

BOOKS
IN REVIEW
From Acton Public Library

This article is the first in a new series of book reviews which will be published in the Free Press. "No entertainment is so cheap as reading, nor any pleasure so lasting," said Lady M. W. Montague. Whoever she may be, what she said is surely true.

THE KON-TIKI EXPEDITION
by Thor Heyerdahl

First book to be briefly reviewed in a new series in the Free Press is the recent best seller "Kon-Tiki Expedition" which has been keeping readers of all ages interested from first to last. It's an adventure story that's true. While it may not be "stranger than fiction" it is certainly more interesting and more exciting because of its actuality.

Thor Heyerdahl had a theory that the Polynesians who inhabited islands in the Pacific came from South America hundreds of years ago. There were many doubters.

With five companions, the young Norwegian undertook to make a raft—his trip into the wilds of South America to find the balsa wood is adventure in itself—using only primitive materials and methods. The six men set out to float 4,300 miles in 101 days, decisively establishing the possibility of their claim.

The doubters had told them there would be no small edible fish that could be caught in mid-Pacific, but the voyagers found fish just left up onto the small raft and lay there waiting to be fried. Heyerdahl didn't bother trying to prove he could live on primitive methods of cooking. Evidently the motors of all other ships frightened the small fish away, and therefore it was assumed these were none.

Storms, encounters with sharks, shipwreck on a reef—many thrilling moments preceded the landing on a Polynesian island where the natives were thrilled to see the image of one of their old gods Tiki on the raft. Old natives also recognized the style of raft as that in which they learned their ancestors arrived. Feasting, hulas and friendship follow.

The author himself served in the Norwegian Free Air Force during the last war. Moving pictures were taken on the trip and the assembling movie—heads bob up and grin, and when a couple drifted away from the raft, in their rubber dinghy and couldn't pull back toward the swiftly sailing raft, the camera man had to stop taking pictures to help try to rescue two of the crew.

The book is just as thrilling as the picture, and it's available in the Acton Public Library.

PICTURE HANGER

An adjustable wire-locking hanger permits lowering and raising pictures at will, reports The Financial Post. Capable of holding 50 lb., the round-edge, rust-resistant hanger has nails described as high-carbon steel, brass plated and lacquered.

DEAD STOCK
HORSES - CATTLE
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FARM NEWS

Powder Legumes Inoculants

The use of legume seed inoculants is an old established practice. For many years the Department of Bacteriology at the Ontario Agricultural College has annually prepared cultures for the various legumes which have been available through the county offices of the Ontario Department of Agriculture and other sources.

Thousands of these have been used annually by Ontario farmers with excellent results. Heretofore these bacteria cultures have been prepared or produced on agar slopes. This involved dissolving or mixing up the agar culture with milk and then mixing with the seed shortly before seeding.

In these days of labor shortage and in the rush of spring seeding, such procedure did involve some extra bother and in some cases may have held up progress with the spring seeding. For the past two or three years, therefore, some of our research workers at Guelph have been endeavoring to produce a legume culture in the powder form.

Recently it was announced that the Department of Bacteriology at the Ontario Agricultural College has produced a tested type of powder inoculant which has undergone extensive investigation with regard to longevity and effectiveness of the bacteria in nitrogen fixation.

The cultures will be available at the Milton Branch of the Ontario Department of Agriculture near the end of February and will completely replace the agar cultures formerly sold. Incidentally these new cultures will be sold for 25 cents per can and the contents of each can will inoculate two bushes or less of seed. The preparation date is stamped on the label of each can and the culture should be used within six months of this date.

New Developments in Stabling Highly Recommended

Among the many excellent reports given by local farmers last month at the annual meeting of the Halton Crop Improvement Association were two pertaining to new ideas in stabling cattle.

Loafing Stable

A. T. Woodley, who operates a 125-acre farm near Milton, reported that some three years ago he found himself in a position where he had to do something about a new stable. While his stable had a cement floor, the old mangers and partitions were made of wood. His barn is 52 feet by 84 feet and he found upon investigation that a new steel equipped stable was going to cost in the neighborhood of \$4,000.

He therefore decided to investigate the loafing stable idea after reading all the literature he could get on the subject. Trips were made here and there both in Ontario and across the border to see some of these pen barns at first hand.

His investigations, coupled with his experience annually of losing one, two or three quarters in his dairy herd as a result of teats or udders getting stepped on, decided him in favor of the loafing stable.

As Mr. Woodley pointed out, his heavy losses as a result of tramping were largely due to a tie-up of cattle, or a total of from 30 to 35 head. It was a surprise to learn from Mr. Woodley that the total cost of his loafing stable was \$100, in addition to his own labor.

This included the purchase of four stanchions for his milking parlor and some 36 bags of cement. In brief, he made use of the old lumber in his old stable. This experience to date is highly satisfactory.

According to Mr. Woodley it has cut down on labor—his herd is healthier, he has to date had no veterinary bills since he swung over to this type of stabling over three years ago—it has cut down on Mastitis trouble and his cows keep cleaner.

In order for a loafing barn to work out satisfactorily, Mr. Woodley pointed out, the stable must have a height of at least nine feet and in the loafing pen, there must be at least 100 square feet accommodation per cow.

He also recommended for 15 cows a manger at least 35 feet long. A cement abutment two and a half feet high and six inches thick around the loafing pen is a necessity, stated Mr. Woodley. The pressure exerted by the cattle continuously tramping on the manure is terrific. "Add" as he is widely known to his many friends, did admit that such a type of stable does take about 50% more straw, but he added, the manure is of a lot more value.

He recommended covering the floor of the loafing pen in the fall with sawdust a foot deep. All of

the liquid is soaked up. By spring the manure is about 3 1/2 feet deep and from his 15 cows he takes out 150 loads of manure in early May, which he spreads on his meadows. He also admits that after his experience in digging or forking out the manure the first spring that he and his brother "Andy" who operates the adjoining farm, decided to invest in a manure loader.

Perhaps it should be pointed out that in the feeding area the manure is taken out once weekly. To date "Add" reports no complaints from the City Health Inspector. "As a matter of fact," stated "Add," "I don't see any reason where there should be, because the cows are cleaner and there is less odour than in the conventional barn, providing sufficient straw is utilized."

It was also of interest to learn from "Add" that his brother "Andy" from a similar type of loafing barn, is producing and shipping "Hedge of Milk" milk, which certainly supports "Add's" contention that the loafing stable can be kept equally as sanitary as the conventional stable, providing the management is right.

Deep Litter Methods
Brook Harris, progressive young Nelson Township farmer, also reported on his experience to date with the "Deep Litter" method of handling a dairy herd in a conventional tie-up stable. Brook got the idea at the Ottawa Dairy farm last June, when the Halton bus party visited that establishment.

All that was involved was drilling a few holes in the cement along the edge of the gutter, plugging these with wood and then splicing 2x4 scantlings along the edge of the gutter. Some sawdust, shavings or finely cut straw is placed on the cow stand and from then on he beds with straw.

This keeps the cows' udders off the bare cement when they are lying down a certain amount of heat is also generated in the accumulated litter and as a result of the two factors the "deep litter" idea cuts down on Mastitis.

In addition, Brook reports that this method does not take over half the normal amount of straw for bedding and his cows are cleaner than formerly.

Another Nelson Township farmer who has adopted the same idea is Gordon Sinclair of Freeman. Anyone interested in these comparatively new developments in stabling would, we feel, find that a visit to any or all of the farms mentioned would be very worthwhile.

Make Budgeting A Family Affair

"Many of our customers have found that a joint account is the most satisfactory way of dealing with their family bill, and expenses," says Gordon Oiler, manager of the Bank of Montreal branch at Acton.

It is as simple to open as any other current account, and arrangements are quickly made for either husband or wife to be able to sign the cheques. Many women find such an account a great convenience, for it helps them to keep a much closer check on their part of the family budget. And, if their husband's out of town often, it does away with the need to keep important sums of money in their purse or about the house.

If you think that a joint account would make your family financing easier, drop into the Acton branch of the B of M. You'll find a helpful, efficient staff, eager to save you time and budgeting headaches.

BOTTLE-FED BACON

Mama pig may be on the way out, says The Financial Post. Perhaps that is going a bit far but on the market now is a new artificial nursing device for the baby pigs. Within 48 hours of birth they can be taken from their mother and attached to this many nipples feeder. It prevents newborns from being crushed by clumsy mother and is said to cut down infant pig mortality 22 per cent.

Skinny men, women gain 5, 10, 15 lbs.

Get New Pop, Vim, Vigor

Fashion Hint



The weather has been so discouraging—cold, rainy, foggy—and there seems to be so much less variety to our clothes in the winter when every time outside the house we wear the same coat (or two, for those with a fur one), a hat or bandana, gloves and overshoes. Not much we can do about it, except suggest a little imagination. Here's what we'd be wearing to-day if we were with the rest of those Canadians down in Florida! It's a two-piece pastel sharkskin dress. With white hat, light white gloves and a summer bag. And white shoes for wearing in the house (excuse us! hotel) or out. Here's hoping this week's Hint makes you feel that tropical sun personally. The idea of all white makes us shiver!

The King of Diamonds, he of the "raised hand", is said to represent Julius Caesar.

Tops For Sports

Buses are the real thing when your school or club is playing a game or having a social evening out of town. They're handy for shows and other events too. If your crowd is large enough, you can make your own schedule with chartered buses.

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If you are considering the use of electricity for space heating, please contact your local Hydro Office before taking any action.

It is in your interest to discuss this matter with your Hydro Area Manager, particularly the rate applicable to this type of service and the special conditions that apply to wiring your premises for the use of space heaters.

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