

News and Information FOR THE BUSY FARMER

[Furnished by the Ontario Department of Agriculture]

Ontario Honey Crop

Ontario has one of the smallest crops of honey in the last ten years. Other producing areas are in exactly the same plight, the world markets are lower in honey than for many years, states Dr. E. J. Dyce, head of the agricultural department at the Ontario Agricultural College.

The extraordinary shortage of honey is due to the shortage of clover and to the wet weather early this year. There has been very little clover available at any time this season.

The honey shortage is particularly unusual since almost all other crops are exceptionally good. Although honey prices have not yet risen, there is no doubt that they will increase. Quebec and other areas producing honey have an equally short crop.

Fruit and Vegetable Prospects

The commercial apple crop in Ontario is estimated at 759,800 barrels, as compared with 703,500 barrels in 1936, or an increase of 8%. An increase of 26% in the section of the province west of Toronto, more than offsets a reduction of 16% in orchards east of Toronto. Peaches are 25% greater in volume, being placed at 503,000 bushels this season, as against 402,300 bushels last year; and plums, while a decidedly light crop, are estimated at 52,700 bushels, a gain of 28% over the extremely small yield of 41,200 bushels in 1936. Pear production shows a decline of 22%, at 153,500 bushels as compared with 196,800 bushels a year ago.

Apples are sizing particularly well and coloring has improved greatly with the cooler weather prevailing during the past two weeks. Recent winds have caused some loss in Eastern Ontario, and several localized areas in Western Ontario, especially in Georgian Bay and Middlesex districts. Infestation of Apple Maggot is lighter this season, and Corky Core is practically absent in most districts. Side-worm injury is variable and there is considerable scab showing, particularly in Eastern Ontario.

Picking of McIntosh is now under way in many orchards. Export movement has been light so far, but larger shipments will be forwarded in the next few days. In clean and well-sprayed orchards buyers are paying as high as \$3.00 per barrel for McIntosh on the trees, \$2.50 for Snows, and \$2.00 for other varieties. Truck movement has not reached heavy proportions yet.

Plums have sized good, but unfavorable weather conditions causing decay adversely affected the production of early and mid-season varieties. Late varieties are in good condition. The sizing of peaches has been excellent, but somewhat offset by brown-rot conditions. The Elberta crop now being harvested shows very little loss. The weather has been favorable for the development of all varieties of pears, but worm injury is quite prevalent in many Bartlett orchards.

The grape crop is sizing and coloring well, with generally compact bunches. The Hopper damage is more patchy this season than usual, and in some vineyards quite severe injury has occurred. Otherwise pests are well under control.

Care Required in Harvesting Potatoes

The time has arrived when the late potato crop is to be harvested and growers should give careful thought to ways and means of eliminating, as far as possible, a lot of unnecessary cuts and bruises which result from careless or poor harvesting and handling.

Many growers seem to lose sight of the fact that after spending the whole season in producing a good crop they bruise or damage many tubers—making them more or less unsalable or subject to a low grading—by hurrying the harvesting operations. Producing large yields per acre is not the whole story; without quality, quantity is of little value.

The consumer is demanding more and more a high quality product, and if farmers are to dispose of their

crop at a profit they must make a special effort to put up a high grade article.

Mechanical injury (cuts and bruises) which not infrequently develop into serious rots are often caused by improper digging methods. Potatoes should be dug when the soil is reasonably dry. The digger should be so adjusted that plenty of soil is carried between the machine and the tubers. This applies both to the elevator and to the rotary type of machine. Padding should be inserted or so placed on or near the moving parts of the digger to act as a bumper. A simple change or adjustment or padding here and there will often eliminate considerable injury.

The pickers and other handlers should also be warned not to dump the tubers into baskets, barrels or bags, or otherwise roughly handle them. Similar care should be taken in placing them in the storage bins and in moving them from these to the grading machines. These machines, too, should have the moving parts adjusted or padded so that the tubers do not bruise.

Growers and dealers alike should see to it that a good pack is put on the market. All off-grade tubers should be removed, the sacks clean, and the bags should be full weight when packed. Good quality will always result in repeat orders. This applies as much to seed as it does to table potatoes.

Soil Testing

Many farmers in Grey County have asked about testing their soil in order that they may be placed in a better position to intelligently order the grade of fertilizer required to produce maximum crop yields, or at least those proportionate to outlay involved. Accordingly, a "Rapid Soil Test Outfit" was added to equipment of the Grey County Branch of the Department of Agriculture.

The soil tests can be made in the winter time, provided the soil samples are collected before the land becomes frozen. The plan then is to secure the samples during the next month. No testing, however, will be done till after the Royal Winter Fair.

How to Take Samples

1. Samples may be taken at any time during the year.
 2. If a composite sample must represent the average soil in the field, then soil samples should be taken in a number of places—one in every acre approximately.
 3. Should the soil vary in type to an extreme degree—such as a high part of the field and a level flat in another part, two composite samples should be secured.
 4. Remove any grass or rubbish on the surface.
 5. A spade or trowel can be used.
 6. Make a vertical cut to a depth of six or eight inches. Lift out this spadeful and throw away.
 7. Carefully take a thin slice down the face of the cut. Put this in a box.
 8. Do the same in other sections of the field and place in the box with that already taken.
 9. After a sufficient number of samples have been taken, thoroughly mix. It may be necessary to dry the sample so clods can be broken up, stones, etc. removed.
 10. Do not dry with artificial heat.
 11. After thorough mixing, save about one pint. This can be sent or taken to the Department of Agriculture, Markdale, or left at some centre where the samples could be collected.
 12. All testing will be done free of charge. Any further information can be secured from T. Stewart Cooper, Markdale.
- It is hoped that a complete soil test and map may be made of Grey County in the near future. Already an application has gone forward. Farmers are asked to co-operate. It may prove the means whereby some soils suitable for growing special crops may be revealed.

LIVE STOCK MARKET REPORT

by
DUNN & LEVACK, TORONTO

Seven thousand cattle, including leftovers from the week previous, were offered for sale on the market on Monday and the trade continued much the same as the week previous, as the bulk of the offering consisted of medium quality cattle, for which there was a limited outlet. Choice baby beefs, cows and bulls held about steady, while all other classes of cattle generally were lower.

Only a few lots of choice heavy steers brought 9.00, with the most of the fair to good weighty steers selling from 6.00 to 7.50. In the butcher section, choice baby beefs sold at from 10.00 to 10.50, but those of medium to good quality were lower, from 5.50 to 8.00. Choice handy weight butcher steers and heifers sold at from 5.50 to 7.00 top, with the bulk of the sales of fair to good butchers from 5.00 to 6.00; common to medium 3.75 to 4.50. Only a small percentage of the stockers and feeders on offer, were of desirable selection, best light kind from 4.50 to 5.00 and feeders of heavier weights from 5.50 to 6.00; fair to good stockers ranged from 4.00 to 4.50; common to medium 3.25 to 3.75. Choice light heifers, cows sold at from 5.00 to 5.25 and choice fat cows from 4.00 to 4.50; fair to good from 3.00 to 4.00; canners and cutters 2.25 to 2.75. Choice butcher bulls brought from 3.50 to 4.25; bolognas from 3.00 to 3.65.

Supplies of lambs were heavy and the trade very slow, sales being made on the basis of 8.00 for choice ewes and 7.00 for bucks, the market closing very weak on Monday. Choice butcher sheep sold at from 3.50 to 4.25. The calf market was active and steady, with choice calves selling at from 9.00 to 9.50; fair to good from 7.00 to 8.50; common to

medium 5.00 to 7.00; grass calves 4.00 to 4.25.

The hog market worked lower on account of liberal supplies and much lower reports from the United Kingdom. Monday's sales were made on the basis of 9.75 for truck deliveries, with the possibility of lower prices during the balance of the week.

The market will be open on Monday, Thanksgiving Day, in order to assist the shippers and buyers of stocker and feeders, as well as other classes of cattle.

Monday next, October 11th, will be Thanksgiving Day and a public holiday. All business places in Markdale will be closed for the day.

KEEPING MONEY EMPLOYED

Wealth may be accumulated either by employing labour or by employing money, which in turn is again used to employ labour.

Few individuals can employ labour, but everyone may employ money.

When you deposit your money in a savings account in The Bank of Toronto, it is employed, earning interest which increases your capital until the time comes when you have a sufficient sum and the opportunity to make a permanent investment.

See our Branch Manager about opening a savings account—it is a very simple matter.

THE BANK OF TORONTO

Incorporated 1855

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STRATHAVON

Corn cutting is the order of the day in this vicinity.

The Ladies' Aid, and M. C. will meet at the home of Mrs. French Ramage on Wednesday.

Miss Jean Slight spent the week-end with the Mustard family.

Mrs. Geo. Ramage and daughters visited with Walters Falls relatives on the week-end.

Mrs. Art Torrie and Clayton spent a few days with Messrs. Dave and Joe Boyd in Riverdale.

A "fake" doctor robbed 87-year-old Jas. Hawkins of \$10 while the aged man lay helpless in bed at his Ridgetown home.

HYDRO IS YOURS....USE IT!



THE SHOW MUST GO ON!

There is an unwritten law in the theatrical profession. Regardless of what happens—"the show must go on!" In thousands of theatres throughout Ontario this same traditional rule still applies, but in a different way. Today, "the show must go on"—with Hydro.

The "Talkies" and Hydro, bring to the cities and the small towns alike, the best the theatre offers in drama, music, comedy, while travelogues and news-reels bring a new form of education.

Hydro also makes it possible to enjoy your theatre night right through the hottest season, with the aid of air conditioning and cooling systems, which the majority of theatres now provide.

This same Hydro service that is essential for the "Talkies" is also necessary for night baseball, tennis, lawn bowling and other forms of night entertainment and sport, which electricity now makes it possible to enjoy to a much greater degree.

Thus in the realm of entertainment and sport—as in so many other phases of activity—Hydro—your Hydro—makes an essential contribution to a better, happier, healthier livelihood for the people of the Province of Ontario with its low-cost power.

The success of Hydro in being able to lower power costs in the past two years in the face of a general increase in the price of practically everything we use, is a noteworthy achievement. Its continuous efforts to lower these power costs still further, and extend the benefits which accrue throughout the Province of Ontario, is a matter in which you should be vitally interested.

The
HYDRO ELECTRIC POWER COMMISSION
of Ontario