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Seed Grain Survey Is Being Conducted

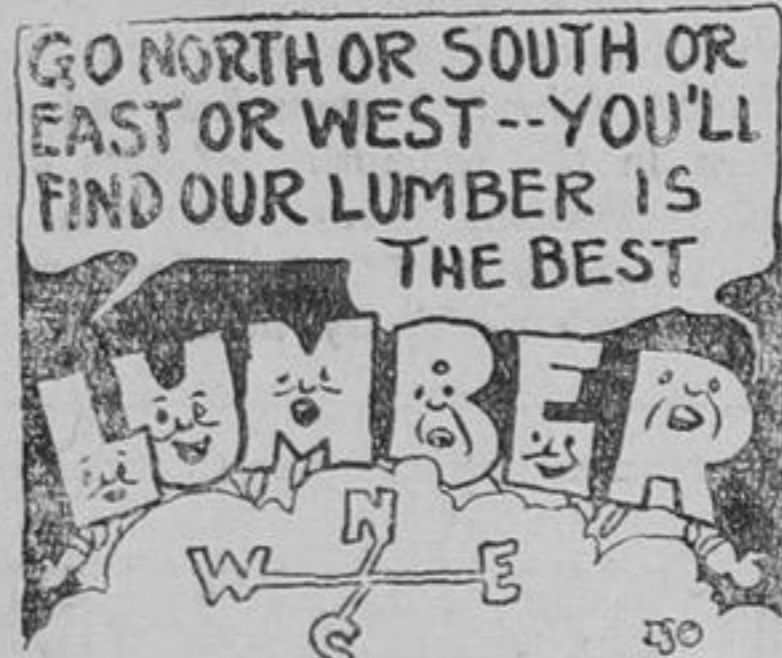
Ont. Dept. of Agriculture gathering information regarding supplies in province — Ask co-operation of all agriculturists having good seed to contact Agricultural Representatives.

In their war-time effort to not only maintain but in many cases to increase the production of grain on Ontario farms in 1940, the Ontario Dept. of Agriculture has asked every Agricultural Representative to make a comprehensive survey in his particular county of available seed grain supplies. This report must be in the hands of the Department by January 17th.

"We want to find out how much good seed grain there is in the province and get it moved this winter into the hands of the farmers for sowing next Spring," said W. R. Reek, Deputy Minister of Agriculture in commenting on the survey. "We have received reports from some sections that grain suitable for seeding purposes is being fed to live stock. This grain should be saved for seed and cheaper grain fed."

Mr. Reek pointed out that under war conditions, Ontario will have to produce every possible bushel per acre. One way this can be done is through the use of good seed which tests have shown over a period of years to be much superior to ordinary seed.

In this drive for better and larger grain crops, farmers can aid by notifying their Agricultural Representatives of their seed grain supplies and their own particular needs.



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Chick'n Chats

(By E. W. Anstey)

So called "blood spots" are abnormalities of considerable economic importance. It has been stated that slightly more than 1 per cent of all eggs produced are not saleable because of this defect. The loss of one egg out of each hundred is not to be taken lightly.

Most blood spots occur in this way: When the completed yolk leaves the enveloping sac it does so by rupturing the yolk sac at a spot free from any of the numerous, tiny, crisscrossing blood vessels. Sometimes the escaping yolk causes a tear beyond the boundaries set by nature, while at other times one of the many vessels may burst; in either event some blood is passed into the oviduct along with the yolk, where it is surrounded by white and incorporated in the egg.

Blood spots are mostly found when pullets begin to lay heavily and during the period of highest production. In flocks that are pushed into heavy production suddenly by the use of all-night lights, the number of blood spots may increase for a time. There is little doubt about the relationship between heavy production and the frequency of blood spots, and the explanation seems to be that when pullets are producing heavily the ovaries are plentifully supplied with blood to permit the rapid formation of yolks. In flocks of yearlings and older hens the problem of blood spots rarely becomes bothersome.

It is sometimes suggested to control the trouble by feeding more grains and less mash in order to slow up production. In extreme cases such a practice might be desirable; usually though the resulting loss in production is likely to be greater than the loss due to blood spots. Also by the time the changed feeding method influences production, the trouble may have adjusted itself—as it usually does.

Individual records reveal that certain birds are more or less persistent producers of blood spots. Where individual records are kept such birds can be easily eliminated.

An investigator some years ago reported that additional cod liver oil in the feed cut down the percentage of blood spots. This observation however has not been confirmed by any research of experimental farms.

Fright, over-exertion, and strain, and rough handling, are sometimes the cause of a temporary increase in blood spots. In this connection it has been observed by us, that following the individual weighing of birds, the number of blood spots invariably increased. A device is now used for weighing which prevents the birds struggling, and the increase in blood spots after weighing has been practically eliminated.

The keeping quality of eggs containing blood spots is impaired. Their appearance is not very inviting. Consequently the market does not want them. There is no objection to using such eggs at home however; they are wholesome, and if the spot is not large, its removal will render the egg as appetizing as a normal one.

Fortunately, blood spots and meat spots can be detected quite readily with a candle, although the detection of small spots in dark shelled eggs requires some experience. Anyone producing quality eggs should protect the reputation of his product by candling for blood and meat spots.

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SEED POTATOES MOVING BRISKLY

Ontario farmers should secure supply for planting immediately as many enquiries are being received from other provinces and export agencies, says J. T. Cassin, Ont. potato expert.

Many potato growers have not yet obtained their supply of seed. They should not delay much longer, says J. T. Cassin, potato expert of the Ont. Dept. of Agriculture. Stocks of certified seed are becoming depleted. Enquiries are being received from different provinces and for export for Irish Cobbler, Wabos, Katahdins and Chippewas. Export shipments have been made of Katahdins and further shipments may follow. This good seed should be planted in Ontario, and growers should not let the opportunity pass to buy before it is too late.

The demand for seed potatoes has been much greater this season than usual, Mr. Cassin states. Growers are realizing that it does not pay to plant diseased seed. Diseased seed compared with Certified seed not only reduces the yield very materially but diseased tubers do not cook well and the consumers do not want them.

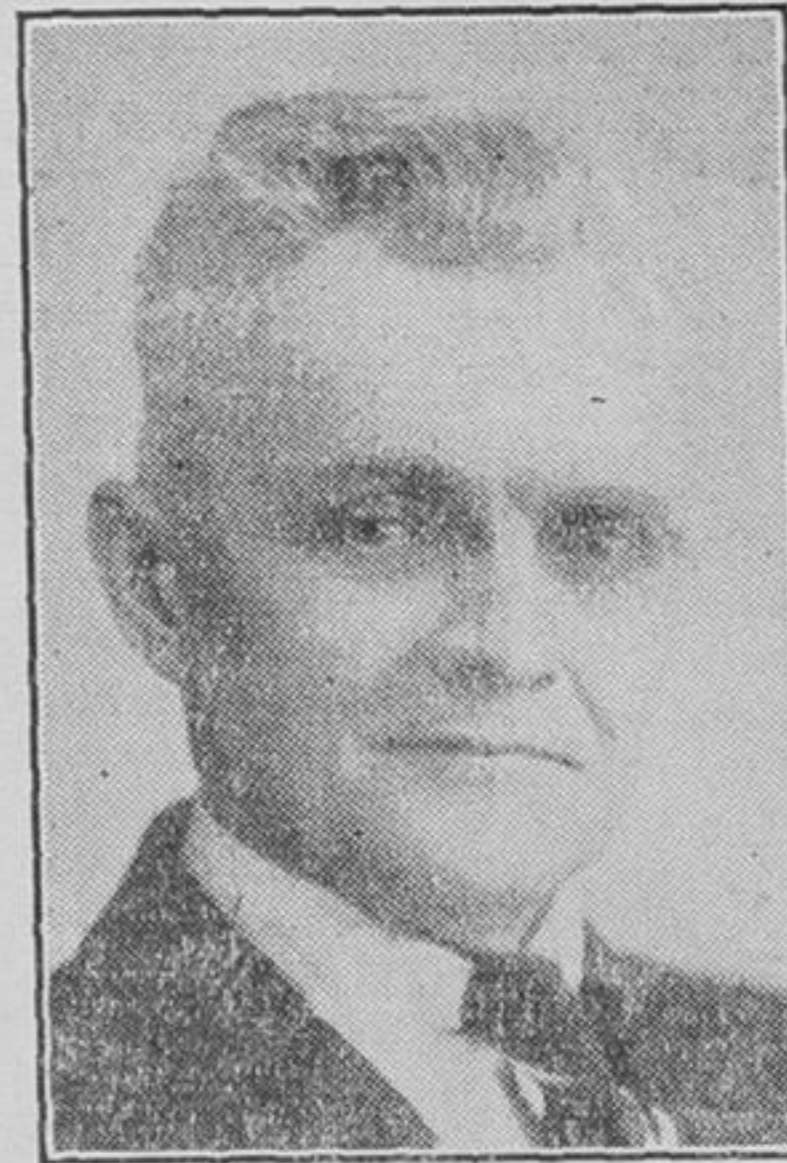
Growers making purchases of seed potatoes with the intention of having inspection for Certification should remember that such seed must be graded to the requirements for "Certified Seed" and officially tagged to receive inspection in 1940. Bin run or Canada No. 1 Grade will not receive inspection.

Certified growers who plant their own seed will be required to satisfy the inspector that the seed was selected from crops produced in fields that passed all inspections in the previous year and were free from Bacterial Ring Rot. If their seed shows any sign of deterioration growers should discard it and purchase the best foundation seed available now.

Dealers pay premiums for table stock grown from Certified Seed, Mr. Cassin states.

Mistress—"This pie is absolutely burned, Nora. Did you make it according to recipe in cook book?"

Nora—"No, Ma'am, it's my own cremation."



J. ALBERT DICK

Re-elected as a member of Vaughan Township Council for 1940 by acclamation. This will be his sixth term.

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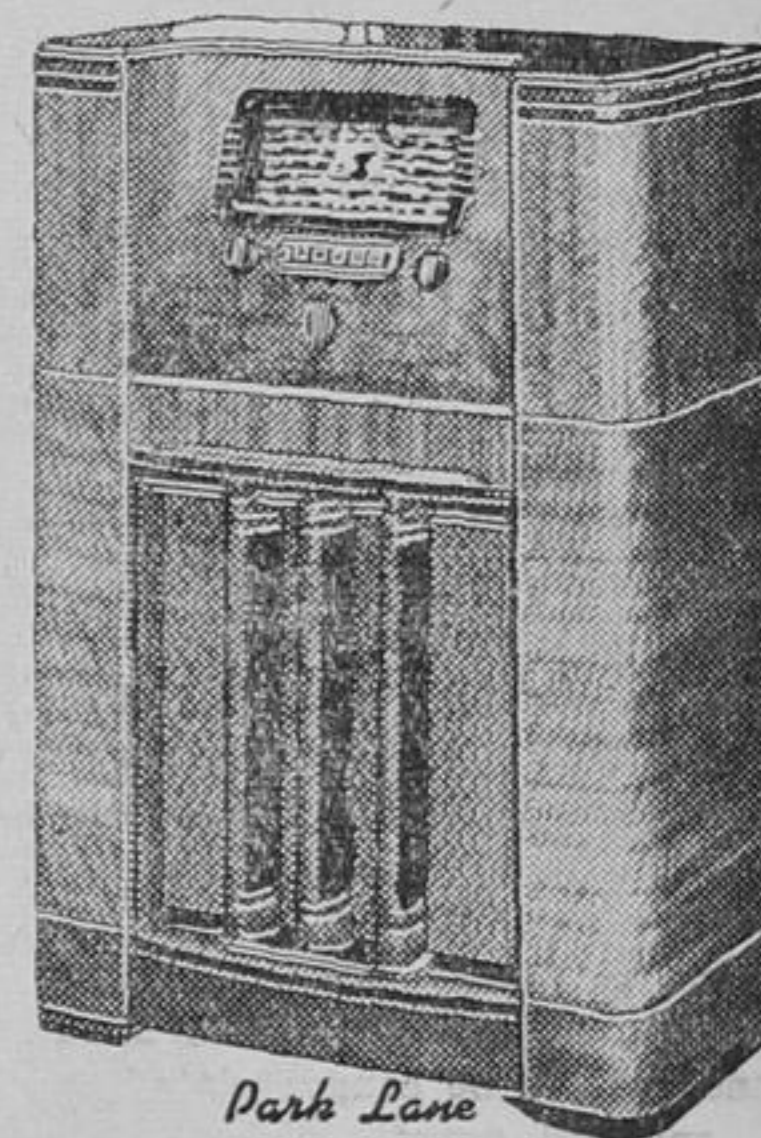
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