

**News and Information
FOR THE BUSY FARMER**

[Furnished by the Ontario Department of Agriculture]

Apple Export Figures

In spite of an unusually large crop of good quality apples in Great Britain in 1936, and a consequent large pack of gallon apples, the export of apples from Canada to the British market was greater than in 1935 by nearly 20,000 cases, the exact figures being 205,415 cases in 1936 and 188,050 cases in 1935.

Straw as an Absorbent

Straw when used as bedding for live stock will absorb from two to three times its weight of liquid, and if finely cut will soak up about three times as much liquid as when uncut. Further, the absorptive capacity of dry sawdust and fine shavings is from two to four times that of ordinary straw.

Horses of not more than \$150 in value imported into the United States from Canada are dutiable at \$20 per head; horses over \$150 in value are subject to a duty of 20 per cent. ad valorem. Prior to January, 1936, the duty on horses of not more than \$150 in value was \$30 per head. From 1931 to 1935 there was a slow but steady increase in the number of Canadian horses imported into the United States and in 1936 the imports rose to 17,156 head for the not more than \$150 classification and to 326 head for horses over the \$150 figure.

Early Tomato Production

The best prices for tomatoes are paid for early, ripe fruit, but the grower must not make the mistake of having the plants cost more than is reasonable.

The Dominion Horticulturist recommends early sowing coupled with the use of early maturing, good varieties. The sowing should be made just early enough to have stocky well grown plants in bloom

and ready for planting out at the sign of settled weather.

Soils unduly rich in nitrogen tend to promote rank wood growth and a small amount of fruit. Low nitrogen, high phosphoric acid and a medium amount of potash are essential to good results.

Help to Make Canada More Beautiful

The unlovely things and unattractive places in Canada that displease the eye are made by man. It is time he set out to undo some of the damage that has been done. There are primrose paths for all to tread who care to make them. An amazing amount of worry can be spaded under along those paths in a bright spring afternoon. Since Adam tilled the first garden many pastimes have come to claim their thousands but have passed out of the picture while gardening has stood through the centuries. There must be something in it. Buy some flower seeds, plant some flowers or shrubs this spring. Help to make Canada more beautiful.

Current Crop Report

According to reports received from many points in Ontario, Fall wheat appears to have come through the winter in very good condition and recent rains have helped wonderfully. While in some districts Fall wheat is very brown on top, it is still green at the crown, and fields that had a good top and root system are coming through splendidly. Work on the land has commenced in many parts of Southern Ontario and some seed has been sown. Fruit farmers are busy spraying their orchards. Grey County reports an auctioneer selling a three-year-old calf for \$181.00. At another sale cows sold as high as \$69, with their calves at foot selling for another \$10. At another sale the total sales amount-

ed to over \$2,100, of which \$1,800 was paid in cash. Wellington County also reports numerous auction sales, and similar reports come from other counties. In many cases sheep and cattle are bringing good prices, while seed grain generally brings a premium. The run of sap is light in Dundas County, with maple syrup selling at \$1.50 to \$2.00 per gallon. Grenville and Prescott & Russell also report a very poor season for maple syrup. In Renfrew County five machines for treatment of grain for smut and other seed-borne diseases have been installed, all of them doing considerable business.

Vermin in Poultry

It seems impossible to get growth in chicks or satisfactory production from the laying flock if vermin is present. The hen doesn't seem to be able to eat enough feed to keep vermin alive and at the same time keep up normal production. The hen and chick must depend upon the poultryman to keep down the pests which cut into the profits. If the birds have a good dry dust in which to work, body lice are fairly well kept in check. The birds may be dusted with an insect powder, or nicotine applied to the roosts shortly before the birds go on the roosts is effective.

The nests sometimes become infested and for this reason all nests should be frequently cleaned and dusted with insect powder, then fresh chaff or straw put in the nests. One should avoid using in the nest a disinfectant with a strong odor or straw that is musty. It is well known that eggs absorb odors. There is really no excuse to have the poultry plant over-run with vermin, but it multiplies fast in warm weather, and if preventative or control measures are not used the hens will soon be tormented and production will drop.

Seed Treatment

Farmers are now busy making preparations for spring seeding. Good crops and heavy yields are directly associated with the use of clean healthy seed of the best quality. The annual losses, due to the ravages of seed-borne bacterial and fungous parasites, are much greater than the average farmer realizes. For this reason, all seed should be treated before it is sown, regardless of its quality.

Seed treatment of wheat, oats and barley has been greatly simplified in recent years with the appearance on the market of organic mercury dusts. These dusts, when properly applied, effectively control the smuts of oats, covered smut of barley, bunt or stinking smut of wheat and the other seed-borne fungi and bacteria that are responsible for the blights and root rots commonly found in our cereal crops. Due to their easy application, effectiveness and stimulation to germination, they are rapidly replacing formalin and copper carbonate. They are not, however, recommended as a control for the loose smuts of wheat and barley. These smuts are not affected by the use of the ordinary seed treatments, but can be controlled by the hot water treatment.

In applying organic mercury dusts to the seed, care should be exercised to follow instructions as outlined on the container. The amount of dust recommended should be evenly distributed over the seed coat. Insufficient dust will be ineffective in control, and an excess will injure germination. Grain, after being treated with mercury dust, should not be fed to live stock or poultry, or used for human consumption. It can, however, be kept over, under suitable storage conditions, and used as seed the following year.

The thought pops up: What were the big guns of the sit down strike idea doing, not so long ago, to help bump Old Man Depression out of the saddle in which he seemed to be seated so surely?



Saugeen Lodge No. 327
Markdale, Ont.

MONDAY, MAY 3rd — Regular Meeting for General Business.

ROY FREEMAN, Noble Grand
W. J. COLGAN, Recording Sec.
HERB. WALKER, Financial Sec.

**Can You Name the
Two Best
Known Men**

throughout the County of Grey and Living in the following Municipalities:

**Artemesia, Chatsworth,
Euphrasia, Flesherton,
Glenelg, Holland, Markdale**

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PRIZES

FIRST \$3 to \$9 SECOND \$2 to \$6 THIRD \$1 to \$3

SEE PAGE 1 FOR FULL PARTICULARS

BALLOT

Name two men from each municipality whom you consider the best known

- No. 1, Artemesia
- No. 2, Artemesia
- No. 1, Chatsworth
- No. 2, Chatsworth
- No. 1, Euphrasia
- No. 2, Euphrasia
- No. 1, Flesherton
- No. 2, Flesherton
- No. 1, Glenelg
- No. 2, Glenelg
- No. 1, Holland
- No. 2, Holland
- No. 1, Markdale
- No. 2, Markdale

Signed

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