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News and Information for the Busy Farmer

Furnished by the Ontario Department of Agriculture

By winning almost forty prizes in the Grain and Hay Show in Chicago, Ontario exhibitors demonstrated that our seed stocks and climatic conditions are quite favorable to the production of highest quality commodities on the market.

The feature of 1930 in Essex County was the come-back in corn, states Agricultural Representative S. B. Strother. "Essex should be in a position to take care of a good portion of the Canadian seed corn trade in 1931. This at one time was an excellent industry with us, and we hope to secure this market once more."

Canada has 100,000 fewer horses than it did a year ago, despite the fact that the area under cultivation has increased by about a million acres. The tractor and the combine in Western Canada are primarily responsible. In the east, where taxed farming is the rule, the same inroads have not been made. In Ontario, notwithstanding the motor car, there are more horses than there were. The total for this province is 606,000.

A Real Opportunity
Some idea of the opportunity for Ontario farmers to develop the export trade in hog and pork products is afforded by official figures with respect to dead meat imports into Great Britain. For the first ten months of 1930, bacon imports reached a total of 7,414,020 cwt., valued at \$34,922,063, and of this volume Canada supplied only 87,109 cwt., which had a value of \$433,955. During the same period, imports of hams totalled 865,035 cwt., of which the United States supplied 715,352 cwt., or more than ten times the 70,963 cwt. supplied by Canada. These were the only two in a long list of dead meat imports in which the Canadian contribution was large enough to list separately.

Rural Hydro Grows
Latest available figures show a total of 7,100 miles of rural hydro lines in Ontario and it is proposed to add almost 2,000 more during 1931. Reduction in rates has had a lot to do with the recent rapid growth. Nearly every county now has hydro in the rural districts. The average cost for current to light the house and barn and run ordinary appliances such as toasters, washing machines and irons, is about \$5.00 per month. It runs considerably higher where a motor and a stove are operated. In addition to providing needed conveniences, the development of rural hydro is expected to prove one of the biggest factors in improving farm conditions in Ontario in the future.

Manitoulin Turkeys
During the month of December over 5,000 turkeys were shipped from Manitoulin Island to different parts of Canada and the United States. The average weight of the birds was about 20 pounds, which speaks highly for the quality of production there. It is worthy of note that the turkey was introduced into the island for the purpose of necking a plague of grasshoppers, which it did effectively. The farmers were not slow, however, to see that there was money in turkeys and from a sideline they have become a leading industry of the Island.

O.A.C. Exhibits
Warm tribute has been paid to the O.A.C. by the International Livestock Exposition officials for the excellent character of the College's exhibit at the recent show in Chicago. During the last four years a series of four educational exhibits have been placed at the International by O.A.C. The first one referred to the use of legumes in crop rotations; the second to the development and usefulness of the Canadian type of bacon hog, the third to Canadian lamb and the fourth to Hardy Alfalfa. These exhibits have not only been of outstanding value at the big exposition but have also been a splendid medium of advertising for Ontario products. The college is to be congratulated on its very useful work in this connection.

Experimental Union Gathering
Prominent agriculturists from all parts of Ontario were in attendance at a banquet given last week in connection with the 52nd annual meeting of the Ontario Agricultural and Experimental Union at O.A.C. Praising the wonderful work carried on by the Union, Hon. Thomas L. Kennedy, Minister of Agriculture, issued a strong appeal to the young men of Ontario to stay on the farms and be proud of their calling. Dr. Archibald, director of the Ontario Experimental Farm at Ottawa, and Mr. J. B. Fairbairn, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, also delivered addresses. A strain of optimism pervaded the address of Mr. D. Z. Gibbons of Caledonia, president of the Union, who in referring to prevailing unsatisfactory conditions in the farming industry, declared that farmers should be in no way discouraged, as similar

conditions have been experienced before. "History repeats itself," he said. "The past is a guarantee of the future. And just as an era of prosperity followed the serious depression of 35 years ago, so there will come in the near future better times for the farmer as well as for others."

Experimental Work
At the Experimental Union gathering Guelph last week, the secretary, Prof. W. J. Squirrell, reported that material had been distributed in 1930 for a total of 48 co-operative experimental projects which covered practically all of the cultivated crops of Ontario. The work was entirely voluntary on the part of the experimenters, this constituting a big factor in the success achieved. President Gibson stressed the value of the co-operative experiments in enabling the farmer in his particular locality to decide what variety is best for his soil. "Successful farming," he declared, "depends on successful crop growing. But that is only half the story. Livestock should interlock with crop production, and Ontario farmers must include good livestock in their business in order to be prosperous."

Advice to Dairymen
Canada's dairy industry will recover from its slump and dairymen once more will be on the road to prosperity when those connected with the industry realize that quality is the all-important factor, J. B. Griffen, secretary of the Ontario Milk Producers' Association, told delegates to the annual convention of Eastern Ontario Dairymen at Cornwall last week. He urged herd owners to keep only profitable stock, using the scales and Babcock test to eliminate "boarders" from their herds. He pointed out that the Canadian farmer must cut his own costs to the minimum in order to successfully compete with those of nations where production costs are low. R. W. Wade, director of the Ontario Livestock Branch, also delivered an address, declaring that Canadians would buy more Canadian cheese if the quality were guaranteed. He felt that consumers should be critical and demand the best.

Short Courses Prove Popular
The three month courses in agriculture and home economics which opened in December last are proving quite popular in their respective communities. Eight such courses are being held by the Ontario Department of Agriculture in as many different counties, namely: Bruce, Hastings, Lincoln, Middlesex, Norfolk, Waterloo, Wentworth and York. An average of 38 young men were enrolled in the courses in agriculture and 28 young women in home economics courses during the month of December. In addition to these, 34 one-month courses are being staged in as many different counties or districts by the agricultural representatives during the months of January and February. Short courses in agriculture were first instituted in 1912. Since that time 635 month's courses in agriculture have been held with an attendance of 17,852. This is an average of over 33 per year with an average attendance of 28. The first three-months' courses in agriculture and home economics were staged in 1921-2. Since then 71 such courses have been organized with a total attendance of 24,748 boys and 3,629 girls.

Our Ottawa Letter
Ottawa, Jan. 12th, 1930.
With wide spread depression and even distress in Canada comes the question of social Ottawa. "Will the opening of Parliament be delayed until the New Governor General arrives so the 'drawing room' may be held?"

The answer is emphatically "No!" Parliament will assemble the very day the government can present to it the legislative program which will, in its opinion, best meet the needs of the country in the relief of distress, in the increasing or employment and in the promotion of permanent growth and prosperity. If a new Governor General is here that day he will open the session. If he is not some one else will do so, but most certainly the government will not postpone by one minute its efforts on behalf of all Canada in order to let three or four hundred women—whose idea of distress is two or three fewer evening gowns a year—to flaunt their glad rags in the face of genuing suffering. It would be unfair to suggest, of course, that any such impertinent proposal is generally advanced or entertained. Certainly the government does not share it. Except where reactions of health have demanded brief periods of rest every member of the cabinet is on his job six days a week and some of them even believe that present circumstances justify them in breaking the Sabbath with official duties. There will be no recession until Parliament meets. Mr. Bennett is himself setting the pace with twelve hours, or more, a day at his office and still more work in his rooms. Neither he nor his colleagues are worried about evening gowns. It is work for willing hands—for every willing hand in Canada—they

are seeking.

Further emergency legislation—some of which was outlined by the Premier at Regina—is now being whipped into shape. Largely it is directed to meet conditions in the Prairie provinces, particularly on the farms. In addition to this, it will be recalled that the unemployment relief measures voted at September's special session lapse automatically on March 31. Unemployment will not lapse then and it will be surprising if some special provision is not required to carry on through even summer months; for it is not hoped that the usual volume of spring, summer and fall work will be available to those who have been unemployed through the winter. By fall a decided betterment in conditions is expected by all the official prognosticators and is hoped for by others. Even so, next winter can hardly be normal. Hence the government may wisely take authority to deal with unusual conditions subsequent to March 31, probably for a year after that date. In this way another special fall session of Parliament would not be required, unless exceptional circumstances occurred. At this writing it does not appear that the government can get its legislative program ready for practically two months and if a guess were being hazarded it would be that the house will open during the first, or second week of March. Emergency measures and other directly concerned with present economic conditions demand much time and care but there are also many other matters that cannot be long left in abeyance. There are Old Age Pensions, the burden of which the government intends to lift from the shoulders of the aged poor in all provinces will receive uniform treatment. There are national highway and other transportation issues on which Mr. Bennett pledged himself. There are the heavy and routine duties of administration. And first and last there is the general revision of the tariff out of which, more than any other action, Mr. Bennett believes, will arise a more permanently prosperous country and people.

C. R. Itic Writes Again
Dear Mr. Editor,—I am still out of a job and as I promised you last week that I would write again, here goes.

Well, I was busy for a day or two after the election extending my congratulations to the winners in the battle of ballots and giving my sympathies to the fellows who were fortunate in not being among the successful. It's too bad that some person must always be defeated in an election. To-day, Monday, is the day that the new council meets and gets sworn in. They will have buckled on their municipal harness before I get this to the printing office and will be a way to a start on the year's work. Now some may have an idea that I am going to find fault with the work they do during the year but I have no idea of doing any such thing. I do not believe that any one of them, and for that matter any of those who have served in previous years, want to do anything but the right thing at the right time, and if a man does his best he should be given credit. Any person who doesn't make mistakes does not accomplish much and we must expect to hear of the mistakes of the present rulers of the village. But I must not take up all my space in The Standard columns and fail to offer some suggestions as to a relief of the unemployment in our midst. There is no denying the fact that there are a number of men in the village and vicinity whose families would be better provided for if they had steady work. I have a scheme in mind which would provide work for a good many men and which in the end would cost the ratepayers nothing. My proposal is that the council purchase the timber on some lot or lots and engage the unemployed men in town to cut logs at so much per 1000 feet, have local owners haul the logs to the local mills, where they could be sold to the miller or sawed for the corporation. The men could be paid out of the town's balance which is in the bank and not drawing interest. When the lumber was finally sold if there were any profits in the transaction such profits could be divided among the men in proportion to the amount originally earned. The limbs and other timber unfit for logs could be cut into wood and used by the town for the fire hall and library next winter. This scheme should be workable and would not only provide employment at the present time but would help to increase the work during the coming summer. I will not be badly disappointed if the council does not take advantage of my suggestion and I'll keep on writing until something turns up to keep me so busy that I will not have time to inflict myself on the readers of the paper.

Yours truly,
C. R. Itic.

Dodgers, posters, pamphlets and all kinds of office stationery neatly printed at The Standard office.

Catalogue Competition

The thing for the merchants of this community to do in their own interests is to advertise faithfully, and to make their printed announcements interesting and helpful to those whose trade and favor are desired.

Mail Order Houses and the large departmental stores of neighboring cities with their striking advertisements and catalogues are the serious competition of local merchants.

The poorest way to offset this competition is for our local merchants to remain silent. For them not to "speak up" is to give the mail order houses a better chance to get business from this community.

A WORD TO THE PUBLIC

When you send your money to a city store you enrich the great shops and impoverish this community. Strengthen—not weaken—the merchants of this community. It will all be returned to you in the form of better service and better values.

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