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L. O. L.—Markdale L.O.L. No. 1045 meets in the Orange Hall on Thursday evening at 8 o'clock before the full moon in each month. Visiting brethren made welcome. J. T. Abercrombie, W.M.; A. E. Colgan, Sec.

R. E. K.—Victoria Preceptory No. 324, 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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## News and Information for the Busy Farmer

Furnished by the Ontario Department of Agriculture

### Where Profits Begin

If your hens lay 81 eggs a year or more you should be able to show a profit. A ten-year average of the cost of feeding laying hens shows that the yearly expenditure is \$2.43 per hen. With eggs selling at 35¢ a dozen it takes 6.95 dozen or 81 eggs to pay for the hen's keep. Eggs laid in excess of that number are profit.

### Plenty of Alfalfa Seed

Sixty thousand bushels of home-grown alfalfa are available for distribution in Ontario this year, according to Professor W. J. Squirell of O.A.C. He points out that the normal requirements are about 38,000 bushels, but hopes that all this seed, barring that intended for seed, will be used, because of its cheapness (about half the price of last year), the shortage of home-grown red clover, and the necessity for reseeding many meadows killed out by drought last summer.

### Profit Factors Important

J. E. Whitelock, assistant director of agricultural representatives, was the speaker at the banquet concluding the short course in home economics and agriculture at Shelburne, in Dufferin County. In a thought-provoking address, he asked the question: "Just how good farmers are we?" and went on to explain how the average yield of barley was 45 bushels in Denmark and only 30 in Ontario. The average Danish farmer, he pointed out, secured 100 lbs. of gain in his hogs for 400 lbs. of feed, while in Ontario it usually required over 500 lbs. of feed. The conclusion was that every detail of the factors influencing profits on the farm must be heeded.

### Needs of Agriculture

In addressing the London city-county dinner of the Chamber of Commerce, Hon. Thomas L. Kennedy stressed three main needs for agriculture in Ontario to-day: 1st—The need of growing quality products; second-rate products have little market in these days of keen competition. 2nd—Better grading of products, so that Canadian products will be known always as A1 in foreign markets. 3rd—Adoption of modern marketing methods to meet a changing world. The Minister quoted facts, figures and statistics to show the need of progress along all three lines. The Department has done much in this direction and under the present regime it is prepared to do more.

### British Apple Market

An unusually keen demand for barreled apples is forecast by Andrew Fulton, overseas representative of the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association. The demand on the British market from now on he says should be for both well-colored dessert apples and for good quality cookers. From all accounts, barreled supplies are somewhat limited, he continues, recent reports showing that the storage holdings of barreled apples in Canada and the United States are about ten per cent. less than last year. This along with the increased demand on the continental markets for barreled stock is bound to leave a limited supply for the United Kingdom. An important point for packers to remember, however, declares Mr. Fulton, is to have stencilled on the outside of the barrel the net weight of the contents. Strangely enough this seems to be an item strongly desired by the European buyer and will facilitate sales when done to a marked degree.

### Soils and Crops Train

On February 10 at Oldcastle, in Essex County, the Department's special Soils and Crops Train started out to carry the latest information to farmers of Southwestern Ontario. Fifty-nine stops will be made during the tour, which will take the train through Essex, Kent, Elgin, Lambton, Norfolk, Middlesex, Oxford, Brant and Haldimand counties, with one stop in each of Perth and Wentworth. The train consists of a soils car, a crops car, a car for lecture purposes and a car for the staff, which will consist of specialists on all the many phases of farming connected with specialty crop production and treatment of soil. Interesting exhibits have been arranged by O.A.C. Departments which graphically explain the best practices in crop production and soil management. In addition daily lectures are being given by specialists on the staff. Although primarily for farmers, classes of school children will be invited to attend and escorts will show them through the train and explain the exhibits to them. Last year in Eastern Ontario a similar train proved a tremendous success and carried valuable information to thousands of farmers. A repetition of that success is expected in the case of this tour which will continue until March 27th. Incidentally the department is indebted to the railways for their co-operation in transporting the four cars over their lines free of charge.

### C. R. Itic Takes A Trip

Dear Mr. Editor.—The little woman balled me out the other day when I went home after walking up down our main drag for a while. The reason for the little woman's anger was because she had just finished scrubbing the floors and I walked in with my new rubbers all wet and stuck up with the soft snow and down-stake which had been put on the snow on the walks to keep it from being too slippery. It certainly worked wonders and we all know now that it melts the ice and snow but as to its usefulness I am inclined to the belief that sand answers the purpose better. Well, that isn't what I was going to tell you when I started out and I haven't much time to devote this week to the local situation in regard to the unemployment as I have been away for a little holiday trip. It happened this way: I worked in the mill for a day or two when I was a boy and I thought they might be needing some one to help around the mill at Berkeley at the present time so I decided to look things over from a close-up view. First of all I drew enough money from the Bank of

### Care in Selecting Hens

Hens should be in production three weeks before starting to save the eggs for hatching. Often electric lights are used to start the birds laying in February for March hatching eggs. If not used to provide longer than a 1-hour day, lights will not injure a bird's ability to produce hatchable eggs throughout the spring. In the selection of hens be sure they have vigor and nervous energy above all else. A hen that has a high egg record back of her, but was herself physically wrecked in making that record, is worthless as a breeder. Keep in mind that the laying record, in this respect, tells of only her production and lot of her vigor.

### Dairy Cattle Rations

Continuing from last week the discussion of rations for dairy cattle, the following is recommended where no silage or roots are available: Alfalfa or clover hay, 1 1/2 lbs. to 2 lbs. to every 100 lbs. live weight. Concentrates—200 lbs. oats, 200 lbs. bran, 100 lbs. barley, 150 lbs. oil-cake. Alternative concentrates in this case are: 150 lbs. oats, 100 lbs. bran, 100 lbs. gluten feed, 50 lbs. of oil cake. Where lower grades of hay are used the proportion should be 1 1/2 to 2 lbs. to every 100 lbs. live weight, with the following concentrates: 200 lbs. oats, 200 lbs. bran, 100 lbs. gluten feed, 250 lbs. oil cake. Alternative concentrates here are: 100 lbs. oats, 100 lbs. bran, 100 lbs. oil cake, 100 lbs. gluten feed; or 200 lbs. oats, 100 lbs. bran, 100 lbs. oil cake. Note—Feed 1 lb. concentrates to 4 lbs. of milk. Corn or wheat may be used in place of barley in any of the above rations.

### Marshes Produce Wealth

Extraordinary success has attended the plan of draining and reclaiming the Holland marshes near Bradford under the supervision of W. H. Day, former professor at O. A. C. In 1920 a total of 37 acres in this area yielded a return of \$26,000. The harvest made a total of 50 carloads and included parsnips, carrots, onions, celery and lettuce. The average yield per acre was \$702, which leads Mr. Day to say: "Compare this with your high land crops. With wheat at 70¢ a bushel it would require a yield of 1000 bushels per acre to equal our average marsh returns. Individual pieces have done much better than the average. One acre of lettuce yielded \$1400; one-seventh acre of celery nearly \$500 and 6 1/2 acres of celery \$10,412." Only a small portion of the marshes have yet been drained. They consist of low, very rich soil, only a few feet above the level of Lake Simcoe. Mr. Day has proved that a considerable area can be drained and put under agricultural production. Of still greater importance than the prolific yields is the length of the season, head lettuce from there coming on the market every day from mid-July to mid-October.

### Department of Agriculture

The Ayton Short Course, which is being conducted during the month of February, is proving popular with the young people in the district. There are 27 young men and 33 young ladies enrolled but the daily attendance, because of a large number of visitors, is about 60 men and boys and about 42 ladies. Special speakers at the course included Messrs. McMullen & Lefebvre, who dealt with the subject "Canada's Bacon Industry. This was demonstrated by the use of slides. On Friday representatives of the Hydro Electric Power Commission gave lectures on Rural Hydro Extension, cost, etc. Over 80 men were present at the meeting.

### Thankful

By Edna Jacques, Moose Jaw, Sask.  
Naught to be thankful for, did you say, As you sat by the old garage today? The crops are poor and the cattle thin, And the spuds are not what they might have been. And there isn't much you can sell this year, You're going to be very hard up you fear. Well, what if you are, why man a-live, If you have to struggle and skrimp and strive, And pinch a dollar until it hurts, For winter woollens and shoes and shirts. We've all been over the trail before, And poverty's often knocked at the door. It won't hurt you a bit, old man you know, If you have to put the gears in

low. When the crops were good and the prices high, Say, didn't we scarp and spend and fly, The sky was the limit, we took the air, And blew our crops like a million-aires. But there's always a time when we have to pay, And the bills pile up for a rainy day. And you start to think where you might have stood, If you'd kept your head when the crops were good. But cars cost money, and trips, oh

Montreal to buy a railway ticket for the trip. I like to keep my money in the Bank of Montreal because Sandy Robertson is the manager there and, being Scotch, I know that he will not let any of it get lost. Well after I had my money all ready I got my good clothes on and hiked for the C.P.R. depot. When I told Christie McHugh that I wanted a ticket to Berkeley he looked kind of surprised and asked me if I wanted a return ticket. Of course I wanted to come back and I got the ticket for the round trip. When the train pulled in I walked into the smoker and took a seat. There weren't very many in the car and I didn't see any person who I knew until Scotty Morrison came along and asked me for my ticket. I gave it to him and after looking at it for a while he said "Berkeley" and then tore it in two. He gave me one half and kept the other for himself. Well I got off when the train stopped at Berkeley and the first fellow I saw was young McLeod, a son of Mr. McLeod who did such good work on the highway north and south of Markdale three or four years ago. The young fellow is the station agent there and from what I heard around the village he's a pretty good scout and they like him. On my way up to the main corner I met Ted Walters and talked to him about the weather and prospects for a big cut at the mill for the coming summer. I found out that things there are very much like they are in Markdale and a good many other places that I could name if I were so inclined. I knew there wasn't much chance of getting a job so I thought I would visit about during the afternoon and get a little of the latest news of the town and country round-about. I visited the comfortable shops conducted by Bill Price and Everett Henry and met quite a few of the residents of the village and country adjacent. At one time I thought there was going to be a meeting of the Holland township council as I saw Sandy Achesson, the Reeve, driving in with his grey steed and previous to that I had encountered Bill Carbert and Jack Price, two of the Councillors. However there was no meeting. Well during the afternoon I heard many subjects discussed including politics, hard times, lack of work, lack of money, low prices of farm produce, hydro light and power for the farmers from Berkeley to Walters Falls by way of Harkaway and a few other subjects of a more or less personal nature. If the electric power is going to assist with the farm work as one person, who spoke, expects there won't be much chance for the hired man along the course of the line. However the building of the line is going to create some work and the fellows who have nothing else to do are likely to get a job for a while when the work starts. I became so interested in the discussions that I missed the four o'clock train and didn't get home until the peanut arrived. Conductor Walker of Walkerton was in charge and took the other half of my ticket without comment. He is the father of Clare Walker who works in the Bank of Montreal here. I have been to a couple of hockey matches and to a session or two of the local Chapter of the Sons of Rest but I must not take up any more of your space this week. I must congratulate your reporter on the reports he prepared of the latest hockey contests in our midst. Yours truly, C. R. Itic.

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