MARKDALE STANDARD

VOL. 41 — MARKDALE, ONT., WEDNESDAY, FEB. 8, 1922 — Established in 1875

The Markdale STANDARD

is published on Wednesday by
COLGAN & MACINTYRE
Markdale, - - Ontario.

SUBSCRIPTION:—to subscribers in Canada, $2.00 a year; in the United States, $2.50. Fifty cents less when paid in advance. No paper discontinued until all arrears are paid, except at the option of the publisher.

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Markdale Council, Canadian Order Chosen Friends, No. 399, meets second Monday in the month in Haskett's Hall, at 8 o'clock. A Jackson, Chief Councillor; Herb. M. Irwin, Recorder.

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Bedtime Stories

The Runaways.

Jim was a little boy, and Caddy was a yellow pug dog with a tail that curled up over his back in a funny little queue.

"Isn't much fun playing by ourselves, is it, Caddy?" said Jim as they romped in the yard. "I wonder why Ted doesn't come." He climbed up on the fence and looked toward Ted's house. He saw Frances, Ted's little sister, but there was no sign of Ted.

A moment later Jim and Cady were running up the street.

"Hello, Frances!" said Jim when he reached the other house. "Where's Ted?"

"Oh, didn't you know?" cried Frances. "Grandfather came and took Ted home with him to stay a week. I wanted to go too, but I'm going to be a flower girl at Aunt Beth's wedding. Mother is down at the church now helping to decorate it."

"Let's go down and watch," said Jim.

So off the two went, with Caddy scampering at their heels.

After they had walked for a long while Frances said, "When I go to church with mother it is only a little way, but now it seems ever so far."

"It must be right round the next corner," replied Jim.

But when they had turned the corner there was no church to be seen.

"That's queer!" said Jim. "It must be the next corner, then."

But again he was mistaken.

Then they decided to go home, but by that time the corners were badly mixed.

"Oh dear!" said Frances, as a tear trickled down the end of her nose. "I'm afraid we shall never see our mothers any more."

Jim had been looking very solemn, but he had to smile at that. "Why, the idea, Frances Hall!" he said. "Of course we shall!"

Frances shook her hair over her eyes and began to sob. But just then there was a loud hiss somewhere near, and she stopped sobbing and peered through her curls.

"Oh, look at that crooked cat!" she cried.

Caddy looked too; the cat had seen him first and had arched her back in anger. The instant Caddy spied her he was off like a flash. Before the children knew what was happening the two animals were having a wild race.

"Caddy, Caddy, come back!" Jim called; but Caddy paid no heed.

That was more than Jim could stand. "If he gets lost I shall never see him again!" he cried; and, catching Frances by the hand, he went racing after the fleeing pair.

Up one street and down another the dog went running—the black cat, the yellow dog and the two panting children. They ran across a park and then into a side street, where both the cat and Caddy disappeared in an alley. Jim and Frances were just in time to see the two dash through an open gate into a back yard. It was nearly dark, but they could see the cat, a fleeing ball of fur, run swiftly up a tree; Caddy stood below, barking and giving short, excited leaps.

Jim slammed the gate. "Now we have him," he said. "As soon as I get my breath I'll march him home."

"But we don't know where home is," Frances said sadly.

"That's so," said Jim.

Frances stared into the dark. "Why, Jim Mason!" she cried suddenly. "Don't you see that this is your very own house?"

Jim blinked. "Why, so it is!" he said, a little ashamed.

He went over and looked up into a tree. "And that's the black cat that belongs next door," he added. "Well, I declare, I didn't know her with her hair on end!"

The two children looked at each other and laughed.

Caddy, who had worn himself out barking, came and stood on his hind legs before his master.

"He wants to be thanked," said Frances, "for bringing us home."

EFFICIENT FARMING

Bordeaux Mixture.

What is Bordeaux mixture? It is made when a two per cent. copper sulphate—bluestone or blue vitriol—is mixed with a two per cent. lime solution. In ordinary practice four or five pounds of bluestone is dissolved in twenty-five gallons of water. Six pounds of stone or hydrated lime is dissolved in 25 gallons of water. If stone lime is used, it is first slaked in a little water. To make Bordeaux, equal parts of the weak bluestone solution and the weak lime solution are mixed and then stirred vigorously. If the lime is good, the quantity suggested is sufficient.

Copper sulphate dissolves in hot water, or it will dissolve over night if suspended in a cheesecloth sack in cold water. It will not dissolve quickly if merely thrown in the barrel. If concentrated solutions are mixed a heavy precipitate results. Good Bordeaux can only be made by putting thin solutions together and mixing them thoroughly. Best mixing will result if the lime solutions and the bluestone solutions are poured at the same time into a third barrel and then stirred. Wooden barrels are handiest for making Bordeaux mixture. For small amounts a barrel may be sawed to make two tubs, or wooden candy pails may be used. Bordeaux should be strained before putting in sprayer.

Bordeaux mixture is our best fungicide for use on vegetables, potatoes, grapes, and ornamental plants. For apples and stone fruits, lime-sulphur replaces Bordeaux. On potatoes Bordeaux mixture not only protects the potato plant against fungous diseases, but also prevents the burning of the leaves which comes in hot, dry seasons. Sprayed plants outyield the unsprayed plants. For use on potatoes to control the potato beetle, one-half pound of Paris green, or two pounds of arsenate of lead may be added to the Bordeaux mixture.

Will it keep? Stock solutions of bluestone and lime will keep—merely make up the water lost by evaporation. Mixed, they should be used within a few hours. Addition of a half pound of sugar or molasses will keep fifty gallons of the prepared mixtures over night.

How test for right proportions? Make the Bordeaux as directed and the test will be right. It should be alkaline to litmus (turns paper blue) and should not deposit copper on a clean nail. (Drive a new nail into a piece of wood to clear it of grease, then leave in Bordeaux for five minutes). Ordinarily the test is not necessary.

Is air-slaked lime any good for Bordeaux? It is worthless. Use hydrated lime or stone lime.

What kind of stone lime should I use? One that is low in magnesium. It must be quick to slake.

How slake lime? Sprinkle with a little water until the lime gets hot. Then add more water until the lumps crumble. Too much water will prevent proper slaking.

Is hydrated lime all right to use? Yes.

Should Bordeaux be strained? Yes, through a brass sieve or a loose-textured cloth. Don't use burlap sacking as the fibres will clog the nozzles.

What kind of nozzle? Use a disc nozzle with a new plate if the old one is corroded.

Why not use blue vitriol direct if it is the active chemical? (1) it will burn plants if used direct; (2) it will wash off; (3) it does not have lasting effects.

Importance of Docking.

The sheep industry depends for its principal returns upon the lambs and wool produced from the flock. The meat side of the industry is of great importance and bears a direct relation to the profits from the flock. A desirable lamb carcass must first be the result of good breeding; second, the result of proper feeding, and third, the result of castration and docking of the lamb. The most desirable, and thus the most profitable lamb carcass can not be produced from lambs which have not been docked and castrated. Agencies interested in the sheep business are making an effort to educate the Canadian public to eat more lamb. If this effort is to be a marked success, the lambs must be properly bred, properly fed, and the carcass of a desirable character. The competitive prices of beef, pork and lamb are on equal footing, and thus the larger consumption of lamb depends upon its being as palatable and tender when served on the table as beef or pork. The farmer does not market his bull calves as bulls, nor his boar pigs as boars. Why should he market his lambs as ram lambs, rather than wethers. The correction of this neglect with regard to the docking and castration of lambs, is vital, and upon a more general practice of docking and castration on the farm hinges real profits and more general success.

If the industry is to be made to yield satisfactory returns, the docking of lambs should be attended to without fail at the proper time. It is conservatively estimated that eighty per cent. of the native lambs which reach the markets come to the market undocked, and that the percentage of ram lambs among the offerings during the last year has been as large as ever before. The remark, "What a trashy lot of natives," is one often heard in the sheep houses of the leading markets. This is because lambs come to market from the farm in lots weighing all the way from forty to one hundred and forty pounds, undocked, part fat and part lean and showing no uniformity of weight, quality or condition.

All lambs should be docked. It should be a uniform practice of those who keep sheep, that the tail should be removed when the lambs are seven to fourteen days old. The lamb's tail renders no substantial benefit to the lamb. Second, its presence is injurious because of the filth that accumulates around and beneath the tail. Third, lambs are more attractive, look neater and deeper in the leg and twist if the tail is removed. When the tails are left on females they are apt to fail to breed.

The preferable ways to remove a lamb's tail are by using a sharp knife or docking irons. One man holds the lamb. The operator, by feeling on the inside of the tail, can detect where the joints are. He should push the skin on the tail back toward the body of the lamb so as to leave some surplus skin to grow over the stub, and then cut the tail at a joint about one and a half inches from the body. The cut should be made quickly with a sharp knife. If any particular lamb should bleed too much a piece of cord may be tied very tightly on the stub of the tail close to the body. This will stop the bleeding. The string must be removed in a few hours or the tail will slough off.

By using the hot punches no danger need be feared from loss of blood. Old sheep can be successfully docked with the hot punches. The punches should be heated to a cherry red heat and the tail seared off at one to one and a half inches from the body. The wound will be seared over and no blood will be lost. It is true that the tail does not heal quite so quickly when the docking irons are used, especially if they are too hot. When the irons are used at proper temperature the wound will heal just as quickly as when the knife is used. When the lambs are handy with one man to catch them and a third to hold them, nine to twelve lambs can be docked between the heating of the irons. The wound is also sterilized and needs no further attention. The lambs should be watched for a few days to see that they are recovering from the operations satisfactorily.

A standard water and plumbing system, according to officials of the O. A. College, can be installed in the average Ontario farm home for approximately $650.

The Sunday School Lesson

FEBRUARY 12

Elisha and the Shunammite Woman, 2 Kings 4: 18-22, 27, 30, 32-35. Golden Text—John 5: 25 (Rev. Ver.)

Time—Elisha's ministry extended from B.C. 854 to about B.C. 800.

Place—Shunem and Mount Carmel.

Connecting Links—After Elijah's death (ch. 2: 11), Elisha became the leading prophet of Israel. Although, like his great predecessor, he was interested in national affairs (ch. 3: 6-20; 9: 1-10, etc.), he did not possess Elijah's statesmanlike qualities, nor his tremendous force of character. On the other hand, he was accredited with performing far more miracles than Elijah, and the following narrative recounts one of these miracles. It should be read with 1 Kings 17: 17-24 as a parallel.

"On his frequent journeys through Shunem, Elisha is entertained by a wealthy lady, who at length persuades her husband to build a guest-chamber on the roof of their house for his accommodation. As a reward for her hospitality Elisha promises that a son shall be born to her in the following year" (Skinner). Hospitality was recognized as a duty among the Israelites but the hospitality afforded to Elisha was unusual. Ordinarily temporary booths were erected on the flat roofs for guests but the Shunammite built a permanent addition to his house for Elisha.

I. A Mother's Grief, 18-21.

V. 18. The farmers of Palestine do not live each on his own farm but together in villages whence each goes out to till his own land. Hence the lad strayed out from the village to his father's farm. The reapers. The fact that the Shunammite had hired help shows that he was well-to-do.

V. 19. My head, etc.; a case of sunstroke. This was a common ailment in Palestine and is mentioned occasionally in the Bible. (See Ps. 121: 6; Isa. 49: 10). It has been described as "a rapidly fatal condition, beginning with a high temperature, violent pains in the head, and passing rapidly into coma, death taking place within a few hours or even minutes of the onset." Carry him; back to the village where his mother was. This accounts for the father's ignorance of his death in v. 23. He was not present when the lad died and the mother did not tell him of it.

V. 20. Sat on her knees. The story of this mother holding in her arms her stricken child, "late won and early lost," is surely one of the tenderest in all literature. Mother-like, she did not surrender, but led him to a couch, but held him in her own arms. And then died. Notice how simply and beautifully the story is told. The matchless style in which the narrative is couched adds to its pathos.

V. 21. Laid him on the bed, etc. Perhaps she hoped that in the chamber of the great man of God the child might by some means be restored. Shut the door; thus keeping his death a secret until she had exhausted every possible means of bringing him back. She did not tell even her husband of the death.

II. A Mother's Petition, 22, 27, 30.

V. 22. Called unto her husband; through a messenger sent to the fields. Young men. This is the usual Hebrew designation of a hired servant. In Palestine people of means seldom travel without a servant in attendance. The husband's answer shows that visits to the prophets were usually made only on new moons and sabbaths. He was at a loss to know why his wife should wish to consult the prophet since it was not the customary time for such a visit. Obviously he had no idea of the child's death. The wife was hiding her awful secret. The prophet from his elevation on Mount Carmel could see her approaching and, fearing that there was something wrong, sent his servant, Gehazi, to enquire what the trouble was. Gehazi's manner or nature must have been cold and unsympathetic because the mother would not disclose her heart to him, but pushed on to the prophet himself.

V. 27. The hill; Mount Carmel, a spur of the Samarian hills, which, skirting the southern edge of the plain of Esdraelon, runs westward into the Mediterranean Sea. Here Elijah had gained his victory over the prophets of Baal (1 Kings, 18: 17-40), and here evidently there was now a band of prophets over whom Elisha exercised supervision. Caught him by the feet; in attitude at once of supplication and of convulsive sorrow. Gehazi; attended Elisha as his servant, as Elisha had attended Elijah, 2 Kings, ch. 2. He did not think it proper for a woman of substance to prostrate herself on the ground, and beneath the dignity of his master to have her there. Let her alone. This short speech reveals the fine sympathy of Elisha. He was easily accessible to anyone in trouble. The Lord hath hid it. Elisha marvelled that, prophet though he was, he had no knowledge of her trouble.

Vs. 28-30. Without telling Elisha that her child was dead the mother passionately rebuked him for ever having given the child (see 2 Kings 4: 16). Elisha, perceiving that there was something seriously wrong with the child, sent Gehazi with his staff to recover him. Perhaps he thought the child was only sick and he urged Gehazi to use all haste. He was not to pause on the way even to salute any passers-by, for salutations by the Eastern way require time. Elisha thought that his staff, like his own mantle (ch. 2: 14) and like the staff of Moses and Aaron, was endowed with wonder-working power and that it would be as effective in recovering the child as his own presence. The mother however, clung to him until he yielded and consented to go.

III. A Mother's Joy, 32-35.

V. 31. The staff failed to work in Gehazi's hands. "Gehazi always succeeds unfavorably, and Elisha never, its power in such hands."

V. 32. When Elisha was come. The child died at noon, vs. 20; it was probably dark when Elisha reached the house.

V. 34. Elisha's method of resuscitating the child is peculiar and impossible to explain with certainty. A probable explanation is that as a prophet Elisha was filled with the spirit of God; this spirit is also the spirit of man (see Gen. 2: 7), and Elisha could communicate this spirit by contact over the child. Notice the slowness of the process.

V. 35. Elisha's prolonged efforts drained him of force that he was obliged to pause and pace the room before he renewed them.

Application.

In a certain book Elisha is referred to as a "model helper," and the passage for study to-day suggests the truth of the characterization. Whether interpreted as a tradition or as actual history, we reach the same result—Elisha eager to assist those in need. Elisha's treatment of the Shunammite woman in her hour of sore bereavement shows this very clearly.

The following suggestions may be gleaned from the study passage:

1. The Shunammite woman was a model of hospitality to a religious teacher. She was blessed in her hospitality. Ever since her time noble-minded and pious women have come much to ease the burden for the missionary.

2. The prophet was grateful for the kindness shown to him. One of the ugliest things in the world is forgetfulness of those who have heaped kindness upon us.

We see the baseness of ingratitude in the case of Judas, who forgot altogether what he owed the Master.

3. We cannot bring back little children miraculously from the gate of death to their parents, but we can help to save them in other ways.

But it is not sufficient to save them physically. They—all our Canadian boys and girls—must be trained to love Christian ideals. The world before us demands immediate attention for the number of those who have no religious education of any sort in Canada is appalling—over a million.

4. Our comfort in the day of trouble. The Shunammite woman instinctively turned to the prophet in her distress. When the lights burn low in the human heart, there is no voice like that of God Himself to comfort and uphold.

Sheep Improvement Measures in Ontario

The Agricultural Representative for Renfrew county, Ontario, Mr. M. H. Winter, reports the organization of a pure-bred ram club in that county. Twenty farmers who have not hitherto used pure-bred rams in their flocks have been given rams of the Shropshire and Oxford breeds. Nine dipping demonstrations in connection therewith resulted in twenty-five flocks, 1,000 sheep, being treated. Early in the season several meetings were held in the county to induce farmers to market wool co-operatively.

The formation of ram clubs in selected counties is the outcome of the policy of the Live Stock Branch of the Provincial Department of Agriculture, under which demonstration flocks of sheep have been established to the number of twenty. These flocks are operated on a share basis, the rams being supplied by the Department.

Under an agreement between the Live Stock Branch of the Provincial Department and the flock owners constituting a club, the Department undertakes to furnish the flock owner with a pure-bred ram free of cost, and after the ram has been used for two seasons, exchange it for a second. It is provided that the flock owner shall dip his flock at least once a year, dock all lambs and castrate all male lambs. He is also required to co-operate in making an annual club shipment of wethers to a central market. The dipping and castrating will be performed as demonstrations by field men of the Dominion Live Stock Branch. Arrangements for the joint shipment are made with the assistance of the representative. The agreement further provides for an annual report from the owner to the provincial department giving all essential data in regard to his flock.

The Department's offer is, it should be observed, limited to one club in a county, and that county must be one where the sheep industry is in need of special encouragement. Three clubs have hitherto been formed and supplied with rams, one in each of the counties of Lanark, Renfrew, and Lennox and Addington. It is believed that these demonstrations will clearly indicate the value of a pure-bred as compared with a scrub sire, and result in a better class of sheep being kept in districts that are backward in this respect.

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The stomach acts as a churn. It is covered by a strong, muscular coat and lined with a soft, delicate membrane which secretes the Gastric Juice which digests or dissolves solid food.

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But—if the stomach muscles are weak—or if the dissolving fluid is poor or insufficient—then food cannot be digested properly and you have Indigestion.

"FRUIT-A-TIVES" is the most wonderful medicine in the world for strengthening the stomach muscles and providing an abundance of pure, full-strength dissolving fluid to completely digest every meal. "FRUIT-A-TIVES" does this because it keeps the kidneys active, the bowels regular and the blood pure, which insures pure Gastric Juice.

"FRUIT-A-TIVES" will correct your Indigestion or Dyspepsia and enable you to enjoy every meal. Try it.

50c. a box, 6 for $2.50, trial size 25c. At all dealers or sent on receipt of price by Fruit-a-tives Limited, Ottawa.

Agricultural Practice and Prosperity Closely Related

The depression in the agricultural industry which has been felt in Canada for the last year or two has been shared in by the farmers of the United States, Great Britain and other countries. Reports from the United States show that the farm income for last year was the lowest since the year 1914, and that the farm population is now at the lowest point since the year 1917. In Great Britain the agricultural industry is in a very depressed state, and the farm population is now at the lowest point since the year 1911. In Canada the farm population has been steadily increasing since the year 1911, but the farm income has been very low for the last two years. The reason for this is that the prices of farm products have been very low, while the prices of manufactured goods have been very high. The farmer has been paying high prices for his implements, his clothing, his groceries, and his farm labor, but he has been receiving low prices for his wheat, his cattle, his hogs, his sheep, his butter, his eggs, his poultry, his fruit, his vegetables, his hay, his straw, his potatoes, his turnips, his beets, his carrots, his onions, his cabbages, his cauliflowers, his tomatoes, his cucumbers, his melons, his pumpkins, his squashes, his beans, his peas, his corn, his barley, his oats, his rye, his buckwheat, his flax, his hemp, his tobacco, his maple syrup, his honey, his wool, his milk, his cream, his butter, his cheese