

Of Interest to Women

KNOWN OLD OR UNKNOWN NEW

Our political success would hardly justify much rejoicing, yet the "outs" of Britain did rejoice over the Conservative success in the recent North Croydon by-election. It seemed to them that it indicated a change in political thinking.

North Croydon had been a Conservative seat held by a rather uncertain margin. That margin was jeopardized by a three-way contest which introduced the amazingly popular Air Vice-Marshal Bennett as the Liberal candidate. The Liberals felt, with some apparent reason, that Labour's candidate, Harold Nicholson, by his platform charm and adroit political manoeuvring, might cut into the small Conservative margin sufficiently to give their candidate the necessary edge.

But the Conservative candidate, Frederick W. Harris, having neither heroic background nor literary skill, but only a sound business understanding, kept hammering away at his reasonable slogan: "The thing to do with industry is to humanize it, not nationalize it." The solid common sense that suggested modifying the known system to meet possible objections, rather than experimenting with a new system in times of abnormal difficulty, seemed to catch the fancy. He was returned with an overwhelming majority. It might suggest that the public of North Croydon at least, were coming to accept Winston Churchill's dictum that "The prolongation of the present system of denying rewards and sharing miseries will break the mainspring of this country."



Hello Homemaker! We have had many requests for the directions to make good homemade bread, after the rise in the price of this item. It has been a long time since we baked bread, so home-to-mother we went for the necessary advice.

The first remark was: "At this time of year, you should take particular care to see that all cooking materials are warm, also the ingredients. No drafts should cross the sponge when it is rising, or in fact, at any time. A little care makes all the difference in the quality of the finished product."

Bread bakes better in a pan that is not more than 3 1/2 inches deep. The temperature given in the recipe should be satisfactory, but may have to be modified for best results. If the oven is not as well insulated as those in electric ranges, a higher temperature may be necessary.

Compressed yeast or quick granular yeast may be used interchangeably. Granular yeast is less perishable than compressed yeast and so is convenient for bread makers who do not market every day. The amount of yeast may be adjusted according to the convenience of the cook. If you wish the dough to rise in 4 hours or less, use 2 cakes for each cup of liquid. As an inexperienced cook, you may prefer to use 1 cake with 1 cup of liquid for a 5 to 6 hours rising period. The new quick acting yeasts are most successful, especially if you use a quick, light kneading method.

Hard-wheat or bread flour is recommended for breads, but all-purpose or family flour makes good bread too. Use enriched flour or part whole wheat flour for best nutritive value and flavor. As mentioned previously, flour should be warm, but not hot. We use skim milk which produces good colour and keeping quality compared to potato liquid or water.

Now the recipe for white bread with detailed instructions.

WHITE BREAD
3 tbs. sugar, 2 tbs. fat, 2 tbs. salt, 4 cups scalded milk, 2 yeast cakes, 12 cups enriched flour.

Place the sugar, fat and salt in a large bowl; add the scalded milk, cool until lukewarm. Crumble the yeast into lukewarm mixture. Add flour gradually, using just enough to form a dough which will not cling to the bowl. Turn out the dough onto a board which has been coated with a thin layer of flour (not more than 1/4 cup). Scrape the dough from the bowl with a spatula. Let the dough stand for ten minutes, adding flour in small quantities until the dough no longer sticks to the board. The dough feels smooth and resistant to the pressure of hands when sufficiently kneaded.

To knead, first shape the dough into a rough mound on a lightly floured board. With the fingers and palms draw the dough a little forward, then press gently down and backward with the palms. Give the dough a quarter turn and repeat the motions. After 20 kneads, cut with sharp knife and if the air cells are fine and even, that should be enough. Return the kneaded dough to the bowl; cover tightly and set in a warm place to rise. When the dough has risen to double its original volume (2 hours or less), turn

Chronicles of... Ginger Farm

Written Specially for The Acton Free Press GWENDOLINE P. CLARKE

Our first spring calf has arrived and Partner calls it "Minute." A young heifer is its mother and, according to Partner, the calf is "no bigger than a minute." I was down to see it to-day and thought it was very appropriately named. But I also discovered that, in this case, anyway, size has no bearing on activity for that same little calf was racing back and forth from one end of the stable to the other.

Now quickly animals sense the change of season. So often I notice the horses in the yard these days, heading against the wind, nostrils quivering, expectancy in every nerve and sinew of their bodies. Then the cows come out to water and for sun and exercise and they certainly show no great haste to return to the stable where they know only hay and meal await them. What is hay and meal to them when over the fence there is fresh, green grass? As I watch I notice first one bovine nose sniffs the air and then another. "Ah, if only that fence were not there!" Then it is quite obvious Katie gets an idea.

Now if I can just get my nose between those bottom rails I might possibly get at least a nibble of that luscious grass. She tries, twisting her head this way and that, but she can't quite make it. If she wasn't a lady one could almost imagine Katie saying "Damn these horns anyway." Personally I have great sympathy for the cows and horses because I, too, would like to roam at will. Yesterday when I got into the car I felt I wanted to drive and drive—no special place, just anywhere just so long as it was in the country. All I did, however, was drive to town, mail a letter, bought some bread, got meat from the locker and then back to work in the house. So I was just like Katie at the fence and my horns were the jobs around home.

One nice little chore we had this week was cleaning out the cistern. We had a man in to pump the water out, and to do the job he brought along a force pump connected to a little gas engine. A long length of hose carried the water away and the cistern was empty in half an hour. After it was cleaned out Partner began to worry because now we hadn't any soft water and that meant using water from the well for everything. That didn't suit Partner very well because at all times and at every season of the year, we make a point of being very careful with our well water. To be short of water is our greatest dread. On a farm it is more necessary than feed itself.

So Partner hitched the team to the stone boat—the boys were busy with other jobs—and for two afternoons he drew water from the creek in a barrel. Then he handed the water over to me by pulleys and dumped into the cistern. The creek was running fast so we knew the water would be clean and fresh. But still, that little job provoked an argument. I thought it a good idea the first afternoon but when the cistern was half full I was ready to call off the job. But not Partner—no half measures for him! In spite of my protests he drew water for a second afternoon. "But why fill the cistern—? It rains there won't be any room for the water." I argued. "If it rains, all right—? It doesn't rain, then we've got some water," was all the answer I got. So the job went on and the cistern was three-quarters full before we quit. By that time I was suggesting that we continue and make sure the over-flow was working all right! Now, just out of curiosity, I hope it rains.

Oh well, life would be kind of tame if it were not for these little friendly spots. And after all I do like soft water. How some unfortunate gets along without it I don't know. And yet some people do and from choice. I know one woman who has used hard water for years because one time when they were using their cistern she found a little dead bird in the eaves-trough! One wonders how such people make out in a country ravaged by war where there would be more than little dead birds to worry about.

FAMILY FACTS

The average Canadian family is just short of being four persons—3.94 persons to be exact—which suggests that we won't go far in increasing our population by natural process. On the other hand, the average household in Canada represents four and a quarter persons which suggests that one in four homes must be looking after more than their own family requirements.

New Insecticides Posing Problems

When DDT, the comparatively new insecticide was introduced a few years ago, it opened the way to a veritable flood of new insecticides. The present situation is such that both entomologists and manufacturers of insecticides are in a quandary about which to endorse with assurance as the picture is changing rapidly, so W. A. Ross, Chief Fruit Insect Investigations, Division of Entomology, Dominion Department of Agriculture, told the Canadian Horticultural Council at its recent annual meeting in Ottawa.

The Division of Entomology has been criticized as being too conservative in its advocacy of new materials. It must be conservative because of what is or may be involved in a reasonably adequate investigation of a new insecticide, explained Mr. Ross. As an example of the need of proceeding carefully he told of the latest wonder insecticide with the common name of Parathion. It was developed by the Germans during the war and in addition to being one of the most potent insecticides yet discovered, it is also an effective miticide. But it is very poisonous to higher animals, so that before its possible use in orchards, gardens and on field crops can be adopted with confidence, an intensive study on its toxicity or poisonous effects to warm blooded animals, including man, will have to be made. For the time being Parathion cannot be recommended for commercial use in Canada.

Dealing with DDT, Mr. Ross said that while it is a remarkably effective insecticide its potency will not make up for the lack of thoroughness in applying it. The Division of Entomology can never lose sight of the detrimental effects DDT may have in upsetting the biological balance. The use of DDT on fruit trees has made the mite problem infinitely more serious all over North America. It has been responsible for an increase in the woolly apple aphid, particularly in the west. In some sections of the Eastern United States it has made the red banded leafroller, a very destructive pest. These and other complications have been brought about largely by the destructive action DDT has on natural enemies. In the biological testing of pesticides the Division of Entomology has done more intensive work with miticides than with anything else. These experiments have revealed three with outstanding properties as miticides, namely Parathion, Neotran and DMC.

ATOMISER FOR PENICILLIN

A new method of handling penicillin enables this wonder drug to be used in combination with oxygen so that the patient can be supplied with an oxygen-penicillin mixture through an atomiser. This new combination produced under the name of oxyceillin has been successfully used already in a number of the largest London hospitals, especially for bronchial infections. A calibrated container shows the doctor how much penicillin is being received by the patient under the oxygen tent. At the end of treatment a small amount of oxyceillin remains in the mixing chamber of the apparatus, it is a simple matter for this to be returned to the container.

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Hog Marketings Show Increase

Hog marketings in Eastern Canada were higher in the first month of 1948 than in any previous January. For all Canada, marketings were about 590,000, or 47 per cent above those of January 1947. This all-Canada total was, however, exceeded in January of 1942, 1944 and 1945. In western Canada, with marketings just short of 300,000 the increase was 46 per cent above that of January a year ago. During several years in the past, however, January hog marketings in B.C. and the Prairie Provinces have been higher.

Marketings in Eastern Canada have never been greater in any January of former years. They hit a new January peak of more than 250,000, a gain of nearly 49 per cent above January 1947. The Maritime provinces marketed nearly 14,000 hogs, that is, nearly treble the number marketed there the previous January. Quebec ran to nearly 90,000 that is, nine hogs to every four in January 1947. Ontario's all-time January high was 186,000, about five hogs for every four in January, 1947.

Commenting on this record hog run for the month of January, Dominion Department of Agriculture officials say it does not indicate serious liquidation of pigs. The proportion of sows—one in 30—was identical with that of January 1947. There has been a tendency recently to market lighter hogs but this was less marked in January than in November or December.

It is possible however, that the high January totals may indicate a greater tendency for producers to market through inspectors and approved packing plants rather than through country butchers. This tendency may arise from lower domestic consumption and the desire of producers to obtain government premiums. Whether this is true or not hog numbers increased during 1947, and heavy marketings may continue right through the spring and early summer months.

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