Efficient Farming

THE MEANING OF GOOD SEED.

Good seed may be defined as follows:

A.—Seed belonging to a variety which is superior in the following respects, viz.:—

1. Stability for the conditions under which it is to be grown.
2. Yielding power.
3. Purity.
4. Quality of product for marketing or feeding purposes.
5. Hardiness.
6. Strength of straw or stalk.
7. Ability to resist disease.

B. Seed which in itself is superior in the following respects, viz.:—

1. Vital energy.
2. Size and development of kernels.
3. Uniformity of sample as regards size and development of kernel.
4. Maturity.
5. Freedom from disease.
6. Freedom from other damage of any kind.
7. Freedom from weed seeds.
8. Freedom from seeds of other cultivated kinds or varieties.

Choice of variety is a matter which deserves the most careful consideration. During the past few years, there has been a rapid increase in the production of new varieties by our plant breeders. These varieties are distinguished not only on the basis of such things as yields, dates of maturity, quality, type of kernel, straw, etc., but on their adaptability to different conditions. For instance, three better on clay soils than do others. Some varieties will make a fairly good showing on rather light soils, whereas other sorts would give very poor yields. Again, some varieties are better suited to thrive under certain conditions than are others. The difference between varieties in respect of their relative ability to withstand, or resist, the attacks of rust is becoming more pronounced each year as progress continues to be made in the production of more resistant types.

The Experimental Farms and Agricultural Colleges are going very valuable work in testing different varieties in various ways, so as to be able to furnish farmers with information as to the varieties which are likely to do best under the conditions which prevail on a given farm. Growers are therefore strongly urged to keep closely in touch with these institutions.

The Central Experimental Farm at Ottawa has worked out a very simple plan by which any farmer can obtain valuable information on his own farm regarding the relative suitability of different varieties of plants for the which characterize his farm. Such a scheme is highly recommended as it is only by testing varieties on the farmer's own farm that he can be sure that he is not trying to grow a variety which is not suitable for his conditions.

The vital energy of the seed of the variety decided upon should be determined by a careful germination test.

Seed should be plump and large for the sort and as uniform as possible as regards size and development. While small seed and even shrunken seed in the case of wheat may, under ideal conditions, produce reasonably good plants, yet the fact that ideal conditions are not to be depended upon makes it unsafe to risk using seed which is lacking in development. Well developed seed contains more food material on which the young plant developing from the germ will have to draw upon. If this food supply is scant and the season is unfavorable at the start, the growth is liable to be weak.

A PAIR OF VALENTINES

Mother's tired eyes smiled at her tall daughter over the soft pile of apricot crepe, but the girl noticed something special.

"Did the girdle come out wrong, mother?" she asked.

Mother lifted the lovely thing. "I think so," she answered. "Do you want to try it on?"

"Do I!" Celia cried.

She pulled off her blue tricotine and slipped the apricot crepe over her head. It wrapped as softly as a cloud about her young white shoulders; her face above it seemed to bloom into lovelier color, her dark hair to steal a new sheen in contrast with the vivid soft brilliancy of the gown. She tilted the mirror on the bureau and advanced across the room to see herself full length. Her bright face became serious as she gazed.

"Don't you think the left side looks a little queer, mother?" she inquired. "Something about the way the folds hang there?"

Mother looked from the figure in the mirror to the one outside. She could see nothing wrong. But she knelt beside her daughter, altering and pinning.

It was half an hour before the folds hung to Celia's satisfaction. Then once more the dimples came back to her face. She kissed her mother between the tired eyes. "There won't any girl have such a lovely valentine as mine!" she declared.

As she danced out of the room she met Letty coming in, the little sister was carrying a cup of tea, and her eyes were hostile. "I heard what you said about a valentine, and I can just tell you that your old valentine's failing mother! I'd like to know what you're doing for her valentine, that's what I'd like to know!"

"I'd wait till I knew the facts before I accused people," Celia replied coldly, but her eyes looked startled and ashamed. Of course she was going to send mother a valentine. She would go without her new gloves till March and buy sweet peas, mother loved sweet peas.

When mother opened the box and found the card, "From your Big Girl Valentine," her face looked as if she had come into some marvellous fortune. She showed them proudly to Letty. The little sister filled the flower basket with water for them and then slipped silently away.

Half an hour later her mother found her sobbing passionately. "Why, Letty!" she cried.

Little sister would not look up. In her hand was a crumpled bit of paper. "I wa-wanted to send you a valentine so, and I didn't have any money," she sobbed.

In a flash mother understood. She loosened the paper from the resistant fingers, spread the paper and read:

"I love you hard, I love you true,
And I'll wash dishes every night for
you."

"Letty dear!" mother cried. "I'm going to keep this as long as I live."

Lifting her flushed, tear-stained face, little sister saw in mother's eyes the same transfiguring light that the sweet peas had brought.

Epitaph for Joseph Conrad.

Not of the dust, but of the wave
His final couch should be;
They lie not easy in a grave
Who once have known the sea.
How shall earth's meagre bed entomb
The hardiest seaman of them all?

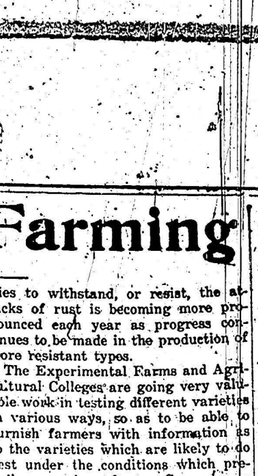
—Countee P. Cullen.

A VALENTINE

What can I send you, for old Winter's reigning!
Snowflakes are flying past my window pane;
Bare the friendly wildwood, gone the nodding blossoms.
Sad the empty meadows and the winding lane.

Yet are mem'ries fadeless, precious beyond telling.
Friendship links together days of shade and shine.
Some of May's soft laughter and the Summer's glory,
These I offer: take them, for a valentine.

—Alix Thorn.



Cornelius T. Cramp, chairman of the British Labor party, says his impressions of New York will always be of "untidy prosperity," where people erect skyscrapers, but neglect to sweep their side streets.

The Valentine.

Oh, merchant, show me all your stock,
I want a valentine
To send the sweetest girl on earth
So give me something fine,
Pink satin and forget-me-nots,
Or silver lace and blue,
Or verses oh a gilded—
Nay, none of them will do.
For rings and hearts and doves and darts
And rosy garlands gay,
And wedding bells and spangles bright
Are pretty in their way
But would not please her—she is such
A pert capricious elf,
So I had better go instead
And offer her myself.

—Minna Irving.

Tanks for Divers.

Modern salvage enterprises demand greater and greater ranges in deep-sea diving, and as the depth to which a diver can descend is limited by the pressure of water his body can sustain without risk of collapse, improved forms of diving suits and accessories are being continually devised.

Few of these, however, increase the diver's range of operations by more than a few fathoms, and the maximum depth to which even the most expert diver can go remains at about 200 feet.

Actually men have gone to as great a depth as 300 feet, but under such conditions no work could be attempted. Moreover, the men who made this record were permanently incapacitated as a result.

A new apparatus has little in common with the usual type of diver's outfit. It resembles a small submarine, which by means of a double telephone can be kept in constant communication with the surface, and which is provided with movable arms and legs to accommodate the limbs of the diver. The arms and legs are surrounded by sleeves made of a tough aluminum alloy.

Such a diving tank enables the diver to descend or rise at will by admitting or discharging water, replacing it with compressed air from a battery of six cylinders. One diver descended 530 feet in the course of tests, though at that depth the pressure amounted to 225 lbs. per square inch.

These oxen of Haliburton, Ontario, are so well-trained that they can be driven by the seven-year-old boy shown in the photograph. The animals are used in a lumber camp to break down soft places on the saw-log roads.

FOR HOME AND COUNTRY

The Essentials in Women's Institute Work.

Before we can decide what are essentials in Women's Institutes, we must consider the purpose for which Institutes are organized and the features of the work which have made them so popular and valuable that we find them not only in rural communities in Ontario, but in many other parts of the world.

They have become one of the largest and strongest organizations of women in existence to-day. Why? Because they stand for all that is essential in foundation of empire—the home and childhood particularly. The Women's Institutes in Ontario are part of a great co-operative educational system which has for its aim the betterment of Home, school, community and country. We might also add, the betterment of womanhood. "In our co-operation, we in the Institutes form a great league of women for peace and advancement, not by laws of force but by laws of educational growth."

This success depends upon co-operation between not only members of branches, districts and Federation boards, but between members and the Dept. of Agriculture with which we carry on so effectively.

If we are to achieve results we must follow the line spoken of by our War Minister, forging every link in the chain that there can be no weakest link. The Women's Institute has been called "the great school for the grown-ups." It is the university in which the homemaker has an opportunity to complete her education, to develop her talents and assist all members to achieve their best.

What do we mean by education? It is that training which develops our powers, not only physically but mentally, to accomplish with a minimum amount of labor a maximum amount of results. In other words, it is that training or growth of powers which enables us to fill our place in life efficiently and to serve our generation. It is training which broadens our outlook, that we may value things of life at their true worth. It makes us better homemakers, more logical. We see that work is honorable and glory in our ability to accomplish results.

The Women's Institute is a finishing school for homemakers, the university of those upon whom the prosperity of nations rests. We all realize the truth of the statement that no nation can rise higher than the standard of the homes of which it is composed; especially is this true of the homes of the "landed gentry." These are homes upon which the world depends for its maintenance, the homes which are sources of our national wealth. They are the homes which add fresh vigor to the great centres of population.

Here is the first essential of Women's Institute work—the uplifting of home and improving of home conditions by studying the laws of sanitation and nutrition, that our children may not be denied their rightful inheritance to be well born and to have the privilege of developing the three-fold life, physical, mental and moral, thus growing into the perfect man or woman as God ordained. If not, we are the product of some misconception of our own or our ancestors.

It is the duty of every woman to appear to the best advantage, whether it be personal or mental, to surround herself and her home with the best possible. Too many of our women do not realize the value of their personal appearance. At the same time too little attention is paid to our home surroundings. With very little expenditure of labor we can remodel our houses from being mere stopping places into homes; and besides the pleasure derived, it would be a good investment and would add dollars to pence.

The rating value we receive at the hands of our fellow residents is only a reflection of the value we rate ourselves at. The world is a true mirror, giving back only what we show to it.

Our co-operation can be extended to our school, not only by assisting in beautifying the school and its surroundings but by aiding the teacher with our hearty support. We have many examples of the good work done by the hot lunch, drinking fountain, flowers, picture painting and the arousing of public opinion as regards the importance of the "second home" and the influence brought to bear upon our children. Many times the conditions in the schools were such as would not be tolerated in any other place.

Should the system not be deemed suitable, it is our opportunity to mould public opinion so that in our school we have not only the best but also the best paid teachers, and to assist with our sympathy. It is imperative that all should have opportunity to cultivate the talents already possessed.

What is essential in a Women's Institute to fulfil this work?

That we have women, interested in ideals, who are loyal and broad-minded enough to forget the petty, personal trifles of life and unite in a great effort to raise the standards of life.

We must have co-operation in teaching the nobility of labor, that homemaking is the first profession and agriculture is the second.

To know that in unity there is strength, and with that strength much can be done whether in branch, district, provincial association or Dominion Federation. To-day the Women's Institute is recognized as a great moulder of public opinion, and our responsibilities increase as our membership increases. Laws are only the outcome of public opinion placed in a tangible form. It is therefore essential that those who represent your branch, district, province, represent you in spirit as well as in name, and that the closest union should exist between all parts of the work.

When we view the great work already done, we may feel proud of what we have accomplished. The reason we feel so is because our ideals are the two greatest in existence—that of home and country. The love of these are in every land, so that we find the Women's Institutes are fast encompassing the world.

The value of our organization does not depend upon our numbers so much as upon the union of all the parts of which it is composed. It depends upon loyal support of our own organization, in branch, district, federation.

Federation, to be successful, is linking up, not for strength, but for service. The word "Service" should be our watchword. Ours is the grand union of womanhood; ours is an opportunity to render service to others that they may enjoy what it has been our lot to enjoy. We have work to do in the nationalizing of new Canadians-in-the-making.

To-day we are learning the lesson that we otherwise never would have known, in agriculture as well as in manufacture, that if we are to regain and hold the British markets, which are ours by birthright as well as commercially, we must produce goods of uniform quality and highest type. Not "How Much," but "How Good" must be our password.

Women's Institutes can accomplish much by studying market conditions and discussing market problems, in moulding public opinion and bringing about adjustment of conditions.

Law is a slow and many times a distasteful means of education; better the demand for law than for laws to make the demand. We have our natural resources, our geographic situation, our raw materials, and we are the descendants of the best people on the globe; why, then, not have the best products, commanding premium prices, whether it be milk, butter, cheese, cream, wheat, bacon or beef? We can, if we so desire, fill the offers of Canada to overflowing. It is ours for the grasping, the goal is in sight.

The Women's Institute is an unmeasurable factor in attaining these ideals; for with our increased financial returns we shall have no difficulty in realizing our ideals in home and school and conditions generally; because in the end it depends on our spending ability to a great extent, if we are to remedy the evils which exist and secure desirable results.

The Live Stock Situation.

The monthly review of the live stock situation for December, 1924, issued by the Live Stock Branch at Ottawa, notes a general improvement in the market in December compared with the corresponding month of 1923. It says that while the hog market opened weak in the first month of the past year it made a garrison finish with selects showing a top for December $2.07 above the same month in 1923 and $1.28 above December, 1922, and that despite the fact that the marketings of hogs for the year totalled a trifle over half a million more than in 1923. All along the line the prospect has a hopeful appearance. During 1924, 41,000 more cattle were marketed than in the previous twelve months but 25,000 fewer sheep. Regarding the latter fact the review says that the shortage of supplies was responsible for keen prices and that in December choice lambs made a top of $3.50 per hundred above December, 1923, and $4 per hundred above December, 1922. Domestic prices, it adds, have been such as to almost prohibit exports to the United States, where, despite the tariff, there is a remunerative outlet for the right sort of stock. A good r[illegible] is also given of the export trade.

Would Like to be Shown.

Mr. Justwed—"I love you so much I'd die for you."

His Wife—"So you've said before, but you're such a procrastinator I'm afraid you'll never make good."

The St. Valentine Wind.

BY IRENE S. WOODCOCK.

Ruth had quarreled with Rosalie for the first time since they had been playmates. And now St. Valentine's Day was coming and she could not send her the valentine that she had bought so joyfully only a few days before.

"I don't care," Ruth said as she put her other valentines into envelopes. But she knew that she did care a great deal. She sat and gazed at the valentine that had been intended for Rosalie. What should she do with it?

"I know what I'll do," she decided. "I'll just take it with me when I go out to carry the other valentines, and perhaps I shall think of some one to give it to."

She and Rosalie had always carried valentines round together, and she felt queer and lonesome now as she started off alone. It would not be nearly so much fun, she knew, to ring bells all by herself and then run and hide. She gave a deep sigh.

As she passed Rosalie's house she looked toward it out of the corner of her eye. Was Rosalie there, or was she, too, going forlornly round alone, carrying valentines?

By the time Ruth had finished running up and down the village streets, slipping her valentines under door and ringing bells, she was quite out of breath. There was only one valentine left—the one that had been intended for Rosalie.

"I suppose I might just as well take it home," Ruth said sorrowfully.

The second time she passed Rosalie's house she tried to go by, but somehow her feet lagged. What would happen if she ran up the walk and rang the bell? Would the door fly open, she wondered, and some one shout, "Valentine! I caught you!"

Ruth hesitated a moment; then, as she started to walk on again, something unexpected happened. The wind, which as night fell had been blowing harder and harder, came swirling suddenly round the corner of the house and snatched the envelope from her hand. Away it went, high into the air, whirling and circling. It flew straight over the fence and into the yard of Rosalie's house. Up up into the air it went, then down again it fluttered and landed right at Rosalie's door!

Ruth was so astonished that she stood stock still in surprise. Then she pushed the gate open quickly. She must get back that envelope, and in a hurry, too!

There it lay right on the doorstep. Somehow it seemed to be in just the right place, but it must not stay there.

As she stopped to snatch it up the door flew open. "Valentine!" a voice cried joyfully. "I caught you!" Some one seized her and drew her into the hall. It was Rosalie.

"I saw you pass," Rosalie said, "and I hid behind the curtain and watched. How I hoped you had brought a valentine for me! Then when you came into the yard I knew you had."

"But I hadn't," Ruth said, though she did not want to say it. "That is, I had a valentine for you, but I wasn't going to give it to you. The wind snatched it out of my hand."

"There!" said Rosalie, laughing. "I had a valentine for you, too, and I couldn't make up my mind what to do with it. I'm glad the wind was blowing to-night!"

The next minute Ruth was running home to ask if she might stay to supper at Rosalie's house. When she came back the wind was roaring down the chimneys and rattling the windows.

"Blow, wind," said Ruth. "We don't mind."

"Yes, blow," echoed Rosalie. "You are just a St. Valentine wind—full of fun."

FOUNDATION PLANTING

Many dwellings, both in the country and in the towns and villages present a bare appearance. The improvement that the planting of shrubbery about the base of the house would make is so great as to be almost unbelievable. Foundation planting is done usually by the grouping of shrubbery, vines, and herbaceous plants, excluding trees. The planting is done about the base of the dwelling, and is equally applicable to other buildings. The most usual objects of such plantings are to cover up high and unsightly foundations, to break up hard and formal lines in the architecture, to unite the building with the grounds, and to secure privacy. Practical observations will show that nothing does more to make a dwelling house seem naturalized to its surroundings and to assume a cozy, homelike air, than judicious foundation planting. The planting may be very simple and may consist only of two or three or half a dozen shrubs planted to screen corners or steps in front of the house. It is desirable to have different varieties o plants for the sake of interest and for the very practical reason that different species are at their best at different seasons of the year. It must be remembered that foundation plants are a wholly secondary item, that is to say, they are secondary to the house itself and should also be secondary to the general planting plan of the grounds particularly on large properties. For this reason the foundation planting should not claim particular attention to itself. For this reason plants rather inconspicuous in themselves should be chosen. Very suitable varieties for this country include spiraea, the hydrangeas, philandelphus (mock orange) and the barberries, where these are not forbidden because of their relationship to the perpetuation of wheat rust. Individual specimens in some cases are justified, but as a rule they should be planted in groups of threes, each from three to five feet apart, so arranged as for each group to form a unit when they are well developed.

—Canadian Horticultural Council.

Married on the same day in 1874, two brothers of Magor, near Newport, have recently celebrated their golden weddings in the village where they have lived all their lives.

The Sunday School Lesson

[illegible]ry 15.

Jesus in Gethsemane, [illegible] 14: 32-42. Golden Text—Not what I will, but [illegible]hou wilt.—Mark 14: 36.

CONFLICT AND VICTORY.

INTRODUCTION—From the [illegible]room, Jesus and his disciples [illegible] to Gethsemane. Threading the [illegible] through the city streets, the [illegible] from one of the gates, and [illegible]ress. They descend the steep [illegible] the Kidron valley, and then [illegible]ath to an enclosed olive-garden on the other side, where, according to Fourth Gospel, Jesus was accustomed to resort. Here the last great [illegible] of the Master's life take[illegible]. Hitherto, in speaking of his [illegible] the disciples, Jesus had [illegible] bright side appear. He had [illegible]d the Cross, as Professor A[illegible]zies says, "not in terrors, [illegible]beauty,—as the ordinance of [illegible]service freely rendered for [illegible]lers of the Kingdom, as the [illegible]act of the new age." But [illegible]he Supper and the exaltation [illegible]reat discourse in the upper [illegible]over, and the betrayal is at [illegible]natural recoil takes place, and [illegible]gathering dusk of the April [illegible]in the tense stillness of the g[illegible]see the Master on his knees [illegible]the last surrender of himself. [illegible]There is deep and anguished [illegible]but there follows peace and [illegible]victory.

We may compare with the [illegible]Gethsemane the earlier scene [illegible], where he battled with the [illegible]in the wilderness.

In the wilderness, Jesus had [illegible]rom him the captivating [illegible]which his age held of short [illegible]ways to the kingdom of God [illegible]a severe trial, but it was [illegible]sustained. When Jesus left [illegible]erness, his mind was made [illegible]the path of absolute surrender. [illegible]This was the first act of [illegible]drama, and now in Gethsemane [illegible]the last. We see Jesus "obedient [illegible]death, even the death of the [illegible]CONFLICT AND VICTORY, 32-42.

V. 32. "They come to a place [illegible]Gethsemane means "oil-press"; [illegible]he olive-garden had a place [illegible]ing the berries into oil. [illegible]Jesus, who is bearing a heavy [illegible]on his heart, makes the [illegible]down, while he goes [illegible]into the darkness to pray.

V. 33. Jesus must [illegible]any [illegible]even so he yearns that [illegible]if the men who alone [illegible]have any sense of what [illegible]is should be near him. [illegible]He selects Peter, James and [illegible]have been his sole confidants [illegible]experiences, notably the Transfiguration. Never before had the followers seen the Master [illegible]or confess to mortal agony. [illegible]fore, we may imagine with [illegible]hearts they saw the change [illegible]now came over Jesus. The [illegible]rend, appalling in its form, [illegible]gan to be amazed," utterly [illegible]mind, that is, "and sore troubled."

V. 34. The disciples not only [illegible]change, but their ears are [illegible]the confession, wrung from the [illegible]soul of Jesus, "My soul is exceeding [illegible]even unto death." Grief [illegible]death itself, has seized Jesus, [illegible]breaking his heart. We know [illegible]the source of that grief was [illegible]ly the physical shrinking from [illegible]but the deep darkness of sin [illegible]in descending on his spirit. [illegible]agony he wishes the disciples [illegible]near to sympathize, and yet [illegible]not fully enter into his suffering.

V. 35. Jesus goes a few [illegible]ther on—Luke says; about a [illegible]cast—and then, falling on the [illegible]he prays that the "hour"—the awful experience which he must [illegible]undergo—"might pass from him, [illegible]that could be."

V. 36. "Abba, Father" [illegible]"Abbá" is the Aramaic word [illegible]is its translation—"all things [illegible]sible unto thee: take away this [illegible]from me." Cup is an Old [illegible]expression for any experience [illegible]ther of good or of ill, which [illegible]ed out to one: "this cup" [illegible]present agony of Jesus' soul, [illegible]physical nature of Jesus recoils [illegible]this agony, and he would be delivered from it. Nevertheless [illegible]ways throughout his life, the [illegible]will is the only way he will [illegible]and therefore he adds "Nevertheless [illegible]not what I will, but what thou [illegible]

Vs. 37, 38. The answer has [illegible]come, but Jesus, rising from prayer, comes back to the three disciples, finds them sleeping—Luke says, in sorrow: the strain has been too much. He says, "Simon, art thou sleeping? Could you not watch even one hour?" Jesus is disappointed at the voluntary remissness of his friends on his part. He feels that some great danger hangs over them, perhaps the failing away from him, and he knows that this is Satan's hour, that the invisible hosts of darkness are marshalled against him, and that Satan will try to leave his followers alone. Therefore he says: "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation." The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." With all the will power in the world, his disciples are but a mere compounded of flesh and blood, and Jesus dreads that Satan will take advantage of them.

Vs. 39, 40. The same [illegible]

Vs. 41, 42. The third time the answer comes. The conflict is over. Jesus has no longer any doubt of the Father's will; and his resolution is taken. Coming back, calm and triumphant, he rouses the three. His words should be rendered: *"What! Sleeping still! Still taking rest? Enough of that! The hour has come.* See, the Son of Man"—that is, the Messiah—"is betrayed into the hands of sinners."

ST. FRANCIS AND HIS DEVOTION—St. Francis was, riding one day near Assisi, while he was still perplexed about the nature of his future work, when suddenly he was startled by a loathsome sight. A leper was seated by the roadside. For a moment Francis gave way to natural horror, till he remembered that he wanted to be Christ's soldier. Then he turned back and dismounted, and went up to the poor sufferer, gave an alms and kissed lovingly the wounded hand which received it. Strong in his hard-won victory, he rode on, but when he looked back there was no beggar to be seen; and thereupon his heart was filled with unutterable joy, for he knew that he had seen the Lord. With the eyes of faith, with the eyes with which angels see, as St. Anthony said, he had indeed seen him. From that time on wherever he went he had the eyes to see "the poor man, Christ Jesus." "When thou seest a poor man, thy brother" so he said to one of his followers "an image of Christ is set before thee. And in the weakness of the weakness which he took upon him." This is that Francis who prayed that he might have before he died an exquisite moment of the love which his Master knew and of the utter pain which he bore. And we read that Francis had both, and the marks remained on his hands and feet.

Making Maple-Sugar and Syrup.

Making maple-sugar and syrup is the next thing to be considered. Have you any maple trees? If you have, here is a short cut:

If you have not already bought spiles and buckets and feel that a cheaper way is necessary or desirable for spiles, take a piece of basswood or poplar (do not use pine, it has a taste), saw the wood in pieces about four inches long, split it into sections about one inch square, and bore a hole lengthwise through each with a one-quarter inch bit. Whittle one end round to fit into a three-quarter-inch hole and cut a notch in the other end. Use the three-quarter-inch bit to tap your tree, then drive the spile firmly into the hole. Now take your empty fruit jars and fasten a piece of light wire to the tops, leaving a loop at the top to hang them on the spiles, using the notch in the spile to keep them from slipping off. Your sap drops into the jar even if there is a wind. Do not leave any of the sap in the jars on cold nights, as it will freeze and sometimes break the jar.

I have made all the syrup and sugar we could use the whole year round, by tapping and collecting sap in this way. It is a clean, neat and convenient way, and costs nothing except a little work, as almost every one has empty glass jars at sugar-making time. T. H. W.

Live Stock Prices.

Figures supplied by the Live Stock Branch at Ottawa show a general increase of prices for all lines of live stock at the five principal markets in Canada for December, 1924, compared with those for the corresponding month in 1923. At Toronto the average increase, taking every kind of cattle into consideration, was 35c per hundred, for swine $2.93, and for sheep $1.43. At Montreal the increase was, for cattle 34c per hundred, for swine $1.41, and for sheep $1.15. At Winnipeg the advances were 22c for cattle, $1.15 for swine and $1.42 for sheep; at Calgary, 13c for cattle, $1.39 for swine and 84c for sheep, and at Edmonton, 56c for cattle, $1.40 for swine and 43c for sheep, all per hundred.

Well, But Did He?

Sweet Young Thing (combing in with attentive partner from room where a hard bridge match has been in progress)—"Oh, mother, I've just captured the boob!"

Mother—"Well, well! Come here and kiss me, both of you."

VALENTINE SANDWICHES AND CAKES

Even if the party is to be a small affair, we will want to know how to make the refreshments interesting and attractive, so here are some very pretty and very good sandwiches that are not at all hard to make and carry out the spirit of the anniversary of the old saint.

Valentine Sandwiches. Cut graham bread in thin slices, spread with softened butter, then enough currant jelly, raspberry or other red-tinted jam or jelly or cottage cheese to make it spread first carefully creaming the cheese until it is soft and delicate, then moistening it nicely with salt and thick sweet cream.

Spread the bread with the filling and press the slices together in sandwich fashion; then with a heart-shaped cooky cutter cut out the sandwiches into hearts. If the cooky cutter is not available cut a paper pattern and, after piling up the sandwiches, butter slices, place the pattern on the top and cut around it with a sharp knife, through all the bread.

Other fillings may be used for sandwiches if preferred. Any cheese to which chopped candied cherries are added will be tasty, or we may prefer simply a red jelly or jam.

Heart Cakes may be baked either in small heart-shaped pans, or in a thin sheet and cut with a cooky cutter or after a paper pattern. Here is a recipe that will make very tempting little cakes: 3 eggs, 1 cupful of sugar, 4 tablespoonfuls of cold water, 1 cupful of flour, 1 teaspoonful of baking powder, ¼ teaspoonful of salt, 2 tablespoonfuls of hot melted butter, 1 teaspoonful of vanilla.

Beat the eggs thoroughly, add the sugar and vanilla and beat till like powder together and whip into the cake. Last of all fold in the hot butter. Bake in a moderately hot oven.

When the little cakes are cool split them through the centre and spread a lemon filling or a tart jelly between them, then put them together and cover with an icing made by mixing to a paste the finest confectioner's sugar and the juice from canned strawberries or raspberries. If it is possible to obtain some of the little red cupid darts usually shown in the shops at this season, insert one of them in each cake.—C. B. K.

Beat the batter, then add the water and beat again. Sift flour, salt and baking