Voice of the Press

Canada, The Empire and The World at Large

CANADA

ON ADVISING THE FARMER

How easy it is for some persons with imagination and gifted with a flow of words to sit in a comfortable arm chair feet cocked on a desk and dictate to a stenographer instruction how a farmer can better his conditions. One of these effusions recently reached our desk and here it is:

"The application of engineering to agriculture has for its purpose the utilization of engineering principles, methods and equipment to decrease the unit cost of farm products, to reduce the amounts of irksome labor in producing crops and caring for livestock and to increase the satisfaction of farm living."

What a wonderful thing this must be for the farmer. The application of engineering to farming is going to show how he can the more easily plow, sow and harvest, how best to unload his grain in the mows, cut and hoist the corn into the silo! milk his cows and with the minimum of energy and in the cheapest manner; weed the turnip patch and get the weeds out of his corn and potatoes while the farmer's wife is to be told how to perform her multiplicity of chores about the house so as to increase the satisfaction of farm living.

If the authors of some of the nonsensical stuff emanating from city offices were to write their articles leave them on the desk until the following morning, and then read them before they began the work of the day, we feel sure much of it would find a place in the waste paper basket.—Perth Expositor.

VERY LIKELY

Much of the sighing for good old-fashioned meals is sighing for a thirteen year-old stomach. — Brantford Sun.

A DANGEROUS PRACTICE

As well as being against the law, it is dangerous to use trucks to convey children or adults to picnics or other gatherings. The other day five little girls were seriously injured when part of the side of a truck gave way. Trucks are not built for such work and carrying passengers in vehicles not adapted for that purpose is a dangerous practice.—Niagara Falls Review.

SAD BUT TRUE

A fellow doesn't realize how old he is getting until he finds that one deep breath won't blow out the candles on his birthday cake.—Regina Leader-Post.

PROBLEM FOR JEEVES

P. G. Wodehouse well known British author, has had a tax lien filed against him in the United States for $250,703—$123,826 original levy and penalties and interest of $126,877. It is effective against the many royalties he receives for the stories he sells across the line and his film right. It looks as if Jeeves would have to put on his thinking cap in dead earnest to get the popular writer out of this attack on his bank account.—Brantford Exjositor.

DEATH DUTIES

The important role of the death duties as part of British revenue is seen in the fact that the estate of the late Viscount Tredgar will contribute almost $6,000,000 to the treasury of Great Britain.—Niagara Falls Review.

THE COUNTRY'S FOUNDATION

More and more the average man is coming to realize that the cornerstone of the national edifice is a contented and successful farm population. In smaller cities such as Belleville this is the truism accepted by everyone—that the farm's wealth and prosperity underly city wealth and prosperity.—Belleville Intelligencer.

OVERCROWDED

Young people thinking of studying to be teachers are given cause to pause and think by the announcement that 900 applications were received for two teaching vacancies at Deseronto High School, and 263 for a vacant public school principalship in Gananoque.—Lindsay Post.

THE HAIR BRUSH

Judge Bleakley, in the New York Supreme Court, does not adjudge Beatrice Countess Tavara, guilty on a charge of cruelty because of her use of the reverse side of the brush on the reverse side of her young son. He decrees: "The hair brush is a recognized institution in all well regulated families"—Moncton Transcript.

CHICAGO PROGRESS

And it does seem that progress is a very funny thing when the chief sensations of a fair launched with the purpose of showing the advances of practical science are a nudist wedding and a fan dance. Apparently progress in the eyes of Chicago, is represented by moving backwards toward the simplicities of the Garden of Eden.—Hamilton Herald.

IN DEFENCE

We old highbrows are apt to forget that the sloppy love the crooners croon about, is after all, the thing that makes the world go round.—Moose Jaw Times-Herald.

HIS WEAKNESS

Barbara Hutton complains that her hubby, Prince Alexis Mdivani, is paying more attention to the polo ponies she gave him as a wedding present than he is to her. He's a groom but not the right kind.—Border Cities Star

THERE WAS

Another man lit a match to see if there was any gas left in his car, and the coroner's jury was informed that there were a couple of gallons.—Stratford Beacon-Herald.

EMPIRE EXPORTS

There were some remarkable increases in Canada's domestic exports to British Empire countries in June. Compared with a year ago the increase to Great Britain was from $17,997,000 to $26,497,000, the gain being $8,520000 or 47 per cent; Australia from $841,000 to $1,630,000 a gain of $789,000 or 93 per cent; British South Africa from $378,000 to $1,082,000, the increase being $704,000 or 186 per cent.—Brandon Sun.

MAKING A DISCOVERY

Some June bridegrooms are finding life one grand refrain, instead of one grand sweet song. Refrain from cards, smoking, booze and fishing trips. — Kitchener Record.

CRUELTY

If there is a humane society in the St. Catharines district, it needs to do some educative work among the people of the city and surrounding district. It was some inspired mind in St. Catharines a month or two ago that hit upon the extraordinary idea of allowing the children to see a movie show for two starling legs. Whether the children put the starlings to death in some way before tearing off the legs we cannot tell, but it was found that they were offering the legs of robins and other birds at the ticket offce, and so public spirit forced this scheme to be abandoned.—St. Thomas Times-Journal.

COST OF WAR

Of every dollar we pay the federal treasury in taxes sixty cents goes to pay for our part in the Great War. So Brooke Claxton reminds us in Canadian Business. There are indirect costs as well. Two-thirds of our international trade, exports and imports, has disappeared as a result of growing economic nationalism abroad.—Calgary Albertan.

5 LOST EVERY DAY

Two women's bodies are found, one by accident in search for the other. Lists of girls missing from British homes are combed, and the public is shocked to learn that they number to 10,000 Scotland Yard, seeking to identify the Brighton victim, have named a large army of them. In London women disappear at the rate of five per day. A few are found alive or dead, but the fate of the rest is a deeper mystery than that which now engages the police at Brighton.—Manchester Sunday Chronicle.

THE EMPIRE

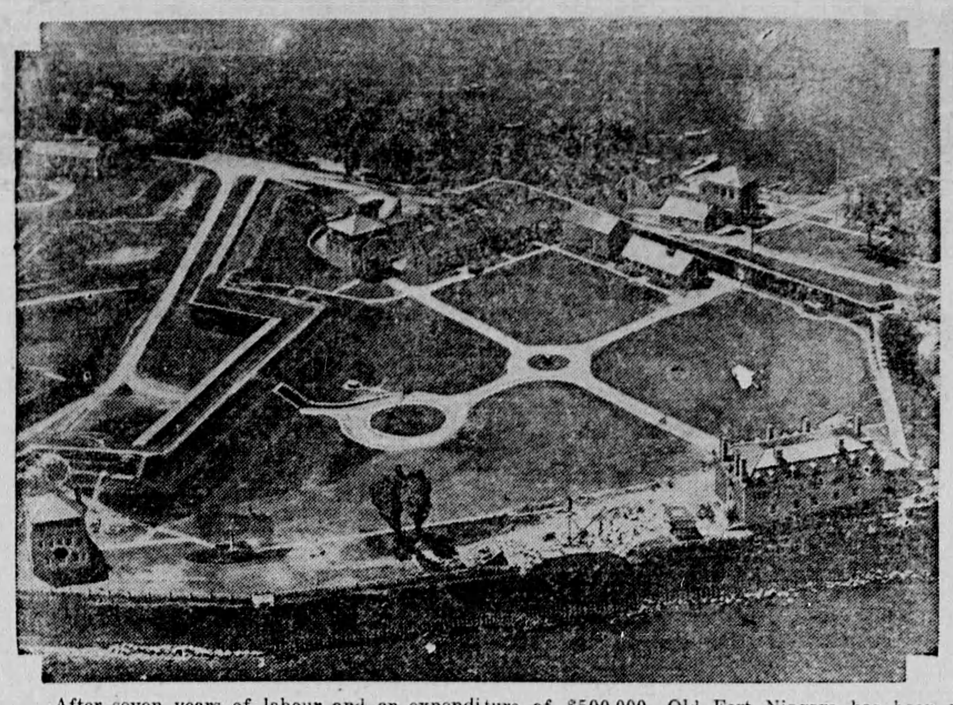
N.Z. Beef For Britain.

It should be remembered that the success gained with chilled New Zealand lamb in the British market came neither by luck nor favor. It was won by hard work, close attention to detail, and by scrupulous care to assure that every carcass corresponded to what its grading implied. A London butcher suggests that the position of the Argentine supplier in the London Market is not unassailable. But if New Zealand wishes to gain a place the task must be tackled resolutely and systematically. It is a commonplace that this country has not, at least in any quantity, beef cattle of the qual- demanded by the British consumer. The answer to that is to acquire the foundation stock and breed on the proper lines. As indicated in the advice already quoted, it would be no use trying to break into the market with inferior beef. There is plenty of that already. But it is also suggested that there is ample room for the best, again a reasonable proposition. That ity demanded by the British consumer. farming industry should consider very seriously, and then determine if it is prepared to engage in a contest for a share of the British beef market. —Auckland News.

EDUCATION COSTS IN U.S.A.

South Africa is probably the only country in the world that spends a quarter of its national income (about 9,000,000 pounds a year) on education. Twenty years ago that expenditure was 2,500,000 pounds. In this country education is not only free to rich and poor alike, but it is also compulsory to a higher standard than in most other countries. Primary and secondary education (that is, free education) costs South Africa three pounds and 10s a year per head of the European population (man, woman and child), and nearly one pound per head of the total population, white, black and coloured. In the Transvaal the expenditure is even greater, and is said to be the highest in the world. Out of an annual revenue of not much more than 4,000,000 the Transvaal spends nearly 3,000,000 on education, which is equivalent to more than 4 pounds per head of the European population of the Province and to one pound 2s 9d per head of the total population. It is true that the latter figure is less than the expenditure in the United Kingdom, which is about 1 pound 17s per head; but it has to be borne in mind that native education costs the Transvaal only 1s 3d per head of the native population and about 1s 2d per head of the total population.—Johannesburg Times.

Old Fort Niagara Fully Restored



After seven years of labour and an expenditure of $500,000, Old Fort Niagara has been restored. Photo shows air view of the Old Fort from the Lake Ontario side. Left to right, in foreground, British Blokhouse, Millet Cross, Lombardy Poplars, Rush-Bagot memorial and old french castle; along the wall at right, British Hot-shot oven, artificer's cabin, French powder magazine, French barracks and British Blokhouse; beyond the barracks may be seen the Dauphin battery covering the Portes des cinq Nations (behind blokhouse).

License Hay Straw Export

Dominion Action—Reciprocal Arrangement With U.S. Planned.

Ottawa. — Confronted with a serious shortage of fodder crops in sections of Canada, the government has utilized powers conferred by the new Marketing Act to license the export of hay and straw. An order-in-council passed under the act requires exporters to obtain licenses for shipments abroad. It also makes transportation companies see that shipments outside Canada are covered by such licenses.

A statement issued recently from the prime minister's office explained that drought and heat had so affected the hay crop in some sections that an acute lack of suitable cattle feed was being felt. Both Canada and the U. S. had found it necessary to take steps to conserve the cattle feed.

Where surplus areas in Canada were adjacent to deficit areas in the United States, and vice versa, it was intimated, arrangements would be reached for moving feed across the line.

The statement reads, in part: "In view of the seriousness of the shortage of fodder crops in several areas within the Dominion, the government by order-in-council under powers conferred by the Natural Products Act, has taken steps to regulate the export of hay and straw. The prolonged drought and heat that have afflicted large areas in Canada and the U. S. have compelled the two governments to take immediate action to relieve the acute lack of suitable cattle feed that is now apparent and to prevent speculators from exploiting the consumers and producers of fodder crops.

"The Canadian hay and clover crop which in the four years of 1926-1930, averaged over 16 million tons, had fallen to 11,433,000 in 1933, and, for the current year is estimated at 9,884,000 tons. This decline is, of course, unequaly distributed across the country being most pronounced in Saskatchewan and Southern Alberta.

"It is the policy of the government to see that such local surpluses of fodder crops as exist in accessible parts of Canada, should be made available in the first instance for relief of conditions in the deficit areas. In view of the high ratio of transportation costs to the value of the product, it is not expected that it will be economically advantageous to ship such feed stuffs over long distances, by rail. It may be anticipated that where surplus areas in Canada are contiguous to deficit areas in the U.S. or vice versa, if conditions warrant, arrangements will be reached for movement of feed stuffs across the line."

A fire ranger no longer smokes on the trail. He has found it too much of a chance to take. Neither does an experienced camper, or woodsman pull out his pipe until he comes to the end of a portage. And when he is finished he knocks his pipe-ashes into the water. He runs no risk of leaving fire behind to destroy his wild-life friends, and despoil his favorite haunts. Make Forest Protection your personal policy for 1934.

When the unwilling juror asked to be excused from duty because he could only hear with one ear, the judge told him he'd do all right, as only one side of the case would be heard at a time.

RURAL HIGH SCHOOL EXPERIMENT HIGHLY PRAISED

By J. W. Edwards, B.A., B.S.A., B. Paed.,

Principal Ridgetown High and Vocational-Agriculture Schools

THE RIDGETOWN EXPERIMENT.

Such a course has been introduced at Ridgetown and Ridgetown may well be proud of its secondary school system for there is no other just like it in the Dominion of Canada Delegations from Australia, Western Canada and many parts of Ontario have visited the school during the past seven years, and all have been most favorably impressed.

The school was established as an experiment to find a practical solution for the problem of vocational education for boys and girls in the smaller and more rural centres. The trustees at that time were men of considerable vision. Some of these men are still members of the board and could not be pried from office they are so enthusiastic about the new school. It was their opinion that the high school course was not providing the right kind of a training for a great many students who had to be absorbed by the community and that as the community had to pay the bills it should be benefiting to a greater degree.

Accordingly courses were introduced providing agricultural subjects and farm mechanics for boys and household science and arts for girls, in addition to the essential academic subjects. That the experiment is proving successful is shown by the fact that of those who have left school over 80 per cent. of the boys have returned to the farm and the girls to the home, where they are putting into practical use many of the things learned at school. During the seven years that the vocational school has been in operation the total average attendance in the high school and vocational school has been well over 200—at present 265—compared with 160 before the opening of the vocational school. Contrasting the attendance at Ridgetown with that of other towns in Western Ontario, of the same population, it will be found that from 50 to 100 more students are enrolled for secondary school education. Thus it is seen the combined schools are meeting the needs of a larger percentage of boys and girls.

One of the features of the Ridgetown vocational school is that the first year is more or less of an exploratory year. Parents are not always sure that the vocational course is going to meet the needs of their boys and girls. In the larger centres more than half of the students who pass entrance attend vocational or technical schools. In so doing, however, they must definitely decide upon the future course of studies they wish to pursue and a change in their plans results in a loss of time. A student enrolling for the first year in the Ridgetown Vocational School does so with the assurance that he can transfer to high school at the end of the first year and proceed to a matriculation or normal school entrance without loss of time in either case. This leaves the choice of course open until the end of the first year by which time the student has had some experience of secondary school work and is better able to decide. In the meantime a valuable training in practical subjects will have been received. Or, if the student remains at vocational school for three years, he can then transfer to high school and have just as many credits towards a normal entrance as the student who has taken four years of straight high school work. The main difference in the courses of the vocational school and the high school lies in the fact that no languages are taken in the former school, thus leaving time for subjects of a more practical nature.

The two schools are under the same principal and staff. Corresponding graphy, etc., are taught by the same subjects such as English, history, geo- teacher in the two schools. Both are of high school grade and pupils from the vocational school may write departmental subjects and secure standing in the subjects taken the same as those in high school classes. This arrangement,, coupled with the fact that vocational school students make transfers to high school without loss of time, absolutely eliminates any feeling that one course of studies is the inferior to the other.

Another feature of the vocational school course is the advantage to the student who attends school for one or two years only. Boys attending for one year only receive training in mechanical drawing, woodworking, rope splicing, belt lacing, norticulture, poultry, soil physics and livestock, not taught in high school, and girls, sewing, cooking and home management. Boys attending two years receive further work in farm mechanics (including forge work), seed selection and other agricultural topics; girls, further work in sewing, cooking and home nursing, and both boys and girls, bookkeeping. Girls who complete the three-year course receive a diploma and may stop school or transfer to high school to complete a normal entrance course, or resume their studies elsewhere to become dietitians, nurses or teachers or millinery and sewing. Boys at the end of three years may graduate to the farm, take a fourth year in the vocational department to qualify for entrance to the O.A.C., or they may continue their studies at high school.

But perhaps the most unique feature of the system is the attention that is given to adult education. Ridgetown is, I believe, the only rural high school in the province that conducts a winter short course for young men and women who have stopped school. This is a day course and covers a period of six weeks during January and February and has been offered now for four years. Last winter 21 boys and 24 girls attended and at the end of the course expressed themselves unanimously in favor of an extension of the course to eight commercial law were added for boys, and household budgeting for girls and these subjects proved popular.

There is absolutely no question of the value of such a school to any centre that serves a rural community. Nothing that has been accomplished at Ridgetown is impossible elsewhere once the facilities are provided. There is no doubt but that our whole rural educational system needs a good overhauling and that other communities should be served by agricultural departments, in their secondary schools, such as we have at Ridgetown. Our courses are by no means perfect and changes are being made from time to time. I believe that evening classes might be introduced for our young men and women giving instruction in subjects which would be of benefit to them as citizens, and I am of the opinion that the first year high school course should be made more general with languages set over until the second year to give fifth form students a better chance and the first year student more time to adjust himself to new conditions. These are trouble-weeks. In some cases these students attend the regular classes, if the class is not too large, but most of their time is spent with special instructors who are added to the regular staff. The practical subjects taken are similar to those taught elsewhere in the school and some time is given to stimulating an interest in good reading, in municipal affairs and public speaking. Last year farm bookkeeping, business administration and some times and we are not yet out of the woods, and economics must still be practiced but it is not possible that there are public projects that might be set over for so important an undertaking as the modernizing of this branch of our rural educational system. The Dominion Government has recently extended the program of its Technical Educational Act until 1935. Ontario is supposed to have obtained its full share of the grant, but perhaps some consideration might be given to the united claims for a new deal to the rural high schools and the farming population of Ontario.

There has been a great deal of talk about the intermediate school, but apparently we can not expect too much from it. Dr. Rogers, director of education for the province, speaking on this subject, said that he could see no hope for the establishment of the intermediate schools in rural communities unless the administrative unit was changed and school districts consolidated. I believe that reform must be effected by making our high school courses more elastic. Everybody — every man, woman and child has a stake in education. Passive acceptance of present day educational machinery is not good enough if, through our organizations, something better can be obtained for the boys and girls of our secondary schools. Boards of trustees and citizens with the welfare of the communities at heart, and the young men so courageously engaged in the new Canada movement should champion the cause of our rural high schools and see to it that they are modernized so that they will command the interest of the pupil and the approval of the public.

From personal observations I am convinced that these suggested reforms would at least have one welcome result. Some 20,000 pupils in rural high schools in Ontario now struggling needlessly with courses leading to university entrance would know a new happiness when transferred to work adapted to their needs, and rural life would in time benefit by the higher standards of more efficient, more open-minded and rational citizens.

Our expectation of life has increased greatly. A new-born boy baby can now anticipate living fifty-six years, and a girl baby sixty years. Half a centry ago, the figures were forty-two and forty-five years respectively.

Loudspeakers installed in one Manchester factory have increased the output of the work-girls, and, as they are on piecework, their wages have gone up in proportion. There is music for one hour in the morning and an hour and a half in the afternoon.

Distinguished Woman to Visit Us

Dame Janet Campbell, an Outstanding Figure in Maternal Welfare Work Will Visit Canada This Autumn

Ottawa.—One of the outstanding figures in maternal welfare in the English-speaking world will visit Canada for two months this autumn, according to plans announced by the Canadian Council on Child and Family Welfare. Dame Janet Campbell, D.B.E. (1924), M.D., M.S., (London) who has just retired as Senior Medical Officer for Maternity and Child Welfare of the British Ministry of Health and Chief Woman Medical Adviser to the Board of Education of Great Britain since 1919, is coming here She is a member of the Health Committee of the League of Nations, and at present closely associated in its studies on maternal and infant welfare.

Accompanied by Miss Eunice Dyke, secretary of the Canadian Council's division on maternal and child hygiene, Dame Janet will visit all the largest cities in Canada as part of her educational campaign to arouse greater interest in the problems of maternal welfare. Her visit will coincide with the annual meeting of the National Council of Women at Ottawa in October.

Dame Janet was educated at the London School for Medicine for Women, and followed with post graduate work in Vienna. After extensive hospital work she was called in 1919 to the newly formed Ministry of Health, as the Senior Medical Officer for Maternity and Child Welfare, at the same time remaining in her senior post with the Board of Education.

In 1928 she was named the medical member of the Committee on the Training of Midwives and also of the Committee on Maternal Mortality and Morbidity. It is in connection with her intensive work and studies in the intervening years that Dame Janet is known throughout the English-speaking world, and is regarded by the League of Nations as one of the outstanding international authorities on the subject.

Dame Janet retired from her post with the British Ministry, in December, 1933, but continues to serve on many of the Ministry's and the League of Nations' committee on health subjects.