continually arise requiring action. With the dairymen the advent of two per cent milk has caused considerable dislocation. Dairymen with high testing herds in an attempt to get a larger share of the fluid milk market have seized upon two per cent milk as a means to this end. Under the Ontario pricing system any butterfat in milk testing over 3.4 percent, is bought at 35 cents per pound butterfat by the plants. Clearly butterfat cannot be produced at this price and the question is, how long will the high testing breeds continue the subsidization of plant operators in an attempt to get a larger slice of the fluid milk trade?

Another development has been that of milk shippers forming themselves into co-operatives, buying trucks and hauling their own milk to the plants. In one part of Ontario the plan is refused

to accept milk from the hauling co-ops. This situation continued until a shortage of milk and the threat of a court order made the plants back down. The Ontario dairy industry is divided into a number of sections which bargain independently for the price of fluid milk, cheese milk, manufacturing milk, etc. It is now proposed that one Board should do the bargaining for all sections of the industry. No doubt this will be the cause of considerable interest.

**WINTER IS HERE**  
November can be either a fall or winter month depending on the season, but December usually does not leave its position in doubt. Usually there is considerable snowfall, sometimes quite cold weather and no doubt about the long hours of darkness and absence of sunlight. While January and February may be much colder yet the days are lengthening and less of the work has to be done in darkness. If there were any choice in the matter most farmers would like to see the ground remain frozen as a release from mud which has nothing to recommend it. A small amount of snow would not be objected to, at least enough to produce the traditional white Christmas would be in order.

**HOG PROGRAM**  
On Tuesday, December 8 in Ottawa, representatives of the Federation of Agriculture will meet with the Agricultural Stabilization Board for a briefing on

the new proposed deficiency payment plan on hogs. To be discussed of course will be the government's plan to be in the market as a purchaser of hog products. Incidental to this of course will be the effects that may be expected during the dying days or weeks of the present "offer to purchase" program. The meeting will provide farm organization people with information on the mechanics of the new plan and seek their co-operation in getting it into effect.

**HOW FAR IS FAR**  
Early planners in this province apparently concluded that a mile and a half or two miles was far enough for children to travel to school and thus school districts were set up on this basis. In some parts of Canada children are now being transported as far as seventy miles to elementary school and in Alberta forty miles is quite common. With much improved roads both winter and summer and more suitable motor vehicles it would appear to be feasible to have schools at greater distances than is now the case in this province. In the case of high schools does it make very much difference whether pupils travel five, ten or fifteen miles? How important is the boy or girl's labour at home morning and evening? What is the future of the one-room school and the community located around it? How

important is a one-room school as a community building factor?  
**SOCIAL SECURITY**  
Next Monday evening, December 7, farm forum will be discussing some of the different social security programs in relation to agriculture and directing some of the attention to unemployment insurance for farm workers. This program will provide an opportunity for farmers to get more information on probable advantages and disadvantages of unemployment insurance together with some of the different ways in which it might be applied. At the Dominion - Provincial Conference the Hon. Mr. Harkness agreed to stir up the Insurance Commission on the score of something more definite in its plans for agriculture.

**USE THE CLIPPERS**  
In the fall months, cattle grow a dense growth of hair and when stabled start to sweat with the result that they are wet much of the time and fail to do properly. Clipping the hair along the backbone and over the shoulders is a help in keeping the animal cool and in controlling pests.

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## Priest Survives Crash In Jungle

**MANILA (CP)**—A 42-year-old Canadian priest, who failed to reach his destination on a flight in the Philippines last week, is reported to have survived a plane crash in the jungle and is making his way to civilization on foot. Messages brought in to local priests by native runners said Rev. Jacques Desparts of Montreal and his Filipino pilot were "very weak" after a five-day trek with almost no food. However, they were being cared for by a family of the Mandaya tribe in the wilds of Mindanao Island and expected to reach the nearest town in about two days. Father Desparts is a member of Quebec's Societe des Missions Etrangeres, a Roman Catholic foreign mission order. He is on an

official visit to the Philippines. The priest left Davidao City a week ago to visit remote missions on the southern Philippines island of Mindanao. An alarm went out last Wednesday when the plane carrying him failed to reach its destination. Crash details were lacking. It was believed to have occurred in the jungle area about 50 miles northeast of Davidao City on Mindanao's east coast.

**END STATE OF EMERGENCY**  
A state of emergency declared in Ceylon after the assassination of prime minister Solomon Bandaranaike nine weeks ago, will be lifted at midnight, official sources said Wednesday night. The move was made possible by adoption in the Senate Wednesday of a bill reviving capital punishment for murder. Capital punishment was suspended as an experimental measure in 1956.

## Hospital Aid Plans Show

**SUMMERSIDE**—Mrs. Heath Strong chaired the December meeting of the Ladies Aid of the Prince County Hospital Tuesday afternoon in the board room. Following routine business Mrs. J. K. Beer was empowered to select her own committee to make arrangements for an

Amateur Cavalcade to be held in Summerside. It was decided, upon request, to purchase three institutional vacuum cleaners at \$275 each. Plans were made for the usual Christmas gifts to the nurses.

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