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**News and Information for the Busy Farmer**  
Furnished by the Ontario Department of Agriculture  
Farmers in sandy districts are now engaged in plowing. Frost left the ground early this spring owing to the aridity of the soil. In many sections it is now in good condition for working and early seeding of oats and barley is expected as a result.

**Ontario's Celery Market**  
Capture for Ontario growers of the celery market in this province which for years the United States has been supplying, is the aim behind negotiations conducted by the Department with growers of the Thedford district. The suggestion has been made that a cold storage plant be established at Thedford. Celery requires a special system of refrigeration and cooling which is not available at present and which would raise the standard of the product to enable it to compete on the open market. Investigation is proceeding in regard to the possibilities in this direction.

**Cow-Testing in Peel**  
Interest in cow-testing work in Peel County is keen. Results for 1530 of the Peel County Cow Testing Association were presented at a recent meeting. The twenty best cows averaged 12,557 pounds of milk and 445 pounds of butterfat, whereas the twenty poorest cows only averaged 5,267 pounds of milk and 210 pounds of butterfat. It is felt that the culling of low producers would alleviate the surplus milk problem in Toronto. Over 100 cows were entered during February in the cow-testing work, tested monthly for milk and butterfat production to nearly 900 cows at Brampton.

**British Market For Barley**  
Steps to secure markets for Ontario barley in Britain are being taken by Hon. T. L. Kennedy in conjunction with federal authorities. Recent investigations have shown that British brewers and malsters annually purchase about 21 million bushels of barley from California. This barley is especially suited for making beer. A variety of bright, hard, six-rowed barley, developed at the O. A. C., is now being grown here and is equally as good. Ontario farmers could produce 100 million bushels of this barley every year if there was a market for it. California barley has been bringing 76 cents a bushel on the English grain exchanges, while cost of shipping is 15.40 cents a bushel. Ontario could ship at about the same cost. California farmers have been receiving 53.6 cents for their barley at San Francisco, while Ontario farmers receive less than 40 cents. British brewing interests are reported to be willing to give the Ontario product a trial, but want to be assured of a sufficiently steady supply to meet their needs.

**Buy Quality Seed**  
"As never before in the history of farming should care be exercised in the purchase of seeds for planting this spring," is the advice of one well-known authority, who adds that it is doubly important to make sure that purchases have been government-tested as a result of last year's drought and the reduced supply of high quality stock. He warns against buying bargain seeds where price alone is the only description given because reliable seedsmen do not approve of advertisements where seeds are offered at stipulated prices without any indication as to their quality or origin. It would actually be cheaper to buy the best the market affords than to take the poorest as a gift, he concludes.

**Potato and Seed Show**  
The Potato and Seed Show held at Shelburne recently proved a very successful and instructive event. The classes were filled with good quality products, with Dooley Potatoes and Alaska Oats an outstanding feature. A program of lectures was given, the speakers including Prof. W. J. Squirrel, O.A.C. and Mr. J. A. Carroll, director of the Department's Crops and Markets Branch. The latter emphasized the success of grading of farm products in Canada. The quality of eggs, potatoes, and hogs had undoubtedly been improved. Canadians were now eating 30 dozens of eggs per capita, while England eats only 11 dozen per capita.

**Barley vs. Corn**  
Recent declines in the prices of farm products have been far more serious in grains than in live stock and this decline has been greater proportionately in barley than in wheat. This situation presents an opportunity to farmers, feeders and poultrymen who have been accustomed to depend upon imported corn. Barley for general feeding purposes is equal to corn in value.

**Miss Macphail's Letter**  
Several of the members of the house have been ill. Hon. H. H. Stevens, Minister of Trade and Commerce is still unable to take his place in the commons. Mr. Ernest Lapointe, the ex-Minister of Justice spoke on Thursday and is looking very much thinner and does not seem to be fully recovered from his serious illness though his speech did not lack eloquence. Mr. James Malcolm, ex-Minister of Trade and Commerce is in the hospital in Ottawa and is apt to be absent from the house for some time. The Hon. J. C. Elliott, ex-Minister of Public Works is undergoing an operation in the John Hopkins hospital, and Mr. W. H. Moore, Chairman of the Tariff Board that was, was able to come in to hear Mr. Lapointe speak.

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**Scores of experiments in Canada have demonstrated the value of barley as a carbohydrate feed.**  
Barley is particularly suitable for producing an excellent quality of bacon and may form the bulk of the ration for hogs. In addition, it can be profitably fed to dairy cattle, beef and poultry.  
It is pointed out by an authority that the extensive use of barley for feeding purposes, will not only improve the economic position of the Dominion but will also result in lowered production costs to farmer and poultryman.  
W. A. Ross of the Vineland Station recommends that if the present spell of fine weather continues, oil spraying should be commenced in pear orchards immediately or at least as soon as it is possible to get on the land with a spray machine. No oil spraying should be done if the temperature is near, at or below freezing.

**Fertilizer on Tomatoes**  
Five field tests with tomatoes were conducted last summer by the Department of Chemistry, O.A.C., in various localities, medium to light loam soils being chosen. Good preparation was given to the soil and an average application of 750 lbs. of fertilizer was made at the time healthy, vigorous stock was set out in the spring.  
The five tests showed an average yield of 174.2 bushels per acre where 750 lbs. of fertilizer was applied. The unfertilized section averaged 54.9 bushels per acre, giving a gross gain from fertilizing of 119.3 bushels. The cash cost of the fertilizer was \$39 per ton, hence an application of 750 lbs. represents an investment of \$14.60. Valuing the increase in tomatoes to yield at 50c per bushel, the gross return was \$59.60. Investment in fertilizers was \$14.60, hence the net return was \$45 per acre or the tomatoes, to growers made over three for one on their investment in fertilizers. Fertilizers used in these tests were 2-12 16, 0-14-6, 3-10-5 and 4-8-10.

**To Encourage use of Lime**  
In order to encourage the greater use of lime in agriculture in Ontario, particularly in those sections where a soil corrective is required to stimulate more economical production of farm crops, Hon. Thomas L. Kennedy, Minister of Agriculture, announces a policy of assistance in the matter of reduced freight rates on agricultural limestone.  
The C. N. R. and C. P. R. Companies have agreed to reduce the present tariff on pulverized limestone to be used by farmers to the amount of 25 per cent, and the Provincial and Federal Departments of Agriculture in co-operation will grant further subventions to the combined amount of one-half the remaining freight rate with a maximum of \$1 per ton. On limestone screenings that now enjoy special freight rates the two governments will grant subventions amounting to one-half the freight rate with a maximum of \$1 per ton.

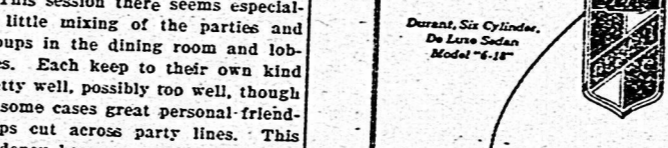
**In order to take advantage of this assistance purchasers must order at least a minimum carload of thirty tons. Where this minimum amount is more than is required by individual farmers they will be encouraged to group their orders in order to take advantage of the tariff reductions.**  
This undertaking is under the direction of the Crops Co-operation and Markets Branch, Ontario Department of Agriculture, Toronto. Inquiries for further information may be addressed to that department or to your local agricultural representative.

**which he demeaned unnecessarily our new Canadians. A couple of government speakers followed, praising highly those who have come to us from foreign countries, to nullify, one would judge, the speech of the Deputy Speaker.**  
The whole house enjoys hearing the French members on opposite sides of the house banter each other. It is such a long time since this was possible. The repartee is quick and clever; unfortunately most of us have to have it translated by some kind friend. It would add much to our enjoyment if we understood the French language. Conservative supporters sit in the gallery which enables them to face their friends on the floor and the Liberals in the gallery also are in a position to look in to the faces of their party friends and since the parties on the floor have changed their places the galleries designated for the Liberals and Conservatives have changed also, but the Independent Group occupies the same position on the floor as it had in 1922 and for the first time we face a Liberal gallery and are conscious of the Conservative visitors who are just behind and above us. The Independent Group is not large but it seems to be the pivot about which the house revolves.  
This session there seems especially little mixing of the parties and groups in the dining room and lobbies. Each keep to their own kind pretty well, possibly too well, though in some cases great personal friendships cut across party lines. This tendency becomes more marked the further we get from a general election. The Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition seem almost to be friendly with each other and the ill-will so often shown in the days of Mr. King and Mr. Meighen is absent.  
Though the Postmaster General opposed votes for women on the floor of the house on Thursday, women are slowly but surely moving into new fields. At lunch the other day I had as guest Constance Ray Harvey, vice-consul of the United States of America to Canada; she is a young, friendly and very likeable woman. Last night at the reception given by the wives of the Cabinet Ministers and Miss Bennett, I was privileged to have a short visit with Dame Rachel Crowdy, who was for ten years head of the Child-Welfare Work of the League of Nations. She is now touring the United States, lecturing on her work in the League. Her brother, Mr. James Crowdy, is Permanent Secretary at Government House. Dame Rachel is a very real person, without any ostentation; anxious to do her utmost to make the world a better place in which to live. Recently I was the guest of the University Women's Club of Ottawa and there heard Miss Aughterson, principal of Bishop Bethune College. Previous to her coming to Canada Aughterson had been a teacher at Windsor College. Her description of the life at Eton, the famous school for boys, was interesting indeed. She described for us many pageants which she had seen at Windsor, Queen Victoria's Jubilee, the funeral of King Edward VII, and the first visit of the present King to Eton. She told how in error she had mistaken the Arch-Duke Michael for a nosy tourist and had put him out which almost precipitated an international incident. The most impressive story she told however, related to the Coldstream Guards. On the outbreak of war these men wanted to learn some French, or to brush up what French they knew and Miss Aughterson was detailed to teach them. She told us of her two hundred students, all six feet or over; their desire to learn to talk about diseases of horses in French. She knew nothing about diseases of horses, but by walking many miles she secured a French copy of a book on the rudiments of veterinary surgery. Not one of the two hundred lived through the War.  
It begins to look as though the debate in reply to the address from the throne would not terminate until April 2nd. On the same day the house rises for the Easter recess and will not sit again until the 13th. Taking the debate as a whole it is a particularly good one. It shows a variety of opinions and thoughts that is really unusual but it is doubtful if further protraction of it is of much use.

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