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L. O. L.—Markdale L.O.L. No. 1045 meets in the Orange Hall, Markdale at 8 o'clock p.m. the first Thursday in each month. Visiting brethren cordially invited. A. E. Colgan, W.M.; Elgin McFadden, Rec.-Sec.

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News and Information for the Busy Farmer

Furnished by the Ontario Department of Agriculture

Increased acreage
Agricultural statistics released from Ottawa as part of the 1931 census reveal an increase in the acreage sown to the principal crops in every case except oats. Wheat jumped from 20 to 26 million acres, and barley increased by one and one-half million acres. Oats declined by about one and one-half million acres. There were slight increases in the case of potatoes, cultivated hay, mixed grains and rye.

Clean and Sterilize All Dairy Utensils

The keeping quality of milk depends directly upon the number of bacteria present and this in turn depends upon the thoroughness with which dairy utensils have been cleaned and sterilized. The use of live steam or scalding with boiling water is always effective providing it is available in sufficient volume, but as a general rule the quantity available on the average farm is inadequate for effective results. It is for this reason that the use of chlorine in suitable form is recommended by bacteriological experts. It acts rapidly in cold water, and is cheap and more convenient than the heat treatment generally recommended. When properly employed chlorine sterilization gives excellent results and the practice, already general among milk and other food plants, is spreading to the dairy farms.

Farm Mortgages

The Government has notified the Ontario Agricultural Development Board, which holds \$35,000,000 of farm mortgages, not to foreclose under any circumstances when mortgagors are unable to meet their obligations. Hon. W. H. Price, Acting Prime Minister, pointed out that the province holds a greater number of farm mortgages than any private company, and he intimated that legislation would be brought down at the next session to provide for a modified moratorium on mortgages. "We realize that in these times of financial stress many farmers who otherwise would be able to meet their payments are in considerable difficulty and the Government is anxious to help them over this period of financial stringency," said Col. Price, adding that he had asked loan companies to be lenient in this regard and made the same request to sheriffs and bailiffs. The proposed legislation will seek to prevent the mortgage being foreclosed in case of default of interest payments, giving the mortgagor an extension of time.

Junior Farmers at Chicago

Fourteen boys and twelve girls, Junior Farmer prize winners in their various classifications, represented Ontario at the Annual Congress of the 4-H Clubs in Chicago during the first week in December. Under the care of W. K. Riddell, departmental representative, and Miss Edith Hopkins of the Women's Institute Branch, these Junior Farmers joined with the 1200 4-H Club members, representing most of the States of the Union. Each of these farm boys and girls had achieved a distinction in some branch of agriculture. All were prize winners locally and the tangible evidence of their prominence was the trip to Chicago to attend the International Live Stock Show and to tour various industries in the city.

Winter Fair Contests

In competition with teams representing 26 counties, Peel County junior farmers carried off the late Hon. John S. Martin trophy, emblematic of the live stock judging championship of Ontario, at the Provincial Winter Fair, Guelph. The winners met with stiff opposition from the Middlesex team, only five points separating them. Bruce County ranked third, York fourth, and Durham fifth and only sixty-three points stood between the five

teams in the event. The possible score was 3,000, Peel having the excellent count of 2,278. Ontario County took highest standing and won the Glen Ormond trophy for judging of heavy horses. Durham County team won first place and the Fischer trophy in the inter-county seed judging competition with a score of 2,593 points, being followed by Oxford, Peel, Grey and York.

Ontario Wins at Chicago

Ontario Seed Exhibitors at the International Grain and Hay Show at Chicago more than held their own against the finest entries of grain and grass seeds from all States in the Union and other provinces in the Dominion. Slightly more than 100 exhibits were forwarded to Chicago and upwards of 75 prizes were awarded to Ontario exhibitors. The winnings included championships in corn, beans and clover seed.

Mrs. M. E. Maycock of Milford has the distinction of winning the field bean championship for two years in succession.

Remi Lemarche of Casselman, a new exhibitor at Chicago, won the championship in red clover. Incidentally Mr. Lemarche also won the red clover championship at the Royal and Ottawa Winter Fairs.

Other prize winners were J. H. Frisby, Gormley, J. H. Lammpan, Ridgeway, Peter Clark and Sons, Highgate, John E. Alton, Rockwood. In the pea classes Tom Berberet Jr., Mildmay, and H. L. Goltz, Bracebridge, were well up at the top.

Ontario also scored heavily in the live stock division, taking first place among the provinces with a total of nine crowns. She was second to Alberta in the grain and seed divisions. Ontario led the Dominion as to total number of firsts.

Canada made an enviable showing at Chicago, capturing ten championships, and three reserves in the grain division, and 10 crowns and 10 reserves in the live stock. Leading all Canadian exhibitors for individual showing was Herman Trelle of Wembley, Alta., with five crowns in grains and seeds. No one else among the entrants in the show equalled this record.

Put Flesh on Market Cattle

With the plentiful supply of feed, the cattle going on the market this winter should be well-fleshed. Well-finished young cattle command a premium on both the home and export markets. The poor quality, under-fleshed animals have a depressing effect on the market. Steers or heifers showing breeding and type make good use of the home-grown feed. Time alone will tell what the profit will be on the hundreds of cattle going into the feedlots this fall. But, it is reasonable to expect that it will be the deep, mellow-fleshed bullocks that command the top prices when they go on the market. Inferior feed or a skimpy ration does not make market toppers of even the best type of cattle.

Ottawa Fair Contests

The Inter-County Live Stock and Seed Judging Competitions conducted at the Ottawa Winter Fair brought teams of young men from fourteen eastern Ontario counties. The A. H. Acres Trophy for seed judging was won by the Renfrew County team for the third time and it thus becomes the permanent property of that county. Renfrew team scored 1,305 out of a possible 1,500 points, while the Leeds team were runners-up with a score of 1,230½. The Peter White Trophy, emblematic of the live stock judging championship, was won by Prince Edward County, which county also won it in 1928 and 1929, while Lanark was successful in 1930. Dundas County was runner-up this year.

Crates-Feeding Pays

Farmers who are in a position to follow the practice, find that crate-feeding of their poultry pays them big dividends. There are several reasons for this. It produces the milk-fed grades which bring the highest prices; the leading wholesale merchants are now buying poultry by Government grades with substantial differentials between each grade; the premium assured for birds which grade "milkfed" makes crate-feeding worth while; and all poultry intended for eating purposes should be properly finished before being marketed. The farmer who has poultry to market would do well to remember that it is the last pound which brings the finish and increases the value of the bird by 50 or 75 cents.

Miss Macphail Writes of Her Western Trip

Miss A. C. Macphail, M.P., of Ceylon has just recently returned from a trip to the West and writes interestingly regarding it. We did not receive last week's letter but this week's installment is to hand and appears below:—
We have all read Nellie McClung's books. We have heard much of her wit, her warm-heartedness, her fine human qualities. Often when someone has been greatly praised all our expectations are not fulfilled on meeting. But Nellie McClung was

just what I wanted her to be, just what I expected her to be. Her presence in the sun room of the palace hotel made speaking easier. Her warm sympathy could not but help. I liked her immensely, and oddly enough felt that I had known her always. She is a very understanding person.

The McClung humor flashed out when in introducing me she alluded to the really very stormy and cold day by saying she was sorry Calgary was treating me to such unusual weather but she supposed in travelling about from place to place I encountered a good deal of unusual weather. That tickled my funny bone. The Calgary meeting was distinguished by the number of Pricerville people there. The able president of the club, Mrs. W. V. Dixon, was formerly Minnie McLaughlan of Pricerville. The daughters of Rev. Mr. McLeod, who for many years was pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Pricerville; Mrs. McArthur, mother of Dr. John McArthur of Markdale and her daughter, Mrs. (Dr.) Dixon, Mrs. (Dr.) Alex Fettes and Mrs. McKinnon were all present to support me.

Dr. and Mrs. Alex Fettes entertained at tea on Sunday when I again had the opportunity of meeting the Dixon's and McClungs, MacKinnons as well as Dr. and Mrs. Williams from near Owen Sound, Senator and Mrs. Kitchener, and several members of Donald Campbell family of Swinton Park. I was so glad to have a talk with Mr. McClung. We do not hear so much about him but he is worth hearing a good deal about. He does not look in the least like Dame Rumour would have us think the husband of a renowned woman would look. He is a man of substance, financially, mentally and physically. He is unique in that he is very proud of his wife's achievement.

No member of the Commons could fail to know that Drumbeller is a coal mining town so on being asked what I wanted to see in the vicinity of that interesting town, I answered, "A coal mine." In company with the owner and Mrs. Henderson, wife of the President of the Canadian Club we visited the A. B. C. mine. We were rigged out in heavy coats with a coal miner's safety lamp buckled around the waist, or rather the heavy battery carried on a belt leaving our hands free for the light. The miner carries his fastened to his cap. We went down the 100 foot shaft and walked about a mile in the underground roadway before we came to the place where the actual mining operations were going on. There was a main road and then many roads branching off. A narrow gauge track was laid along each one. Going in we were continually meeting the horses or ponies drawing several cars of coal along the tracks. The driver sits on the front car and directs the horse by conversation since no reins are used. When the mine is extended back a great distance from the shaft motor engines are used instead of horses.

The most interesting piece of machinery is the shearer. A powerful engine drives revolving short sharp knives into the face of the shiny black surface. The depth of the cut is 6 feet and it is made down the centre of the exposed face of the coal and then along the bottom. After that the coal is blasted out. Everything possible is done to keep the pieces large. Westerners like their coal that way. The mine is ventilated by currents of air drawn from the surface and directed to the particular place wanted by curtains or walls. The horse stable is below ground. The horses run in the pasture part of the summer but once they go into the mine in the fall they stay there until the summer unless unable to work.

A spirit of informal hospitality prevailed Drumbeller. The women of the Executive of the Canadian Club entertained me at luncheon. It was a co-operative luncheon. Each woman contributed her best. One was famed for salads, another for roasting turkey to a turn, another dessert. The result was the most for table decorations, another for artistic and wholly delightful meal of my trip. And such fun as we went of a prank and the informal had. The party had all the excitement of it made the group of women friends.

Edmonton is very much a capital city. The Women's Canadian Club tea was honoured by having as guests the wife of the Lieutenant Governor and the wife of the Prime Minister of the Province as well as a distinguished woman magistrate and writer Judge Emily Murphy. While the delightful informality of Drumbeller was lacking, Edmonton had a charm all its own. A second meeting was held in Convocation Hall on the campus of the Alberta University which Dr. Wallace, the President of the University honoured with his presence.

Keewatin was an interesting and different town. It is beautifully situated on the lake of the Woods. It had at the time of my visit, just enough fresh white snow to make it look an animated Christmas card. My hostess there, was Mrs. Bob Mitchell, before her marriage Dora Davidson of Durham. We had a delightful walk through the woods,

following well padded Indian trails. Coming finally out on the highway we saw many trucks carrying supplies to the camps on the Federal Highway. Though the men are just a few miles out of town they are not allowed to come in, except, I suppose, under special circumstances.

Grey County people have contributed much to the West. They seemed to be everywhere. They contributed much to my enjoyment. Scarcely a meeting of the forty-five but saw several gathered for a chat at the close. They entertained me. They introduced me to audiences; they thanked me for speeches. If it wasn't the Armstrongs of Banff, formerly of Owen Sound, who were kind it was Mrs. Peddigror, of Durham, hostess in Biggar; or Mr. Dunn of Moose Jaw, lawyer from Durham who introduced me in Moose Jaw; or Mr. Miller, son of H. H. Miller, who thanked me in Weyburn, or Mr. and Mrs. McKinnon who entertained so delightfully in the same town. It is quite impossible to tell of all the Grey County people I met, in Regina, Saskatoon, Winnipeg, the Twin Cities, everywhere.

As I was going West wheat was rising in price and the spirits of the people were lifting correspondingly, but as I came East wheat was falling and the gloom was settling down again. The Canadian situation is too closely bound up with great world problems of war debts and reparations, outworn financial systems, broken down distributive systems and burdensome taxation to be separately or hastily relieved.

Sincerely,
Agnes C. Macphail.

Cherry Grove

Don't forget the Cherry Grove Christmas tree to be held in the school to-morrow night, Friday, Dec. 18th.

Mr. Arnold Bowler visited for a few days with his uncle Mr. George Seabrooks at Temple Hill recently. Messrs. John and D. L. Weber of Kimberley visited with Mr. Ran Bradey recently.

Mr. and Mrs. Jas. Leitch, Wallace and Lorna of Irish Lake visited one day this week with Mr. and Mrs. Levi Burnett.

Mr. Everett Freeman of Markdale visited for a few days last week at the home of Mr. Jas. Penelton.

We are pleased to know that Mrs. Thos. Hill is improving after being confined to her bed for a few days.

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Smart and daughter Myrtle visited on Sunday with Messrs. John and Gordon Moore at Harkaway.

Mr. and Mrs. P. J. Elford and daughter Joyce of Epping visited with Mr. W. E. Bradey one afternoon recently.

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