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News and Information for the Busy Farmer

Furnished by the Ontario Department of Agriculture

Crops Come on Rapidly

Although recent heavy rains retarded haying operations and flattened out fields of grain in many districts, the harvest is progressing nicely. Yields of fall wheat were reported excellent, while pastures have improved considerably due to the fall of moisture. Root crops are coming on rapidly and corn is doing especially well in most counties. Oats and barley promise a heavy yield. Apple scab has been difficult to control this year due to the sultry weather. The potato crop looks good and there is every indication of a heavy yield.

Experimental Plot Work

Field inspection tours of demonstration experiments in Eastern Ontario by O.A.C. officials have been in progress during the month of July. Crops in general in this section are particularly good and response of crops to fertility treatment is quite marked. Especially is this true of potatoes and wheat. In a fertility test conducted by the O.A.C. Department of Chemistry in Bruce County, new potatoes have been running 116 bags per acre.

Hogging Corn Saves Feed

In a series of tests the practice of "hogging" corn, i.e., turning hogs into a field of mature corn to feed, show that material economies in meal feed are possible and that the returns from hogs so fed are substantially greater than the cost of growing the corn. The type of hog developed is entirely satisfactory; the practice of "hogging" saves considerable labour in feeding; and it supplies considerable grain for growing hogs at a time when farm grains are most scarce. An ample supply of fresh water must be available on the hogging lot, and tankage supplied by a self-feeder is desirable.

County Sheep Dipping Week

Haldimand County has set a good example in the way of a County Sheep Dipping and Drenching Week, which was conducted this spring. Fifteen demonstrations in dipping and drenching were made at the various dipping tanks in the county, more than 3,200 sheep were treated for external parasites and about 80 per cent for internal parasites. The response to the campaign was beyond expectations and farmers appear to realize the value of giving their flocks the best of attention. The campaign was carried out in cooperation with the Ontario and Dominion Livestock Branches, and under supervision of A. G. Skinner, local agricultural representative.

Fertilizer and Sow Thistle

The O.A.C. Department of Botany is conducting an experiment to test various methods for the eradication of sow thistle. In the experiment one-half of each plot received complete fertilizer, while the other half was left unfertilized. In the unfertilized portions the sow thistle plants were more numerous and were always larger and more vigorous than those in the fertilized sections. The plants in the latter plots were dwarfed and showed no indication of flowering this season.

Government Turkey Farm

Dr. G. I. Christie and Professor Graham of O.A.C. visited with the government turkey farm at Forestville in Norfolk County recently. This project was started five years ago on a farm consisting almost entirely of Mowand. At present there are some 1800 birds at range with 500 more expected. Some of the oldest birds at nine weeks old had attained the weight of 7 pounds and were expected to be ready for market by September.

The system employed on the farm is to move the young birds, which are incubator hatched, into field houses at the age of two weeks. These houses are placed in fields of young rye in which the birds are allowed free range. By this method and with the help of green manure crops ploughed under, a relatively good soil is being built up.

Buying Raw Materials

George R. Paterson, in charge of feed and fertilizer distribution for the Department, points out that cost of raw materials is an important item in the farmer's cost of production. The farmer requires feeds, fertilizer, limestone, bindertwine, oil, lumber, machinery and a host of other things to manufacture farm products. The farmer also has to consider the weather which is a very uncertain factor. Therefore cost of production of farm products is an unknown quantity, as every case is different. While he cannot control the weather, the farmer can control costs of raw materials. The time to estimate feed requirements is after the harvest, not after the home-grown grains are all fed and it suddenly dawns on the farmer that he must buy. Fertilizer requirements may readily be estimated beforehand. Other important items may be estimated and purchased to advantage before required. Bulk buying is best. It costs the feed man more to sell a bag of feed than a ton. It will cost the farmer less to take his own delivery in most cases. The credit system is conducive to extra costs and should be avoided. Farmers will do well to stick to proven commodities and standard materials until new ones have been tested.

Spray Service Invaluable

Prof. Howitt of O.A.C. has secured reports from agricultural representatives and spray supervisors as to the results being obtained in their respective counties. The following statement from Dundas and West Stormont counties is typical of all reports received: "Every orchard has shown decided improvement since going into the spray service. The best example of what can be accomplished is found in results obtained in an orchard near Ingersoll. In 1928 they harvested one thousand barrels of apples which were 35 per cent clean. In 1929 they had twelve hundred barrels of apples which were almost 100 per cent clean. In 1930, they harvested 1700 barrels and in the whole crop found eight apples with scab."

Raspberry Control

General control measures for raspberries are summarized by Canadian authorities as follows:
1. Use nothing but clean, healthy certified stock. Demand such stock from your nurseryman.
2. Practice clean cultivation.
3. Practice rotation of crops. After destroying an old raspberry plantation do not replant it to berries for at least three or four years. Grow some such crops as corn, grasses, cereals, legumes, etc.
4. Destroy wild raspberries or blackberries in the vicinity of the cultivated varieties.
5. Remove fruiting canes as soon after harvest as possible. At the same time dig and destroy all badly diseased plants.
6. Systematically remove from the plantation and burn all rogued plants, or prunings.

Will Select Junior Judges

Ontario will be represented by a team in the junior grain-judging competitions to be held at the World's Grain Exhibition in Regina in 1932. This decision was reached at the recent annual convention of agricultural representatives at Guelph. The teams will be selected by elimination contests, probably at four different points in the province. The five boys obtaining highest score at each of these contests will be taken to O.A.C. and there given further training. The three boys who score highest out of the twenty will represent the province. Intense interest in the junior grain judging competitions as well as in the inter-agricultural college class, is evident in every province. The generous awards offered are proving particularly attractive apart altogether from the opportunity afforded junior and young college students of receiving excellent training in grain judging work.

Miss Macphail's Letter

In an Eastern weekly paper an item headed "Miss Macphail Again" recounted the indignation of the Grey County Council at a petition signed by me and other members of the United Farm Women's Club at Flesherston suggesting a 10% cut in the seasonal allowance on the salaries of all county officials and wages of women employed on county roads. The report goes on to say: "The members were much incensed at Miss Macphail's interference when she is receiving a seasonal allowance of \$4,000 for her services in the House of Commons and is not returning any of her pay to the Federal Treasury."

I don't wonder they were incensed. The story goes like this; at the last meeting of the Farm Women's Club before the session began, a resolution was introduced asking for decreased expenditures on road building, etc. and a cut of 10% in salaries, as I recall it, of township officials. I made not only one speech but several, pointing out the small recompense that township officials receive, which in my opinion did not pay them for the amount of time at home. I remember recalling to the mover of the resolution the fact that her father had long served a Grey township, which experience put her in a splendid position to know how little the pay amounted to. I am confident, had the County Council listened in, they would have felt I left little unsaid from their point of view, in fact I seem to have persuaded several of the women that I was not in sympathy with the farmer who has to pay the bill. I was, and to show it, stated my willingness to support the motion if the part about the salaries was dropped. Yet these are fearfully difficult days for farmers and unless the price of agricultural products rises,

all expenses which they have to meet must be lowered.

This week in parliament reminds one of a warmed-over dinner a little bit of everything—old age pensions, Canadian National Railways, Australian Trade Agreement, vocational, education and of course, Beauharnois. Parliament moved as leisurely as though it were January. There seems no hope of prorogation before the 1st of August.

A bill to remove the necessity of a by-election for the re-election of a member of the house appointed to a cabinet position, passed the commons. Several thought that if such an appointment occurred late on in the parliament, it should occasion a by-election, but all were agreed that in the first general year after an election this was wholly unnecessary. Mr. Hackett, Conservative member for Stanstead, Quebec, made a most vicious attack on the Canadian National Railways. In his opinion there was nothing right about

made a most impassioned oration. The Prime Minister in speaking in the same debate, said: "I would not deny to any member on this side or the other, the right to express any opinion he feels, but I should like it clearly understood that in doing so he represent his own opinion and not the opinion of myself or any member of this administration." As more than one pointed out, the true test of success or failure is efficiency and no enterprise can succeed unless it is efficient, but with the recent revelations regarding the corruption of the privately owned Beauharnois project, private ownership of great national concerns is not in good favour at the moment.

The Hudson Bay Railway is ready to take care of trial shipments of grain, the commons was told by the Minister of Railways. 75% of the Old Age Pensions is to be paid by the Federal Government from now on, with the probability of paying the whole cost at some future time. \$750,000 is to be spent by the Federal Gov't on vocational training in the provinces. This item used to be called 'technical education'. The Criminal Code is being amended to prevent people appearing so scantily clad as to offend the public conscience. During the debate on this amendment Mr. Esling, the member for Kootenay West, told the House of the annoyance caused by Doukors who insisted upon parading in the nude, as well as burning schools and otherwise defying the laws and customs of the country.

The startling incident of this week was the revelation made in the special committee on Beauharnois, that Senator McDougald had charged to Beauharnois the expenses incurred by himself and the Rt. Hon. Mackenzie King on a trip to Bermuda a year ago last Easter. The senator had arrived in Bermuda two days before the Prime Minister of that day; he had asked to see the rooms provided for this prominent Canadian and had been shown two small rooms, which he thought unsuitable. On his own initiative, he stated, he had reserved two larger rooms. He left a day or so before the Prime Minister but before doing so he settled the hotel bills. Some time later Senator McDougald's secretary submitted an expensive account to the Beauharnois Company on the request of R.A.C. Henry, general manager and in error, the senator claimed, the money paid by Senator McDougald for Mr. King's rooms, had been included in the account. When he noticed the error, he sent a cheque to the company for \$645.69, the amount of Mr. King's bill. Whether intentionally or unintentionally, Mr. King has been badly treated by his so-called friend.

In commenting on the incident, the Ottawa Journal of Thursday, July 23rd, the Conservative paper of the Capital City said editorially: "It is well that this should be made clear. Mr. Mackenzie King may be an opportunist politician, a practical politician, may be a realist about campaign funds, but no one who knows him will ever believe that there is a taint upon his personal integrity or that he would be a party to any such tawdry thing as that which was revealed before the Beauharnois Committee."

Agnes C. Macphail.

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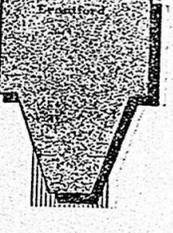
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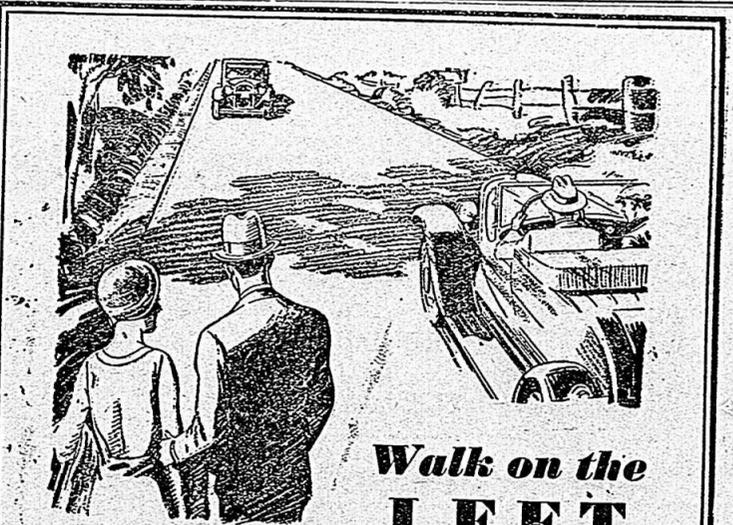
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