

Of Interest to

THE FARMER

FARM CLUBS GIVING NEW SPIRIT TO FAIRS

In all agricultural fairs and exhibitions that have so far been held throughout the Dominion this year, no feature has been so outstanding as the work of the Boys' and Girls' Farm Clubs. This junior division of Canadian agriculture is composed of the many and varied junior farm clubs in all the provinces, the provincial and district grain, potato, calf, swine, poultry and other clubs which are all co-ordinated through the medium of the Canadian Council on Boys' and Girls' Farm Work.

The reason of the spectacular success made by the clubs in the competitive list of the exhibitions is readily apparent, for not only have the young farmers and farmerettes of Canada produced exhibits of the highest quality but by their ardor and enthusiasm are giving a new leadership to Canadian agriculture.

There are many projects embodied in the programme of the work of the Boys' and Girls' Farm Clubs of Canada—live stock, field crops, horticulture and home economics. As a result of this work, potato production in one area has been revolutionized; in other districts, production of live stock has been raised to a high standard and in other areas thousands of bushels of grain have been added to production.

Particular examples of excellent work were seen at the recent Ottawa exhibition when 177 boys showed high quality calves they had acquired and reared as part of their club work; so at the Lakehead Exhibition at Port Arthur where a young farmer exhibited no less than 11 animals and the champion Holstein cow, all acquired as a result of his club work. In Alberta, 74 finest clubs, approximately 1,385 boys have built up a substantial supply of excellent seed for the province by seeding over 5,500 acres to registered, certified and improved wheat seed. In Ontario and other provinces, several fine herds of cattle can trace their establishment to what the boys and girls of these clubs have been doing. In short the fine work of the junior division is being carried out with enthusiasm in every province.

The Boys' and Girls' Farm Clubs represent an active membership of more than 37,000, and every year since the movement began 25 years ago the

membership keeps on increasing. The motto of the clubs is "Learn to Do by Doing."

SAVING SEED OF ANNUAL FLOWERS

There is no doubt that the best seeds of annual flowers are those raised by specialists, but some people like to grow their own. In order to get the best seed, vigorous plants with good flowers should be chosen as seed parents, and inferior plants growing near by should be removed, states Isabella Preston, Division of Horticulture, Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa. One colour or variety only should be grown in one part of the garden, so that there is less danger of bees cross-pollinating the flowers. If seed pods are not forming, a small camel-hair brush should be used to dust the pollen of one good plant on to the stigma of the other, so that there is no doubt of its being pollinated. When the seed pods have grown to their full size, they gradually turn brown and crack open. If time permits, these pods can be gathered daily, just when they begin to open, and laid in shallow boxes in a dry place until the seeds can be easily shaken out. A piece of muslin should be laid over the boxes to prevent the seeds getting mixed. When the seeds are dry they must be separated from the pods and any dust or trash that has become mixed with them. If only a few are grown, hand picking is the simplest method to adopt. Large quantities are cleaned by the use of sieves. A fine sieve will take out the dust and leave the seeds, except the very small ones like poppies which can have the dust left. A coarser sieve is useful for round seeds which can drop through, leaving the trash in the sieve. Seeds of plants like Asters and Zinnias have to be cleaned by hand by the amateur.

If the daily picking of the seeds is too much trouble, the plants can be rooted up when most of the seed pods have formed and are beginning to ripen. They are then laid on sheets outdoors during the day and brought inside at night until the seed-pods ripen and the seeds can be beaten or shaken out. They must be cleaned as described above. After the seeds are cleaned and dried, they should be put in envelopes and carefully labelled, and be kept in air-tight containers in a cool place until Spring.

GAIN MORE KNOWLEDGE ABOUT PLOUGHING

Experiments conducted by the Field Husbandry Division, Dominion Experimental Farms, have shown that shallow ploughing produces as high yields as deep ploughing at a considerable saving in power requirements. Furthermore, tillage beyond that required for weed control and reasonably good seed bed preparation has no beneficial effect on yields.

In many districts of the Prairie Provinces, ploughing for summer-fallow has been largely dispensed with in favour of the "roughness fallow" by surface cultivation. In Eastern Canada, ploughing and soil in the summer with after harvest cultivation where weeds are troublesome, and ploughing in late fall on less weedy land, have both proved superior to spring ploughing, especially on heavy soils. One advantage of summer or fall ploughing is that it facilitates the early seeding of cereal crops which experiments have clearly shown to be very desirable.

GUARD YOUR POULTRY

Poultry raisers are warned to take a little extra care of their fowl this year, in order to prevent loss by theft, which is becoming so prevalent in Ontario. Many farmers depend to a great extent on the proceeds of their poultry to pay their taxes in December, and their loss by theft often spells real catastrophe.

BREED APPLES FOR NORTHWEST

A great deal of attention has been paid by the Horticultural Division, Dominion Experimental Farms, to the breeding of apples for various parts of Canada. One project has been the creation of harder kinds for the Northwest and very cold regions. For this purpose hybrids between the Siberian crab apple and commercial varieties have been employed. The work has progressed to the point of sending out a number of "third" crosses for trial. The "first" crosses were all very small crab apples but they exhibited a number of very hardy progeny. The "second" crosses, in reality a first generation back cross, exhibited less hardiness but increased size and quality. Several of these, however, showed sufficient hardiness to warrant the continuation of the experiment. About one hundred "second" back crosses or "third" crosses have fruited, exhibiting full apple size and commercial quality. Several of these appear to possess more hardiness than the second crosses. While this work was started for the Northwest, "third" crosses appear promising as harder sorts for the main fruit regions.

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PROGRESS OF WORK FOR ERADICATION OF BOVINE TUBERCULOSIS

Sometime in the not too distant future the Health of Animals Division, Dominion Department of Agriculture, hopes to have all cattle under supervision for the eradication of bovine tuberculosis and all other farm live stock in Canada as far as it is possible free from other diseases. Those familiar with the economic importance of the live stock industry and its relation to the improvement of public health agree that no more effective public service could be rendered.

The work in connection with the eradication of bovine tuberculosis, which is one of the major activities towards the objective of disease free live stock in Canada, was started 43 years ago with the free testing of herds with tuberculin. As Dr. Orjan Hall, Associate Chief of Veterinary Inspection, who has charge of the work under Dr. A. E. Cameron, Veterinary Director General, says, the demand for the service in 1896 was not great but its introduction gave the owners of livestock an opportunity to become familiar with the test and at the same time afforded an opportunity of determining the extent of infection in herds. Gradually live stock men saw the economic value to them of having cattle free from tuberculosis. They saw it was easier to sell such cattle for export and also on the domestic market. At the same time municipalities and public health authorities were becoming more insistent on milk being sold from cattle known to be free from the disease. Considerable progress in eradicating tuberculosis among cattle has been made. Of the 8,840,000 cattle in Canada about 36 per cent are now under supervision. Of the total 4,762,000 are in the eastern provinces, of which 52 per cent are under supervision.

There are three plans under which the work of eradication of bovine tuberculosis is carried on: 1. Accredited Herd Plan, the object of which is the eradication of tuberculosis in pure bred herds. These herds are tested free by veterinary inspectors employed by the Dominion Department of Agriculture. Compensation is paid for reactors based upon two-thirds of the valuation placed upon the animals by the Department's veterinary inspectors. The latest figures show there are 8,520 fully accredited herds in the Dominion; 2. Supervised Herd Plan. This is a single herd policy applicable to grade herds irrespective of the number of pure-bred or grade animals they contain. No compensation is paid for reactors, but the owners receive whatever proceeds there may be from the salvage. There are 52,182 supervised herds throughout Canada; 3. Restricted Area Plan. The object of this plan is the eradication of tuberculosis in definite areas. At least two-thirds of the cattle owners in any definite area must sign a petition for the establishment of such an area under this plan. The payment of compensation is based on the same limitations and maximum valuations provided under the Accredited Herd Plan. About 2,390,000 cattle are under the Restricted Area Plan. Cattle under all policies for tuberculosis eradication number about 3,240,000, an increase from 2,332 cattle in 1916.

There are seven impressive reasons why bovine tuberculosis should be eradicated, say officials of the Health of Animals Division and Public Health Authorities. These are: It is a menace to public health; the public is demanding dairy products obtained from healthy herds; it causes serious economic losses to live stock owners; tuberculous herds are a poor market for valuable foodstuffs; it costs less to maintain a healthy herd than a tuberculous one; the value and general productivity of a healthy herd is much greater than that of a tuberculous one; there is a greater demand at much higher prices for accredited and restricted area cattle.

Poultry breeding stations were first established in the Province of Ontario in 1913.

Fitting

It was Monday morning. The rent collector's bag was getting heavy, but his heavy coat had not yet reached the door. Mrs. Mackay, Master Mackay opened the door. "Mother and father are out," he said. "Will you call on Friday?" "Yes," said the collector, "and why on Friday, my little man?" "That's what I think," said the boy. "We're fitted on Thursday."

Forest Insect Survey Throughout Canada

Next to fire, insects probably constitute the greatest menace to the forest resources of Canada. The annual damage caused by insect pests to the forests of the Dominion totals many millions of dollars.

Four years ago, the Forest Insect Investigation Section, Division of Entomology, Science Service, Dominion Department of Agriculture, inaugurated a Forest Insect survey to learn just what species of insects were most prevalent in different areas of the country so as to have accurate information as possible on their fluctuations and the damage caused by them. With this information an intelligent plan could be worked out for methods of control where practical.

The survey began in 1936 in the Province of Quebec and the eastern part of Ontario. Ready co-operation has been continuously given by the Dominion and Provincial Forest Services, Forest Protective Associations, pulp and paper companies, lumber companies, amateur entomologists, and many other organizations. That year, 512 samples were sent to Ottawa, headquarters of the survey. In 1937 the survey was extended eastward to the Maritime Provinces and westward to take in the whole of Ontario, Saskatchewan and British Columbia. The year's work brought 2,500 samples. Last year each province of the Dominion and a part of the Northwest Territories included in the survey and the samples collected numbered 5,500. This year, up to the end of August, 6,500 samples have been received. With many of the samples come valuable observations. Insects received in the larval stage are reared in special insectaries established at the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, and when they reach the adult stage, their identification, life history, habits and other information are determined with the help of the systematic entomologists, who have charge of the national collection of insects. This fairly accurate reconnaissance is reducing the element of surprise in attacks by the insects. As yet it is practically impossible to apply methods of control over large areas of forest because of their inaccessibility and vast extent.

While the organization of the survey is not yet as complete as its promoters desire, it is, however, now approaching that point, and has already disclosed some interesting and very useful information. For example, in 1935 and 1936 the Forest Tent Caterpillar was a serious menace to the forests of the Northwest Territories in Ontario. This year the survey shows the tent caterpillar is doing comparatively little damage in those areas, due to the fact that the native parasites have reasserted themselves and are thriving on caterpillars. The parasites, by the way, are harmless to the insects. Even while the tent caterpillar would appear to be declining in Ontario, the Spruce Budworm, and old enemy of the pulpwood forests is increasing. There is a severe infestation of it in Algoma and it is now common in Eastern Ontario and Western Quebec. Further west the similar Jack Pine Budworm has damaged vast areas of Jack pine from Manitoba to Lake Superior. In the Northern sections of the Prairie Provinces, the Forest Tent Caterpillar is active and the Fall Cankerworm is attacking shade trees in the southern districts of the Prairies.

Out in British Columbia, an old enemy of the Forest Insect Investigation—the Larch Sawfly—is on the rampage. About 40 years ago earlier generations of this insect killed off almost every larch tree in the Dominion. In Quebec and the Maritime Provinces the European Spruce Sawfly and the Larch Sawfly are the major pests. But there is an infinite variety of species active everywhere as the coloured pins stuck in a 20-foot map of the Dominion displayed on a wall in the Government Building, Ottawa, headquarters of the Survey, disclose. The work is being directed by J. J. de Gryse, Chief, Forest Insect Investigations, assisted by Dr. A. W. A. Brown.

In Essex

It was Michael's first visit to the country, and feeding the chickens fascinated him. Early one morning he caught his first glimpse of the peacock, sunning himself on the lawn. Rushing indoors excitedly, Michael looked for his grandmother. "Oh, grandma," he exclaimed, "one of the chickens is in bloom."

THE RULES OF THE GAME

Children have to learn the rules of whatever game they play, whatever activity they choose. For beginners the rules are not only guides, they are life-savers. They prevent mistakes, failure and discouragement. They are always there ready for use whenever called on, and they always are the right answer.

The rules I mean are those laid down by custom and law. These are the rules for mathematics. These are the unflinching standbys, helps in times of doubt. They can be relied upon for light and aid always. There are the rules for games. They make play possible, for without them the games would be a mass of confusion without rhyme or reason. Nobody could win, and everybody would lose, which is the reason for the rules.

Some children dislike the rules. They want to get beyond them, beat them somehow, not knowing that there is no way of beating a rule if it is an accepted rule. To be sure, one could cheat, but that is not the end of the matter as far as the game is concerned. The cheater does not win the game because he doesn't play it. He is worse off than before because added to the loss of the game is the loss of character. A cheater feels that loss keenly. He may try to hide it, but that is impossible. His cries aloud to high heaven and his companions leave him to his own grief.

Good sportsmanship demands that the players of any game abide cheerfully by the rules and take whatever luck comes in good part. But what of you boys and girls? The good players, those who understood the law that governs games and men. Play fair, abide by the rules, accept what comes cheerfully. So you will achieve honor among men and a feeling of liking for yourself.

A man cannot live happily and not like himself. Two warring spirits in one person scarcely have room for disagreement, you see, and there most certainly will be disagreement if a person, young or old, offends himself by breaking the rules, any rules, that call for sportsman-like obedience. Sometimes boys and girls think the rules are silly. Some of them may be, some are, most of them are essential to the welfare and happiness of these very boys and girls. As they are highly inexperienced in such matters, and as it is difficult for their parents and teachers to explain the need and the value of many of these rules, it would be better for the children to accept the good will for their guardians, take their word for it and abide by the rules.

Review a few of them and see. Speak the truth. No child would deny the rightness of the rule. Respect the property, the feelings, the rights, even the opinions of other people. Why not? You want others to respect yours. Revere the works of God. That means every living thing, every mysterious growth and power in nature. It means the body and mind and the bodies and minds of the young people. A decent respect for the works of God will keep you from making regrettable mistakes and add greatly to your happiness.—By Angelo Patri in C.N.R. Magazine.

NEW WATERWORKS AT BURLINGTON TO COST \$65,000

Approval to a by-law to issue debentures totalling \$65,000 for the construction of a new intake and water storage reservoir was given by the Burlington council recently at the request of the water commission. The debentures will be submitted to the municipal board.

The chairman of the water commission declared that expenditures of \$10,000 on repairing the waterworks intake during the past three years was useless because there had been seven breaks in the pipe since the last bill was paid last December.

Several members of council agreed that replacement of the intake was necessary although some doubt was expressed of the need for a reservoir. It was pointed out that now water is being pumped almost direct to the main and the plant is shut down at night when the demand is low. This results in a peak load for the daytime which increases the power. The water storage reservoir would result in pressure being equalized throughout the system and its capacity increased more than one-third, it was claimed. Members of the commission informed council that plans would not be discussed unless the council was prepared to purchase the waterworks. This would be possible because of the retirement of debentures this year.

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