MARKDALE STANDARD

VOL. 41 — MARKDALE, ONT., WEDNESDAY, JULY 19, 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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Hiram Lodge, No. 490; G.R.C. Markdale, meets in Masonic Hall, McFarland Block, on Tuesday evening on or before the full moon every month. Visiting brethren cordially invited. T. H. Reburn, W.M.; S. A. Morrison, Secretary.

C. O. C. F., No. 399.
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.

MARKDALE L.O.L., No. 1045.
Meets in Haskett's Hall on Thursday evening on or before full moon in each month. Visiting brethren made welcome. Everard Walker, W.M.; J. England, Secretary.

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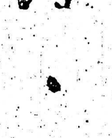
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The Type of Hog in Demand.

In a recent article on what may be expected in the hog trade, Mr. A. A. MacMillan of the Dominion Live Stock Branch, said that the hog producers of the Western peninsula of Ontario must decide on definite action along one of several lines. He might decide to continue breeding the extreme thick smooth type and be prepared to accept the cut which the market will inevitably impose; he might infuse new blood of the bacon type, and by rigid selection evolve a type closely conforming to bacon requirements; or he might discard his present stock and start afresh with breeding stock of recognized bacon type. Farmers in the United States are recognizing the change in conditions and are developing a type to meet present requirements. This, it might be remarked, is indicated by a rise in prices for United States bacon in England, although the prices are still considerably below those realized by Canadian bacon. The point, however, is that if those across the border engaged in the business are making improvements in order to retain their position, Canadian hog-producers cannot afford to stand still. Indeed market requirements have become such that it is doubtful if in the near future it will be possible to produce the old-type hog with any prospect of a margin of profit. At the same time study and thought are advisable in an effort to ascertain the best methods of selection and crossing coordinated with proper systems of feeding.

Another point made by Mr. MacMillan is that heavy and extra heavy hogs generally constitute a loss to the farmer owing to the cost that is involved in producing a hog weighing over 210 pounds. The weights from 160 to 210 pounds, as agreed upon for select bacon and thick smooth grades, allow sufficient latitude in finishing so that all the pigs of a litter should pass within those weights, provided a finishing weight of 200 to 210 pounds is aimed at. Any pigs that do not reach 160 pounds when the bulk of the litter average 200 pounds are either runts or unthrifty animals which could not be finished for high class bacon.

Diseases of Raspberries.

Circular No. 1 (new series) issued by the Division of Botany of the Dominion Experimental Farms is of the utmost importance to raspberry growers. It treats of mosaic and leaf curl, which have been found to be prevalent in the Niagara district and the adjacent counties. The kinds of raspberry most affected by Mosaic are the Marlboro and Cuthbert and the least the Herbert, the last-mentioned only being touched when adjacent to the other sorts. Mosaic is easily recognized by the dwarfing of the canes, the sparse yellowish foliage and thin growth. The leaves on the fruiting canes are only about one-half the size of normal leaves and show large green blisters or fine yellow speckling. The fruit on a bush that has been diseased for more than a year is worthless, and the bush should be removed by digging up the entire root carefully, care being taken not to drag the roots out, as otherwise the aphids will be scattered and much damage done to the plantation.

The Cuthbert is the sort most affected by leaf curl, the Marboro and Herbert rarely suffering. In leaf curl the leaves on the first and second year canes are much darker green than the healthy ones and the mid-ribs bend downward throughout the length. The fruit is dry and should not be picked. It is recommended that plants affected by leaf curl should be dug up and carried to a distance as speedily as possible before the aphid eggs hatch. This means in the first or second week of May. As both diseases are infectious it will be readily understood that the greatest care must be taken in the removal of the plants, and the utmost possible watchfulness exercised for their appearance. Particular care above all should be taken that only disease-free stock is planted and not stock that comes from an infected plantation.

An essential element in every successful co-operative institution is the co-operative man.

Farm Crop Queries

CONDUCTED BY PROF. HENRY G. BELL

The object of this department is to place at the service of our farm readers the advice of an acknowledged authority on all subjects pertaining to soils and crops.

Address all questions to Professor Henry G. Bell, in care of The Wilson Publishing Company, Limited, Toronto, and answers will appear in this column in the order in which they are received. When writing kindly mention this paper. As space is limited it is advisable where immediate reply is necessary that a stamped and addressed envelope be enclosed with the question, when the answer will be mailed direct.

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R. W. S.: I have a large plot of potatoes planted this season and in order to keep them in healthy condition I purchased a four-row spraying machine. I am writing you to ask you to send me directions as to how to mix Bordeaux to make a spraying solution and whatever other ingredients are to be mixed with it, if any.

Answer: You should provide yourself with four barrels, mounting these in a row on a stand about 4½ to 5 feet high, designating the barrels from left to right, A, B, C, D. In A put 40 pounds of copper sulphate in a bag and fill the barrel up with water. In D put 40 pounds of quick lime and fill this barrel with water. The quantity of copper sulphate and quick lime mentioned is about all that will dissolve in the quantity of water advised. This makes a stock solution of both lime and copper salt. After the material is thoroughly dissolved and stirred up, take 5 gallons from A and put it into B and fill up with water. Likewise take 5 gallons from D and put it into C, filling this barrel up with water. When you are ready to spray, back your spray up to barrels B and C, and if you have hose connecting same, allow them to empty at equal rates into the spray barrel until the spray barrel is full. This is exactly the strength you should use for spraying. Before filling the spray barrel, however, dissolve about a pound of paris green and strain it into the spray barrel. Also take an extra quart of concentrated lime and water out of barrel D and strain it into the spray barrel, then fill the barrel from D and C as already described. This will give you an insecticide and fungicide, which is what you want for your potatoes. If there is any material left in the spray barrel, do not attempt to use it after it has been standing any length of time, because chemical changes will have taken place so that the material is spoiled. By keeping the stock solution in the four barrels as described, you can keep the material indefinitely and still have it up to maximum activity. Some peple use lead arsenate instead of paris green, but this is largely a matter of choice. Spray the potatoes thoroughly driving the fine spray into the leafage as much as possible.

W. Y. L.: Will sweet clover make good ensilage?

Answer: Sweet clover, if properly handled, will make good ensilage. It should be cut before it is too woody and should be put into the silo through a cutter, much the same as corn is handled. Considerable experience shows that ensilage of this character is readily eaten by live stock, and, in my opinion, should be of exceedingly good feeding value. The ensiling of sweet clover provides a very comfortable and profitable manner of handling the late crop of sweet clover, which is frequently hard to cure as hay.

K. B.: I have a piece of land I would like to sow to alfalfa in July. I had the soil tested for lime and was told it would take two and one-half tons of limestone per acre. Now it is a long way to draw the lime and I haven't got the time to do it, even if I could get it, which is doubtful. I would like to know how much hydrated lime would be necessary to get a good stand of alfalfa.

Answer: I should judge from the report of your soil test that the soil is decidedly acid. If you intend to grow alfalfa you will certainly have to correct this condition before it will be successful. Regarding the amount of hydrated lime you would have to add. If you go by the figures given you in your test, you would have to add 3,700 pounds of hydrated lime per acre to provide the same sweetening effect as you would get from ground limestone. It is my opinion you would get a very good result from putting on from ½ to ¾ of a ton of hydrated lime per acre before seeding with alfalfa. This can be done any time after the ground is plowed. The lime should be spread on top and worked in by careful harrowing.

Handling the Fruit and Vegetable Crop

By W. T. Macoun, Dominion Horticulturist

The handling of fruit in baskets is well worth the consideration of all growers of apples. Nowadays, when the cost of most things is still abnormally high, consumers do not care to purchase fruit in large quantities, whereas if there were an abundance of good apples in baskets the consumption should be much more than it is to-day. Many farmers have apples of a great many varieties which are difficult to sell in barrels or boxes, whereas in baskets they could be disposed of much more readily. Local markets are often glutted with the apples which are sent in in bulk by the farmers, especially in summer and early autumn, and the prices obtained for them are not very remunerative, whereas if they could be sent to the local town or village in bulk and repacked in baskets there at a central packing house for shipment to cities, considerably more might be made out of the summer apples, thousands of bushels of which go to waste every year. The brusing of apples in handling causes much loss. The greatest care should be taken both in picking and packing to prevent injury. Sometimes apples are picked carefully but bruised and crushed by over pressure in the barrel. Thorough racking of the barrel to settle the apples well will obviate the need of much pressing. In seasons of hot weather fruit ripens more rapidly than in cooler ones, and one should decide the time of picking by the maturity of the fruit rather than by any stated time when picking has usually been done. There is much loss every year from fruit becoming too ripe after picking and before it is consumed. It should be cooled down as rapidly as possible after picking by whatever is the best means available to the owner in order to check as much as possible the ripening and mellowing processes. It is well worth while moving the fruit to a cool cellar for a few days even though it may soon have to be moved again for reshipment.

For home use, apples and other fruit should receive careful handling also. It is desirable to store the fruit in as cool a place as possible during the early days of autumn when the weather is still warm. The season of summer fruit can be much extended by cooling it down as rapidly as possible and keeping it cool.

It is well to leave the potatoes in the ground as long as there are any green leaves, unless they are dug for early use or sale, as during the cooler weather of late summer and early autumn there is usually a rapid development of tubers if the tops are still green. There may be little increase of crop while hot, dry weather lasts, but the season may end with a good crop. Potatoes are usually safer in the ground than anywhere else until there is danger of their being injured by fall frosts, when they should be dug in dry weather and stored in a dry condition.

Every effort should be made to have the onions thoroughly cured before storing. In parts of Canada where the season is short they are often not thoroughly mature when it is necessary to harvest them. When this is the case they should be dried off as much as possible in the sun before storing and when stored be spread very thinly in a dry frost-proof place. If these precautions are not taken they are not likely to keep long.

When cabbages are fully grown and show signs of splitting and it is not yet time to store them, a good plan is to loosen the plants in the ground by twisting them. This checks growth and helps to prevent splitting.

Keep the celery growing well by continuous cultivation to conserve moisture. Celery requires an abundance of moisture all through the growing season to ensure its being of good length and crisp when it is taken up in the autumn, and if checked in its growth in summer by lack of moisture may throw up seed stalks or become pithy. After it is dug it should be kept crisp by storing in a cool place and keeping the roots moist.

The storage of beets, carrots, parsnips and turnips should be in as cool a temperature as possible without freezing, whereas all kinds of squash keep better when the temperature is moderately warm, say, between 50 degrees and 60 degrees Fahr.

All vegetable seed which has been saved for sowing next year should be dried as soon as possible after ripening and kept dry. If they remain soft long or are kept in a moist place they are liable to mold and lose their germinating power.

How to Keep Dairy Herd Records.

As the weighing and testing of each milking would be too exacting, a good way to keep dairy herd records is to set apart three days each month, at ten day intervals, for weighing and testing. The results are multiplied by ten. This plan of course will not give the exact figures, but it will give them near enough to approximate correctness. The plan has been followed by the Dominion Dairy and Cold Storage Branch for eighteen years with splendid results, according to the recently published pamphlet No. 18 of the Dominion Department of Agriculture, which deals in extenso with the subject. If the tester and the farmer act in close co-operation the testing work will be comparatively easy. In order to encourage pursuance of the system the Department undertakes to pay to any qualified tester ten cents for each Babcock test made from the composite samples of any herd, the tester providing his own apparatus. Particulars and exact instructions are given in the pamphlet referred to which can be had on application to the Publications Branch, Ottawa.

The Sunday School Lesson

JULY 23

Daniel and the Lions, Dan. 6: 16-23. Golden Text—Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions.—Heb. 11: 33.

Lesson Foreword—The Babylonian Empire has fallen and given place to the Persian and the incident here recorded is said to have transpired during the reign of Darius, one of the kings of Persia.

I. The Peril, 16, 17.

V. 16. The king; Darius, called by the book of Daniel, "The Mede." In the book of Daniel the term "Medes" is used broadly to cover the Persians as well as the Medes. The Medes formed a part of the Persian Empire. History tells us that Darius was the third king of Persia and that he reigned from B.C. 522 to B.C. 485. He was very liberal to the Jews, granting them a large measure of religious freedom and allowing them to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem. (See Ezra. 4: 3, 24; 5: 5; 6: 1.) Commanded. Like other kings of the Orient, Darius was an absolute monarch and none could gainsay his word of command. Nevertheless he had been inveigled into issuing this command by a trap set by his courtiers and, when once promulgated, the decree could not be repealed, v. 15. The den of lions. Lions were trapped in pits (Ezek. 19: 4, 8), and, after their capture, were kept in pits or dungeons. They were let loose when the king wished the sport of hunting. He will deliver thee. Driver says, "The king hopes even against hope that Daniel may by some means or other be spared his fate."

V. 17. A stone, etc. By this means the mouth of the den was secured. The stone, which formed the door of the den, would be round and flat, like a millstone, and would be set upright against the mouth of the den. Recall the great stone rolled up against the sepulchre of our Lord, Matt. 27: 60. Sealed it with his own signet. Herodotus tell us that all the Babylonians wore signets. They were cylinders, provided with a large hole which was bored through the core to admit a soft woollen cord for suspension round the wrist and neck. The king's signet denoted his authority and proprietorship. The stone was sealed with both the king's signet and that of the officials that neither party might steal a march on the other.

II. The Deliverance, 18-23.

V. 18. "Daniel is more at rest, though he is among lions, than Darius in his palace." Conscience-stricken at what he had done to him, the king passed a wretched night. Neither were instruments of musick, etc. "The king did not indulge in his usual diversions" (Driver).

V. 19. Morning came none too soon for the troubled king; at the first streaks of dawn he hurried to the den of lions.

V. 20. With a lamentable voice. It has been suggested that his agitated behaviour indicates an impulsive nature, accustomed to let the feeling of the moment sway it unchecked. The king . . to Daniel. Perhaps the interior of the den was not visible to the king. He could pierce it with his voice but not with his eye. Is thy God . . able? The king had a sort of half belief in Daniel's God but yet he was not sure whether He was stronger than the lions. His question showed that he was anxious to know whether Daniel's God could avail him in the terrible ordeal.

V. 21. O king, live for ever. Daniel's salutation was calm and dignified. Although the king had thrust him there and although he was in a state of jeopardy he made the usual, reverential salutation to the king.

V. 22. My God hath sent His angel. The word "angel" properly means "messenger." The Hebrews believed implicitly in the existence of angels. They were thought to be the agents by which God's designs are accomplished in the world and frequently, as here, they were said to have a part in God's redemptive acts. The book of Daniel, particularly the latter half, shows a belief in angels developed beyond that of the earlier writings. It is not said that Daniel saw the angel. Before him innocency; inasmuch as Daniel had disobeyed the decree by remaining faithful to his God. And also before thee. His transgression of the decree was not to be interpreted as an act of disloyalty to the king. In acting as he had done Daniel was not a rebel.

V. 23. Because he believed in his God. Daniel's conduct throughout was a splendid adventure of faith. When, in the first instance, he disobeyed the decree, he must have believed that his God would keep him and later in the den of lions he committed himself in trust to God's providence. (See Heb. 11: 33.)

Application.

Daniel was a man of affairs, of public affairs. His was no cloistered virtue. He did not live a sheltered life; he was out in the open in the midst of crowding duties. He seems to have been Prime Minister, Minister of Home and Foreign Affairs, and Chancellor of the Exchequer.

This busy man of affairs found time for the offices of religion; he was a man of prayer. He truly believed in God, and was faithful. The way to apply this lesson is to follow Daniel's example.

Daniel's habit of prayer is the explanation of everything which you admire in the man. Is he a man of courage? It is because he is a man of prayer.

"Thy God whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee," said the king to Daniel. It is not a thing incredible. By what means the deliverance was wrought we do not know. Various explanations have been offered. Some find in v. 14, a suggestion that the king's effort "to deliver him" was not to change the edict but to have the lions gorged that they were torpid and sluggish; others attribute it to Daniel's mesmeric psychic power, while others look for no human factor in the deliverance, content with Daniel's word, "My God hath sent His angel and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me." We do not need to determine whether the one necessarily precludes the other, divine purposes in human life are often wrought by human agency. The thing that really matters is that God does deliver.

The Bible is rich in testimonies to this fact. Paul (2 Tim., 4: 17), says of his trial before Nero and acquittal, "I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion." In this symbolic sense how often has the miracle been repeated. Most Christian people have had many such experiences.

The Bad Boy.

It may be because my viewpoint is changed, but it seems to me that the boy of to-day is not as bad as when I was a youngster. He may not be bound to rules of conduct, as in my time, but his greater freedom and the greater educational opportunities offered have encouraged him into constructive play, or work. At least, it seems that the Peck's Bad Boy stunts are not as prevalent as they were in the past.

There are good reasons for this apparent change. One is that the old rule that children should be seen and not heard is as much out of style as the old leg-of-mutton sleeves that the women used to wear. Instead, we have come to realize that the boy is the coming man and is anxious to do some manly work as an oulet for his youthful energies. Another is that you do not have to be bewhiskered and gray-headed nowadays to be recognized in accordance to your ability.

In some cities they have taken special interest in the boy through the establishment of a boys' week. Through this work they have found that the boys have responded in unexpected good measure when they made him realize that he was somebody. Delinquency among boys has decreased about twenty per cent. since this movement was started.

In view of these facts, we beseech you that if you have what you call a bad boy, or know of one, please do not consider him bad, but instead, help him find himself. The energies he now uses for badness will produce good results if diverted to proper channels. This is shown by the fact that some of the worst boys have made the best men when they have found the proper outlet for their activities.

THE HORRORS OF INDIGESTION

Relieved by "Fruit-a-tives" the Fruit Medicine

Indigestion, Weak Digestion, or partial digestion of food, is one of the most serious of present-day complaints—because it is responsible for many serious troubles.

Those who suffer with Indigestion, almost invariably are troubled with Rheumatism, Palpitation of the Heart, Sleeplessness and excessive Nervousness.

"Fruit-a-tives" will always relieve Indigestion because these tablets strengthen the stomach muscles, increase the flow of the digestive juices and correct Constipation, which usually accompanies Indigestion.

50c a box, 6 for $2.50, trial size 25c. At dealers or sent postpaid by Fruit-a-tives Limited, Ottawa.

Poultry

H. A. H.: What should I use in mixing a dry mash to feed growing chicks? They are eight weeks old now. What else should I feed in order to give them a balanced ration? Please give the approximate cost of the mash. Can buy a good commercial mash here for $4.50 per hundred pounds. Would you advise using this? The chicks have plenty of range.

A good dry mash for chicks from six weeks of age until laying time can be made of three pounds each of wheat bran, cornmeal, wheat middlings and meat scrap, and one pound of bone meal. The scratch grain mixture can consist of equal parts wheat and cracked corn.

It is difficult to figure the approximate cost of the mash for publication as prices change rapidly and there is a variation in the prices charged for the materials at different points. The best grade of meat scrap costs the most but is usually considered the best investment.

Unless you have a large flock it will pay you to buy the mixed mashes, especially if you have to buy all the separate ingredients. If you have home-grown grain that changes the situation. You can figure the cost of the items in the mash at your elevator and can easily determine which is the best by comparing that price per one hundred pounds with the cost of the mixed dry mash.

This season we have never had to pay as high as $4.50 per one hundred pounds for commercial growing mash. We can obtain mashes for $3.50 and less which have proven very satisfactory.

Rape, as a Pasture for Sheep.

Rape is one of the best annual pasture crops that can be grown for sheep. It may be sown broadcast using grain as a nurse crop and pastured the rape in the fall after the grain is harvested, or it may be sown without a nurse crop and used as a summer and autumn pasture. In districts where moisture is scarce or localities where for any reason difficulty is experienced in getting a good crop, conditions are improved by sowing drills. When sown in drills three to four pounds and broadcast six to ten pounds per acre are satisfactory rates of seeding. At Agassiz the aphis and flea cause considerable trouble and the crop frequently has to be sown more than once before a good stand is secured. If sown early and no setbacks occur, it may be pastured in July, while by seeding also at later dates a continuous pasture can be provided.

On the Agassiz Experimental Farm, rape pasture has been compared with clover pasture many times for fattening lambs. In every instance the rape pastured lambs made the greatest gains not only when grain was used as a supplement, but also when no grain was fed. It has never paid to feed lambs grain on good rape pasture, as the extra gains did not compensate for the grain fed. The clover has always appeared to be too soft, particularly the aftermath of the first year's seeding. The actual gain per lamb per day secured on rape pasture has been from .217 pounds in 1921 to .54 pounds in 1915. The gains on clover these same years were .0517 and .453 pounds respectively. The average daily gain on rape pasture per lamb has been approximately one-third of a pound, which with lamb at ten cents per pound places a value of over three cents per day on the pasture for each lamb.

In one trial, where nine thin ewes that had just weaned lambs were put on rape pasture, they gained in a month 234 pounds of .86 per ewe daily. They received some grain as a supplement, and with ewes selling at ten cents per pound, the pasture yielded profitable returns.

Where rape thrives it is an excellent annual pasture for sheep.—W. H. Hicks, Supt. Experimental Farm, Agassiz, B.C.

Seemingly good farm management is the least expensive, the most profitable, yet the rarest practice on Canadian farms.

We are satisfied to pay a long price to the person who is able to properly blend a little sugar with appetizing flavors. No doubt we would profit even more in satisfaction if we were able to blend with the serious side of life a right proportion of sociability and geniality.