

OUR FARM PAGE: ITEMS OF INTEREST TO EVERY FARMER

Farmers Cautioed About 'Speculations on Food for Export'

Bacon Board Issues Statement on Situation Re Export of Bacon

The following statement on the Bacon Export Situation was issued by the Bacon Board on April 17th:—

"Great Britain will not require any early additional shipments of bacon from Canada to replace supplies which have been cut off by the German invasion of Denmark. This fact has been made clear and definite by an exchange of cables between Canada and Britain within the past week. It is a surprise to many Canadian farmers who had assumed without question that there would be an immediate call for increased bacon exports from Canada.

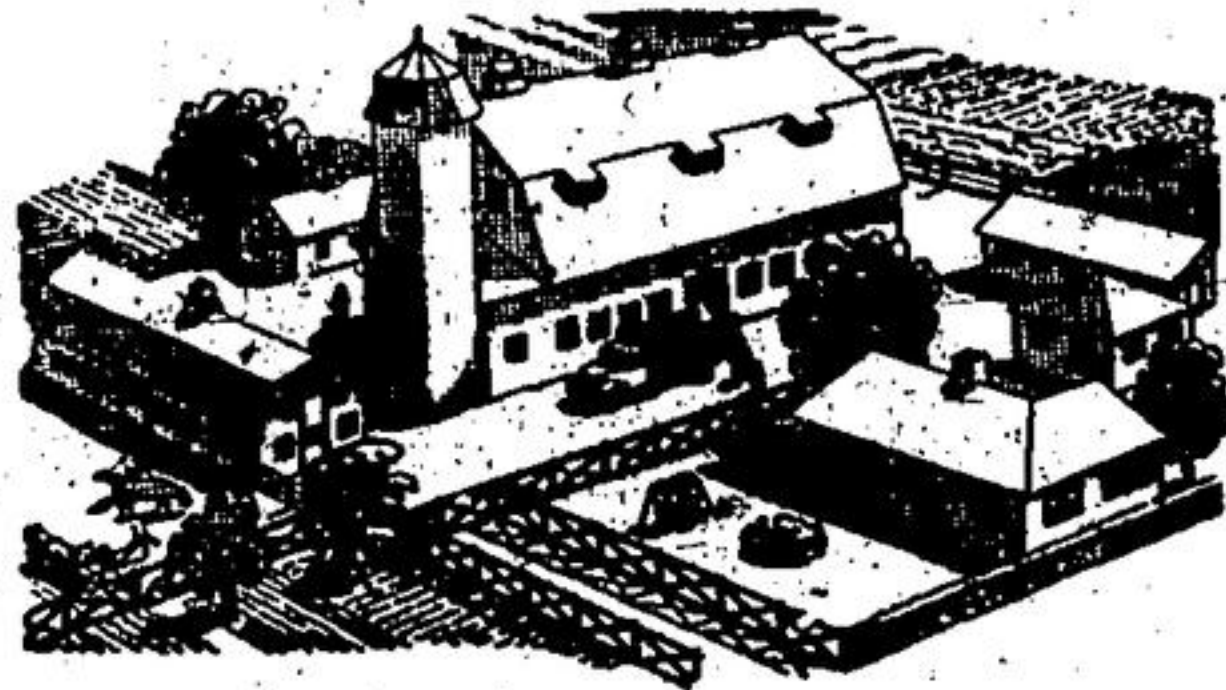
The reasons for this situation are as follows: First, excessive amounts of bacon in storage in Great Britain and with the approach of summer weather British authorities regard it as imperative to use up stored products before authorizing increased imports. Second, production of bacon in Great Britain and Ireland continues at higher than expected levels. Third, problems of shipping continue to present difficulties. Bacon must be handled in refrigerated space. Ships so equipped are not numerous and in view of their expense and construction are often required for other purposes. Finally, it is the apparent intention of the British authorities to restore bacon rationing at an early date and thereby restrict consumption. One purpose of the rationing undoubtedly is to require British civilians to eat home produced food and thereby conserve foreign exchange.

"Some of the above reasons apply to the immediate present and others to the future, but it can be stated definitely that no indication has yet been given that Britain will at any time require greater quantities of bacon from Canada than are provided for in the present contract.

"What this means to the Canadian producer of hogs and bacon may be estimated only after examining the Canadian situation. The present contract of 5,600,000 pounds of bacon and ham weekly uses the product of about 48,000 Canadian hogs. The Canadian domestic trade consumes the product of about 40,000 hogs weekly. On the average, therefore, Canadian packers can sell the product of less than 90,000 hogs each week. From November 4 to April 4 weekly marketings of hogs in Canada averaged more than 98,000. During this period there was accumulated in storage the product of about 230,000 hogs. According to present estimates this amount is sufficient to make up any possible deficiency of exports which may result from short hog marketings during the summer months. With current marketings exceeding the amount required for export and domestic use, it is apparent that greater quantities of pork products will be offered for sale in the domestic market. The pressure of increased supplies on the domestic market will in all probability result in lower prices for the products. Experience indicates that lower prices will increase consumption, consequently it may be possible to market the whole Canadian production. If prices to Canadian consumers decline, there will be some decline in hog prices. What that decline may be cannot be forecast until experience demonstrates what reduction in price will put into consumption the additional quantity necessary to clear our markets.

"With regard to the more distant future, there seems to be no possibility of making any definite prediction at the present time. It may be assumed that if the war continues for a long period Britain will call upon Canada for greater supplies of bacon and many other food products. However, since the duration and course of the war cannot be predicted, it is equally impossible to predict when an increased demand for bacon may come from the British Government."

Beauty Culture for Farm Homes



THE oft-quoted line from Thomas Hood, "I remember, I remember the house where I was born," and another by William Cowper, "Be it a weakness, it deserves some praise, we love the play-piece of our early days," touch a responsive chord in the hearts of those who cherish the memory of that childhood home of long ago.

These lines occurred to the present writer as he listened to a remarkable address by C. H. Hodge, editor of the Farmer's Magazine, Toronto, on the occasion of a recent meeting of the Quebec Horticultural Federation, in Montreal. The topic was the beautification of farm homes in Ontario, and with the aid of coloured lantern slides the speaker described the transformation of the homes of those who entered competitions sponsored by his paper. Indeed, credit for the idea and its realization belongs to Mr. Hodge.

As Mr. Hodge expressed it, we owe to our children the enduring memory of an attractive home, one that in after years they can recall with pleasure and pride, and a child's most impressionable years are between 5 and 12. "With a Glance Backward," by the late, highly esteemed Dean E. A. Howes, of Edmonton, records most entertainingly and picturesquely the scenes and events of his childhood in Ontario.

Mr. Hodge showed how marvelously the appearance of a farm home can be improved by a little trimming and painting, by tidying up around it, giving some care to the lawn and especially by planting flowers. The other day the writer heard of a man who offered a house for sale at \$3000.00 and found no bidder. He then spent \$40.00 on a paint job and sold the house easily for \$4000.00.

Painters of another colour may deplore the appearance of a silo on the farm because, they say, it means no more pumpkins among the corn, and poets may rave about the tumble-down shack somewhere. Byron said of Italy, "Thy very weeds are beautiful, thy wastes more rich than other clime's fertility." But surely more beauty and charm attach to the home of peace and plenty.

The Ontario Crop Improvement Association has for its slogan: "Better rural conditions through crop improvement." It is a strange anomaly that many a farmer who takes great pleasure and pride in his thriving field crops, cultivated and fertilized with consummate care, is indifferent to the immediate surroundings of the farm house. Thanks to Mr. Hodge, it may now be said that "the old order changeth, yielding place to new."

The Pruning of Young Apple and Pear Trees

Young orchards of today are the hope of the future, states R. D. L. Eligh, Assistant in Pomology, Dominion Experimental Station, Kentville, N.S. They must not be neglected now, either in pruning, growth or insect and disease control, if they are to give highest production in the future.

Pruning has a dwarfing effect on the tree and the grower should bear in mind that every pruning cut will tend to reduce tree size and fruit production. Nevertheless, it must be regarded as an essential orchard practice as it is the only practicable method of developing a strong framework that will support the bearing portions of the mature tree in future years. Therefore, the amount of pruning given newly planted and young trees should only be what is absolutely essential to the development of a strong framework.

Pruning begins with the young tree at planting time. To offset the loss of roots left in the soil when the tree is dug, the practice of removing crowding branches so as to provide a modified leader type of tree with spirally arranged scaffold branches is recommended. The old method of heading back all branches. If this pruning is not done, the greatly reduced root system may not be able to supply the necessary moisture for the relatively large leaf bearing surface and the young tree may die from drying out.

If yearling whips are planted, all buds to a height of 18 inches are rubbed off, all remaining buds are allowed to grow. This makes for a large leaf development which results in a larger root system with a sturdier trunk. If two-year old nursery trees are used, the method of pruning is the same as for the whip that has been out a year. Branch selection is practised. Those branches which come out at right or wide angles with the leader are selected for the framework. The lowest branch about 28 inches from the ground and others six to eight inches apart arranged systematically and spirally above this until five or six such scaffold branches are established. Subsequent pruning should be light, only those branches having a detrimental effect on the future shape of the tree should be cut off. Remember that early bearing, yield and size of the tree are largely determined after the framework of the tree is established.

EARLIEST FLOWERS IN GARDENS AND PARKS

To visit gardens and parks at this time of the year and make a note of the flowering bulbs will prove interesting and helpful to lovers of flowers. The bulbs have to be obtained in the fall, but a list made when the blooms are ready will be a great help in making up an order later, says Isabella Preston, Division of Horticulture, Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa.

The earliest flowers are snowdrops, which have dainty white bells, but are not very showy, unless grown in quantity. Chionodoxa and Scilla sibirica are probably the easiest to grow and most attractive of these very early bloomers. Both have blue flowers. Growing against a south wall of a house is a good place to look for the earliest crocus. These can be grown in various colors, and do well in sunny borders. Daffodils seem to be the true harbinger of spring, and should be grown in every garden. There are numbers of varieties and types, and gardeners who have not seen a representative collection will be charmed with their beauty. Anyone who grows them should invite the local Horticultural Society to visit his garden in daffodil time. Tulips are the favourite bulbs for parks, and many varieties can be seen in full beauty in city parks in May. Hyacinths are other bulbs that are used for bedding in some places. In the Ottawa district they are seldom seen, as the winters are sometimes too severe for them to thrive but in milder districts they are attractive both for their colours and fragrance.

These bulbous plants are not particular as to soil, but it must be well drained. If very heavy, it should be lightened by sand and leaf mould. Bone meal added at planting time and a little nitrate of soda in spring when growth starts are recommended for daffodils and tulips.

CHEAP BUILDING

Of all the building trades in Canada, character-building seems to be the lowest paid. According to figures presented to the Ontario Secondary Schools convention, 13,000 of the 64,000 teachers in the country's public school systems received less than \$10 a week in 1938, with but slight improvement since—Ottawa Citizen.

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DEPT. URGES SPECIAL DRIVE TO IMPROVE SCHOOL GROUNDS

Regulations provide \$15 to \$30 Range for Flowers, Shrubs and Bulbs which must be Planted by Pupils themselves under Direction of Teachers.

The Ontario Department of Education is urging a special drive this spring for improvement in the appearance of rural school grounds in particular. A survey made by Chief Inspector V. K. Greer and Norman Davies, inspector of agricultural classes, shows that of 5,722 schools only 1,438 have lawns mowed and trees, shrubs and flower beds cared for; 2,500 have trees and shrubs partially cared for and the grass cut only several times a year with a farm mower; 1,784 with grass and weeds seldom cut and shrubs and trees, if planted, neglected. While the School Acts and Regulations make the school board responsible for the size and general care of the grounds, Mr. Davies points out that the Regulations provide for a \$15 to \$30 range for flowers, shrubs and bulbs which must be planted by the

pupils, under the direction of the teacher and may be included in the agricultural report as expenditure on which the grant is paid. This is in schools where agriculture is taught. The school board pays this year but gets the grant in next year's grant, Mr. Davies explains.

In ungraded schools, the grant is a refund. When the teacher has no certificate in agriculture, the amount is up to \$15, but where the teacher does hold a certificate, it is up to \$30. Mr. Davies is emphatic that all the work must be done by the pupils. No school can hire work done by outside help and still get the grant, he states. School inspectors are greatly enthused over the school beautification campaign and are enlisted the support of teachers and pupils alike. A number of the Horticultural Societies are also showing increased interest in school planting programs and are contributing trees and shrubs and bulbs to schools in their districts.

BOYS NEEDED FOR FARM WORK

Ontario Department of Labour Sends Out Call for Youthful Helpers on the "Food Front"

With a tremendous shortage of farm help in the offing, Ontario boys can do their bit on the "food front" during the war, states Alex. MacLaren, Georgetown, director of farm training for the Ontario Dept. of Labour. "Farmers are going to be gasping for help," predicted Mr. MacLaren. "At the present time there is a definite shortage of boys for farm work. Since March 1st, I could have placed 150 more boys if I had them."

Mr. MacLaren said boys from 16 to 22 years of age are needed for year round work at from \$120 to \$200 per year with board and washing included. Boys wishing farm jobs should write him care of the Dept. of Labor, Parliament Buildings, Toronto, and so should farmers who need help.

There are a number of high school boys who want to do their bit on farms during the summer months. Letters have been received from high school boys in Toronto and Niagara Falls asking for jobs from June 15th till the end of August. It is expected that college kids from other centres will also apply during the next few weeks.

To facilitate farm placements for boys, the Department has placed H. F. Irwin in Eastern Ontario and O. D. Cowan in Western Ontario. They will interview farmers and boys who are anxious to get together and make sure the right boy goes to the right farmer. Wages for summer months will likely range from \$10 to \$15 with board.

Such is the fame of Mr. MacLaren's work in Ontario, that applications from boys have been received from Newfoundland and Vancouver. The

Newfoundland lad is so anxious for a job in this province that he says he will get here some way or other. Mr. MacLaren relates, and it should be easy to obtain a good job for him. Over 140 lads have been placed on farms since March 1st.

SEED FOR 1940 PLANTING

Latest estimates give the commercial crop of alfalfa in Canada as 4,812,000 pounds, with requirements for seeding in 1940 at about 3,250,000 pounds. The commercial crop of timothy seed is placed at 4,235,000 pounds and the requirements for 1940 seeding at 10,000,000 pounds. Final estimates of alsike clover grown in Canada in 1938 give a total of 2,185,000 pounds, and a carry-over from the former year of 1,100,000 pounds. Domestic requirements for 1940 seeding are estimated at 2,000,000 pounds.

Round Trip Bargain Fares

From Georgetown, May 9 to C.N.R. Stations in the Maritime Provinces, Province of Quebec, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia.

May 10 - 11 to Ottawa \$6.95; Montreal \$8.25; Trois Rivières \$10.45; Quebec City \$12.25 Ste. Anne de Beaupre \$12.85.

Tickets, Fares, Transit Limits and Information from Agents. T127A

CANADIAN NATIONAL



"Edwina Owsen," heard over the CBC National Networks on Mondays at 7 p.m. EDT, introduced E. E. Farrell, well-known writer and broadcaster.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

PURSUANT to Section 51 of Chapter 188 R.S.O. 1937, all claimants against the estate of Maude Marie Fleck, late of Georgetown, Ontario, who died on the 29th day of December 1939, are hereby required to file their claims duly verified before May 2nd, 1940, with the undersigned Administrator, who will forthwith thereupon distribute her estate, having regard only to the claims of which he has been notified.

L. Edward Fleck, Administrator, Georgetown, Ont.

Wm. Montgomery, Fleury & Montgomery, Solicitors, 100 St. George Street, Toronto.

April 15th, A.D. 1940.



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