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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.
A. F. & A. M.—Hiram Lodge No. 480, G. R. C., Markdale, meets in the Masonic Hall, Reburn Block, at 8 o'clock p.m. the second Thursday in each month. T. Stewart, Cooper, W.M.; A. E. Colgan, Secretary.

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News and Information for the Busy Farmer

Furnished by the Ontario Department of Agriculture

Raising Prolific Sows
Sterility in pigs is difficult to cure but most forms of it can be prevented by proper management. Fertility is heritable, therefore always select breeding stock from large litters. Breeding sows must have more protein and calcium than fattening stock in order to build up flesh and bone in their young. The important sources of supply of these are meat and protein meal, milk and leguminous pastures. Exercise is essential for regular production. Show condition sometimes causes sterility, but this is when the pigs are over-fat and lack exercise. Exposure in winter will delay breeding. Contagious abortion is spread through afterbirth, dead piglings and discharge contaminating the food, water and bedding.

The San Jose Scale
That the San Jose scale, the bug-bear of the Niagara fruit growers, again looms up as a dire menace to the industry, was the statement of Prof. L. Caesar, provincial entomologist, when addressing the Niagara Fruit Growers' Association recently. Reviewing the history of this pest, Prof. Caesar declared it to be the worst menace to the fruit trees that Ontario has ever known. Its revival was first noticed in 1929 after an absence of a dozen years from Niagara orchards. Since then the scale has increased tremendously and he feared that the mild weather conditions this winter would result in its return next season to a very large extent. Effective spraying of all trees with lubricating oil, using 4 per cent., was urged by Professor Caesar.

Late Corn and Fertilizers
Many farmers are talking late planting of corn this year and fertilizing in an attempt to control the corn borer. In this connection, O. A. C. officials conducted a test in Essex County, planting corn at three different dates, a week apart. Suitable fertilizer was applied at 200 pounds per acre. The fertilizer increased the yield of ears 700 pounds per acre in the earliest planting, and 715 pounds per acre in the latest planting. Late planting meant a larger per cent. of immature ears at harvest in all cases; but from the plots planted last there was 33 per cent. less soft ears in the fertilized area than there was on the unfertilized. The gain of fertilized corn over unfertilized had not only been maintained but had increased where the corn was planted latest, and had been fertilized. This was in addition to barn yard manure. Good soil preparation, good seed and proper cultivation must be provided if best results are to be attained.

An Attractive Home
"Oh what an opportunity if I only had the time!" This is the remark of a lady visitor at the Ontario Agricultural College recently. She had come to the College to make enquiry about certain perennials which she wished to plant in the yard of her farm home and was told about the short course of instruction in landscape gardening to be given at the College from Feb. 15th to 19th. On looking over the program of this short course she saw that there were to be instructions and demonstrations in garden planning and the selection of the most suitable kinds of trees, shrubs and flowers, and she longed to take the course. The opportunity is there for her and for many others, and no better way could be found for farm women, or men either for that matter, to spend a happy, interesting week in the middle of winter in studying and making plans for the beautification of their farm homes so that their lives might be more enjoyable in the years to come. All persons interested in this course should understand that there is no charge for instruction and that a program of the course may be had for the asking.

Improving Live Stock
Addressing a banquet of 600 live stock breeders and exhibitors tendered by the C.N.E. directors, Hon. Robert Weir offered the utmost assistance of their departments to raise standards and obtain cheaper feed urged quality breeding and stated that the markets were open for high-class stock in uniform quality. Hon. Mr. Kennedy declared: "We are going to try to get a large export market by producing beef of a better quality than in any country of the world and no tariff walls or exchanges will be able to keep it out of the United States or the export markets of the world. Every day buyers from the United States are searching the eastern part of the province for purebred T.B. tested animals and the only reason Canada does not send more across the border is that there are not enough purebreds." The Minister also paid tribute to the Junior Farmers' teams and clubs which encouraged the young farmers to appreciate

their opportunities and which taught them all the knowledge that had been obtained for the improvement of the industry. He said: "These young farmers will improve the live stock of Canada to such a degree that the countries of the world will come to us. We shall not have to go to Denmark or any other country for our purebred bacon sires, for there will be no place in the world where we can get the stock we will have in Canada."

Seeds Are Weed Menace
Studies carried out by Canadian weed specialists show strikingly the menace of weeds through the multitude of their seeds. For instance, a single plant of wild mustard, stinkweed, foxtail, pigweed, or campion, produces from 10,000 to 20,000 seeds; worm-seed mustard about 25,000; shepherd's purse about 50,000 and the tumbling mustard about 1,500,000. Moral: Weeds should never be allowed to go to seed.

About Threshing
Of all reports submitted at the recent 18th annual convention of the Ontario Brotherhood of Threshermen, one of the most interesting was that of W. G. Michael, Dominion Seed Branch, Harriston. This report covered a survey of Western Ontario threshing mills, which he made last autumn.

Mr. Michael pointed out that light grain, and price of cutting, made 1921 a difficult year. Further, he found that most of the common makes of threshing mills were efficient providing they were in a good state of repair and adjusted properly. The survey revealed, however, that the weed screen in the shoe of most mills was entirely inadequate, the usual width of this screen being only 12 to 15 inches, and in some cases the screen was either plugged up or covered with a board. As there is plenty of room in the shoe of all mills for a screen at least four feet wide, Mr. Michael recommends that a screen from three to four feet wide be made standard equipment in all new mills and that this screen be equipped with travelling brushes to keep it clean.

A second weed screen in the deck just behind the cylinder was also recommended. This screen would catch most of the light weed seeds such as sow thistle, which ordinarily go out with the straw. Other observations made in the survey were that 10 per cent. of the threshermen were careless, inexperienced and inefficient and that the work done by this group was uniformly poor. Some farmers in their anxiety to get the threshing over in a hurry would not give the thrasher time to adjust his mill or clean it properly, and in some cases he was not allowed to put on enough wind to clean the grain properly. These cases were, however, the exception rather than the rule.

Grain and weed screens in some cases did not receive enough care. Some mills were too large for Ontario conditions. Some tractors were too small to keep up steady speed, all of which resulted in poorly cleaned grain. As it is now becoming practice to market commercial grain direct from the threshing mill without further cleaning, it is most important that the grain come from the threshing mill in a fairly clean state, and one of the objects of the Brotherhood of Threshermen is, through their organization to improve the quality of work done by the average thrasher.

C. R. Itic Has the Cold

Dear Readers,—I will have to get the little woman to deliver this week's letter to the printers as I have been badly under the weather as the result of having contracted a cold and am sitting pretty close to the kitchen stove. I caught the cold from having got over-heated the other night on my way home from the hockey match in Flesheron. It happened this way: I got a chance to Flesheron to see the game between our boys and the boys there and of course I couldn't stay at home when there was a free trip for me. I enjoyed the game while I watched it and it looked to me as though it might finish a draw. Along about the middle of the game a couple of the players got into a mix-up on the ice and several of the spectators got so interested that they also took a hand in the affair. It looked as though it was spreading to my quarter and I did not want to take any chances on getting them mugged up so I decided to start for home on foot. I walked a part of the way out of the village when I noticed a couple of fellows following so broke into a run and was soon out of their reach. I do not know whether they were after me or not but I was taking no chances. When I got over the hill at Tom Lever's I eased up and walked as far as Bill Coburn's before the first of the Markdale cars came along and picked me up. I was pretty well heated up and riding home in the car gave me a cold which is a dandy. I learned since that the scrap at the rink didn't a-

mount to much and that I would have been quite safe if I had remained and kept my mouth shut. I was pretty well tickled when the boys told me that they had won by a score of four to two but I am afraid that I will not be able to attend any of their games for a few days.

The little woman is not very well pleased with my behavior as she has now to look after the cow and the hens as well as the wool-box. I had expected that some of the boys would have been over to see me but up to the present none of them have enquired as to my condition. I missed getting to the concert given by the High School students but as I was home to look after the youngsters the little woman got an opportunity to go. She is taking advantage of my indisposition to make social calls on her lady friends.

Some of the boys I am told say that Jack Johnston left the Flesheron rink in the same manner and speed as I did but I don't believe it because Jack can run faster and farther than I can and he never passed me on the road. When my cold gets better I am going over to see Jack and find out for sure. Here's hoping that the boys may be able to keep up their winning streak and that the hockey championship may come to Markdale before spring opens up.

Yours truly,
C. R. Itic.

Miss Macphail's Letter

Parliament is once again opened with all pomp and circumstance. The main body of the Senate Chamber had gathered within it the high dignitaries, the judges in their scarlet and ermine were sitting back to back on the woosack immediately below the Governor-General's Throne, representatives of other countries, heads of the different churches, senators, and the ladies of Social Ottawa were seated beautifully dressed in precise rows. On the right hand of the Governor-General stood the Prime Minister looking not too comfortable in regulation Windsor uniform, white satin breeches and all. Last year you may recall he wore a dark suit, brightened only by gold buttons. A little distance away from the Governor-General sat his lady, the Countess of Bessborough. She is a beautiful woman and looked especially regal the day of the opening. Standing near her in Windsor uniform was the Rt. Hon. Arthur Meighen, new leader of the Government forces in the Senate.

The members of the House of Commons were called to the Senate by the general usher of the Black Rod who announces his desire to be admitted to the Green Chamber by three thunderous knocks on the door. The Sergeant-at-Arms goes to see what the noise is about and on recognizing the Black Rod, he turns and after bowing stiffly, announces to the Speaker of the Commons that the Black Rod desires to be admitted. The Speaker rises and says: "Admit the messenger." The Black Rod dressed in Black velvet lavishly trimmed with lace, walks slowly up the great aisle which separates one party from the other in the commons. At intervals he bows low and when not far from the Speaker he informs him that the presence of the members of the Commons now troop to the Senate, chatting and laughing as they go. They crowd close to the bar presumably to listen to the speech being read from the Throne by His Excellency, the Governor-General but such a din do they kick up that not a word of the Throne speech could be heard.

It was the shortest speech being read from the Throne in eleven years. It forecasts almost no legislation. It makes mention of negotiations with the American Government regarding the St. Lawrence waterway, tells us that the railway problem is being investigated by a commission, that a Canadian delegation has gone to take part in a Disarmament Conference in Geneva, and that the Economic Conference would meet here in July. All of which we knew before. The speech announced that a bill relating to insurance, bills relating to patents and trademarks, bills to amend the Canada Shipping Act and Fisheries Act would be brought down. That is all. We ought to be out of here in a month if nothing more develops—but of course we won't be. The Throne speech said that Canada was successfully meeting difficult domestic problems, and comforted us with this remarkable sentence "Conditions are gradually improving" and many papers heralded this as a courageous utterance. The working people of Canada would only be too glad if it were true.

There was a good deal of talk over the Rt. Honourable Arthur Meighen's appointment to the Senate. It seems a sad end for a brilliant man. Government friends say he will put life in the Senate. It will become more like the American Senate; the Upper Chamber, in truth. I have always greatly admired the mental capacity of Mr. Meighen, but whether anything on

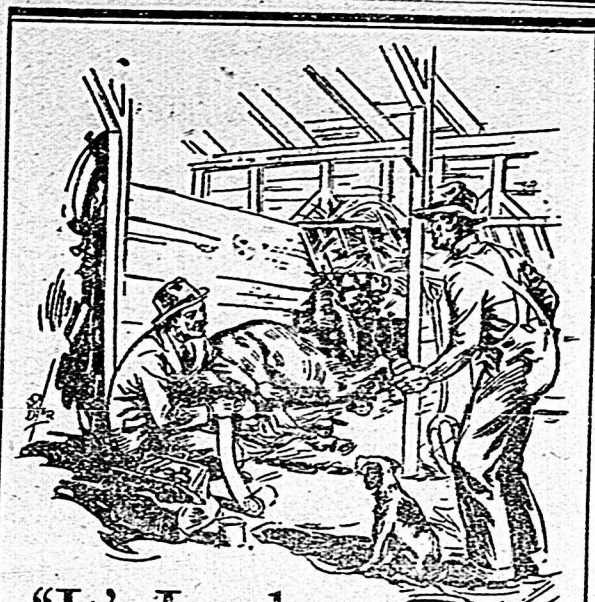
earth can live the Senate remains to be seen. The day after the Opening the House met for less than an hour. Mr. McKenzie King, the leader of the Liberals in the House of Commons commented upon Mr. Meighen's appointment. While saying that he did not agree with the policies which Mr. Meighen advocated, he did admire greatly Mr. Meighen's outstanding attainments as a parliamentarian and exceptional qualifications for the leadership of the Upper House. Mr. King went on: "Yesterday in witnessing the imposing ceremony of the opening of Parliament, I could not help but think of the curious twists and turns of which public life gives so many evidences, when I saw the former leader of the Conservative party (Mr. Meighen), one who had held the position of Prime Minister of Canada, occupying a position to the left of His Excellency, the Governor-General, as leader of the Upper House, when I knew that his ambitions had always been more closely associated with the House of Commons and when I reflected that to the right of the Governor-General in the person of the present Prime Minister was one who, if I am not mistaken, at one time had ambitions which led him rather in the direction of the Upper House and which ambition he was only prevented from realizing because his leader of the day would not give him the appointment to which he aspired. As I looked at these two gentlemen, one at either side of the Throne, I could not help wondering what in the course of time this double-barrelled leadership of the Conservative party was going to mean."

MR. BENNETT. "It will mean two or three fewer Senators at an early date."

There is great speculation as to just what the Prime Minister's remark means. Does it mean that the three Senators connected with the Beauharnois are to be read out? Time only will answer the question. Ottawa had an interesting visitor over the Opening, Miss Jennie Lee, ex-M.P., of Great Britain. This remarkable and good looking young woman has her Doctor of Law and Master of Arts degrees, has sat one parliament in Westminster and is still only 27 years of age and doesn't look that. She is a member of the Labour party and of the Left Wing of it. A group of us greatly enjoyed hearing her views on the British situation. She lectured in Toronto on Sunday and returned to New

York to-day. We parted with her reluctantly. During Miss Lee's visit Senator Cairine Wilson entertained a large number of people at luncheon. It was a very happy party. Mr. Ian McKenzie, a brilliant young member of the Liberal party, enjoyed visiting with Jennie Lee. They are both graduates of Edinburgh University and had many mutual friends. The House gets down to work to-day.

AGNES C. MACPAIL.



"It's Lucky you have a Telephone"

Jim Ross hadn't noticed the broken fence until his favorite roan mare got caught in the barbed wire and cut her leg.

It didn't seem a bad cut at first, but blood poisoning set in and Jim thought he was going to lose a valuable horse. A hurried telephone call brought the veterinary surgeon.

"I think we can save her, Jim," the veterinary said, "but another couple of hours might have been too late. It's lucky you have a telephone."



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