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News and Information for the Busy Farmer

Furnished by the Ontario Department of Agriculture

In the County of Glengarry livestock are reported to be in good condition "on account of the splendid pasture which we have had all summer."

At a recent field day held near Cobden, with over fifty young people present, a sheep club was organized with Irving Dean, president, and Gordon McMillan, secretary-treasurer. Government instruction will be available for members in the care of the sheep they have taken under the club policy.

Due to dry weather and blossom rot, the tomato crop in Prince Edward County will be much smaller than previously estimated. Wentworth is another county where lack of rain has been serious, and in consequence all fruits and vegetables as well as grain and root crops are below average.

Weekly Crop Report

Pastures are very dry in most dairy sections and dairymen are finding it necessary to supplement with green feed and grain, according to reports from a number of representatives. Harvesting operations are practically completed. Lack of moisture is holding up the sowing of fall wheat in some sections while in others increased acreages sown to this crop are reported.

A Market For Cheese

A good demand is reported for Canadian cheese in the British West Indies but development of cheese exports for that market depends on the packing of a cheese suited to the market. They demand a small 25-pound cheese of the "Daisie" type, about 12 inches in diameter, and the cheese should not be more than one month old when shipped. Some exporters have been splitting the regular size 80-85 pound cheese into three or four sections covering the cut surface with paraffin or ironing a cap cloth on. When exposed to the West Indian climate these 'split' cheeses become a soft, loose mass, quite unattractive and hard to handle. The "Daisie" type made fairly firm and covered with a good rind is much better suited to the market and its sale can be substantially increased if proper care is exercised in preparing it for this particular market. Quality counts in cheese as it does in other farm and dairy products.

Seed Cleaning Pays

Halton County representative reports that farmers in the district are supporting the seed cleaning plant at Milton and in this locality where a considerable amount of seed grains as well as clover and grass seeds are grown, they are realizing that it pays to have their grain cleaned rather than sell it in the rough.

Plowing Match Dates

The dates of the Branch Plowing Matches held under the auspices of the Ontario Plowmen's Association for this year are as follows:

Christian Island	Sept 24
Cochrane, Glackmeye Tp.	Oct. 7
Dufferin Co., Amaranth Tp.	Oct. 2
Mohawk, Deseronto	Oct. 7
Rainy River, Delvin	Oct. 8
Slate River Valley	Oct. 1

Electrification of Ontario farms by the Provincial Hydro Commission proceeds apace, judging by the latest monthly report, which announces that the year's construction program has almost completed. For 1930 it was planned to build 1434 miles of primary lines to serve more than 3500 rural customers. So far 1432 miles have been constructed and during July 682 applications for rural service were received. These will necessitate another 183 miles of line. The cost of the 1930 construction program is estimated at $3,250,000.

New Cold Storage Plant

The official opening of the new pre-cooling and cold storage plant of the Norfolk Fruit Growers' Association at Simcoe took place on Friday evening, Sept. 12th, with a banquet at which the speakers included Mr. J. B. Fairbairn, Deputy Minister of Agriculture; Dr. J. B. Reynolds, President Emeritus, O.A.C.; Mr. G. E. McIntosh, Dominion Fruit Commissioner; Mr. P. W. Hodgetts, Director Ontario Fruit Branch, and other officials. Optimism prevailed with regard to the future of the apple-growing industry in Ontario, and plans were unfolded by several speakers for securing wider markets for the crop. The superiority of the Ontario-grown apple over the orange was stressed and the general need for educating our own people to use home-grown produce of all kinds was urged. The new Norfolk plant is expected to save thousands of dollars for growers in that district. The crop in Norfolk this year will aggregate about 50,000 barels, according to preliminary surveys.

After-harvest cultivation appears to be more general than usual in Middlesex County, reports the representative. The early completion of harvesting has allowed ample time for attention to this work while the weed menace is also stimulating this effect in weed control.

Harvesting Onions

As the onion tops wilt and turn yellow they give signs of maturity. While the weather is hot and dry they should be pulled up and laid on the ground in rows. A day or two later they will be ready for storing in some place that is cool, if possible but most certainly dry. It is advisable to sort well before storing, throwing out all soft and diseased specimens, and putting those with thick necks and tops that are not entirely shrivelled up in a place by themselves for early use. These will not keep as long nor as well as the others.

Favors Summer Fallow Contests

While admitting that plowing competitions accomplish much good, R. H. Clemons, agricultural representative for the County of Wellington, believes that summer fallowing competitions would be more to the point. Midsummer plowing after taking off a crop of hay, after-harvest cultivation and summer fallowing are three methods of weed control that are giving satisfactory results in Wellington. Mr. Clemons is of the opinion that the best method is plowing in July immediately after taking off a crop of hay. This has the advantage of allowing the farmer a crop for that season. The crop tends to dry out the soil thoroughly and has a greater tendency to check sow thistle roots than when plowing is done later. With regard to summer fallowing competitions Mr. Clemons said: "It would be a more practical scheme of encouraging good cultivation than the present system."

Grading Vegetables

One of the greatest factors in the marketing of farm produce and particularly garden vegetables, is assured quality. The public demand for a uniform, graded, sound, mature product in standard attractive containers is becoming yearly more apparent and such products are given preference on the market and command the highest prices. Grades have already been established for potatoes, onions, turnips and celery, and requests are now being made for grades of other kinds of vegetables, particularly cabbage and cauliflower. To meet this demand recommended grades for these products were introduced providing an opportunity to growers and distributors to try out the grades before introducing them as regulations. The provisional cabbage grades which have been re-introduced for this year are No. 1 and No. 2; and for cauliflower, Numbers 1, 2 and 3.

T. S. Cooper's Letter

Germany is passed and Switzerland has been visited. This note is being written in Paris for yesterday we crossed the French-Switzerland border at Vallorbe. Our party is gradually declining for on Tuesday, August 19th, 30 left for Italy where a couple of additional weeks will be spent. Our party passed through Switzerland and thence to France.

In the short resume of Germany many things were not mentioned but these will be dealt at some future time. Valuable ideas to our Grey County people were gathered. I liked Germany.

Switzerland

Switzerland is a land of mountain and valley; of hill and dale; lake and stream. The scenery is unsurpassed except in the Canadian Rockies. It is, therefore, a land of summer and winter resorts.

From an agricultural point of view, Switzerland is the most difficult of all countries visited. The farms are small little patches of land. These little allotments extend to the top of many of the mountains or as high as any growth is seen. Above extends the bare rock for varying distances. Wherever the land is too steep or too high, the sheep and cattle are pastured on it in the summer time and then brought down to the villages in the winter time. The information was also gleaned that in some districts the cows, goats or sheep were driven into the mountains. A few of the family accompanied the animals and make the many varieties of cheese for which Switzerland is famous. Note that sheep's milk is also used.

Some of the family were left behind. These harvested the hay to feed the cattle. It may surprise Grey County people to know that this past week we passed through districts where the farmers were cutting their second crop of clover and timothy. More mowers were seen than on any part of the continent and the occasional side delivery rake was operating in the fields.

For the most part however the hay was cut with a scythe. It is like ours except that the blade is wider. The handle or snath is straight thereby differing ours. Projections for handles are fastened to it. On some were curved wires which transformed it into a miniature cradle.

The hay where the contour of the land permitted was drawn in to the little barns by oxen. In the more rolling districts from the train window we saw the women and children gathering the hay up into heaps placed upon the ropes which the men tied up and carried to the little hay storages or lofts.

By the way, it was in Switzerland where we noticed the first bank barns. They are very small but the front of the building was the dwelling and the back part the stable and hay storage above. At all little stations along the way could be seen the warehouses of bran or other grains for the feeding of stock.

The handling of manure in Switzerland is the greatest system of conservation. A rather thin soil, small area and high farm values has taught the Swiss farmer that his greatest asset is the natural fertilizer produced on his farm. Never in travelling for 3 days was a carelessly thrown manure pile seen. Everyone was built carefully, compactly and levelled off. Very little was seen in the yards or fields.

But that was not all. At the lower side of the manure pile was a pit into which all the liquids from the pile drained. From the appearance of the construction there is also a drain from the stable so that any liquids not absorbed by the hay, or straw not eaten by the stock or the peat frequently used for absorbent flows through the drain into the pit.

The liquid manure is drawn to the fields in tanks where the farmer owns one. It is dipped or pumped out into the tank and in the field is again dipped out and thrown over the land. If the farm was not large enough to afford a tank, a box on a wheel barrow was utilized.

Swiss farmers are energetic. They are extremely careful. Everyone is happy though their work is much harder than in Candada as there is so much hand labour. The extreme rolling nature of the farm forces continuous climbing in most of the country. The level valleys certainly do not cover any great proportion of the country.

France

Crossing into France brought us back into more level country. There we find again larger farms. Horse power is more extensively used although oxen were very much in evidence. Through the part traversed grain is being cut by cradle or binder, and quite a number of grain stacks were in evidence. The farmers were awaiting the thresher which in Europe is only about the size of large fanning mills mounted on wheels. The cylinder is, of course, located where the fans in the mill are placed. No straw carriers or blower are attached. The straw is either baled or drawn loose to the stables.

All horses used for drawing grain or plowing were hitched tandom. From the train windows we saw at least 3 plowing outfits in different districts in which 4 horses were one ahead of the other (tandom) on each plow. The horses seemed to be Belgian or Percherons of our agricultural type.

The greatest area was in sugar beets. These exceeded the area in grain. The crop was quite uniform.

Some potatoes were being harvested. These, presumably, were early varieties for in the patches were planted cabbage and cauliflower. Other crops were seen there also but the two named were most important.

More weeds were noticed than in Switzerland or Germany. This is due to the fact that many are in the army. Also, as in Canada, the young people are attracted by the bright lights of the city. Moreover France lost 1,800,000 men in the war and in addition 800,000 are mained for life.

E're this letter is published we will be returning to good old Canada. Needless to say we have enjoyed our sojourn abroad, nevertheless we have always compared the things with conditions in Canada and can truthfully say we appreciate Canada the more for having visited elsewhere. We would like to have the possibilities to bring all Grey County farmers over the trip.

Sincerely
T. Stewart Cooper.

Miss Macphail's Letter

With a new Speaker in the Chair, and a new Sergeant-at-Arms, the opening reminded me of the first night performance of a local play, with several of the actors suffering from stage fright, and not too sure of their lines. The grace and assurance and dignity of Speaker Lemieux, the military precision and gravity of Colonel Bowie, the late Sergeant-at-Arms, were notably absent. The speed of the whole performance was increased. The last of the members of the House of Commons had not arrived at the Senate before the first were leaving.

If, as has been said, "Brevity is the soul of wit", the speech from the Throne was the wittiest document we have heard in ten years. Eliminating the polite opening and closing, it consisted only of the following words,—"The necessity for dealing with exceptional economic conditions with the resultant unemployment has induced me to summon you at an earlier date than would otherwise be necessary. Measures will be submitted, for your consideration, including amendments to the Customs Act, and the Customs Tariff, which it is anticipated will do much to meet the ununsual conditions which now prevail."

Two bills are the result. One voting twenty million dollars for the relief of the unemployed, by way of public works, etc., the other a measure which enables the tariff to be raised very materially without a change in the percentage. The value of the goods for customs purposes is increased. Supposing the tariff on certain articles is 17%; and the value of the article $1.00 a pound or a yard, should the valuation be raised to $1.50, as it may be under the proposed law, the effect of the tariff would be increased, while the percentage remained stationary.

The bitterness of the conflict from which we have just emerged is showing clearly in the debates. Mr. Bennett, with a fresh mandate from the people, and a strong following in the House, and carrying in his own person the most important portfolios, has developed a fine Mussolinian manner. Mr. King, especially in his opening speech, showed the depth of the hurt from which he is suffering. His opening speech was long and partook of the nature of a post mortem. He quoted lavishly from Mr. Bennett's speeches in the country, and told us how often Mr. Bennett had said he would keep his promises or "perish in the attempt." The list was long, and so varied and so impossible that one could not help feeling the appropriate thing would have been for the Commons to have sung with fervor "Rescue the Perishing." From neither of the great leaders did we hear of the depressed condition of agriculture. Mr. Gardiner, the House leader of the farm group, said, "I believe the condition of agriculture more particularly in Western Canada, is just as bad to-day as it was in 1921 and 1922, and any improvement in that condition will call for the application of drastic remedies. That seems to be the greatest omission from the speech from the Throne." Mr. Gardiner quoted Morris W. Wilson, General Manager of the Royal Bank of Canada. "The outstanding fact in regard to the recession in Canada, is that it is but one manifestation of a depression that is general in all parts of the world. The origin was a severe contraction of credit which followed the inflation of 1928 and 1929. During a period of world readjustment, such as that which is now taking place, there can be no substantial recovery in Canada, until changed conditions have enabled business to gain momentum in other countries. When those forces which make for readjustment have brought about an improvement in world buying power, there will be a resumption of the expansion in Canada business." Mr. Gardiner also pointed out that during the good times of 1928 and 1929 the customs tariff had not been as high as it is at the present moment. He stressed particularly the part played by inflation and deflation of credits in bringing times of prosperity or depression.

Mr. Woodsworth dealt particularly with the unemployment situation but he referred to the address made by Mr. Turnbull, the gentleman who was victorious in Regina, defeating Mr. Dunning by a large majority. Mr. Turnbull urged that the Western farmer must be put on a basis which will enable him to meet world competition. Mr. Woodsworth said, "I am sure that it is a worthy end, but how is it proposed to put the Western farmer in a position to meet world competition. So far as we can guess from the speech itself, it is simply that we put on higher tariffs, possibly on the farmers' implements of production, and probably on the food stuffs and clothing, and all those things which he needs as a consumer. For the life of me I cannot see how that is going to enable him to meet world competition. On the contrary, it would seem that such a policy would place a serious handicap, and not only upon the farmer, but upon a great many producers in this country." Only leaders spoke in this address.

A new Parliament brings joy to those who come again, but sorrow also for the absence of friends. It takes a [illegible] session to shake down into comfortable living. There is too much regret that policies which one believes are detrimental to the welfare of the country are winning. It is strange but we learn little from the experience of others. As an individual or as a nation, we must suffer for ourselves. We have swung into a period of ultra nationalism, but some day we will know that Canada's destiny is closely linked with the other nations of the world, and that economic nationalism is for us a disastrous policy.

Agnes C. Macphail.

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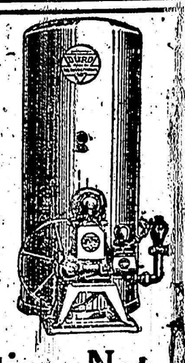

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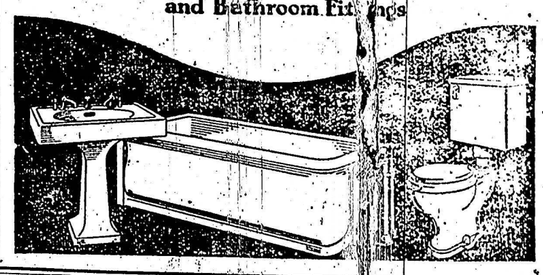

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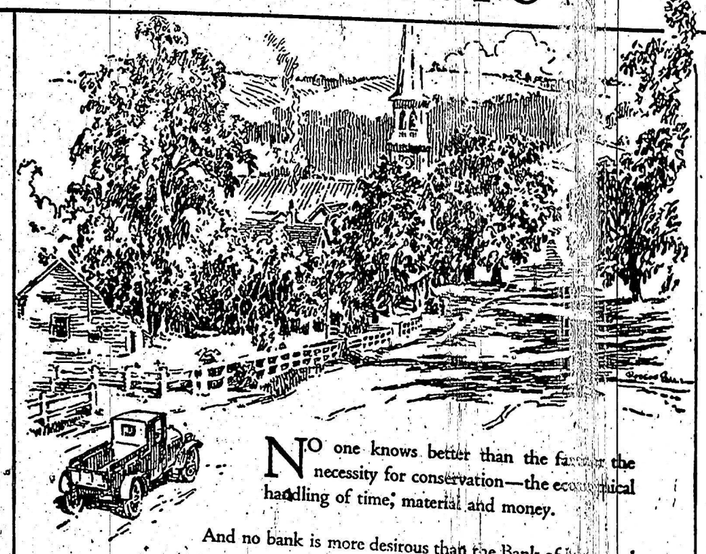

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