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News and Information for the Busy Farmer

Furnished by the Ontario Department of Agriculture

Renfrew and dLanark Won

Eastern Ontario counties were all represented in the inter-county judging competitions conducted at the Ottawa Winter Fair on December 2 and 3. The A. H. Acres trophy, emblematic of the inter-county Seed Judging Championship of Eastern Ontario, was won by the Renfrew County team. In the inter-county Stock Judging Competition, Lanark forged to the front and secured the Peter White Trophy for 1930.

Too Much Silage

Authorities claim that silage is an extra good feed if it is not abused. Two kinds of abuse are to feed too much and to let the surplus accumulate in the mangers. It should not be forgotten that silage is largely water. If the cows are encouraged to cram themselves with silage at the expense of grain and hay they will not be getting enough nutrients to sustain their bodies and a profitable flow of milk. Preferably the grain should be fed on top of the silage so that it will be eaten first and then not more silage than will be eaten readily. If there is a surplus it is well to clean this out of the mangers daily.

Winners at International

Ontario expert grain and seed growers brought honor to Ontario and to themselves by winning nearly forty prizes at the International Grain and Hay Show at Chicago. In keen competition, Ontario men this year brought home two championships and one reserve championship, as well as other high prizes in almost every class in which they competed. Their success should encourage many others to prepare for the World's Grain Show at Regina in 1932. The Ontario Department of Agriculture has awarded prizes of $50 to each Ontario exhibitor at the International winning a first price in any class. They included: Mrs. M. E. Maycock, Port Milford, first prize and championship in field beans; Hugh Jeffrey, Whitby, first prize in soy beans; R. F. Almos, Hagersville, first prize in alsike seed. Special prizes of $25 for Ontario exhibitors with the highest standing in certain classes (first prize winners not eligible for these specials) went to the following: H. L. Goltz, Bracebridge, field peas; Douglas Dunton, Brampton, alfalfa; William Batten, Burgessville, red clover; Alex. Rettle, Norwich, oats.

More Schools in Agriculture

Early establishment throughout Ontario of vocational schools in agriculture, administered and operated along lines to those of vocational schools in the cities, was forecast by on. Thomas L. Kennedy, Minister of Agriculture, speaking at a banquet in his honor at Brampton recently. "We expect," declared Colonel Kennedy, "to have these schools in operation in every county before long. We can do it and we are going to do it." He mentioned that the Women's Institutes could play an important part in the scheme. With the aid and instruction they could supply to girl students in these schools, any girl would be able, after the three months' tution offered to her, to cook and sew and minister home nursing. The boys would be taught to grow potatoes and wheat at less cost and to improve farming conditions generally. Decreased production costs was one of the Department's major problems, for which a solution was being sought and the co-operation of all county councils earnestly solicited.

Popularizing Ontario Farm Products

Prize winners in the Ontario Farm Products competition for Ontario women held at the recent Royal Winter Fair, under auspices fo the Department have been announced. The first prize of $100 in a savings account in the Ontario Government Savings Office goes to Mrs. L. B. Bull of 18 Egley Avenue, Scarboro Junction; and the winner of the second prize $50 in a similar account, has been won by Mrs. T. Milne Jamieson, of Hespeler, Ont.; and the third prize of $25 in a savings account goes to Mrs. A. D. Ferguson, R.R. 3, Galt, Ont.

Twenty-five prizes of hampers of Ontario apples and 25 prizes of bags of Ontario potatoes make up the other awards.

The competition was staged in connection with the Department's program planned to increase the demand in town and city for Ontario farm products. The competition was staged at the Agricultural Department's exhibit at the Winter Fair, and a close inspection of the various sections of this exhibit can supply answers to the seven questions asked in the competition.

The Department officials express themselves as extremely pleased with the results of the contest. Several thousand contestants took part, and the answers given by the majority show that the lessons which it was hoped to teach were well learned by thousands of town and city shoppers.

New "Better Bull" Area

After months of preparation which included census taking of Middlesex registered bulls, Middlesex County has now been declared a "better bull area" under the provisions of the Cattle Protection Act, becoming effective July 1st, 1931. Officials of the Ontario Department of Agriculture and the Middlesex Livestock Improvement Association were very largely responsible for having this done. The object is to raise the standard of pure-bred livestock in the county. One of the most important clauses is that only registered bulls may be offered for service and no scrub animals can be sold for breeding purposes. Under the new legislation the owner may use his own grade stock for breeding but it is said the new measure will induce many to butcher their grade bulls.

Average Crop Yields

The final crop estimates bulletin of the Ontario Department of Agriculture is of more than passing interest, giving as it does the average production in practically every field crop grown in the past year. The average yield per acre in these crops is given as follows: fall wheat, 26.7 bushels; spring wheat, 22 bushels; oats, 39.5 bushels; barley, 34.3 bushels; rye, 17.7 bushels; flax, 9.8 bushels; buckwheat, 20.6 bushels; peas, 19.7 bushels; mixed grains, 39.2 bushels; husking corn, 59.4 bushels; beans, 13.4 bushels; fodder corn, 8.40 tons; alfalfa, 2.20 tons; alsike, 1.46 tons; sweet cloved, 2.08 tons; potatoes, 114.8 bushels; turnips, 342 bushels; mangels, 366 bushels; sugar beets, 356 bushels; carrots 134 bushels; tobacco, 1,006 pounds.

In approximately 75 per cent of these crops an increased yield per acre is indicated over 1929.

Winter Fair Winners

Durham County Junior Farmers captured the Hon. John S. Martin trophy in the annual inter-county live stock judging competition at the Provincial Winter Fair, Guelph, with a team score of 2,191 out of a possible 3,000. Peel County ranked second, Ontario third, and Wellington fourth. Twenty-five counties took part in the event. Peel county team won the Glen Ormond Trophy for the team with the highest standing in heavy horses. In the inter-county seed judging competition for the Fischer Trophy, Oxford County led with a total of 2491, closely followed by Durham, Kent and York Counties. The O.A.C. students live stock judging competition for the Day Trophy was captured by fourth year with a score of 5144 out of a possible 6500, by a margin of 75 points over third year. The competitions in every class were keenly contested and the fair proved to be one of the most successful in many years.

Our Ottawa Letter

Ottawa, December 13th, 1930.

With the return of Premier Bennett to Ottawa interest in federal political affairs has grown unusually active.

At this writing the Premier has not disclosed immediate plans but it is known that his time is being concentrated upon a solution of agricultural problems in Canada. Ultimate hopes in this respect rest with a policy of production harmonizing not only with home requirements, but with expert demand.

That solution, however, cannot be of benefit in the existing crisis. There is growing opinion that direct aid will have to be given to many thousands of agriculturists this winter. This may be accomplished through the provinces, which would be relieved of a portion of the indebtedness incurred through support of co-operative wheat marketing to enable them to carry out relief measures. It may be afforded directly through the Dominion, though opinion seems to be that the provinces are in more direct connection with necessities and therefore better able to act as the medium through which co-operation will be extended.

There is one factor in the present situation which should advance the national spirit. It is the complete readiness with which non-agricultural areas have agreed that the efforts and the resources of the country should be placed behind the agriculturalist to relieve him from the straits in which, in many sections of Canada, to-day, he finds himself.

In fact it may not be an exaggeration to say that there is more insistence that the farmer be helped from non-farmer areas, than there is from the farmer himself. Behind that situation and in explanation of it rests one of the finest traits of Canadians. They are oftimes prone to complain when things are running well, but when they actually get their backs to the wall there is little grumbling. It is so with the farmer in a great number of communities to-day. His back is to the wall and he isn't grumbling or whining. World conditions are not his fault. Neither was the lack of governmental leadership which permitted him to land in the present maelstrom.

But his welfare is a very real and very vital factor in the welfare of the Canadian family.

The position in which he to-day finds himself is, very largely the position in which every industrial unit of Canada has found itself through successive years. These units were subjected to world competition. For what appeared a temporary benefit of a few cents on the dollar in the selling prices of commodities they were thrown into competition with labor at a few cents per day, a very close parallel to the Canadian wheat grower and Russian labor at 27 cents a day.

There is one important difference, however, in the case of the industrial worker in Canada we deliberately threw him into this competition in our own country through tariff enactments, while, in the case of the farmer, we could not control world markets where his exportable surplus met the brunt of the impossible situation. We might, though, have directed his production into channels for which a profitable export market did exist.

Out of the dilemma we are likely to emerge with a keener understanding of each others problems and with a readier sympathy in sharing them and meeting them in the common interest. If that be the case the travail of 1930 shall not have been in vain.

At this, of all times, is the outlook more hopeful for welding together in national amity and for mutual benefit the far flung people and interests of the Dominion. Probably for the first time in the history of any country Mr. Bennett has given his pledge that those who are given an opportunity to help develop Canada under his policy of protection shall not exploit that opportunity through excessive prices to Canadians. If he is successful in that purpose he shall have ironed out the road to common prosperity, quick growth and greatness.

Barrhead

Mr. Cecil McKechnie spent the week-end in Flesherton.

Mr. and Mrs. A. McArthur and family of Owen Sound spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. John Qillinan.

Mr. Jack Fogarty purchased a fine driver from Minto Menary recently.

Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Wright spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Harry Shaw at Cheeseville.

Mr. Wilfred Letch is busy drawing hay for Kleist Bros.

Messrs. Jack Quillinan, Joe and Leo D'Arcy left on Monday to attend the Winter Fair at Guelph.

Mr. Jack Norris spent Sunday with friends in Owen Sound.

Mr. Will Byers left last week for Rochester where he will spend the winter months.

Mr. Dan. Kennedy had a successful wood bee on Friday. He gave the boys a dance at night.

Mr. and Mrs. S. H. Wright spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. H. Hutchinson at Ebenezer.

Mr. Ben Sewell disposed of three fine head of cattle to Moran Bros. of Dornoch.

Mr. Art. Norris spent Sunday with the Dunbar family.

Mr. and Mrs. Dan Brodie of Harkaway visited with Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Wright last week.

Mr. Dan. McPhee was in Toronto on business last week.

Mr. Bob Hogan has engaged with Mr. Jack Fogarty for the winter months.

Wedding bells are ringing loudly in our burg.

Strathavon

Remember the Christmas tree on Friday, Dec. 19th. Good program of songs, recitations, dialogues, pantomimes, skits. Admission 25 and 15 cents. Come and have a good time.

The W. I. met for their Dec. meeting at the home of Mrs. E. McKibbon.

Visitors at the home of Mr. Arthur Torrie's recently were Mr. and Mrs. French Ramage, Mr. Ian Torrie, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Morgan and Mr. J. McGlenning.

Mrs. Ian Torrie and baby Donald are visiting in Owen Sound.

Mrs. Rennie of Walters Falls is visiting her daughter Mrs. Geo. Ramage.

Mr. Stan Torrie has purchased Mr. Neil Morrison's farm.

Miss Eva McClean of Chatsworth spent the week-end at the parental home.

Riverdale

Miss Florence Brindle of Markdale spent over the week-end with friends in this vicinity.

Mr. J. Leppard of Beaverdale, visited his brother Oliver on the first of the week.

Mr. G. Nesbitt of Berkeley was a recent visitor in this vicinity.

Mr. Walter Bolt spent over the week-end with friends at Beaverdale.

Mr. and Mrs. D. Lee visited with friends at Harkaway on the first of the week.

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Beatty Makes Important Proposals Aimed to Assist Western Farmers

C.P.R. President Calls on United Canada to Rally to Help of Courageous and Loyal Pioneers — Such Action Just and Wise and In Interest of Entire Country.

Western conditions and what should be done about them formed the subject of a notable speech made by E. W. Beatty, chairman and president of the Canadian Pacific Railway at London, Ont., last week. In direct and simple style Mr. Beatty briefly analysed the western situation and put forward a series of suggestions for immediate and effective action designed to carry western farmers over the present period of adverse conditions. He stated that his suggestions were those of a private citizen made without the knowledge of any government authority in this country. He put them forward as the representative of a corporation which extended throughout all parts of Canada and was vitally concerned in the economic situation in any section thereof. There was in this important utterance no suggestion of anything in the nature of intended charity towards the West. The whole project, he said, should be directed by warm sympathy for a community of courageous pioneers threatened with distress and by a desire to provide just assistance when it is badly needed. There should be full appreciation of the fact that the prosperity of East and West, of farmer and city are inextricably linked together. He believed that the country as a whole would come to the assistance of a great section suffering from a temporary but severe depression from causes beyond its control, not only because it is just to do so, but as a wise measure of national policy. Mr. Beatty said in part:

"Western Canada is suffering from the effects of unusual world conditions in the marketing of grain and in its low price, and hardship is being experienced on the prairies in consequence. I do not need to elaborate on the courage and the resourcefulness of the people of Western Canada, nor the confidence many of them feel in their ability to come through this depression as they have others. I do not require to do more than mention what we in the East owe to that part of the country, both in a material way and in the national strength contributed by the loyal people of that part of Canada. Neither do I need to stress the importance of a knowledge of the conditions prevailing in those sections and of the necessity of co-operation in meeting unusual situations in the interest of the whole country. The former Government of Canada and the present Government have, at different times, adopted policies designed to strengthen the economic position of different sections of this Dominion. Through such policies, the position of our Maritimes has been improved, and through more recent changes in fiscal policies the position of the manufacturers of Canada is intended to be improved and the unemployment situation is likewise designed to be, in part, at least, alleviated by direct contribution by the Federal authorities to public works. If these policies be planned to accomplish betterment in certain parts and activities in Canada, then the same attitude may properly be adopted in relation to the peculiar problems of our western provinces. None of these suggestions which I propose have any relation to the question of marketing wheat, price fixation or otherwise, since these problems depend so much on world conditions. I am directing my observations to the problem of meeting emergent conditions of great hardship which may arise during the next four or five months.

"Obviously, our Western producers should not fear the loss of their equity in their homesteads in view of the frank unwillingness of mortgage companies and other holders of liens to press for immediate liquidation of maturing obligations or for arrears of interest beyond the ability of the farmer to meet his payments, so far, at least, as this is due to the present depression in the wheat market. Two problems, however, do remain: the fear of want during the coming winter—confined largely to the smaller and financially weaker farmers—and the fear of inability to finance another year's farm operations.

"To me, an unprejudiced and unofficial, but not disinterested, observer, it seems indisputable the Dominion Government should not hesitate to intervene with an offer of assistance, as a national public duty. The governments of the three prairie provinces, owing to their intimate knowledge of local conditions, are best adapted to provide relief, but owing to their pledging of their credit as security for bank loans to the Wheat Pool, they may need Federal assistance in the matter. If the Dominion Government were to agree to assume a portion of the obligations regarding the 1929 crop, and the provinces were to use this release of their credit to permit them to assume the full burden of relief to their citizens, the aid of the Dominion Government would be given in a useful direction, and the operation of remedial measures by those best equipped for the task would be assured. These obligations should be assumed by the Dominion Government only to an amount equivalent to actual relief expenditures by the Provinces in aid of farmers. Since it is inevitable that some critics will assert that this is specific aid to members of the Wheat Pool, it may be well to point out that the reverse is the case. The guarantee of the Pool loans by the Provinces might be so regarded, although even in that case the Provinces were unquestionably moved by a desire to save a collapse of the wheat market that would hurt Pool and non-Pool farmers alike. The suggestion that the Dominion Government now assume those guarantees is made solely to enable the Provinces to direct their best efforts to the relief of all their farmers, Pool members or not.

"I would suggest, too, that as a further aid to the restoration of confidence and as an evidence of complete faith by important business interests in the future of agriculture in the West, an agricultural credit corporation should be formed to provide livestock for farmers who wish to diversify their operations. The Company should be a private corporation, organized in somewhat the same form as that organized in the United States, with the support of the banks, Mortgage Trust and Loan Companies, insurance companies and the railways, and, if thought advisable, perhaps of the Federal Government itself. The moneys should be repayable on easy terms, the risk would be small, and the administration costs would be reduced to a minimum through the voluntary nature of the undertaking. I would suggest that five million dollars be raised in this manner and that the project should at all times be treated as one of sound investment. This method of aid would be specially valuable since many Western farmers would find their domestic economic problems greatly simplified by the addition of livestock to their farms and since every head of livestock placed on a western farm aids in the marketing of surplus grain."

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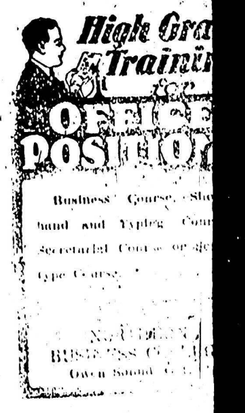
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