NEWS FROM ENGLAND

NEWS BY MAIL ABOUT JOHN BULL AND HIS PEOPLE

Occurrences in the Land That Reigns Supreme in the Commercial World.

At the sale of Lord Hawke's Gotham estate of 1,172 acres, at Nottingham, £71,000 was realized.

A research department has been established in connection with the Women's Industrial Council.

Celebrook Lodge, West Hill, Putney, is to be a convalescent home for American nurses.

The Veterans' Association proposes to buy Royal Forest Hotel, Chingford, for £10,000, as a convalescent home.

Major-General Biddle, U. S. army, has received from the King, the insignia of the honorary K.C.B.

The late Thomas Alderman Haughton, of Old Arlesford, Hants, bequeathed £5,500 to his servants.

The Cheltenham Town Council have adopted a scheme for erecting 900 houses for working-class families.

The first British ship built without rivets has been launched from the works of Messrs. Connell, Laird's.

BANK LOSSES SHOW A LARGE DECREASE

A speech from London says: The British mercantile marine losses during the quarter totalled 152,[illegible] tons gross; allied and neutral combined, 88,000 tons; aggregate constitutes the smallest sinkings since August, 1914, and below that year's monthly average. The total losses for the twelve months ended September 30 were [illegible] tons, compared with [illegible] in the previous quarter, and [illegible] and a half tons in the corresponding quarter of last year. The losses include [illegible] vessels exceeding five hundred tons gross; between the United Kingdom and overseas ports, exclusive of cross-channel traffic, was [illegible] and a half million tons in Sep-

GERMANS SAY THEY WILL RETURN STOLEN ART WORKS

A dispatch from London says: [illegible] works of art belonging to the churches and private owners in the regions of Cambrai, Douai and Valenciennes, now in the hands of the Germans, will be returned undamaged [illegible] weeks after the war. This announcement is made in a German [illegible] wireless message received [illegible]

[illegible] of art have been under the [illegible] Supreme Army Commander [illegible] a place of safety [illegible] from destruction from [illegible] the message adds.

GERMANY WILL AWAIT ARMISTICE CONDITIONS

[illegible] from Basel says: The [illegible] War Cabinet considered [illegible] Wilson's reply at a lengthy [illegible] according to the Frankfort [illegible] it was decided not to [illegible] the present time, but to [illegible] learned what the Entente [illegible] conditions may be.

Belfry of Bruges Used by Germans as a Garage

A dispatch from London says: The [illegible] belfry of Bruges was used [illegible] Germans as a garage and [illegible] during their occupation of [illegible] Allied troops on entering [illegible] according to a despatch received [illegible] the Belgian Legation, found [illegible] interior walls of the historic [illegible] burned down and chimneys [illegible] the needs of the work-

FRENCH PATROLS CROSS DANUBE INTO ROUMANIA

[illegible] The War Office [illegible] operations in the Eastern [illegible] states that French patrols [illegible] crossed the Danube River and [illegible] Roumania near Lom-Palanka [illegible] defeated German detachments [illegible] taken prisoners.

GERMANY AND AMERICA AGREED ON WAR AIMS

A dispatch from London says: [illegible] in the House of Commons, Robert Cecil, Assistant Secretary [illegible] Foreign Affairs, stated that [illegible] existed between the United States and the other associated Governments as regarded war aims.

GERMANS ARE LEAVING GHENT, BELGIUM

A despatch from Amsterdam says: [illegible] evacuation of Ghent, Belgium, is [illegible] proceeding, according to a despatch [illegible] Telegraaf from Sasvan Gent. [illegible] last boats in Ghent are being [illegible] towed toward Selzaete, near [illegible] Dutch frontier south of Sasvan [illegible] the despatch adds.

German Cities Again Bombed By British Air Squadrons

A despatch from London says: The [illegible] official statement dealing with the [illegible] operations of the Independent Air [illegible] says: "On Wednesday night [illegible] bombed railways at Burbach and [illegible] Brucken, chemical factories at [illegible]heim, and railways at Coblenz, [illegible] Mainz, and at Metz-Sablons."

The Markdale STANDARD

[illegible] on Thursday by [illegible] RETLEDGE, [illegible] Ontario.

[illegible] to subscribers in [illegible] in the United [illegible] cents added [illegible] No paper [illegible] arrears are paid, [illegible] the publisher.

[illegible] RATES.

[illegible] advertisements are [illegible] rates per [illegible]

MARKDALE STANDARD

VOL. 39 — MARKDALE, ONT., THURSDAY, OCT 31, 1918. — Established in 1875

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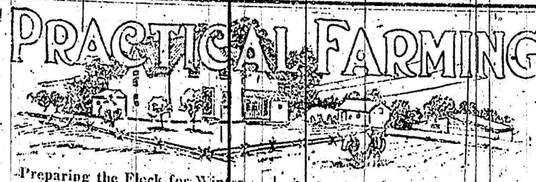
PRACTICAL FARMING



Preparing the Flock for Winter.

The success to be obtained from the farm flock will depend very largely on the way it has been handled during the autumn months. The plan at the Experimental Farm, Nappan, N.S., is, before the breeding season opens in the fall go through the flock, pick out all the non-producers, poor milkers, or any that may have bad mouths or spoiled udders; also any that may be too old for breeding profitably, and discard them. In selecting out the breeding flock looks alone is not the only guide, as many times a ewe may be a profitable breeder yet be very thin, due to the fact that she has been brought down by a heavy milk flow. Good ewes should be retained in the flock as long as they will breed and feed their lambs properly.

All lambs not intended for breeding purposes are sold. If the market happens to be flooded it is found to be more profitable to feed them well until January or February, by putting them on good aftermath until barning time, then finish on roots and meal.

Ram lambs intended for breeding are placed in a separate field with good clover aftermath and given a light grain mixture of ½ pound oats, ¼ pound bran and 1-5 pound oil cake meal. The ewe lambs are also placed in a field by themselves, but not given much grain unless the aftermath is poor. All breeding ewes are flushed during the latter part of October of the first of November. This consists in putting them in a good field of clover and giving them a light grain ration of oats, bran and a little oil cake meal. Hence the ewes make a rapid gain in flesh. There are several advantages from this practice. 1st. The ewes which are bred in a thrifty condition are more apt to throw vigorous lambs. 2nd. They are more reliable breeders; 3rd, more likely to drop twins; 4th, the flock will all breed more evenly together, which makes it much better at lambing time in that the lambs are all dropped within a short period of each other, thus making less work for the shepherd.

In selecting the flock ram it is the endeavor to choose the very best typical of the breed and vigorous. Then he is fed well in order to keep him virile but not too fat. He never gets grain until about a month before breeding season. He is never allowed to run with the ewes continually but put in with them two or three hours each day.

In dividing the pen for winter, all mature ewes are put together; shearlings in another pen and ewe lambs by themselves. The latter are not bred until one year old. Should there be any weak ones, they too are given a separate pen; otherwise they would not get a fair show at the trough with the more vigorous ones. The above method of preparing sheep for winter has been found to be most satisfactory.

Potato Seed Selection

Like begets like in the potato field as elsewhere, but judging by the quantities of inferior tubers used for seed purposes, the importance of this law is not appreciated by many. The use of small potatoes taken from the bulk of the crop, year after year, and used for seed will eventually lead to yields of inferior potatoes.

At potato digging time the great opportunity for seed selection is offered. With the product of each plant spread on the soil it is an easy matter to select out those plants that have given the largest yield of the most desirable type of potato and are free from disease. The potatoes from such plants only should be gathered and saved for use as seed the following year. This saving of seed at digging time may seem to many as an extra burden during a rush of work, but it is not.

There is less actual labor attached to seed selection at the time of the potato harvest than there is by practising any other method of seed selection. Furthermore, the results from hill selection are reasonably certain while with other methods there is some speculation. Potato growers would do well to watch closely for exceptionally good plants. These, harvested and saved apart from the main crop, may become the grand-dads of fine potato fields in the future.

ANGLO-ITALIAN TROOPS ADVANCE FOUR MILES BEYOND PIAVE RIVER

More Than 9,000 Prisoners and 51 Guns Taken in New Offensive Against the Austrians.

Rome.—More than 9,000 Austrians were taken prisoners in the operations on the Italian front on Sunday, according to the War Office announcement to-day. Fifty-one guns were also captured. Of the prisoners British troops up to last night had taken more than 5,000 and 29 guns, including six 9-inch howitzers.

Having made good their crossing of the Piave River, the British and Italians up to this afternoon had advanced four miles beyond it against bitter opposition.

The Italian forces in Albania are making satisfactory progress and are now only twenty miles south of Scutari.

The official report reads:

"Our army, in conjunction with allied contingents, has crossed the Piave River by force of arms, engaging in bitter battles the enemy, who strove desperately to bar the way.

"Between the slopes and heights of Valdobbiadene and the mouth of the Sligo Torrent our infantry assault troops passed during the night, under violent fire, to the left bank of the river, broke into the enemy's front lines and carried them.

"Supported by the fire of artillery on the right bank the ground and repulsed enemy attacks throughout the day.

"To the south the Tenth, taking advantage of the success of the British at Grave di Papadopoli, compelled the enemy to retire, repulsed two counter-attacks in the direction of Borgo Malanotte and Roncadelle.

"The prisoners taken yesterday aggregated more than 9,000. Fifty-one guns were captured.

"Allied aircraft, with extraordinary daring, attacked the enemy at very low altitudes.

"In local fighting on the Asiago plateau 150 prisoners were taken. The enemy heavily attacked our positions at Portica and obtained a foothold in Italian positions, although at great sacrifices. Later the Italians, in severe fighting drove out the enemy and regained the lost positions.

"In Albania our advance guard, having overcome the rearguard of the enemy, have crossed the Vojussa River and are marching on Tepeleni."

A Candy Substitute.

The farm boys and girls are asked among other things, to help the war situation by asking for more dishes made from corn. Let me tell them about one that will please them. Gather all the ears of sweet corn that are around, dry them, and then parch the kernels by holding over the fire in the corn popper. It will take a little longer time than to pop the ordinary popcorn, and the kernels will not pop open, but will swell up and make a popping noise. Hold over the fire until all moisture is driven out, but not long enough to burn. You can tell after a little experience when to stop by the place cooked enough yields to the teeth, but when done the result is a very good substitute for candy.

AUSTRIA READY TO MAKE PEACE

Basel, Oct. 28.—According to a notifying President Wilson is ready to enter upon negotiations and arrange an armistice. President Wilson is said to begin overtures of the

WINTER PROTECTION OF FRUIT TREES

By C. B. Ford

One of the most important factors in establishing a fruit orchard is that of protecting the young trees from mice and rabbits during the winter. These pests may not touch a tree in your orchard for several seasons, then, unexpectedly, they may girdle and kill forty per cent. of them. Mice and rabbits usually damage only small trees, although in some cases they attack trees from four to six inches in diameter. Many young orchards in Ontario have been seriously damaged in one winter by these pests.

Mice and rabbits are more active in young orchards during the winter months, when the supply of green food is limited, but if there is much about the trees, or if cover crops grow up about the trees both mice and rabbits may do considerable damage during the fall. There is something about the bark of young apple and pear trees that seems particularly attractive to rabbits. During the winter when snow covers up the grasses and clovers for rabbits and provides an agreeable cover under which mice can hide, the young trees should have some cheap and effective protection.

The only safe means of preventing these injuries is to provide guards for the trees so that the animals cannot touch the bark. Washes and paints have been tried and recommended, the idea being to cover the bark with substances that would prove repulsive to the animals. But these substances have proved ineffective in affording the desired protection. Such materials as blood, liver, axle grease and other greases have no good qualities to recommend them for protecting young trees.

The only safe and practical means of preventing these winter injuries is to put wire or wood guards about the trunk of the trees. In case you discover that serious damage is occurring, and you want to stop it immediately, wash the trunks of the trees with a lime-sulphur solution, or with ordinary whitewash in which arsenate of lead has been mixed at the rate of two ounces to each gallon. This will prevent injury until the next hard rain.

Effective wood guards are made of veneer cut from logs, by special machinery. It comes in flat packages, crated together, and sufficient wood for each tree costs about one cent. Before putting them around the trees soak in water and wrap them about the trunks of the trees and tie them with tarred string. When the wood becomes dry it is quite hard and offers little inducement for the mice to gnaw through.

These woods guards are cheap, durable and effective against mice and rabbits, and if closely fitted and pressed into the soil about the tree [illegible] help in preventing [illegible] borers and cutworms [illegible] of the trees. They come with two or three [illegible] end that goes into the ground [illegible] with a preservative. They [illegible] be set in the ground [illegible] worms and bugs which [illegible] from burrowing [illegible] of the trees in the [illegible]

Many commercial orchardists object to these wood guards [illegible] have to be [illegible] spring, on account of [illegible] light from the trunk [illegible] this is the [illegible] the trunk has a tendency [illegible] age the bud and cause [illegible] and check. Removing [illegible] spring requires considerable [illegible] the work comes at a time [illegible] activities in the orchard [illegible] union.

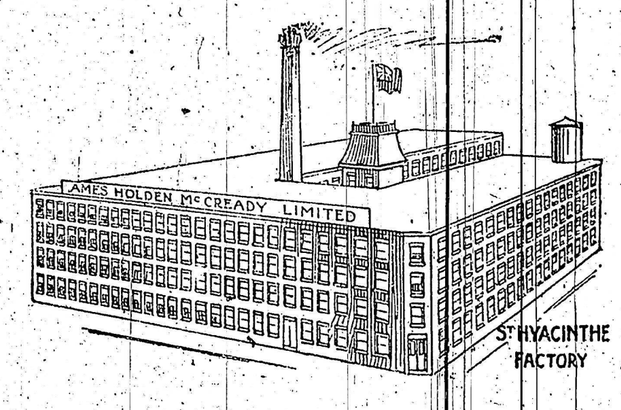
Wire guards are [illegible] They possess all of the [illegible] qualities of the wood guards [illegible] that they do not keep out [illegible] bugs. The greater cost [illegible] offset by the fact that [illegible] piled to the trees they [illegible] to be replaced. This is [illegible] portant item in the cost [illegible] chard than on the average [illegible] where only a few new trees [illegible] out from time to time.

The best way to buy wire [illegible] trees is to buy rolls [illegible] mesh wire sixteen inches [illegible] it in strips twelve inches [illegible] ing a roll about three [illegible] inches in diameter. [illegible] very desirable shield for [illegible] Unless one buys material [illegible] adapted for tree protectors [illegible] small stakes will be needed [illegible] the protectors in place.

As a rule, quarter-inch [illegible] preferable, for a mouse [illegible] head through a larger opening [illegible] considerable damage. If the site is frequently covered [illegible] shows it will pay well to [illegible] guards to prevent rabbits from [illegible] any part of the trunks [illegible] young trees.

Even though the trees are [illegible] treated with guards it is [illegible] grassy and cover crops [illegible] down close to the trunks [illegible] trees, because there is always [illegible] of fire running through the [illegible] and leaves and burning [illegible] the trees. It is also a good [illegible] tramp the snow firmly [illegible] trunks of the young trees.

Young fruit trees are [illegible] to leave unprotected during [illegible] ter. A little thought [illegible] to putting on these protectors [illegible] fall is a good insurance against [illegible] losses from mice and rabbits [illegible] value of one good tree will [illegible] repay the cost of time and [illegible] necessary to protect [illegible] young trees.



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BRITISH TAKE TOWN OF KERKUK

Important Place Situated 155 Miles North of Bagdad.

London, Oct. 28. British troops have captured the important town of Kerkuk, in Turkish Kurdistan, lying 155 miles north of Bagdad, according to the War Office announcement on operations in Mesopotamia. The town was occupied on Friday.

The British have cut the road from Kirkuk to Mosul, one of the principal Turkish lines of communication. The probability is that the Turks will fall back on Mosul.

When British troops [illegible] Turkish lines [illegible] Saturday [illegible] Kirkuk [illegible] Mosul [illegible] Kalkan.

The Dairy

[illegible] Enamelled Kitchen Walls.

If a painted wall becomes soiled [illegible] washed as often as necessary without injuring the surface.