

**NEWS AND INFORMATION FOR THE BUSY FARMER**

**Given Provincial Award**  
Joseph E. Brethour, Burford farmer, was last week presented with the first provincial \$1000 award by Premier Ferguson in recognition of his contributions to agriculture, particularly respecting the improvement in bacon hogs which raised the standard in the whole bacon industry in the province. Premier Ferguson in making the presentation explained that it was just as a recognition, not as an inducement, to indicate to the farmers of Ontario that the people as a whole were vitally interested in their progress.

**Bean Growers Hit**  
Despite an increase of approximately 20 per cent. in the acreage of beans in Elgin County over last year, the yield will show a decided drop because of the long drought which lasted in that district for over six weeks. F. S. Thomas, district representative states that the crop will only be fair, while others interested in the growing of beans for commercial purposes are still more pessimistic. The effect of the lack of rain is clearly evident in many fields in the shrunken bean, the poorly filled pod and the vines that are only partially podded. Elgin has between 8,000 and 10,000 acres in beans this year. It is unlikely that the yield per acre will be much over 12 bushels, whereas yields of 25 bushels to the acre have not been uncommon in that district in the past.

**Sow Thistle Conference**  
With more than fifty in attendance including farmers from three counties, agricultural representatives and various officials of the department, a meeting in the interest of sow thistle control was held on the farm of W. D. Hyslop, near Stratford, where experiments with regard to the weed have been conducted on four plots. Last year the entire field was a grain crop yielding about fifteen bushels to the acre and much infested with sow thistle. On each of the four plots a portion was left unfertilized while another part received an application of 400 pounds per acre. In every case the fertilizer had checked the sow thistle. Several other experiments which had been conducted were discussed at length by J. A. Carroll, director of the crops and markets branch who explained the different methods carried on.

**Fruit-Packing Plants Planned**  
An experimental fruit-packing plant will be established in the vicinity of Newcastle at an early date, according to a recent announcement by Mr. J. B. Fairbairn, Deputy Minister. "The idea we have in mind," he said, "is to get uniformity and tightness of our overseas fruit shipments. If the Newcastle plant proves successful we will establish other plants throughout Ontario. Arrangements are being made so that growers may have packing

facilities located in their districts by applying to the Government." The Newcastle district was chosen chiefly because the apple industry there has been declining and because the department has been able to take over, refit and place under proper supervision a warehouse owned by growers there. The growers will be charged for the actual cost of packings but not for supervision nor for commission on overseas sales, which will be handled by Andrew Fulton, the Government's fruit marketing representative in Britain.

**New Plan Launched**  
The re-establishment of the hog-raising industry in Eastern Canada by the liberal utilization of coarse grains grown in Western Canada, thus also assisting the West to solve the problem of marketing its crops, is the underlying idea of plans now in the course of development by the Western wheat pools, the Eastern live stock interests and the packers, with the aid of the Ontario and Dominion Departments of Agriculture, and the O. A. C. A representative of the grain growers has already been visiting various parts of Ontario with a view to organizing for the distribution to live stock breeders of coarse grain feeds of which there is now a large surplus tied up in terminal elevators. In this way it is hoped that Canada may recapture her former fine export market for bacon, hams and other pork products. At the same time a domestic market will be provided for barley, oats and lower grade wheat produced in Western Canada, thus easing the marketing problem of the West at times when grains are slow to move. According to the plan, these grains will be made available at any point in Ontario at equalized prices and an assurance given the stock-raiser that he will be able to obtain such grain every month in the year at a comparative level with world prices. It is hoped that new stimulus will be given the live stock industry by the inauguration of this program.

**Current Crop Report**  
The first report from representatives for the month of September showed that crop conditions had improved considerably for later crops such as potatoes and ensilage corn, but the showers arrived too late in the season to be of much help to buckwheat, which is reported as being more or less a failure throughout Western Ontario. Decrease in milk flow was reported in practically all counties, especially in Western Ontario, due to shortage of pastures. Northern Ontario was enjoying good weather for harvesting and a keen demand for hay was noted.

**Overseas Export Resumed**  
After a lapse of two years during which time price levels for cattle in Canada were above an export basis, the cattle trade with Great Britain Manchester Commerce sailed from Montreal with 128 head on order for Manchester. Some of the cattle were purchased in Toronto and these, according to the buyer, were known as light Manchester feeders. They averaged around 1100 pounds. In addition to the Manchester line, the Anchor-Donaldson line is also offering space and the S.S. Castalian has all space taken except for 50 head. Another large shipment from a western province is also reported as moving. These new developments are resulting in renewed confidence in the export market as an outlet for Canadian products.

**Fertilizer Field Meetings Popular**  
Fertilizer tests with potatoes, grain crops, canning crops and pasture are being tried out in South Simcoe under the direction of the Chemistry Department, O. A. C., Guelph, and in co-operation with F. A. Lashley, agricultural representative. These experiments have shown up extremely well and very interesting results are expected.

Recently a fertilizer field meeting was held on E. C. Whiteside's farm near Alliston, where an extensive test is being carried out on a field of 42 acres of potatoes. In spite of a busy time for farmers, 175 growers from Simcoe and adjoining counties turned out in the middle of the afternoon to hear addresses delivered by various fertilizer experts. Later the party made a tour of the Alliston potato district, stopping at T. H. Wilson and Sons, where demonstrations in spraying and dusting were given. To add to the success of the program the Wilson Bros. staged a display of modern potato machinery which they have in use on their own farm.

While potatoes are looked upon as a specialized crop around Alliston, the

Collingwood district can boast of its production of tomatoes and other canning crops. Fertilizer tests on the Smart Bros. farm near Collingwood have so far shown amazing results.

**GRAIN SMUT**  
The damage caused by grain smut is becoming a very serious problem to farmers. Mr. R. E. White, Newmarket, Agricultural Representative for York County, strongly advises the treating of wheat for smut before sowing.

The copper carbonate dust treatment is recommended for the prevention of bunt or stinking smut of wheat. This smut affects the kernels of wheat but not the chaff. Where the chaff and kernels are both affected, the cause is loose smut, which requires a different treatment. Direct inquiries for this to R. E. White, Newmarket. The copper carbonate dust is applied at the rate of two to three ounces per bushel of grain. Dust mixing machines are now on the market. Farmers may make a home mixing machine from a barrel churn, ordinary barrel or cement mixer. Sixty bushels of wheat can be treated in an hour. Treated grain is unfit for milling or feed but may be stored indefinitely for seed purposes. Seed drills should be thoroughly cleaned before and after seeding. Germination is not injured by this treatment. Wheat must be cleaned before treated, to eliminate bunted grains present and other impurities. Local hardware stores will have or can obtain this copper carbonate dust for you.

Full directions are found in bulletin 349, Grain Smuts, obtained upon application to the Department of Agriculture, Parliament Buildings, Toronto; or the York County Agricultural Representative, R. E. White, Newmarket.

**LETTERS CANNOT BE RETURNED TO WRITERS**

Postmasters in the approximately 12,000 offices in Canada receive upwards of 1,000 requests each day for senders of mail that they be allowed to retrieve it from the post.

In about half the cases an opportunity to correct addresses is sought. In the other half, people, on second thought, decided the letter would be better unsent.

Applicants, however are doomed to disappointment for when a letter goes into a mail box or a post office, the sender loses his rights to it. It automatically becomes the property of the person to whom addressed.

Requests for the return of mail have become so numerous that the Deputy Postmaster-General, L. J. Gaboury, has issued a warning to Postmasters that "mail matter must be forwarded according to its directions. On no application however urgent can it be delivered back to the writer, or any other person."

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