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FRATERNAL

A. F. & A. M.—Hiram Lodge No. 419, G. R. C., Markdale, meets in Masonic Hall, Return Block, on Tuesday evening on or before the full moon every month. Visiting brethren cordially invited. T. H. Return, W.M.; A. E. Colgan, Secretary.

L. O. L.—Markdale L.O.L. No. 1065 meets in the Orange Hall on Thursday evening on or before the full moon in each month. Visiting brethren made welcome. J. T. Abercrombie, W.M.; A. E. Colgan, Rec.-Sec.

R. N. K.—Victoria Preceptory No. 421, meets in the Orange Hall, Markdale, on the Tuesday evening after the full moon in each month. Visiting brethren always cordially welcomed. A. C. Stewart, W.P.; J. E. England, Registrar, Markdale.

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T. Stewart Cooper's Letter

We left you at Dublin a week ago. Since we have seen North Ireland and Scotland.

The system of agriculture followed in both of these countries is very similar. There is a much larger proportion of land under grain crops than in either the parts of South Ireland or England visited. Oats, wheat and barley with large proportions of the farm in roots and potatoes were the principal crops grown. Every one of these were very heavy, wheat being specially so.

Hay is just being cut in Scotland. Timothy and Meadow Foxtail with Perennial Rye make up the mixture as seen from the bus. The crop was, therefore, much more bulky than in the other districts.

In North Ireland a new crop was seen. Flax is quite extensively grown and when going through from Dublin to Belfast many men and women were to be seen pulling the crop. It was quite long and free of weeds and thick on the ground. It is used in the linen mills of Belfast, the largest in the world, which employ 3500 to 5000 men and women annually. The World's Congress delegates were taken through this factory. Many of the employees, especially the women, of all ages, were going about in their bare feet. In this section of the factory it is quite warm and humid as steam is all through this section of the plant. Every bit of linen seen since reminds me of the labours of these people.

The districts of Scotland visited have large rectangular fields as we have in Ontario but separated by hedges. The arrangement lends itself to more efficient use of horse labour and machinery than in England. Even the same arrangement is to be noted in the cities of Belfast, Glasgow and Edinburgh. The streets are straight, long and not forked to the same degree as are London, Liverpool, Dublin or Cork. What Edinburgh loses in quaintness is more than made up by the modern ideas which always appeal to Canadians.

In Scotland large herds of Ayrshires, Shorthorn and Angus cattle were to be seen. These were high grade stock and, as mentioned in my previous letters, are large-framed, strong constitutioned animals. They surely are a credit to the land owners and farmers of Great Britain.

If England had good horses, Scotland has gone one better. Never has so many high class horses been seen as those on Glasgow streets. Every one is heavy, large bodied and what appeals to a horse lover especially a Clydesdale breeder—clean boned and silky haired "beasties". The same can be said of all farm horses seen as the bus passed the field in which they were pasturing.

On our return from Scotland, the World's Poultry delegates were taken to visit many Poultry Plants in Lancastorshire, the greatest poultry producing section in the British Isles and I believe in the world. It surpasses Petuluma district in California. Here one-fifth of Great Britain's total production of 53,000,000 pounds of poultry and poultry products are annually produced. It is a strongly specialized poultry district. Each farmer has from 1000 to 25000 or more chickens each.

At Edinburgh, we visited the Buttercup Poultry Farm, the largest in the world. Here 250,000 chickens are found in all stages of development. They ranged from a couple of days old to high producing layers. The owner has sunk $1,200,000 in his plant. It surely is a wonder. More will be said at a future date re this subject.

As this is finished we leave for the Continent. Within four hours we will be landed in Ostend, Belgium, where so many Canadian boys have gone before.

More anon,
T. Stewart Cooper.

Sinkhole of Interest to Many

Great numbers of people visited the now famous sinkhole on the townline between Grand Valley and Orangeville on Sunday last and hundreds of motorists came miles to view the phenomenon. Since our visit to the spot two weeks previously a decided change for the worse has been effected. A couple of sections of the roadbed now lie under water, and in one spot authorities claim a depth of 45 feet will require filling before bottom will be reached. Large openings in the earth in what was formerly the road ditches extend for three or four hundred feet. We did not learn whether the contractors are proceeding with the work of filling the holes, but have heard it stated they are awaiting instructions from competent engineers as to the best method of coping with the situation. Hundreds of tons of gravel have been placed in the hole with no apparent signs of overcoming the difficulty. When we visited the spot on Sunday well on to 400 people were present, all of whom were amazed at the destruction wrought.—The Star and Vidette.

Standard Want Advs. bring results. If you have a little article for sale, advertise it.

News and Information for the Busy Farmer

Furnished by the Ontario Department of Agriculture

Brant County Dairy Show

The annual Brant County Dairy Show will be held in co-operation with the Paris Agricultural Society on September 20th. Classes are provided for four breeds of dairy cattle with a prize list of over $1,000 offered. In 1929 at this show there were 220 cattle shown from some of the outstanding herds in Western Ontario.

Valuable Meadow Results

Good ordinary meadow mixtures of clover and timothy can be increased as high as 49 per cent. green weight by proper fertilization. This is the average result of ten carefully conducted tests throughout the province last summer by the Department of Chemistry. In these tests, one-half acre blocks of meadow were measured off during early spring and fertilizer of various mixtures was applied, in most cases the fertilizer was sown with the drill.

The average gain for the entire test was a little over a ton per acre green weight. This showed a nice return on the money invested in fertilizers. The addition made to the meadows in these tests averaged about 300 pounds per acre, or represented an investment of five to six dollars per acre.

Aid to Fruit Growers

As an aid to the overseas marketing of Ontario's surplus fruit crop, the Ontario Government has decided to come to the aid of the Fruit Growers' Association insofar as guaranteeing sufficient monies to the banks to allow proper financing of the shippers. This step has been taken to allow absolute independence in marketing and will mean that with the association in a position to finance export shipments, a large number of shippers who have been barred in the past will now be able to take advantage of the services of Mr. Andrew Fulton, the association's representative in Great Britain. As a further step in organizing the province's fruit trade, the appointment is announced of Kenneth Crews of Trenton to assist P. W. Hodgetts, director of the fruit branch and secretary of the association. He will keep constantly in touch with the shippers in advising of market conditions and acting as liaison officer between the shippers and Mr. Fulton. Further, a series of experiments will be undertaken at once with a view to controlling the "apple scald" disease which annually causes tremendous loss to Ontario shippers.

Crop Conditions

Recent reports from agricultural representatives would indicate that the yields of fall wheat and spring grains have been exceptionally good. Weather conditions have been ideal for the storing of grain and for stook threshing which is becoming very popular. Crops such as potatoes, beans, sugar beets, corn and tobacco, will have light fields due to lack of rainfall. The yields of all fruits, especially apples and grapes, will be detrimentally affected. Pastures in many sections were severely burned and many dairymen, especially in Western Ontario, have had to resort to feeding their cattle grain and ensilage. This expense, in addition to the low price paid for milk at the cheese factories has caused the farmers no little concern. The shortage of pasture has also increased the shipments of cattle and lambs, with the result that many cattle will be sold at a loss.

Doing Valuable Work

The work done at the Ridgetown Experimental Farm in selecting and propagating a variety of beans that is freer from disease and gives a much greater yield than varieties formerly grown, has alone justified the establishment of this farm. This is only one branch of work undertaken there which is of substantial benefit to individual farmers of Southwestern Ontario and to the province as a whole. Valuable work has been done with tobacco, canning factory crops, cereal grains and hogs. Besides this, W. R. Reek, the superintendent and his staff have been instrumental in helping along the good work done at the Agricultural Vocational School in Ridgetown.

It is interesting to note that the farm was established at a time when the bean growers were discouraged and disease was taking a heavy toll. As little or no work had been done in selection, the seed had become run out, resulting in a poor yield. Beans have long been an important cash crop in Kent and Essex. Mr. Reek was able to get some selected bean seed from Michigan, which he propagated the first year and placed in small lots on neighbouring farms the second year.

The variety is known as Robust, and it is in general use at the present time, being resistent to disease and a heavy yielder. There are 30 acres sown to beans on the farm this year and this will go out for seed. On the plots special work is done in selection to further improve the strain.

A Contrast in Weather

The contrast in weather conditions during the present summer in Southern and Northern Ontario and in Quebec has been of a most astonishing nature and holds more than a touch of irony for farmers generally. In the north and in Quebec the rain came in such copious quantities that crops were injured seriously in some districts. In Old Ontario, particularly in the southwest, crops sweltered day after day under a merciless sun for a period of nearly two months. Rainfall figures for July afford the most striking illustration of what the countryside has borne. In Southern Ontario the rainfall was .53 inches, whereas the average figure is 3.5 inches of moisture. Quebec, on the other hand, had the greatest rainfall in thirty years. The total for the month was 5.6 inches as compared with a normal of 3.7 inches.

Use Plenty of Litter

It is a good policy to use an abundance of clean, fresh litter in the laying pens and a poor economy to restrict the quantity even when litter must be purchased. A laying hen is always a happy hen and a hen cannot be happy unless she is busy most of the time. Litter on the floor, especially if it is fresh and clean, is an excellent means of keeping the layers busy even though all the grain is being fed in hoppers and none is thrown on the floor. One of the best materials for litter is wheat straw, which is not as stiff as rye straw and does not break as easily as oat straw. Litter absorbs considerable moisture from the droppings and from the air of the hen house, and should be changed frequently in wet weather. Moldy straw is almost certain to cause trouble and should never be used in poultry houses.

Apple Yield Lower

The Canadian commercial apple crop prospect, reported on Aug. 1st, indicates a yield of 2,990,109 barrels, as compared with a yield of 3,939,915 barrels in 1929, or 75.8 per cent. of last year, or 93.9 of the five-year average of 3,182,195 barrels. British Columbia, with an estimated crop of 4,169,136 boxes, is the only province reporting an increase over last year. Nova Scotia expects a crop of slightly over half that of the bumper crop in 1929, while Ontario, Quebec and New Brunswick report decreases ranging from 12.5 per cent. to 38.9 per cent. Indications are that fruit will be of fair to good size, and in general color prospects are favorable. The extermely dry weather which has prevailed throughout most sections of Ontario and British Columbia has resulted in a slight reduction in the estimates for plums and prunes, peaches and grapes, although in all cases expected yields are considerably larger than last year.

Harkaway

Wedding bells are ringing.

The lecture given by Prof. Campbell, M.A. Ph. D., on Tuesday evening was very much enjoyed by those present. Proceeds amounted to $13.55.

Last week visitors with Mr. and Mrs. Chester Rodman were Mr. and Mrs. Russel Smith of Toronto and Mr. and Mrs. Christie Johnston and two daughters of Shelburne.

Mrs. Carbert of Markdale is visiting her daughter Mrs. Roy Thompson.

Mr. and Mrs. Lamond of Toronto and Mr. and Mrs. Stewart and daughter Doris of Detroit visited recently with Mrs. Lillian Hawken.

Misses Sheriff of Wingham is visiting with the Richard Johnston family.

Mr. and Mrs. Will Burnett of Markdale were Sunday visitors with Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Richardson and Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Carbert.

Mr. and Mrs. A. Barry and Master Luxton and Prof. Campbell and son Donald visited a day last week with Mr. and Mrs. Robt. Bradley of Berkeley.

Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Lyons and Master Leverne spent Sunday evening with Mr. and Mrs. Alex Gardner of Walters Falls.

Sunday visitors with the Halbert family were Mr. and Mrs. T. Henderson, Russel and Dorothy of Rosemount and Mr. and Mrs. Jas. Roadman.

Miss Edna Lyons is spending her vacation at Oliphant and Sauble Beach.

Mr. and Mrs. T. Kidd spent Sunday with friends at Lisle.

Miss G. Weir of Toronto is a visitor with Miss Mabel Wise.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Mills and family returned home from Toronto after spending two weeks with relatives here.

Mr. and Mrs. John Lougheed of St. Marys spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Hawken, Master Leslie Hawken returning home with them for a visit.

Mr. and Mrs. A. Barry and Master Luxton and Prof. Campbell and son Donald spent Wednesday at Wasaga Beach. Prof. Campbell and son will leave Saturday morning for Cornwall.

The Ladies' Aid met in the church on Wednesday afternoon, the pres. Mrs. C. Thompson in the chair. The meeting opened with hymn 123 followed by prayer. Psalm 7 was read alternately. Minutes of the last meeting read and adopted. Ten members answered the roll. Two readings were given, first by Mrs. Harry Hawken, entitled "Adventures of Faith", second by Mrs. Llyod McLaughlin, entitled "We Christians ought to leave a Good Taste Behind Us". The business of the meeting was then discussed. It was carried that we have a dressed pork supper sometime in October following the Anniversary services, date will be given out later. Meat committee, Mrs. J. Halbert and Mrs. L. McLaughlin; to cook meat Mrs. Rae, Mrs. A. A. Lyons, Mrs. W. J. Lyons, Mrs. J. Halbert and Mrs. L. McLaughlin; program committee, Mrs. C. Thompson, Mrs. J. Halbert, Mrs. Lawson, Mrs. Rae and Mrs. L. McLaughlin. The meeting then closed with the Aid Benediction.

Miss Laureen and Master George Bannon of Dundalk are visiting their uncle and aunt Mr. and Mrs. Will Johnston.

Miss Bessie Lyons of Markdale was a recent visitor with her cousin Miss Jean Lawson.

Mr. Chester Rodman, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Rae, Mrs. Lillian Hawken, and Mrs. Roy Thompson motored to Gowanstown on Sunday, August 10, to attend the funeral of the late Roy McDougall of that place.

Walters Falls

Mr. and Mrs. Jones and sons of Ridgetown are spending their vacation with her parents Mr. and Mrs. Jno. Dixon.

Mr. M. Dickie of Burford spent a couple of days last week with Mr. R. H. Olmstead. Mrs. Olmstead accompanied him home after spending some weeks in Burford and Mrs. Dickie and boys returned home with him from a fortnight visit here.

Mr. and Mrs. Dunlop of Meaford spent several days last week with their niece Mrs. F. Olmstead.

Mrs. Candle and Miss Rose Saunders of Colpoy's are holidaying at the parental home.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Claxton of Buffalo, Mr. Geo. Ricker and Miss Marion Hosfield of Lockport N. Y. visited over the week-end with Mr. and Mrs. Jno. Speck and Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Reid. Master Walter Reid returned with them to Buffalo.

Mr. and Mrs. Webster and two daughters and Mrs. Hurley, all of Toronto, spent several days last week with the former's cousin at Mr. and W. Shepherdson's.

Miss Heaslys of Owen Sound spent several days with her friend Miss H. Quinton.

Mrs. (Rev.) Vivian and little son have returned home from visiting the parental home.

Canon and Mrs. Appleyard of Windsor were week-end visitors at the rectory.

Rev. W. Gibson, a former rector of this parish, Miss Olive and son, Allan of Port Dover visited a few days this week with Mr. and Mrs. Robt. Acheson.

Miss McWhirter of Toronto is visiting her aunt Mrs. Jno. Reid.

Miss Mower of Derby is visiting her friend Miss Bessie Dixon.

The special fiftieth anniversary services and supper of the Anglican church held on Sunday and Monday were a splendid success of which a longer report will be sent in shortly.

Union Hill

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Balcome and family of Hanover are spending their vacation with Mr. and Mrs. Alf. Eagles.

Miss Olive Miller of Rosedale is visiting with Mr. and Mrs. Earl Semple.

Mr. George J. McFadden and lady friend of Jackson spent the week-end with Mrs. Jas. McFadden.

Our obliging mail carrier, Mr. T. H. Wilson, has to take some chances as the traffic on the Provincial highway goes so quickly. Why do the farmers not place their mail box on the correct side of the road and avoid accidents?

It is our sad duty this week to report the fatal accident which occurred on the Provincial highway on Thursday evening, when Mrs. Jas. Brown was knocked down by a passing gravel truck. Medical aid was immediately summoned and all that loving hands could do was performed, but in spite of all she passed away in a few hours. "That fatal blow was given; her spirit passed from earth to Heaven." The community was greatly shocked and saddened when her sudden passing became known. The late Mrs. Brown was an honest, hard-working woman, always kind and obliging and beloved by all and has been a good neighbour of your correspondent for 36 years. She was a loving mother, devoted wife and held in the highest esteem. Our sympathy goes out to the aged husband and family. The funeral on Saturday was largely attended.

Berkeley

Mr. Art. Edwards of Toronto and Mr. Wm. Harvey of Chatsworth spent a day fishing in this territory recently.

Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Gillespie and son of Toronto are holidaying with the former's parents for a couple of weeks. They attended the Weston-Wright wedding on Tuesday of this week.

Miss Mary Abbott and Mr. Richard Walters of Detroit are visiting at the latter's home.

Mrs. Thos. Lackey and sons, Messrs. Sam and Jas. of Orangeville, attended the Weston-Wright wedding on Tuesday.

Messrs. John and Gordon Kirk returned last week, accompanied by Mrs. Wm. McTaggart and daughter, who have gone to their home at Routin, Que., after a month's visit here. Mr. Alex. McTaggart went to visit his son and returned the first of the week.

Mrs. Redfern and Mrs. McNichol of Owen Sound attended the Weston-Wright wedding and visited their cousin Mrs. A. Gillespie this week.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Gawley and family of Mount Dennis visited with relatives here over the week-end.

Mrs. Cecil Evan and son are visiting with the former's sister, Mrs. E. Henry.

Rocklyn

Quite dry, but ideal harvest weather.

Misses Violet and Erma Lanktree of Fairmount spent a few days last week with Miss Louie Lush.

Mr. Willis Muxlow has returned home after a few weeks sojourn in Toronto and other places.

Mrs. Sproule and little daughters Francis and Shirley, of Toronto, and the former's mother, Mrs. Greenaway of Meaford spent a few days last week with Mrs. J. Yeadell and Elsie.

Born—On Tues. August 12th, to Mr. and Mrs. Fred Thompson, a daughter.

Mrs. Fals, sr. has returned home after a pleasant visit with her daughter, Mrs. Wallace of Port Elgin.

Miss Amy Carry and sister, Mrs. Peck and two sons of Toronto visited recently with Mr. and Mrs. Thos. Menarey.

Mr. Will Yeadell, Mrs. W. McCullough and Miss Ina of Collingwood spent a few days last week with Mr. and Mrs. Will Clugston and visited friends in the vicinity.

Mr. J. Erskine of Meaford is spending a few days with his sons here.

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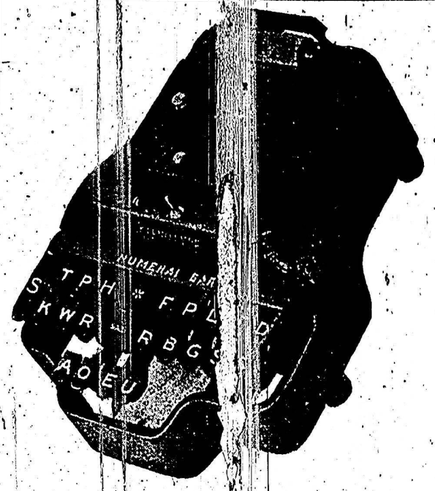

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