IS HOG GRADING A JOKE?

Farmers Must Stick Together if Protective Regulations Are To Be Worth While

PACKERS' PROFITS ?

J. J. Morrison Expresses Himself on a Vital Question

When Ontario Farmers have a fight on they always can depend on J. J. Morrison, the genial secretary of the U.F.O. to do his share of the fighting. He does not always act like a fighter, but he makes his blows count just the same.

When the editor of this page approached him last week with a few queries relating to the vexatious hog grading question, he was right on his toes.

Answering the first poser as to what caused the controversy that has adorned the pages of the farm press, and other papers, during recent weeks, Mr. Morrison remarked laconically "Well, the farmer who has marketed good hogs, feels that he has lost something, and he is fighting against the powers that be to get back what he considers to be his own."

"You must remember," continued Mr. Morrison, "that some years ago Canada, and particularly Ontario, engaged in a vigorous campaign that was designed to show the advantages that would accrue to her farmers if they would only produce a first class bacon hog. Many of our farmers believed in the sound logic of arguments used in the campaign. The result was that in many parts of Ontario the thicker fat type of hog is practically extinct. A few years ago the payment of a premium on this bacon type of hog, known to the trade as 'Selects' pleased our farmers very much, and they were inclined to market if possible 'Selects' even though they could bring a thicker fatter type to a given weight more economically."

"I do not need to tell you" went on Mr. Morrison, "that Canadian farmers during recent years have paid much attention to cooperative marketing. One essential in cooperative marketing is a proper grading of the produce. In regard to hogs, it was felt that the desired end would be accomplished much more speedily, and to an extent that would be a real asset to Canada's hog industry if grading were made compulsory. Last April at the Dominion Swine Conference held in Ottawa a resolution was passed to the effect that at stock yards and abattoirs, and wherever necessary, hog grading should be compulsory, and that all information regarding grades should be given to the producers. The object was, of course, to make it certain that premiums on 'select' hogs would really reach the pockets of the men who raised the pigs.

"Imagine the surprise of our best hog producers when they learned that new regulations, drafted by the Dominion Department of Agriculture, omitted to provide for compulsory grading, and failed to provide for any report to the producer. Then on top of this came a change in the basis of paying premiums on 'selects' which hit the grower very little for the pains he took in trying to improve trade in Canadian bacon. The farmers were disguested—they felt that they had been led into a trap. They had adopted the breeding types that were not really economically raised, as compared with the type they produced years ago. They had done this in the hope that Canada would become famous for her bacon type pigs, and also with an eye on the extra price they could get for this particular type They do not want to do anything that will decrade the quality of Canadian bacon, and make it take a lower place than it has had during recent years—On the contrary, most of them would like to see it improved. That was why they asked for compulsory grading. They had a vision of Canada being rated at the top of the pork producing areas of the world, as far as quality is concerned."

"But," remarked Mr. Morrison, in a tone that showed his interest in the farmer, and a disappointment at the new development, "these regulations could not be accepted as anything but a rebuff. The honest hog men of good intentions felt that once more they had been played for 'suckers.' No one dares to deny that the old regulations with a premium on selects improved the type of Canadian hogs in many districts, and also resulted in the production of a class of bacon that was appreciated not only in Great Britain, but also in the United States. As long as the regulations were lived up to, the farmers were satified. With compulsory grading and compulsory reporting of details to producers, all would have been well with the bacon industry."

"There are, however," said the U.F.O. secretary significantly, "others connected with the hog industry who are not producers. They do not care to be compelled to give definite reports on 'selects.' I think it is not unfair to say that they are more interested in the getting of profits than they are in improving the quality of Canadian bacon. At all events, they found a way of circumventing the regulations. The result has been that few hogs are being sold on a graded basis, and the regulations are fast becoming a farce.

"Perhaps it is not too late yet," concluded Mr. Morrison encouragingly. "If farmers who produce hogs, and are anxious to keep Canadian bacon up to a high standard, thereby developing a sure and steady demand, will only stick together, and fight hard enough, the proposals made last April at Ottawa will yet be accepted, and the bacon hog will command a proper premium. Not only that, but stock yard buyers, and abattoir men will be forced to turn these premiums over to the men who raise the hogs. I still have confidence in the fighting qualities of our swine men, and they know that they have the backing of the Live Stock Commission Department, of the farmers company and of the U.F.O."

Better Business Letters and How to Write Them

Maurice W. Wesseen outlines the fundamental principle of business letter writing in an article on that subject appearing in The Outlook.

"First of all," writes Mr. Wesseen, "the correspondent who is to be successful must have a definite purpose and must be thoroughly conscious of that purpose. He who aims at nothing is pretty sure to hit it. This truth applies with special force to letter writing.

"In order to accomplish his purpose, the correspondent must know his subject, and he must know it thoroughly. He cannot collect an overdue account or make an adjustment, or handle a request for an extension of credit, unless he knows the general principles underlying these problems, the general policy of his firm in dealing with them, and the circumstances of the particular case, that is before him.

"Information about the person to be addressed is almost as important as knowledge of the subject itself. The successful correspondent must be a serious student of human nature and of human psychology. He needs to know, in the first place, the characteristics that are common to all men. And, in addition, he should acquire information about the individual whom he is addressing, his circumstances, his vocation, his needs, and his desires.

"Promptness in correspondence is one of the best of credit and business builders. In this slogan the National Association of Credit Men has given recognition to another fundamental principle of business-letter writing. Many firms require that all letters must be acknowledged on the day they are received, whether or not final answer can be made at that time. This requirement is based on an understanding of a fact of human nature, namely, that every person likes to receive immediate attention. Delay is, of course, preferable to hastily contracted letters which fail to accomplish their purpose and endanger the future welfare of the business. On the other hand, even a good letter will fall short if the person addressed has become enraged through long waiting for a reply. It is well for the correspondent to remember that what seems a mere matter of routine to him often seems much more important to the other man.

"If he is to do a thorough job of letter writing, the correspondent must have before him all of the required data before he begins to construct his letter. He should be sure that his information consists of genuine facts, and if any points are in the least doubtful he should verify them. If there has been previous correspondence on the same matter, he should have this before him. He should analyze this correspondence carefully and should understand clearly what has already been done, what is the present status of the case, and what remains to be accomplished. He should then do the job before him so completely and so thoroughly that it will be done for good.

"Make your letter long enough to cover your subject thoroughly and to insure that it will be clear to your reader, and no longer. Remember that it is as possible to waste the reader's time by being incomplete as by including extraneous matter. The undue brevity which leads to the necessity of writing several letters when one should have sufficed is uneconomical for all concerned.

"The effective letter is cordial and courteous. It provides in words and in tone the equivalent of the genial hand-clasp and the hearty greeting of personal contact."

A word to the wise is sufficient, but it is generally easier to find the word than the wise.

"Do you know," remarked young Simpson, "a fellow mistook me for a waiter to-night? Of course he apologized." "Did the waiter accept it?" said his friend

Gordon, seven years old, was playing bandit, and for some time had been staggering around as if badly wounded, without actually toppling over as a victim of the imaginary bullets of his playmates. A neighbor watching the game called to him: "Gordon, why don't you fall down?" "I can't," answered the boy crossly; "I'm not allowed to. If I had on my old pants I'd have been dead long ago."

Farm Notes

World's Records in Egg Laying.

The Superintendent of the Dominion Experimental Farm at Agassiz, B.C., (Mr. E. H. Hicks, B.S.A.) claims several world's records for egg laying at the farm. In order that these claims may be exactly understood the official report for the year 1926 is here almost verbatim. After saying that previously 215 eggs per bird was regarded as high as could reasonably be loofled for, the report continues: "The contest just completed finishes up with an average of 231 eggs per bird, that is 106,226 eggs from 460 birds, which is considered to be a world's record. Apart from this several other world's records were made both as to pen production (ten birds to a pen) and from individual birds. The pen that won the contest with a score of 3,057.5 points established a world's record. The pen which scored highest for egg production with a total of 2,946 eggs or an average of 294 eggs per bird made a world's record for number of eggs. The Barred Rock that finished in the lead with a total of 409 points with 326 eggs also made a world's record for points, all breeds. The outstanding record of all, however, goes to a S. C. White Leghorn belonging to the University of British Columbia, namely 351 eggs in 364 days."

Points are awarded on the following basis: one point for each egg averaging 24 ounces to the dozen; one-tenth of a point deducted for each ounce that averages less than 24 to the dozen; bonus of one-tenth of a point for each ounce of eggs that average more than 24 to the dozen. Eggs averaging more than 27 ounces to the dozen are regarded as just averaging that number. Eggs averaging less than 20 ounces to the dozen, exceedingly badly shaped eggs, and soft-shell eggs are not credited.

Skim-Milk for Laying Hens

Results of a series of tests carried on continually since 1922 at the Nappan, Nova Scotia, Experimental Farm, should prove valuable, particularly to the dairy farmer, since they indicate conclusively that skim-milk may be marketed through the egg at very remunerative prices. The details of the tests are given in the latest report of the superintendent of the Farm, which may be obtained from the Publications Branch, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa. The birds were fed with grain in the litter and mash in the hoppers. The grain mixture was made up of 100 pounds of wheat, 100 pounds corn and 50 pounds oats, while the mash mixture consisted of 100 pounds bran, 100 pounds shorts, 100 pounds corn meal, 100 pounds crushed oats, 25 pounds oilcake and 10 pounds charcoal. Two pens of birds were used in the experiment. One pen was given skim-milk as an extra and for the other pen beef scrap was added to the mash. During the five years in which the experiment was carried on, the skim-milk fed hens showed an annual average profit of 23 cents per hen more than those fed beef scrap. It is only fair to assume that the increase is due to the value of skim-milk as a food for hens.

Care Necessary in Picking Apples.

In the marketing of apples the harvesting of the crop is an operation which often receives too little attention. In many instances, the poor and damaged appearance of graded and packed apples as seen on the markets can be traced to rough handling in the course of picking, although the damage may not have been noticeable at the time. Injury may result from lack of supervision, the employment of careless pickers, or from the use of unsuitable receptacles.

A bulletin on "Packing Apples in Barrels and Boxes," distributed by the Publications Branch, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, stresses the necessity of instructing the pickers in the correct method of picking in order to avoid finger bruising and the pulling of the apples with the spur adhering to the stem, the latter being a frequent cause of skin punctures. Apples should be pulled by using the full hand and giving a combined twist and upward motion to separate from the spur with the stem intact. The regulation picking basket should be properly padded to avoid bruising and should be carried in front of the picker at all times. If unlined wicker baskets, or rough-sided boxes are used, the fruit may be damaged. A sharp blow, or even a skin puncture due to one fruit knocking against the stalk of another, may result in the testing up of rot which will seriously depreciate the value of the fruit and make it useless for storage. Cloth bags are not to be recommended as they crush against the ladder, causing the fruit to be bruised.

Feeding Market Hogs.

A large proportion of pigs marketed fail in one or more respects to comply with the standard required by either the pork butcher or the bacon curer, a frequent fault being over-fatness. Often this is due to unsuitable breeds and breeding, but live stock men all admit that feeding, whether it be bad or good, has a very distinct influence on the quality of the finished market animal. In fact some feeders go so far as to claim that proper feeding methods are of equal importance to correct feeding. In order that hog raisers may have easily available information on proper methods of feeding the Dominion Animal Husbandman has issued a pamphlet on Breeding and Feeding the Market Hog, which may be obtained from the Publications Branch, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa. Ill-balanced rations, injurious substitutes, deficient rations, over and under feeding, lack of intelligent understanding of nutritional requirements generally, all exert a particularly powerful influence during the early growing period as affecting later development. For instance, the demand of the bacon curer is for small well finished, fine-boned carcasses, with a good proportion of lean, and a low proportion of offal. To obtain these the feeding must be correctly carried out all through the development of the animal. The use of inferior feeding stuffs, or the misuse of suitable foods, will cause otherwise excellent carcasses to turn out practically worthless or to be reduced seriously in value.

Lost Dog.

The Londoner, staying at a tiny, out-of-the-way country town, lost his dog, a valuable Airdale, so he went to the police and then to the local newspaper.

"I want to insert an advertisement," he informed the youth who sat behind the counter.

"Yes sir," said the youth, and fetched the advertisement manager, who in turn sent for his assistant. A consultation ensued and at length it was settled that a reward of £10 should be offered by the owner for the return of his dog.

Next day the paper appeared, but no one claimed the reward, so the Londoner went to the newspaper office again.

"I want to see the advertisement manager."

"Sorry, sir. He's out."

"Well, his assistant."

"Sorry, sir. He's out too, sir."

"Then may I see the editor?"

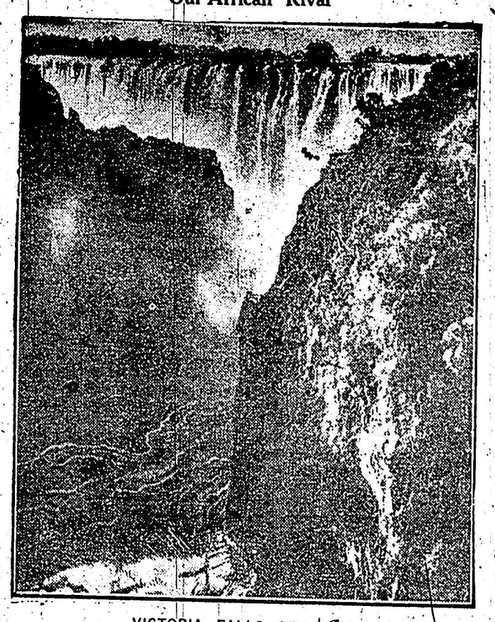
"Sorry, sir; he's out."

"Great Scott!" shouted the visitor. "Everybody out?"

"Yes sir. They're all looking for this 'ere lost dog!"

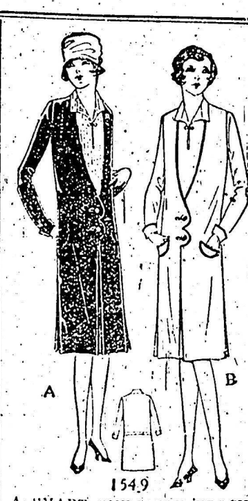
Mr. Bump—"Do you believe in phrenology?" Mr. Bore—"No. As an experiment I once went and had my head read, and I found there was nothing in it."

Our African Rival



VICTORIA FALLS OF AFRICA

The scenic wonder of the continent is to be made a tourist centre. A suspension bridge and hotels are in prospect.



A SMART ONE-PIECE FROCK.

The chic simplicity of this one-piece frock will appeal at once to the miss or small woman of discriminating taste as a smart style for all daytime wear. There is an inverted plait in the centre front and at each side seam, thus providing for the necessary skirt fulness without sacrificing the modish slim lines. The V front ends in two scallops, while the separate vestee has a becoming convertible collar, and the long dart-fitted sleeves are finished with shaped cuffs. Patch pockets adorn the front and there is a narrow belt across the back. View A has the vestee of contrasting material, while View B is of one material with the edges of the front, pockets and cuffs effectively bound. No. 1549 is in sizes 16, 18 and 20 years. Size 18 (36 bust) requires 3¾ yards 39-inch material, or 2⅞ yards 54-inch. Price 20 cents the pattern.

The secret of distinctive dress lies in good taste rather than a lavish expenditure of money. Every woman should want to make her own clothes, and the home dressmaker will find the designs illustrated in our new Fashion Book to be practical and simple, yet maintaining the spirit of the mode of the moment. Price of the book 10 cents the copy.

HOW TO ORDER PATTERNS.

Write your name and address plainly, giving number and size of such patterns as you want. Enclose 20c in stamps or coin (coin preferred; wrap it carefully) for each number and address your order to Pattern Dept., Wilson Publishing Co., 73 West Adelaide St., Toronto. Patterns sent by return mail.

Grocer—"My son—the one that used to help me in the shop here—has gone in for boxing. Won a championship, too!" Customer—"Aye, I remember him. I suppose he'll have won the light-weight championship?"

Canadian Board Sets New Rate For Coast Grain

Freight Charges Are to Be Equalized With Those Obtaining Eastward

Ottawa—The judgment of the Board of Railway Commissioners issued here, giving the export rate of grain via Vancouver the same advantage as grain for export eastward to the head of the lakes, as now obtains under the Crows Nest Pass agreement, and also ordering a reduction on grain rates from head of the lakes ports eastward, is expected by railway officials to result in a very substantial reduction in railway revenues, running perhaps into millions of dollars annually.

The board orders that the rates on grain and flour from all points on the Canadian Pacific branch lines in the three prairie provinces to the head of the Great Lakes be equalized with the present Canadian Pacific main line rates. ther railways in the prairie provinces are required to adjust their rates correspondingly. This, it is stated, will mean reductions from every point located on branch lines or any railway in western Canada which exceeds the main line scale of rates.

The reductions in rates on grain and flour will involve, according to rate experts, in the aggregate, several million dollars, which will accrue to the advantage of the grain growers of western Canada.

West-Bound Rates Revised

The export rates west-bound to the Pacific coast are also revised so as to put all branch line points on a footing of equality with C.P.R. main line points. This is an important readjustment, which it is expected will be of advantage particularly to grain shippers in Alberta and Saskatchewan.

Freight tariffs on merchandise shipped from distributing centers in the three prairie provinces are ordered to be revised so as to secure the advantage of the short haul mileage. At the present time these distributing tariffs are based exclusively on Canadian Pacific Railroad distances.

The rates on grain for export from Port Arthur, Fort William, West Fort and Armstrong to Quebec via the Transcontinental Railway are reduced to 18.34 per 100 pounds, and furthermore, Quebec is put on the same footing as Montreal in respect of export rates on grain from Georgian Bay ports and from Toronto and points west on general merchandise.

By the order, it is explained, all localities in the three prairie provinces are now put on the same footing for all their export business, whether moving eastward to the Great Lakes or westward to the Pacific ports.

Fair Rates Sought

The decision of the board has been awaited with keen interest ever since June, 1925, when it was directed by Parliament to make a thorough investigation into the rate structures of railways and railway companies subject to the jurisdiction of Parliament, with a view to the establishment of a fair and reasonable rate structure which would in substantially similar circumstances and conditions be equal in its application to all persons and localities.

This would permit of the freest possible interchange of commodities between the various provinces and territories of the Dominion, and the expansion of its trade, both foreign and domestic. This would give due regard to the claim on behalf of the maritimes, that they are entitled to the reduction of the rate basis which they enjoyed prior to 1919, the encouragement of the movement of traffic westward and eastward through Pacific coast ports owing to the expansion of trade with the Orient and to the transportation of products through the Panama Canal

A harassed-looking old gentleman was rushing hither and thither round the big store. He dashed into the lift and shot off upwards; next he was seen descending the stairs leading to the bargain basement three at a time. Once more he reappeared. This time it was on the second floor. He was very short of breath, his tie was disarranged, his hat had disappeared and his hair stood on end. A floor-walker approached him, and in that suave manner for which all floor-walkers are known, inquired: "Are you looking for something in men's clothing?" "No, no," roared the harassed one; "in women's clothing! I've lost my wife."

Sunday School Lesson

September 25. Lesson XII.—The Kingdom Divided—1 Kings 12: 12-20. Golden Text—Pride goeth before destruction, And a haughty spirit before a fall.—Prov. 16. 18.

ANALYSIS.

I. EVIL COUNSEL, 1-11.

II. THE DISRUPTION, 12-24.

III. A PEACEMAKER, 21-24.

INTRODUCTION — Solomon began well, but ended badly. His great wealth was his temptation and his ruin. He gave himself over to a life of luxury, his people were heavily taxed to maintain an expensive court, and "his wives turned away his heart after other gods" (11:4). So troubles multiplied for him in his later years. Adversaries appeared both on the north and on the south of his kingdom, and he lost territory which his father had conquered. There was discontent and incipient rebellion in Israel, and prophets denounced his folly, predicting the division of the kingdom. (See ch. 11.)

I. EVIL COUNSEL, 1-11.

Rehoboam went to Shechem. David had been chosen king in Hebron by the men of Judah, 2 Sam. 2:3, 4, and after seven years by all Israel, 2 Sam. 5:1-3. Solomon had been proclaimed in Jerusalem, ch. 1:32-40. This assembly at Shechem, an ancient and important city in the hill country of Ephraim, must have been due to the discontent of the northern tribes with the rule of Solomon, and with the growing influence and importance of the tribe of Judah. It is quite evident that the spirit of independence and freedom was still strong in the men of the north. No king's authority could be imposed upon them, but they themselves would choose their king. At Shechem, Judah would have no more influence in the matter than any other tribe.

Jeroboam was an Ephraimite, who had been a servant of Solomon, and had been employed by him as an overseer or director of the labor which he required of the people in his great building enterprises, Ch. 11:26-28. He had been incited to revolt by a prophet who was displeased with the favor shown by Solomon to the worship of foreign deities brought into Jerusalem by his foreign wives. His disaffection having been discovered he was obliged to flee into Egypt, from which he now returns at the call of his northern friends.

They father made our yoke grievous. This was the people's chief complaint. Solomon's expensive court, his many officers and servants, his army, and his building of palaces, fortresses and temples, had put a heavy burden upon them. They had to bear the cost, for while Solomon did add to this there are some gains from foreign trade, he did not, like David, have in his large year the spoil and tribute of conquered countries. (See chs. 4:7, 26-28; 10-11, 13-18; 6:1, 38; 7:1-3, 9-10-28.)

The old men, that stood before Solomon, gave good advice. Rehoboam himself was forty-one years of age and should have gained some wisdom. He was undone by the evil counsel of the younger men, a fact which, of course, does not prove that old men are always wise, or that young men are necessarily foolish. But reckless temper and evil counsel prevailed.

II. THE DISRUPTION, 12-20.

The rough words with which Rehoboam answered the people's petition are, of course, those of a proud and high spirited [illegible] must have been [illegible] The people of ch. 11 and [illegible] scribed by an angry [illegible] as long lines of leather [illegible] and armed with [illegible] mans gave a similar [illegible] the lash of which was [illegible] sharp-edged bits of [illegible]

The prophecy of Ahijah [illegible] be found in Ch. 11:29-39. The break of the people was [illegible] and decisive. They [illegible] no longer by the house of David. The old feud between Judah and [illegible] tribes was revived, Judah alone remaining faithful to the [illegible] David. The plans [illegible] this the hand of God [illegible] word of the prophet.

The folly of sending Adoram [illegible] was over the tribes, chief of forced labor, was of a piece with the other acts of the king and his counsellors. His fate at the hands of the enraged men of Israel might have been anticipated. The king's only safety in flight.

III. A PEACEMAKER, 21-24.

The tribe of Benjamin, a small territory just to the north of Judah and bordered upon Jerusalem, seems to have adhered in part to Judah. But it must be remembered that in several passages it is distinctly said that the tribe only remained with Rehoboam. (See for example, Chs. 11:12, 32, 36, and 12:20.) Another difficulty lies in the almost incredibly large number of men said to have been gathered for war with Israel, v. 21. The number may have been overstated in the king's records.

Shemaiah the man of God appears at the opportune moment as peacemaker. Ye shall not go up nor fight against your brethren, he said, declaring to the king and people the word of God. Semaiah appears several times in the story of Rehoboam's reign in 2 Chron. 11:1 to 12:15.

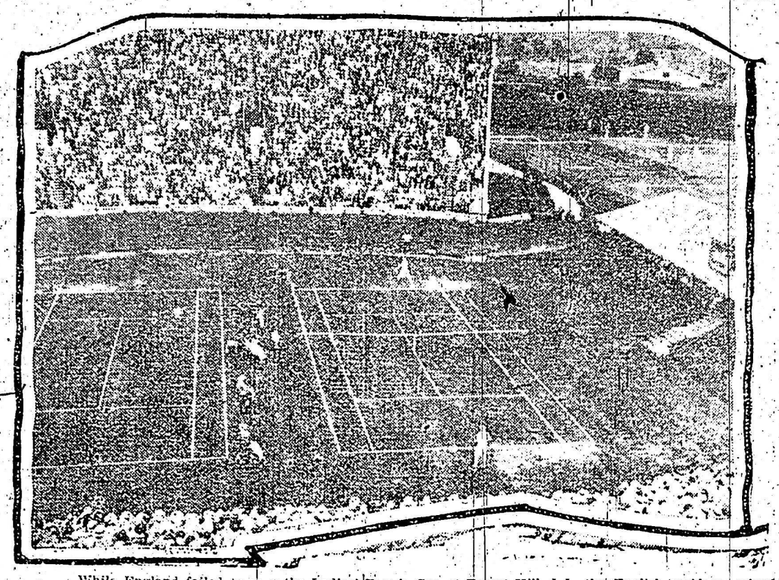
Speed Limits

Grand Rapids Press: Michigan's new speed law is now in effect. It abolishes the excuse offered in the past by reckless drivers and persons responsible for accidents—"I was driving less than thirty-five miles an hour." . . . The new speed limit only gives highway behind a right back on the conditions and some [illegible] the car owner. [illegible] or attempting to pass [illegible] a curve or near a hill, [illegible] prima facie evidence of reckless driving. The old law encouraged drivers to operate at approximate speed regardless of conditions. The new one allows drivers to adjust their speed at all times to the probable situation just ahead. It should mean bodies kept in better condition and operators in alert readiness for emergencies.

The simplest method of ending an argument is to hold your tongue.

Customer—"You sent me a very small oxtail, Mr. Blogga." Butcher—"Ah, ma'am, if we butchers could only persuade the ox to hemulate the Kangaroo!"

Tennis Popularity Grows Apace



While England failed to win the Ladies' Tennis Cup at Forest Hill, L.I., the English maidens gained many friends. Above are shown two youthful picturesque stars of the meet, Miss Betty Nuthall, sixteen-year-old English miss, conqueror of Helen Jacobs, seventeen-year-old California girl. Upper left is a birdseye view of the stadium with the match between Helen Wills and Mrs. Godfrey in progress.