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News and Information for the Busy Farmer

Furnished by the Ontario Department of Agriculture

Crop Rotation Benefits

The chief advantages of crop rotation consist in maintaining the productivity of the land at a higher level, in distributing the farm labour more uniformly throughout the season, and in controlling more effectively weeds, insects, and fungus diseases. Crop rotation is the growing of different crops upon the same land in a definite order and recurring succession.

For Potato Growers

"If marketing conditions had been consistent with the high quality of the 1931 potato crop, last year could be designated as outstanding in the history of potato growing in Ontario," said C. E. Brughton, Ontario Marketing Board, and a practical grower himself. "Actual conditions, however, were anything but reassuring," he continued, "so there should remain, in the minds of potato growers, just two thoughts, namely, benefit from experience and intelligently plan for the 1932 crop."

On being asked for his opinion in this connection, Mr. Brughton replied: "Potatoes require a soil having a high content of humus, and one that is rich in plant food. Acreage should be held at a normal figure. By a normal figure I mean that the amount of acreage set aside for the growing of potatoes, should be limited by the amount of soil pre-eminently suited to producing this particular type of crop."

Mr. Brughton further pointed out the wisdom of using only the best seed procurable and for this purpose he suggested the use of certified seed, exclusively. He also advocated seed treatment as a preventative of scab, rhizoctonia, and black leg. Then so far as proper care of the potato crop is concerned, the two main points are good cultivation and insuring the crop against insects and late blight, by efficient spraying. Finally, he suggested that it is easier to pack a good grade of potato from maximum yields, than from minimum yields, and most important, the surest way to cut the cost of production is to increase the yield per acre.

Concluding the interview, Mr. Brughton said, "Grading of potatoes has made wonderful progress in Ontario during the past three years and it is now possible to get supplies of this product properly graded and in excellent condition. Consequently the trade has not found it necessary to import potatoes to answer their requirements for a high class product this winter."

The Use of Fertilizers.
The primary function of a fertilizer is to furnish plant food in forms which are immediately available, or which may readily become so, in the soil.

One of the main factors in determining crop yields is the amount of plant food available in the soil. When this is not sufficient for good growth it must be supplemented if maximum yields are to be obtained. The several factors which may profoundly affect the results obtained from applying fertilizer include the character of the soil, drainage and methods of working the soil, and the character of the season in respect to rainfall, temperature, etc.

In considering the use of commercial fertilizers one must keep in mind the necessity of maintaining organic matter in the soil as supplied by manure. The principal value in the use of fertilizer is that it permits a more economical and better distribution of farm manure. One is a necessary supplement to the other, and for most soils they work together to produce the best results.

Alfalfa Acreage Increases

Alfalfa now stands sixth in area among all field crops grown in the Province of Ontario and occupies about 650,000 acres. According to James Laughland, Field Husbandry Department, O.A.C., Guelph the great increase in this crop during the last twenty years has been due to the development of hardy strains along with the outstanding merits of Alfalfa as a forage crop. Being a hardy deep rooted perennial legume Alfalfa improves the texture of the soil, adds humus and aids in the storing of nitrates. It begins to grow early in Spring, helps to control weeds and remains green throughout the season. The yield is greater than from Red Clover and Timothy and the hay has a much higher feeding value. The marked increase in the alfalfa acreage during recent years is one of the best reasons for further expansion. The total area devoted to hay and pasture in Ontario amounts to about six million acres. There was a fine crop of alfalfa seed in this province last year and it is now available at reasonable prices. It offers a splendid opportunity to increase the acreage of this most valuable crop.

Controlling Black Root

Root-rot or black-root is a fairly common disease of strawberry plants. Apparently plants of any age may be attacked but they are most susceptible at two periods, shortly after being set out and at fruiting time. In some patches little or no evidence of the disease can be found while in others 50 per cent. or even 70 per cent. of the plants are destroyed.

The principal control measures which have been found useful are:

1. Practise a fairly long crop rotation. Strawberries should not follow a similar crop in less than five years, if possible.
2. Avoid introducing the disease. When setting out a patch secure plants from a field which was free from root-rot the previous year. Then discard from these any plants which have blackened roots.
3. Protect the plants during the winter by means of a suitable mulch. As soon as the ground becomes frozen hard, cover the rows with two or three inches of clean straw.

Facts About Eggs

Two tons of grain will produce 45 dozen of eggs. Sold as grain at a price of \$1 per cwt. it would be worth \$40. Sold as eggs at 25¢ per dozen it would be worth \$120.

An egg is 66 per cent. water, 13 per cent. protein, 10 per cent. fat and 11 per cent. lime or ash.

In an egg 60 per cent is white, 30 per cent. yolk and 10 per cent. shell.

The best eggs of the year are those laid in the months of April, May and June.

An egg eaten between September and March is worth more to the average person in a northern climate than one eaten between April and August.

The egg is aptly termed "bottled sunshine." It is rich in proteins, vitamins and minerals.

Of the five vitamins the egg supplies vitamin A, B, D and E. It is particularly rich in D, the sunshine vitamin.

Bacon-Type Boar Policy

The announcement of the Bacon-Type Boar Policy introduced at Ottawa, is of special interest to farmers at this time when the popular trend in farm operation is toward increased production of livestock, particularly hogs. Under this policy the federal Department undertakes to purchase boars of suitable type for breeding purposes for farmers' clubs of ten or more members each owning a brood sow. By arrangement with provincial governments bonuses are to be paid to clubs on production of service records, the amount being \$20 in the case of a XXX Advanced Registered Boar being used and \$15 where a XXX Approved Boar is used. Complete information as to how to secure the benefit of the new policy can be obtained by application to your local agricultural representative, to the nearest federal swine inspector for your district, or to the Department at Ottawa.

Slats' Diary

Friday—well Bunneace Flick is dummer than I expected her to be when I let her new. I was telling her how the old stage Coaches use to run thru here and she looked at me kinda dum and finely I found out she had herd a lot about stage Coaches but she all ways that they was liveing people witch dreiks a play when they are giveing a Show in the opry house.

Saturday—Pa had a reck with the car this afternoon a women run in to him just out side of Town. Ma sed she bet it was his fat and pa sed Yes it was my fault becuz I seen her coming and I shud ought to of turned off on a Side road when I seen her coming.

Sunday—I gess ma is figerring on Swimming erly this summer becuz she bring home a new Bathing suit today and when she showed it to pa he sed Well heres the belt and Galuses but where is the rest of it. I new all the time that was all they was to it.

Monday—We played basketball after skool tonite and when I come home ma made me take a bath, thats just like a woman. Just when I was beginning to smell like a Athlete why she makes me go and warsh all over like a Molly coddle.

Tuesday—Conzen Rosella bring her new husband up to are house to let us see him this evening. He is a spite, cross eyed and lises and wears Spats and perfume. he also stutters, but pa sed to ma he can see why Rosella tuk him. He at lease wears Pants.

Wednesday—Jake and me went to the creek this evening and fish for a while but didnt get a bite. Ferdy Plaunt seen us coming home with no fish and he sed it was too erly and that the fish wasent wirm Conshus yet.

Thursday—Clem Dugan went home yesterday and told his wife he had discharged the showfeur becuz business was so poor and Mrs. Dugan got mad and sed she Wood not drive the car her own self, so Clem went & sold the car too. Pa says thats what he calls a Man.

C. R. Itte Misses Another Hockey Match

Dear Readers,—I suppose most of you know before this that I failed to get to the hockey match on Wednesday evening of last week and that as a consequence our boys went down to defeat again. It happened this way: I spent the forenoon looking around town for rabbits' feet and failed to find one. In the afternoon I decided that there was only one thing to do and that was to go out and get the rabbits' feet and all. I borrowed a car at one of the garages, cleaned up my old muzzle-loading gun, got a supply of powder and shot and hiked for the open spaces between here and Berkeley. I parked the car at the sink-hole and took to the swamp there but when I had loaded the gun I discovered that I had neglected to bring any caps along and as time was passing I had to do some hustling. I hopped into the car and drove back home at high speed and secured a supply of caps. I was on my way back to the hunting grounds when I noticed a fellow on a motorcycle following me, and of course I knew he was a speed cop. I have no driver's permit and no license to carry a gun so I made up my mind to do my best to out-distance my pursuer and this I was able to do. I turned west at 70'sideroad and came home by way of the backline but without a supply of the luck bringing feet. It was nearly night when I got home and I didn't know what to do but after considerable thought while doing the evening chores I made up my mind to try horseshoes.

After supper I went up to the blacksmith shops, but they were all locked up and I was beat again. I thought of Solomon Grundt's scrap iron and went there in the hope of getting one or two horseshoes. I was successful after diligent search in getting two, one little fellow and one extra large size. By this time the crowd was gathering at the rink. In my hurry from Grundt's yard I nearly bumped into the speed cop who was standing on the sidewalk and in order to escape I turned back. I then went across the lots to the rink property but when I arrived there the cop was standing at the front door. I knew then that he had recognized me and was waiting to nab me so I slipped around behind the rink in hopes that the back door would be open but it wasn't. After standing around for a while I decided that my safest plan was to go home and wait developments.

Nothing occurred and about ten o'clock, after the little woman and the youngsters had gone to bed, I ventured up as far as Kelley's hotel and here I see my friend the speed cop sitting behind the wheel in the big bus which had brought the Erin crowd to town. I went over to Ez White's doorway and watched from there. After a while the crowd began coming from the rink and I was told that Erin had won by a four to one score. The visitors climbed into the bus and away it went with Mr. Cop at the wheel. On enquiry I found out that the fellow was a bus driver and only wore a uniform like a cop. I am beginning to think that only my own fears prevented me from getting to the game. The little woman says I shouldn't tell this because the people will have a good joke on me when they find it out, but the matter is too serious to treat in that way as our boys lost a perfectly good hockey match as a result.

I had a very great disappointment on Friday. When I was up town in the afternoon I made enquiry and found out that the boys were not going to Erin that night but just at supper time as one of the neighbors passed he informed me that the boys had gone. I felt pretty bad about them getting away without me as I had procured a good supply of rabbits' feet and horseshoes but there is no use making excuses now. One of the boys told me that Ed. Macfarlane was the only one of the boys who carried a foot with him and that he got Markdale's only counter, which goes to prove again that if I had been along with my contribution the boys could not have lost. So ends hockey for 1932 and now let us get busy preparing for our summer sports.

C. R. Itte.

Canadian and American Banks

(The Alliston Herald)
Bank failures in the United States during the year 1931 numbered 2290. In Canada there were no bank failures, our banking institutions without exception making enough money to pay the usual dividends to their stockholders. Nor has there been a bank failure in Canada since 1923 and unless there is some kind of cataclysm in the financial world there will probably never be another bank failure in Canada. Yet we have people who are continually sniping at the Banks. They call them big interests and other such foolish epithets to arouse the prejudice of those who know nothing of the solidarity of Canadian guardians of the people's money.

Undoubtedly Canadian Banks are great institutions; they have to be.

They control vast sums of money; it is all entrusted to them by the people who want a safe place to deposit their money. Further than providing safe custody for any amount of funds the Banks allow three percent interest on the deposits of their customers whether the banks are able to get seven percent or only four percent for the money they loan. But the Bank takes the risk always of losing some of the money of its depositors and when such losses occur it is the Bank and not the depositor that makes good the loss. The owner of the money is always safe.

National Banks in the United States do likewise so long as their resources will permit. But the weakness of the Banks in that country is their lack of resource. They have not the length and breadth of the country from which to draw earnings and in which to do business as have the Banks in Canada. Were Alliston in one of the American states it might possibly have two Banks doing business within its confines. One might be the National Bank of Alliston and the other the more expensive name of the Simcoo National Bank. Both would have limited capital, probably \$100,000 subscribed by the people of the town and vicinity. If the town were fortunate enough to have one Bank the capital might reach the \$150,000 mark and it might even go to \$200,000. The business of the Bank would be confined to Alliston. It would have no connections outside the town and immediate vicinity. Its manager would be chosen by the board of directors all of whom would be the paramount ambition of this Bank. Industries would probably be induced by some means to locate here where they would be financed by the Bank which would wake up some morning to discover that a whole lot of the depositors' money held by the Bank and loaned to one or more industrial establishments was probably lost as the depression had forced the industries to the wall. That is precisely what has been happening in hundreds of towns and cities in the States ever since the depression descended upon us.

There are some very strong Banks in the United States. One, the Chase National Bank in New York, is one of the strongest financial institutions in the world. It has a number of branches in other cities,

but there are no incorporated banks in the United States with branches spread all over the country as there are in Canada. Most if not all Canadian Banks have branches in American cities and these Banks are very popular with the people of these cities who know the strength of Canadian Banks and entrust their money to their keeping. The Chicago branch of one of Canada's strongest Banks has more money on deposit than it can possibly use.

Fisherman Wrecked

Peter was a deep sea fisherman who came to Ontario, married and made his home here. Went in for commercial fishing, but he says the winter work here is even more trying than among the fogs and ice floes of he was working harder because there were now two people dependent on his earnings. Anyway, he caught a severe cold which brought on pleurisy, and his old fishing partner, because he was working harder because there were now two people dependent on his earnings, went to the hospital for treatment—his only chance.

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