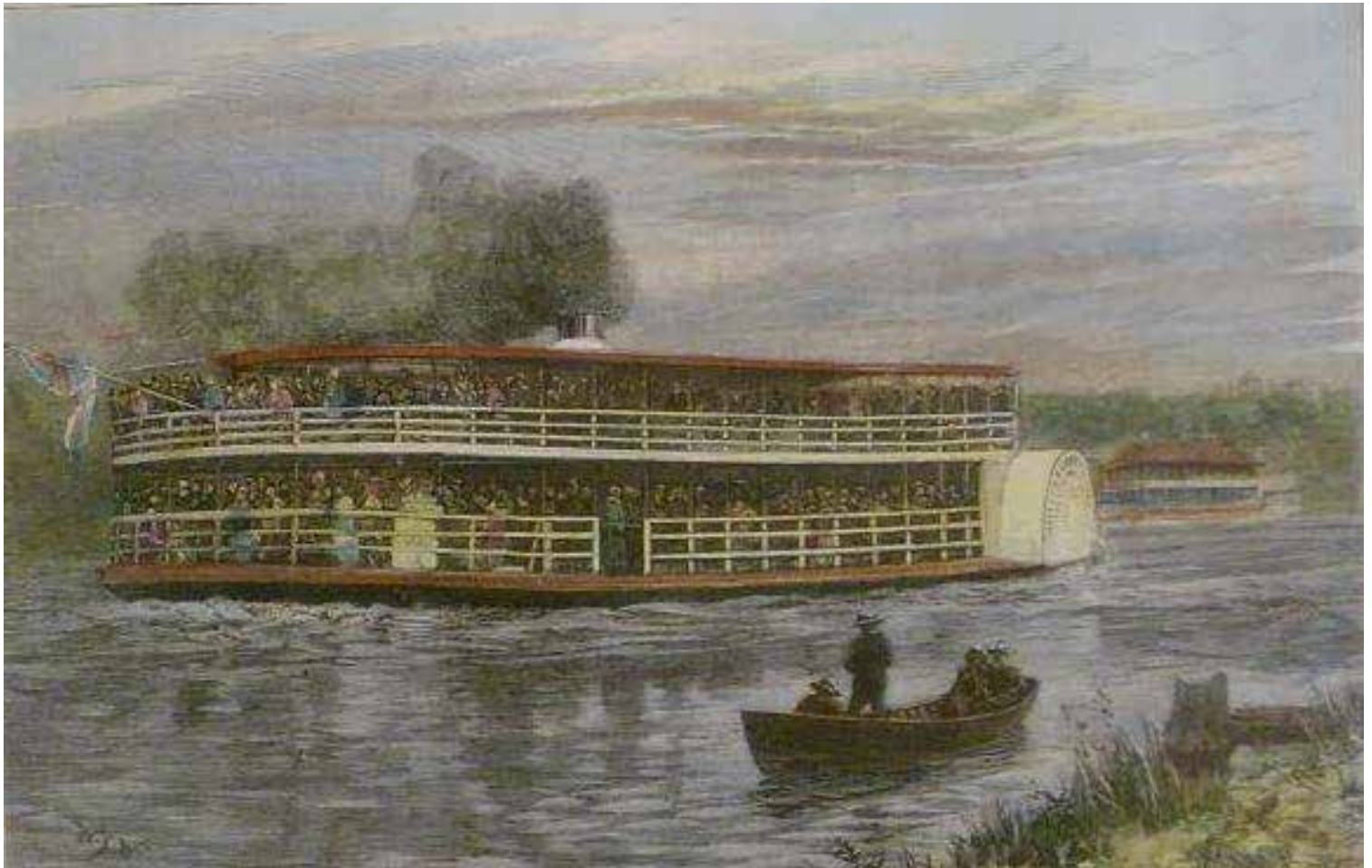


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## The Growing and Harvesting of Sugar Beets in Middlesex County in Times Gone By

Mike Rice

This photo essay is of sugar beet farming as seen through the lens of a *London Free Press* photographer. The first two photos are generic to farming: the last photo was taken in Wallace-burg, Ontario. The following photographs were courtesy of Western University Archives, *London Free Press* Negative Collection.



In the 1950s mechanization had made life easier for farmers.

Fred Cross of Westminster Township is seen harrowing his fields with his horse Molly.

The photo was featured in the *London Free Press* feature called “Spring Time” on May 25, 1950.

The original photo was taken on May 2<sup>nd</sup>.





It was difficult trying to find a photo of farmers seeding; in this photo we are at the Ontario Hospital for the Insane. A four-horse team is seeding the field, the photographer is looking in a northwesterly direction towards the intersection of Highbury Avenue and Oxford Street. The photo was taken on May 19, 1952.



Somewhere in Middlesex County the *London Free Press* sent a photographer out to shoot the latest sugar beet harvester. Sugar beets were a labour intensive crop; harvesting began in the fall. The photo was taken October 10, 1950.





At Lucan, Ontario, trucks are lining up to unload their load of sugar beets. The unloading facility is on the former Grand Trunk mainline. The photo was taken October 24, 1950.



Getting towards the end of sugar beet harvesting season, farmers are lining up their trucks. They are waiting to unload at the railway facility at Lucan, on the former Grand Trunk mainline. The photo was taken November 17, 1950.



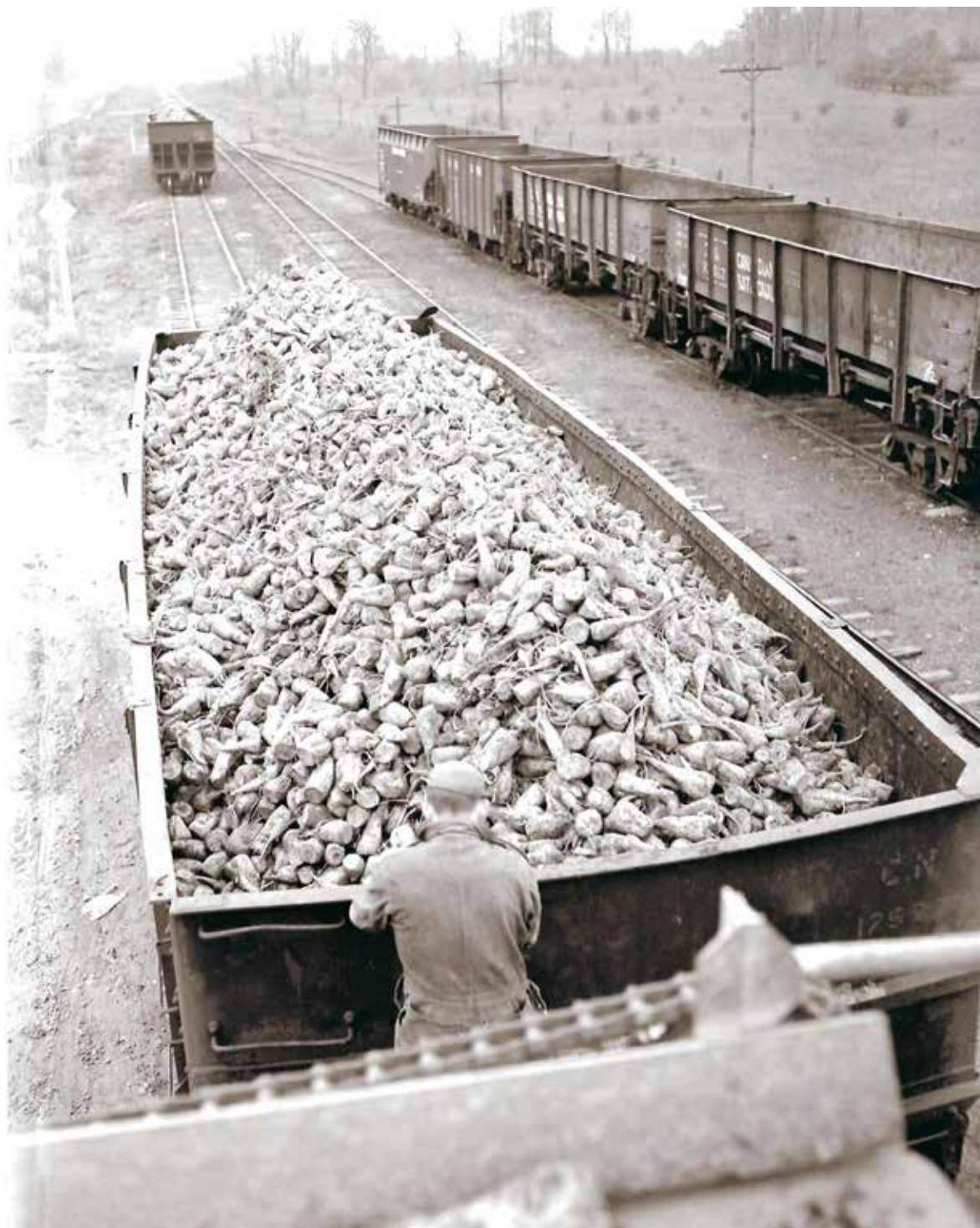


A farmer has just come off the scale at Ilderton, Ontario. He is waiting his turn at the conveyor. We are at another station on the former London, Huron and Bruce Railway. In this photo there is a war surplus 1500cwt vehicle near the tracks. The photo was taken October 27, 1950.



A tractor and farm trailer have been positioned under the loading facility. The trailer will receive dirt and weeds that got into the farmer's load. Also, in this photo we see hopper cars and general service gondola cars; these are the main type vehicles used to transport sugar beets.





What is this person doing?

The railway employee is releasing the brakes so that the train crew can move the railway car.

The railway cars will then be moved by locomotive from Ilderton to London's CNR yard.

The photo was taken October 24, 1950.



After arriving at London's CNR yard railway cars from Ilderton, Lucan and Granton will be assembled into a train. The train's destination will be The Canadian and Dominion Sugar Company processing plant at Chatham, Ontario.  
The photo was taken October 31, 1949.



Upon arrival at Chatham, Ontario the Canadian and Dominion Sugar Company locomotive will take the train to a site where the sugar beets can be unloaded. Such a site was located at Wallaceburg, Ontario where the piles of sugar beets could measure fifty feet wide, thirty feet high and one thousand feet long. The photo was taken November 17, 1950