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NEWS AND INFORMATION FOR THE BUSY FARMER

Furnished by the Ontario Department of Agriculture

Henocacy

"Henocacy" is the term that the Illinois College of Agriculture applies to the new system under which hens are kept in individual metal coops, assembled in battery form. It is reported that at Miami, Florida, for example, 60,000 laying hens have been placed in batteries, in a 500-room hotel. The hen is even deprived of an opportunity to admire her egg, for as soon as the egg is laid, it rolls out of her sight, into a gathering trough.

New Publications

Publications of interest to farmers recently issued by the Department include the following: "Vegetable Gardening" (Bulletin No. 369) by T. H. Jones, Dept. of Horticulture and N. J. Thomas, Dept. of Chemistry, O.A.C., and O. J. Robb, Horticultural Experimental Station, Viareland; Annual Report of the Ontario Agricultural and Experimental Union for 1932; and the 62nd annual report of the Entomological Society of Ontario. Copies of these interesting and valuable booklets can be procured through your local agricultural office or by writing to the Publications Branch, Ontario Department of Agriculture, Toronto.

Weekly Crop Report

Farmers throughout Ontario are elated at the higher prices being paid for hogs and a still further increase is prophesied owing to the scarcity. The farmer who continued in the hog business will now reap the benefit of his good judgment. There is a large demand for one-day-old chicks in most parts of the province. Beneficial rains for winter wheat and clovers have fallen recently in many parts of the province. Roads are soft and highway officers in numerous counties are enforcing the half-load regulation on trucks. Considerable activity in preparation for spring work is noticed everywhere and farmers in Kent County report injury to new seedlings of clover. Warm rains have helped in Lincoln county to revive wheat, alfalfa and clover fields. Some cars of certified seed potatoes are coming into Middlesex and there is more than usual interest in soy beans. A big increase in number of old orchards being pruned and sprayed this year is noted in Welland. Hog prices in Wentworth reached \$6.00 per cur. Breeders' reports in Durham indicate some flocks of sheep showing close to 200 per cent lamb production.

Revival of Old Practice

Seen in Brisker Export
Since the beginning of January, Canada has shipped to Great Britain some 6,000 head of cattle and this number will be increased to 20,000 by the early part of June.

With the revival of our export trade with the Old Country, a popular practice of some thirty years ago may be re-established. Transportation companies make provision for one man to travel with each carload of cattle and, when export trade was brisk, many farmers availed themselves of this opportunity to visit Great Britain. In addition to those engaged in agricultural pursuits, it has been stated that a great number of Ontario's older professional men, during their college days, visited England and Scotland as a result of getting the job of tending cattle in transport.

Wound Dressings

The grafting compounds mentioned previously in this column were all tried in a small way as wound dressings and in addition several asphalt paint compounds. The effect of tree vigor on wound healings was evident. Medium-sized wounds on vigorous trees healed quickly and well without any treatment. Most of the materials used retarded healing on all wounds as compared to those untreated. The two exceptions were Braco and Latex, which encouraged callus formation. The clean, healthy callus formed with Latex has been mentioned previously. Paraffin was intermediate in its effects on wound healing.

The value of these compounds so far as prevention of decay is concerned, is still uncertain. Small wounds, up to 1 1/2 inches in diameter, will doubtless heal safely without any treatment whatever. Larger wounds should have the point of infection and decay, the centre of the wound, protected. One of the tar compounds, kept away from the outer edge of the wound, should be valuable as it lasts indefinitely and penetrates into the wood. Braco is very satisfactory and protects for at least three years. The asphalt paints, if kept from the edge of the wound, appears to give good protection. Ordinary paint and liquid grafting wax are not so satisfactory.

Ontario Sends 302 Entries to Regina

Of the 2,500 entries received by the World's Grain Show and Con-

ference at Regina on the closing date, 302 were from the Province of Ontario. A. H. Martin, Secretary of the Ontario Committee, states that the classes receiving the heaviest entry from Ontario are: Red clover, 29 entries; alsike 26; white winter wheat, 16; medium or late oats, 14; six rowed barley, 15; field beans (small white) 13; alfalfa, 12. All the leading grain and seed exhibitors of the Province have made one or more entries.

D. L. Scott, Carleton County, who won the \$500 malting barley prize at the 1932 Royal is represented in several classes, and Mrs. Mary E. Maycock of Prince Edward County, the only woman who has ever won three championships in succession at the Chicago International Grain and Hay Show, has sent an excellent sample of beans. Howard Farleigh, M.P.P., Forest, is represented in the flax section, and J. H. Lammman of Ridgeway, a winner at Chicago, is forward again with beans. Gordon Finlay, also of Kent County, winner of the grand championship in soybeans at Chicago last year, has sent an extra good sample to Regina. The Ottawa Valley, Peel County, and Northern Ontario are represented with superior product, and when the judging is completed there should be some good news for Ontario.

The World's Grain Exhibition and Conference is held at Regina this year from July 24 to August 5.

Seed Corn For 1933

Some concern has been felt relative to this spring's supply of seed corn of domestic production. It is believed, however, that the amount of suitable seed available may be sufficient to meet the usual demand if necessary care is exercised in putting on the market only the best of the crop for seed.

It is estimated that part of the 1932 corn crop in south-western Ontario was harvested under conditions unfavourable for seed production and that a large percentage of fields did not mature sufficiently to produce corn of seed quality. At the present time the average moisture content of last year's corn is thought to be 17 or 18%.

On the other hand dealers state that while Ontario corn of the 1932 crop is lower in general quality than was the corn of 1931, there is plenty that will grade well over the requirements for No. 1 seed. Added to this, there is a certain carry over of 1931, much of which, with rechecking of germination will probably be suitable for seed.

Prompt and vigorous germination is a prime requisite in all kinds of seed. This is particularly essential in corn, and since much of last year's corn crop is known to be unsuitable for seed purposes, seed dealers purchasing corn for resale, and farmers purchasing for use on their own farms, should exercise great care in their selection of seed.

MISS M'PHAIL'S LETTER

Ottawa, in a small way, is experimenting with barter exchange. People without money, or short of money, are exchanging goods for services, or services for services; for instance a Rideau Street merchant wants painting and paper hanging done and in exchange he will give groceries. A chauffeur registers at the exchange to say he will drive part time for his meals and a mechanic will work on a farm in exchange for farm produce. A farmer will exchange a cow for hardwood flooring and so on. Typists, carpenters, painters, nurses and others have registered. The office space, telephone service, etc., are being donated. Such plans have been tried on a rather large scale in California and Minneapolis and it surely emphasizes our shortage of the exchange medium—money.

A conference of English clergymen, both last year and this year, has studied carefully the economic situation. They asked orthodox and unorthodox financiers and economists to address them and before the gathering dispersed, issued a pamphlet "The Christian Faith and the Economic Depression." It makes most interesting reading and is in part: "Oppressed by the poverty of our people, their lack of work and loss of hope and the consequent danger of deterioration, we have been impelled to come together for mutual counsel. Convinced that such a situation is contrary to the Mind and Will and Purpose of God, we now issue a message of confidence and hope. We believe that our Lord's offer to mankind included freedom, health and happiness, which are part of the abundant life and that this involves not only the spiritual but also the material. In this age of plenty there is no necessity for the scarcity which is everywhere afflicting mankind. . . . Clearly the present state of affairs cannot go on. . . . The Christian Church has vital concern in these problems. In the name of Christian love we must take account of the widespread human suffering. . . . The development of technology has outstripped the development in the social and moral sciences, including that of finance. . . . We believe that a prior condition of the machine finding its true place is that industry be released from the domination of the present monetary system."

"We indict the monetary system as a whole, on the ground that it is not doing what we are justified in expecting it to do, namely, to arrange for the proper distribution and exchange of goods and services. . . . We are told that one nation by itself cannot reform its monetary system owing to its dependence upon international factors. To wait for universal consent on the matter is a policy of drift and despair; and we believe that if our nation were to give a lead, other nations would be prepared to co-operate with us."

England is to be congratulated on her ministers and their wisdom. During the week, Mr. P. G. Davies, Conservative member for Athabasca, Alberta, made a strong speech against the gold standard. He argued that gold was too scarce to be a safe base for currency and that it was not equitably distributed. He suggested that if currency cannot be increased without an increase in the gold base, the logical thing would be to put the unemployed to mining gold. I have often said the same thing, so am comforted to hear Mr. Davies agree with me. The solution really lies in abandoning gold as a basis of currency. It is noteworthy too that the Hon. Chas. Stewart in his speech on the budget came out in support of controlled inflation.

Usually the budget debate once begun is carried on without interruption until it has been disposed of, but this year estimates, government resolutions, etc., have broken the budget debate into many parts, which I think makes it less interesting. The debate on penitentiaries was one such interruption. The recent riots, the appointment of many new officials and the government resolution seeking to take the chief penitentiary appointments away from the jurisdiction of the Civil Service Commission, have aroused a much-needed interest on the part of the public in the penal system.

Many years ago when Mr. C. J. Doherty was Minister of Justice, a Royal Commission was appointed which studied carefully penal systems in English speaking countries and on the basis of their study made recommendations. Had these recommendations been carried out the riots I believe would not have occurred and certainly the two moving stories told in the House this week by General Ross, the member for Kingston, and the Hon. Hugh Guthrie, Minister of Justice, would never have had foundation in fact. General Ross said: "There is something at the bottom of all this trouble and I have repeatedly pointed out what I think it is. Let me illustrate. On one occasion a boy 15 years of age and wearing knee breeches was brought in to the penitentiary accompanied by a six-footer. What was the trouble? This man had arrived at the boy's home on the Bay of Quinte; the boy knew no crime, no wrong. It is true that his father was not all that he should have been, but the boy had never gone wrong. He had a dog and a sleigh, and the man coaxed him one day to hitch the dog to the sleigh and come along with him. The boy escorted the man across the Bay to a summer camp and something was stolen from it. Along with this man that 15-year-old boy was sent to Portsmouth Penitentiary for two or three years. When he arrived at the institution in those knee breeches he burst into tears. What was the reason? 'I am afraid,' he said, 'that nobody will feed my dog.' That boy knew no crime until he got into penitentiary; now he is there on his fourth commitment and he stands to-day as one of the ring-leaders of this riot. Who is responsible for such a situation?"

In the first place a boy of 15 should not be sent to penitentiary and in the second place a penitentiary should be run in a way to develop citizens, not 'repeaters.' It is said that every conviction costs the State \$1200; if that is so, the four commitments of this boy have cost the State much more than his education and development would have.

In August of 1931 a plot was uncovered in the Kingston Penitentiary and as a consequence seven or eight prisoners were seized and placed in 'isolated cells.' This means solitary confinement and usually very poor food. They were allowed to remain in these cells until General Ormond arrived twelve months later. Can we wonder that men act as brutes if they are treated as brutes?

The Co-operative Commonwealth Federation moved an amendment to the budget which is a rather lengthy preamble outlined conditions and as remedies moved: "That in the opinion of this House the government should give immediate consideration to the introduction of such measures as may

(a) Make available the real credit of the nation through the instrumentality of a national central bank and render possible the utilization and control of this credit for the legitimate needs of the people of this country;

(b) Bring about such a degree of controlled inflation as would stabilize the price level of our chief commodities at a point where it would bear a reasonable relation to the cost of production and to incurred obligations;

(c) Provide employment and purchasing power of our people

through the above-mentioned means and where necessary, by the direct use of our national credit in the construction of public works of various kinds and in other ways which might be suggested, including the construction of houses, etc.

(d) Insure more equitable dis-

tribution of the national income through well considered methods of taxation and the legislative control of interest, profits and investment;

(e) Nationalise our insurance systems, including the establishment of such systems of social insurance as may be necessary for the protec-

tion and well-being of our people."

I am sorry to have missed writing last week but the flu kept me a prisoner in a Toronto hotel and there just was not anything I could do about it.

AGNES C. MACPHAIL
House of Commons, Ottawa



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