

## The Ontario Provincial Plowing Match a Popular Event

Plowing Competitions and Tractor Demonstrations Divided the Interest. The Attendance Numbered Thousands.

ONTARIO'S Provincial Plowing match, held on Friday of last week, was an unqualified success. Several factors account for the popularity of the event. It was held on the grounds of the Ontario Agricultural College, and a visit to the plowing match also afforded a chance for the people to inspect the college as well. Then, again, the match was situated in the centre of a large agricultural district, easily reached by hundreds of auto-owning farmers; all of the drives to the field in which the contest took place were lined up with farm autos. Finally, there was a traction demonstration, one of the first ever held in Ontario. As a result of all these factors, there was a record attendance, conservatively estimated at 2,500 and by some competent estimators placed as high as 4,000 people, the majority of whom were practical farmers.

Altogether 25 plowmen competed. These were men who had proven their superior ability at previous county plowing matches, and they met at Guelph to compete for provincial honors. York county was most largely represented, and it was noticed that the York county plowmen, almost to a man, brought with them the long Scotch iron plows, a type which still holds its own in plowing matches. Although it is but little used in the practical work of the farm. One of the most interested spectators of the events was Jas. Lay, the blacksmith of Markham, Ont., who made many of these iron plows, and who told us that previous to the opening of the plowing season this fall, had overhauled all of the iron plows on the field. There was one of the plows that he did not make, however. W. L. Clark, of Ellesmere, plowed with the same implement that Ontario's one-time foremost farmer, Mr. Simpson Rennie, used in the matches in which he competed many years ago. This old plow was imported from Scotland over 60 years ago. In contrast with these old fashioned plows, there were new ones almost direct from the factory with the paint fresh and new.

The age of the plowmen varied almost as greatly as the age of the plows. For instance, there was young Clifford Knutt, a boy of 18, who did great work in soil in spite of the fact that he was plowing with a team he had never handled before. He showed the kind of plowman that York county is producing to its reputation in plowing matches of the future. At the other extreme, old Mr. Miliken turned over his furrows as usual, in spite of his 81 years and the infirmities that come with such an advanced age. This old man had a wonderful experience in plowing matches. He competed first in 1864, and between then and 1906, won 33 prizes. The last provincial plowing match before the event was dropped for several years was held on Mr. Miliken's farm at Hazerman, and there were 66 competitors. Another old-time plowman who watched the event with the greatest of interest was Josiah Smithson, of Peterboro county. Smithson, these hale old men are still enthusiastic plowmen, and both were willing to give full credit to the young men, who plowed last Friday, for the good work they were doing.

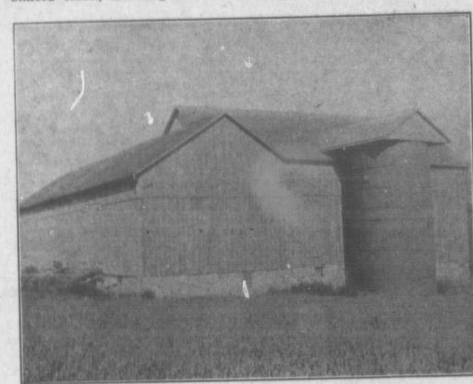
Best boy plowman of the day was Wm. Eby, of Berlin. The awards in full follow:

**The Winning Plowmen**  
Sweepstakes trophy donated by Canadian Farm: Thos. Shadlock, Agincourt.

First Class, sod, open to all, six entries: Thos. Shadlock, Agincourt; 2, Thos. Swindle, Orillia; 3, Wm. Orr, Maitland; 4, Garfield Ley, Orillia.

Second Class, sod, open to those who never won a prize in this class prior to 1914, six entries: 1, W. L. Clarke, Ellesmere; 2, Stewart Baird, Woburn; 3, P. Woods, Elmira; 4, Alex. Stewart, Guelph.

Third Class, boys under 18 on sod: Clifford Knutt, Minesing.



The Problem of Strengthening The Silo is Here Solved.

Stave silos ordinarily constructed are not secure against heavy windstorms, except when fall of ensilage. A roof of any kind adds to its security. The illustration herewith shows a silo made double secure by attaching the silo roof permanently to the barn.

Fourth Class, jointer plows in sod, two wheels, or shoe or share, not less than 9 inches, eight entries: 1, H. E. Alton, Rockwood; 2, W. A. Gray, Rockwood; 3, R. Wright, Galt; 4, Len Loree, O.A.C., Guelph.

Fifth Class, jointer plows in sod, boys under 18, two entries: 1, Wilfrid Tolton, Guelph; 2, Geo. Rodgerston, Fergus.

Sixth Class, boys in stubble under 16, 1, Wm. Eby, Berlin; 2, Chester Ley, Orillia; 3, Albert Habermehl, Hespeler.

Seventh Class, two furrow plow, three horses to be used in sod, five entries: 1, Leslie Vincent, Ayr; 2, Norman Wallace, Galt; 3, E. A. Tolton, Guelph.

Best team and equipment: 1, Thos. Shadlock, Agincourt; 2, Clifford Knutt, Minesing; 3, Geo. McPhee, Pauline.

Best crown in first class: Thos. Swindle, Orillia.

Best crown in class six: Wm. Eby, Berlin.

**The Tractor Demonstration**

Interest at the recent Provincial Plowing Match was not limited to the usual competitive events. In fact, interest was seriously divided. There was a tractor demonstration running concurrently in an adjoining field, and the crowd was fairly evenly divided between the two events. Ontario conditions may be such that the horse will always take first place as a farm power, but there is a growing con-

viction that the light tractor might almost find a place. The crowd who assembled at Guelph to witness the tractor demonstration were not drawn there by curiosity. The greatest interest was shown, questions were asked by the dozen, and several tractors were sold during the day.

Altogether there were four tractors demonstrated. Many of the visitors for the first time in their lives saw 10 furrows turned over at one operation, or 20 furrows to the round. This looked like "big business." The Sawyer-Massey machine did its best work in the fairly heavy soil of the college farm with a six-bottom gang. The main interest, however, was confined to the smaller tractors, which it was generally agreed were the only ones adaptable to Ontario farm conditions, unless it be under very exceptional circumstances. A brief description of each of these smaller tractors may be in order.

The first on the field was the "Mogul," manufactured by the Inter-

chne. On the drawbar it exerted 10 h.p. It too is designed to draw a three or four-furrow plow. A radical difference between this machine and the other tractors demonstrated, was that practically all of the power was exerted on one big drive shaft, the principal belt wheel, which is the work of the self binder. Through this device the Case people are able to get away from the side draft difficulty in plowing. It was priced at \$1,300 f.o.b. Toronto.

**A Popular Priced Tractor**

Both the International and the Case firms were at a disadvantage in that they were under the impression that tractor plowing alone would be demonstrated at Guelph. By far the most practical demonstration of the day, therefore, was given with the Avery tractor, made at Peoria, Ill. Many who had been shaking their heads doubtfully all day and proclaiming confidently that the tractor would never find a place in Ontario began to doubt the wisdom of their preconceived opinions after they had witnessed all phases of the Avery demonstration. This is a light weight, gas or oil tractor. It exerts 10 h.p. at the belt, and would therefore be at a disadvantage for some heavier farm power requirements. On the drawbar it rated power was 8 h.p. Its price proved to be a most attractive feature, \$425 delivered at any point on the International boundary and with duty paid.

Previous to the arrival of the Avery tractor, four good sized farm horses had been demonstrating a Smith cultivator, and found this new implement about all that they could handle. The Avery demonstrator hitched his machine to the cultivator, dug in the cultivator plows to a maximum depth and went off with apparent ease. Later he hitched to a 16-foot drag harrow, and at the invitation of the crowd climbed a steep hillside, negotiated a couple of very deep, dead furrows, and came back without trouble. Finally, this small tractor was hitched to two large sized drag harrows, one behind the other, and a team of sufficient size to call for three horses, and hauled them with apparent ease.

This is the first time that tractors have played a part in a Provincial Plowing Match. Many years ago "Uncle Jimmie Patterson" established one of the first plowing matches ever held in the United States. A match has been held every year since on "Uncle Jimmie's" farm. But this last year the tractors were so numerous and the interest in them so great, that the horses were found to be almost superfluous, and may be done away with altogether another year. It is believed that the Ontario Provincial Plowing Match will develop into a tractor demonstration only, as has "Uncle Jimmie's." We do believe, however, that the tractor demonstration at Guelph last week was a conclusive answer to many of those who had previously believed that the small farm tractor was not a practicable machine, and would never find a place in Ontario agriculture. It seems that for the whole milk can market the use of a tractor, dispense with one or more teams of horses, might find the tractor investment a decidedly profitable one.

Milk shippers on the British Columbia Lower Mainland certainly cannot complain at the Canadian demand for all United States dairy products. The market for whole milk has been immeasurably improved by it. Formerly large quantities of Washington State milk came into Vancouver daily. Now the local product is the one the market entirely to themselves.

## A Progre

United Farmers' Club, Limited, and through him. Probable more strongly. The group of have in organizing work is that the me club is widely suc business at different it would be neces business at one poi "Socialism and "The social fact great thing with mek "I live in the years, but through met dozens of people too, whom I never had it not been for Our club has open new field for social ness."

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