

The Markdale Standard News and Information for the Busy Farmer

(Established 1889)
Published every Thursday at
The Standard Printing Office
Main Street, Markdale, Ont.
Member C. V. N. A.
Subscription Rates—\$2.00 per year.
United States \$2.50 per year.
Advertising Rates on Application.
A. E. COLGAN & SON, Publishers
THURSDAY, NOV. 12th, 1931

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News and Information for the Busy Farmer

Furnished by the Ontario Department of Agriculture

The poultry crop all over Canada this year is likely to be decidedly short. The poultry which come on to the market this fall, however, will probably show a high degree of finish because of the abundance of feeds and most of it will sell on a basis of official grades. Price will be a big factor controlling volume.

Growers in the Thorndale district are shipping one of the best celery crops yet grown in that noted celery-producing area. It is estimated that three hundred car loads will be shipped this year. Special arrangements have been made to transport the celery in special refrigerated cars in order that it may get it crisp and fresh.

Weekly Crop Report
Livestock men throughout Ontario have benefited by the open fall as many dairymen have been able to carry their milking herds with considerably less grain feeding than usual. All livestock will go into winter in excellent condition. Cheese factories report an increase in production over last year. An increase in the number of hogs going to market has been noticed during the past week, but unfortunately too many heavies and unfinished hogs are included in the offering. Fall wheat is causing some concern, due to having made a phenomenal growth this fall. Many growers are pasturing the fall wheat in an endeavor to remove some of the heavy top.

Boys' Foal Clubs
A competition for members of Boys' Foal Clubs in Ontario is announced as a new and interesting class by the Royal Winter Fair, being held November 18th to 26th at Toronto. In this competition boys will show foals of their own raising and in addition to the prizes offered for the foals by the Ontario Horse Breeders' Association, the Dominion Government offers special prizes for "Horsemanship." This will be judged on appearance and skill in handling in the ring. Foals will be shown without shoes and with only such decorations as are made by the boys themselves. The boys showing at the Royal will all be winners at the local county fair contests. During their stay at Toronto they will be guests of the Department of Agriculture and during the two days will be in charge of an official of the Department.

WATCH CHEESE-CURING DURING THE FALL MONTHS
Dr. J. A. Ruddick, Dominion Dairy Commissioner, calls attention to the importance of maintaining adequate temperatures for the curing of cheese made during the fall months, particularly October and November. The temperature of the curing rooms should never be allowed to go below 60 degrees F., and the cheese should be turned every day. A fire in the curing room keeps the air drier and gives the cheese better rinds while maintaining adequate temperatures.

A Valuable Bulletin
Farmers are asking more and more questions regarding the factors that influence productivity of the soil. With this fact in mind, Bulletin, No. 364 has just been issued by the O.A.C. This bulletin deals with such fundamental questions as: Composition of soil; function of the different plantfood elements; home sources of plant nutrients and use of fertilizers. Much attention has also been paid to the latest method of testing for lime and to recognition in the field of the need of lime under various soil conditions. Practical farmers will find here a clear statement of factors entering into the fertility of soil and science teachers will find descriptions of the functions of the various elements of soil fertility. This bulletin will be sent to any farmer free on application to O.A.C.

The Potato Situation
In an effort to improve the present potato situation the Ontario Marketing Board has sent a letter to every mayor in the towns and cities of Ontario urging the purchase of potatoes for relief work at the present bargain prices. It is pointed out that many municipalities will have to buy supplies to feed unemployed this winter and where this will be necessary much money can be saved by taking advantage of the very low figures. Prices run all the way from 15c to 50c per bag just now. Not only should immediate purchasing be of very direct value to the Relief Committee buying now, but it is also stated, such purchasing will have an indirect benefit also, as this sort of thing should help the farmer and therefore the whole country. The Ontario Marketing Board still maintains there is no surplus of potatoes in Ontario if we take into consideration the fact that this province normally im-

ports a couple of thousand carloads every year.

Potato Club Contest
Teams of two club members each, representing the Boys' Potato Clubs in Ontario met in competition recently at O.A.C., Guelph. The Middlesex Boys' Potato Club team was announced the winner, scoring 1928 points out of a possible 1260. The runners-up were the Wellington Boys' Potato Club. All of the team members judged and gave oral reasons on four classes of potatoes and also answered ten questions based on club work, growing and marketing of potatoes. A total of 26 Boys' Potato Clubs, with a membership of 879, were organized in 1931. They are doing a splendid work, not only in gaining the boys' interest, but also in improving cultural practices of the potato crop throughout the province. Real strides have been made in many potato districts in recent years by re-planting with standard varieties. A large percentage of the innumerable varieties which were formerly used, as well as by focusing attention on lower costs per bushel, secured by means of larger yields as a result of improved practices. The Middlesex team will compete with winning Potato Club teams from other provinces in the national contests at the Royal Winter Fair.

Protecting Berry Plants
For the protection of raspberry and strawberry plants against the rigours of winter, the Dominion Horticulturist has some valuable recommendations. In the case of raspberries he advises that the canes be bent down just before winter sets in and held in place by a little soil being placed on the tips. Before bending the canes a little soil should be removed from one side of the hill and the canes collected in a bunch and pressed down in the line of a row by means of a fork. When protected in this way the canes will come through the winter in good condition, while if not protected they may be badly injured.

For the protection of strawberries, after permanent frost has set in and the ground is quite solid, the plants should be covered with a light coating of clean straw, that which will not pack closely over the plants being best. Marsh hay is good as it is free from weed seeds. The mulch of this type prevents alternate thawing and freezing of the ground in the springtime and protects the plants in case there is not sufficient snow during the winter. It also prevents heaving. Where injury from spring frost is frequent it is desirable to hold the plants back as long as possible. For this purpose after the first heavy fall of snow the snow may be covered with straw or evergreen boughs, which are left on as long as possible in the spring. While plants will often come through the winter without protection it is best not to take any risks.

Humor of the Press

Mr. Louis Blake Duff of Welland an exceptional editor who has been able to retire and devote his time to history and other things to which he takes a personal interest, has an address on the above topic which he gave to the St. Mary's Rotary Club the other day. As reported by the Journal Argus, the first part of the address was devoted to unconscious humor found in the news papers. Those unhappy slips which delight readers but cause editors to grow prematurely gray, received some attention. Such slips as in the reporting of accidents, "as soon as Dr. Hutton had left his purse, he gave up all hope." "The ladies of St. Paul's Church have cast off clothing. They may be seen in the basement from 3 to 6 o'clock." An excerpt from a near-by paper, informed the public that "it is proposed to use the donations to purchase benches for the park as the old ones are in a very dilapidated condition." In another case a "battle-scarred veteran" was welcomed home, the editor apologized in the next issue for what should have read "battle-scarred." The speaker told of two rival editors who fought bitterly for years. One died and the other sought to make amends in the obituary. But unfortunately the item became mixed up with the report a fire and it read: "When the beautiful casket was lowered to its last resting place, lurid flames shot upward." This reminds us of the late Harry Dawer's slip when he wrote in the Harriston Review of a man's smouldering remains" being removed from the old cemetery to the new. Another case of mixing ads and reading matter was: Born to Mr. and Mrs. McSnort, a son, with hot water attachments." "We want your eggs and we want them bad," an advertiser informed the public and on another occasion "I am now in a position to hatch your eggs." "Mrs. Gallomp has been taken to the hospital for an operation. Her gasoline station will be closed indefinitely.

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

Russia Breaking Down

There seems now to be little cause for fear that Russia can ever become a serious competitor of civilized countries in the markets of the world. There is little doubt that the five year plan has already broken down and can never be made to succeed because of the fact that the Russian character is what it is. A few days ago Jean Walker of Peoria, Ill., who has been in Russia a couple of years as an instructor of farm students, gave out some astounding information on his return home. He states that the Russian wheat crop this year did not yield more than twelve bushels to the acre for fall wheat and four bushels to the acre for spring wheat. He tells of Russian carelessness, indolence and an inherent tendency to destruction of whatever the Russian possesses and states that foreign made combines that were being used to harvest the wheat were so abused that they were in the repair shops such a length of time that the old Russian reapers and ox teams had to be pressed into service to help get harvest off.

Not long since George Bernard Shaw, the eminent English socialist, after paying a visit to Russia created some restlessness because of his reported success of the five year plan and his picture of a bright future for the big collection of republics. But Mr. Shaw received his answer a few weeks later from an American Jesuit priest who in a Sunday afternoon radio broadcast gave the world a mass of startling information concerning the failure of the ambitions of the Soviets to become the greatest industrial people of the world. It is now considerably more than a year since "Humanity Uprooted" from the pen of Maurice Hindus, an American journalist born in Russia, appeared. After many years of absence from Russia Mr. Hindus, who had retained a working knowledge of the Russian language, travelled all over the country and while he pictured things as he found them there was running all through his book a vein of doubt as to the achievement of Russian ambitions. Some of the interviews recorded by Mr. Hindus showed plainly that a tyranny existed far worse in its intensity than any ever experienced by Russia in the past and were prophetic of revolution.

Probably the greatest jolt Soviet heads have received since they formed the union of republics is the defeat of Labor and the utter destruction of even the germs of communism in Britain. Stalin and his aides will be some little time recovering from this blow.—Alliston Herald.

C. R. Itic Goes Shooting

Mr. Editor and Dear Readers,—I have been confined to the house for the last few days with a bad cold which came to me as the result of getting wet the other day while out hunting rabbits. It happened this way: I was up town for my mail when I ran across Harold McInnis and as he looked as though he might be going on a hunting expedition I asked him if he would take me along. He said he would be glad of my company so I hustled home and secured permission from the little woman to go along provided I would be careful with the gun. I gave her my promise that I would be careful provided I could borrow one. I had quite a job securing one. You see the fellows who go hunting regularly are not very anxious to loan their shooting irons to a greenhorn like me and perhaps they are right. However after considerable running around I was able to borrow a muzzle loader from one of the neighbors but only on condition that I would not tell who it was as all the young fellows around town would be after it if they knew he had one. I secured a pair of long rubber boots and a sack to carry the game home in. McInnis was a little out of patience when I got back as I had kept him waiting for some time. I climbed into the Ford flivver with him and away we went. Harold had a good dog with him and when we got to the swamp above Jim Semple's place on the townline we stopped and let the dog out. It was only a minute or two before the dog started to give tongue and as I was anxious to get the first rabbit I took after the dog through the swamp. It wasn't long until the dog had left me far behind as the going in the thick swamp wasn't very good. I decided then that I had better get back to McInnis on the road so I turned around and began to retrace my steps. I hadn't gone far before I sighted a rabbit sitting under a log and apparently unaware of my presence. I raised the gun to my shoulder and was ready to fire when I remembered that I had neglected to load. Any of you old chaps who have hunted with one of these old fashioned guns will know that it takes a little while to do the job. During the time I was occupied in the operation the rabbit hopped off leisurely and I followed as best I could without too much noise. By the time I was ready for the slaughter the rabbit had disappeared

from eight but I had an idea as to the direction it had taken so I followed. It wasn't long until I sighted him again but before I could get a bead on it I had to get up on a log. After taking careful aim I fired and if the shot was as effective in lodging the rabbit as it was in lifting me from the log then its work was complete. I landed on my front end and when I was able to gather myself together I had lost all sense of direction. After hunting

for the dead rabbit for about half an hour and failing to locate it I started back for the car. When I came out of the swamp I was near Archie Letche's on the highway and I decided it would be just as easy to walk home as back to the car. McInnis yelled himself hoarse trying to locate me in the swamp but finally came home to see if I had arrived. He was relieved when he found out that I was safe and sound with my feet in the oven of the kitchen stove. The only things

I have to remind me of my hunting experience is a bad cold and a sore shoulder. The little woman has been rubbing my chest with goose grease and mustard and I think I'll pull through this time. When I go hunting again I'm going to take an air rifle and I'll stay on the firm dry land when I shoot.
Yours truly,
C. R. Itic.

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