

A WEEKLY EDITOR LOOKS AT Ottawa

With speciality for the weekly columns of Canada
By JIM GREENBLAT

Most of us will be sending Christmas parcels to the kids and lassies overseas. Last Christmas season over 12 million lbs. of parcel mail was despatched; this year the Postmaster General figures there will be a great increase, so here are suggested deadlines: Sept. 15 for the Far East, India, Burma, Ceylon, etc.; Oct. 5 for Middle East area, i.e. Egypt, Iran, Syria; Oct. 10 for Central Mediterranean Forces and Oct. 25 for the United Kingdom and France. Don't let the boys and girls be disappointed through late mailing. The special rate is 12 cents a pound for the maximum weight of 11 lbs. "Pack properly, address carefully," is the advice given.

Canada Gazette carries a proclamation setting Monday, October 9th, 1944 as Thanksgiving Day. "As a day of general thanksgiving to Almighty God for the blessings with which the people of Our Dominion of Canada have been favored during this year; and We do hereby invite all Our people of Canada to observe the said day as a day of general thanksgiving."

The honey season presents a variety of unexpected problems to Canada's rural housewives. The Consumer Branch in Ottawa has had enquiries, for instance: "Do I need to collect preserves coupons at the rate of one for every two pounds when I supply my doctor with honey in lieu of money for his bill?" "Does my feed dealer need to surrender coupons when I send him honey instead of money to settle my account?" The answer is that coupons must be collected from the doctor to cover the amount of honey he takes and the same holds true for the feed dealer. These may be turned in to the Local Ration Board at the end of the month. However, farmers' wives don't surrender coupons for honey consumed in their own homes.

The Chief of the Fur Grading and Inspection Services in Ottawa reports that fur farming is really a big business in Canada, representing an investment of some \$40,000,000. In 1943 the value of Canadian raw fur production from fur farms and caught by trappers hit a new record, \$27,694,000. Mink topped the list with nearly \$6 million, muskrats second with a value of \$5 million; then silver fox with 4 1/2 million and coyotes or prairie wolf, \$3 million. He states that with lifting of restrictions recently Persian Lamb promises to be a leader for women's coats this coming winter, pelts coming principally from Southwest Africa and Persia. Before the war Britain marked about 65% of the output of Canadian silver fox pelts, but that market being closed since 1939, the U.S.A. market has been open for about 70,000 pelts per year. We produced about 385,000 silver fox pelts in 1939, but production was down to 140,000 last year. Quality however, was definitely higher.

Despite the drain of young people from the farm due to war's exigencies, interest in junior farm club work is being maintained. The annual national championships events for 1944 will be held at Toronto during the week beginning November 19 with contests for dairy cattle, beef cattle, swine, poultry, seed grain and potato projects followed by educational tours ending in Ottawa, Friday November 24th.

Books by the thousand have been packed and shipped by Canadian Army personnel in Toronto for Canadian prisoners of war in Germany. The German government, of course, stipulates what they can or cannot read. Many prisoners request books providing "food for thought". Many are reading Shakespeare and Dickens for the first time. Favorites are the stories of Sabatini, Galsworthy, Buchan, Dumas. Prisoners watch eagerly for Canadian writers and works.

The June report of the Wartime Bureau of Technical Personnel shows there is a continued shortage of technical persons in certain specialized lines. This situation has existed for the past three years. An example of the problems facing the Bureau was the sudden need for scientists and technical workers to produce a large supply of the wonder drug, penicillin. Before these needs were fully met, shell production was unexpectedly stepped up again, resulting in a further search for persons with scientific training. An important factor affecting supply of technical persons is the limited extent to which women are qualified in the required technical knowledge. Among the 350 women who graduate each year and become qualified as technical persons, about one half are in the field of household

economics and most of the remainder rather generalized courses in science. The activities of this Bureau has played an important part in making Canada's high industrial production possible, but it has been a mighty difficult task.

The Agricultural Division of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics gives an interesting comparison of the net farm income, including government payments, as follows:

1940	\$534,601,000
1941	\$632,522,000
1942	\$1,154,313,000
1943	\$974,094,000

Indications from Ottawa are that the different allied governments will take all the surplus poultry of the higher grades that Canada can offer. The export price is the ceiling price in Canada at point of shipment. Current shipments are going forward in the form of fresh frozen poultry to avoid long holding and conserve storage space. Arrangements are also being made for some of the surplus poultry to be exported as canned poultry. This is all welcome news to farmers and specialized poultry growers, who hope for a continuous and stable industry.

Marketing of Christmas trees will be more difficult than ever this year, according to a joint statement from departments of Labor, Transport, Munitions and the W.P.T.B. Cutters, dealers, shippers and retailers, have been given early warning they will be handicapped by shortage of railway equipment, scarcity of man power and restrictions in use of trucks.

The now well known "Wrens" (Women's Royal Canadian Naval Service), celebrated the organization's second birthday last month. Their strength has grown to 5,000 from the first class of 67. They served in thirty different categories of work from Halifax to Victoria, from Washington to London and Newfoundland. Organized to release men for duty at sea, they work in naval offices, driving cars and trucks, sending signals, plotting convoys, checking supplies, cooking meals, nursing the wounded and ill and on special research duties. In their stride they went through the London blitz and now the rocket bombs, gallant Canadians all.

The end of August marked the deadline for release of domestic use of electric refrigerators. A limited number were released last year from stocks built up before manufacture was stopped and since April 1 of 1944 releases have been about 100 a month. At the present there are only 225 new domestic-type left in stock in this country, these to be held for hospitals. That is the equivalent of one day's production in normal times.

Bureau of Statistics Item: For the first half of 1944 the index of physical volume of business was 242.7 (index), an advance of 5.1% over the comparable figure for 1943. Industrial production volume gained 2.8%. The national income estimated at 4 1/2 billions—an increase of 9.5% over 1943 period.

A Meal A Minute May Be New Order

Experts Predict—New Electronic Process To Make Cooking Easy

NEW YORK (CP)—The day may come soon when cooking a roast will be a matter of seconds instead of hours when potatoes may be popped into the oven and baked instantaneously.

High speed cooking, a war-born electronic process known as "megatherm heating," is still in its experimental stages, but proponents of the idea predict it will be "the next step in the evolution of the culinary art."

Using high frequency energy as its heating medium, electronic cooking penetrates uniformly and simultaneously all parts of the food subjected to it, rather than cooking through application of heat from the outside. The method already is being studied as a means of speeding up the cooking of commercially canned fruits and vegetables.

"We may logically expect to introduce cooking with megatherm heat to the lunch counter, the restaurant, the hotel and even the home kitchen in the post-war era," Vernon W. Sherman, manager of the industrial electronic division of Federal Telephone and Radio Corp., said.

Will Look Different
A certain amount of re-education may be needed before megatherm cooking will be generally accepted, Sherman said, because of the altered appearance of foods cooked by that method.

Bread crust and other crisp food surfaces, searing and caramelizing would be a thing of the past, but the food would remain "nutritious and acceptable to the taste."

Greatest immediate value of the new cooking technique will be in the field of short-order cookery, Sherman predicts. There it can speed up the handling of lunch counter customers as much as 25 per cent, because of its ability to heat rapidly cuts of pie, dishes of beans, soup or similar foods.

Sherman said the manufacture of small megatherm oven units was entirely feasible. The device operates on ordinary lighting current and requires no more skill to operate than a toaster or waffle iron.

PLANT HORMONES CUT FRUIT CROP

WASHINGTON (CP)—Use of the growth-regulating plant hormones to prevent apples and pears from dropping before harvest is increasing rapidly, and smaller substances have been successfully used to kill weeds. The United States Department of Agriculture says spraying of apples at harvest time to decrease the drop of fruit from trees began in 1940. Used at the very beginning of the harvest drop, the chemicals have prevented many apples from dropping to the ground and becoming bruised so they would have to be marketed as culls or made into cider.

In a bulletin the department says that naphthalenesulfonic acid, naphthaleneacetamide, and the sodium salt of naphthalenesulfonic acid "are equally effective in retarding fruit drop" when properly used at the right time. No direct effect of the sprays on fruit maturity has been reported.

The New York experimental station at Geneva, N.Y., has experimented with killing weeds by using the growth-producing substances in "sufficient concentration."

A spray was used on bindweed. The experimenters said that within 24 hours the leaves were dull green and lying flat on the ground. Within ten days the parts above the ground were dead.

CANCEL CONTROLS

Revocation of ten more standardization and simplification orders affecting both wood and metal products has been announced by the W.P.T.B. This makes a total of 33 such orders revoked last week.

The list includes administrators' orders A-131, furniture; A-134, standardization of school furniture; A-165, manufacture of caskets; A-20, as amended asbestos products; A-305 as amended Venetian blinds made of wood; A-371, wood pencils and penholders; A-559, office furniture and A-607 as amended, incandescent, fluorescent and other electrical discharge lamps.

Will Need Horses For Europe's Farms

Canadian breeding stock may play a large part in re-building the livestock herds of Europe when the war is over. Particularly in the restoration of farm power, the horse will be required, and some idea of the coming demand for horses may be gained from the estimates of the declining numbers of horses in the various countries since the war began. It is estimated that the numbers of horses in Britain, Holland and Belgium have been reduced by half, in Russia by one-third and that only one-third of the original numbers of horses has been left in Poland, Czechoslovakia, Jugoslavia and Greece. Germany, by plundering the other nations, is believed to have as many horses, if not more, than when the war began. However, say the authorities, the task of supplying farm power to help in the restoration of agriculture in the devastated countries is going to be a tremendous one and is expected to result in a strong demand for Canadian horses for some time to come.

GOB STARTS FARM IN THE ALEUTIANS

AN ALEUTIAN ISLAND BASE (CP)—"Just leave it to Red," said the mess officers of a Navy unit here as the livestock they had ordered from the States began to arrive. So "Red," erstwhile Ohio farmer whom war has changed to a seaman, returned to his element as the first farmer in these northern islands. There's a real barnyard now, with a small Ayrshire dairy cow, and two dozen chickens already here, and a sow with a mixed litter en route. "Red" says he's better at his new job than he is swabbing decks.

A tablespoon of salt added to every gallon of drinking water for poultry is regarded by some poultrymen as a deterrent to feather picking.

B.C. MAN DEVELOPS HUGE BLUEBERRIES

NEW WESTMINSTER (CP)—Blueberries the size of small plums will be available in the future as the result of experiments carried out by E. W. Johnson on his blueberry farm on Lulu Island. He developed two blueberries on one bush this year—each berry measured one inch in diameter. One of the secrets of successful blueberry cultivation is to grow plants from cuttings instead of seedlings and to prune shortly after the New Year, Mr. Johnson said.

Fresh vegetables can be better sources of vitamins if care is taken to chill them as soon as they come out of the field.

AUSGIES HIT SNAG IN RUBBER SEARCH

SYDNEY (CP)—The hunt for rubber raised hopes in Australia that the Madagascar rubber vine which grows freely in northern Queensland could be exploited. In some towns it is used for decorative hedging and in other places it has become a pest because of its rapid growth and extensive root development.

The Department of Organic Chemistry at Sydney University investigated but found the vine too low in rubber content to be a practical proposition under Australian economic conditions of the future manpower stringency of the present. The Department was disappointed because the plant is disease free, is avoided by livestock and responds quickly to rain.

NEW ZEALANDERS IN ITALY



Picture shows: Canvas water tanks used by New Zealanders at the Divisional water point on the banks of the Sangro River. Picture taken with New Zealand Unit on the 8th Army front.

YOU can't have one without the other... you can't share in the Victory unless you are ready and willing to take your place with the boys who are earning it.

The fight is overseas—in the face of the enemy—and you must be an overseas soldier to get into it.

So get that GS badge on your arm right away.

There's still time—and there's a place for you in the Canadian Army—for all the young men who want to be fighting soldiers.

And when you come home again, you'll be one of the boys to lead the Victory Parade!

Join up now... and go GS.



VOLUNTEER TO-DAY
JOIN THE CANADIAN ARMY
FOR OVERSEAS SERVICE