

# Local Railway Items from Area Papers - Guelph Prison Farm Railway

27/03/1911

*Ottawa Journal*

*Guelph Prison Farm*

*Guelph*

The Guelph Prison Farm

Interesting Address by Hon. W.J. Hanna

The result

"By the fall of 1910, 180 men were working on the farm and Mr. Hanna describes the result of the work done up to the winter as follows:- We had crops sown and harvested and partly eaten: 6,000 bushels of coarse grain, 3,500 bushels of potatoes, 15,000 cabbages, vegetables in variety and sufficient quantity not only to carry the farm population at Guelph during the winter but to supply the Central Prison as well. We had sufficient roots to carry 100 Holsteins through the winter and get them off with a good start in the spring. We had quarries opened and considerable building Stone cut and dressed. We had an industrial building of stone on its way to completion; a little water-works system put in - and it is a model, there are no typhoid germs there - narrow-gauge Railway with 25 lb. rails and a 12-ton engine, upwards of a mile in all, the ties put in and the grading done by the men and the engine operated by one of them. We had a concrete bridge across the Speed river which runs through our farm about the Centre, with a center span of 50 feet in the clear and two side spans of 20 feet each, a model and all built by the men, except the placing of the reinforcement and the supervising of the proportions of cement. We had a lime kiln built, fencing and draining done - and the work had scarcely begun. This winter, we have done a great deal of underbrushing and clearing and making what was swale and slash park-like if you please."

11/03/1932

*Globe and Mail*

*Guelph Prison Farm*

*Guelph*

Accident fatal at Reformatory

James Fitzgerald dies after accident while at work on artificial Lake

(Special dispatch to the Globe.)

Guelph, March 10. One hour after he was injured while at work, James Fitzgerald, 26 years old, of Kingston, and inmate of the Ontario Reformatory, died in some Joseph's hospital today. Fitzgerald was working with a gang of prisoners on the artificial Lake project at the "farm", and was assisting and shoving a train of dump cars filled with earth on a light Railway, when the pin came out of one of the cars, allowing it to dump and rolling Fitzgerald against an embankment, injuring him internally. Another inmate who was with him narrowly escaped death. Fitzgerald was serving an indeterminate sentence of from 2 to 24 months, and was classed by institution officials as a model prisoner.