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Carcass Grading Improves Hog Quality

Since the inception of carcass grading as the official system in Canada on September 30, 1940, there has been a marked improvement in hog quality in all parts of the Dominion. The percentage of A Grade is still increasing but the proportion of "out weight" hogs is not decreasing pro ratio, the figures for April and May, 1941, being A Grade, April 31.3 per cent; May 32.2 per cent; B1 Grade, April 44.4 per cent; May 43.1 per cent. As may be noted, recent improvements in the top grade has been at the expense of the second grade. The proportion of undesirable hogs is actually increasing.

In general, the tendency in Eastern Canada is toward light hogs and in Western Canada toward heavy hogs. The swing to overweight carcasses is particularly noticeable in Manitoba and Saskatchewan, while many light hogs are still marketed in Quebec and the Maritime Provinces. The two provinces producing the most hogs are also producing the best hogs namely Alberta and Ontario. Hogs in these provinces are now grading from 33 to 37 per cent A grade with a low volume in lights and heavies. Canada needs more than twice the present volume of A grade hogs in order to improve the quality of export bacon to equal that supplied to Great Britain previous to the war by foreign countries.

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New Farmers Show Resourcefulness

30 Acres of Peppermint Planted by Polish Farmer

Two striking examples of resourcefulness were encountered recently on farms in south-western Ontario. A farmer of Polish origin is growing 30 acres of peppermint and has already installed equipment for distillation of the oil. Next year the crop will extend to 85 acres, and a second still will be constructed. His father was a veterinary surgeon who used to grow and distill peppermint for his own medicines. That's how the son got the notion. The crop, for which the fertilizer with high potash content was applied, was nicely up at the beginning of May. Four crops will be taken before the field is plowed again.

Muskrats and Ducks

The other story is of a man whose farm grew bumper crops of corn and alfalfa prior to 1929 and had been tile-drained at great cost. Then Lake St. Clair overflowed in a tremendous flood which submerged the farm land. Efforts to reclaim the land from the waters proved unavailing, so this man decided it was futile to buck nature and he would co-operate with her. The once fertile farm is now a swamp, growing bullrushes instead of alfalfa, but stocked with muskrats and wild ducks. The revenue from this back-to-nature area is represented by sales of pelts and fees which hunters pay for the privilege of shooting at wild fowl. Thus was disaster turned to profit.

Besides the swamp area of 1200 acres, there are others that escaped the flood and are still producing wheat, corn, alfalfa and onions. Here about 25 tons of fertilizer are used annually, which gives some idea of the extent of the regular farming operations.

WOODBIDGE

A crop of large potatoes is already being harvested by Postmaster Alfred Thompson in his Woodbridge garden. Never before has he harvested a crop so early, Mr. Thompson declares.

President William Rowntree presided when the Woodbridge Fair Board's annual June meeting was held Saturday, June 21st at the home of George Brownlee. Business included revision of prize lists and receipt of the official treasurer's report.

Results of the Woodbridge Victory Loan Campaign Decorating contest, announced at Newmarket headquarters Wednesday, show that Miss Norma Ostrander's "Village Beauty Shoppe" carried off the \$5 award for business places. A \$5 prize for the best decorated residence went to Wilfrid R. Scott, head of the local canvassing committee.

"What the Ten Commandments would be under Hitler's rule" was the subject of a reading presented on Thursday of last week before the Woodbridge United Church Women's Association meeting by Mrs. C. W. Barrett. The meeting, held at the home of Mrs. Stanley Watson, also featured instrumental selections by Miss Agnes Watson, songs by a quartette composed of Mrs. L. Elliott, Mrs. Barrett, Mrs. G. Shore, and Mrs. J. Kellam, and a contest, won by Mrs. G. Kellam, conducted by Mrs. R. Watson and Mrs. Kitchener. Prayers were led by Rev. C. W. Barrett who also gave a very interesting talk on the topic.

Investigating the death of Roy Devins, 10 year old son of Mr. and Mrs. G. Devins, of Pine Ridge, a coroner's jury at Weston this week returned a verdict of accidental death with no blame attached to anyone. The lad's death followed a highway mishap near his home, about 2½ miles south of Woodbridge, on May 6th.

King township council last week approved an issue of \$4,000.00 debentures for the erection of a school to serve School Section 4, Strange. A grant of \$50 was made to the Aurora Horse Show. Action was postponed on the Holland Marsh area's request for a \$14,000 road development program. Ontario government men are scheduled to investigate the area's needs this week.

Rev. Dr. James Wilson, retired Presbyterian minister, died in Toronto last week. He was minister at Dovercourt Road Presbyterian Church for 20 years and at Brantton Presbyterian Church from 1925 to 1930.

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Britain May Require Large Supply of Eggs

Indications are that Great Britain will require an increasingly large supply of eggs from Canada during the third year of the war. The Dominion Department of Agriculture believes it is now too late to prepare for this demand through the purchase of baby chicks, but a great deal can be done by a careful selection and carrying over of all available laying stock. There is a noticeable tendency at the present time on the part of poultry producers to reduce laying flocks, the marketing of fowl being quite heavy during the first two weeks in June.

While systematic culling is desirable at all times, the present situation would not appear to warrant heavy reductions. There has been no break in the price of eggs and all indications point to a particularly strong egg market during the summer and fall of this year.

While it is true that a great many yearlings were kept over last fall and in the ordinary course of events now is the time when two year olds, and birds that have completed their lay, should go to market. Poultry producers, however, would be well advised to look over their yearling stock carefully and to retain for laying purposes all birds which are physically fit and in such condition as to insure a maximum egg production during the next twelve months.

Flea Beetle Damaging Potatoes

Potato growers are reporting heavy damage to young plants from the potato Flea Beetle, a very small black beetle that works on both the upper and lower surface of the leaves. At a distance the plants for a time look fairly normal, but on close examination and especially when held up to the light have the appearance of being full of small perforations between the veins. Later the beetles puncture the veins and cause the tips of the leaves to die.

The flea beetle like the leaf hopper can be controlled by spraying or dusting with Bordeaux Mixture which acts as a repellent rather than a poison. Ordinary poisons having no effect, agricultural representative W. M. Cockburn, is most emphatic in advising growers to dust or spray at once and both surfaces of the leaves must be thoroughly covered as fully half of the beetles work on the under side of the leaves. The Bordeaux Mixture used for the flea beetles is the same preparation as is used for prevention of late blight, adding poison only when the old familiar potato bug is present.

The interest aroused in potato growing by the government demonstration plots last year induced Gordon Rynard, of Traylor, to purchase a large 6-row tractor duster to do custom work for growers who lack equipment or labor to do a thorough spray or dust job when it should be applied. He already has contracts with a number of growers in Zephyr, Mount Albert and Ballantrae districts.

THE MILL

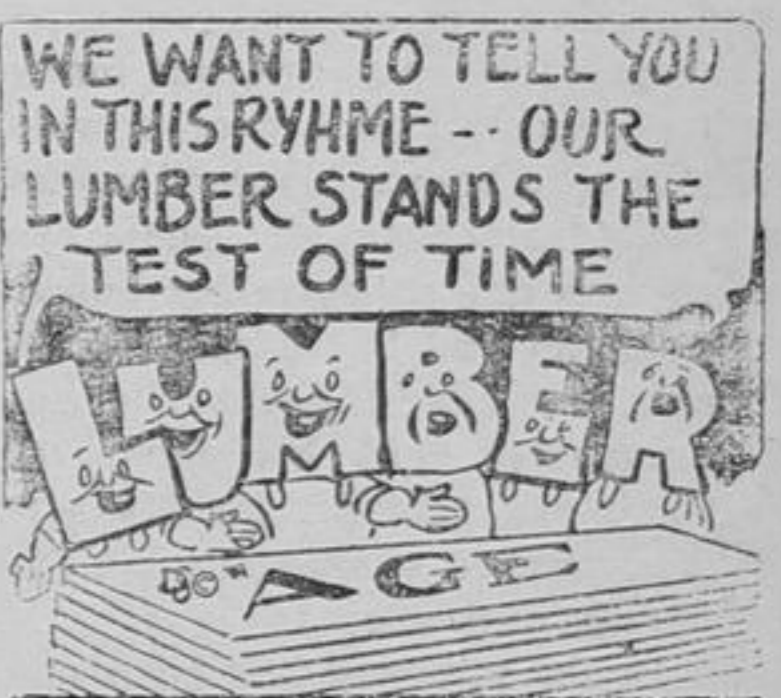
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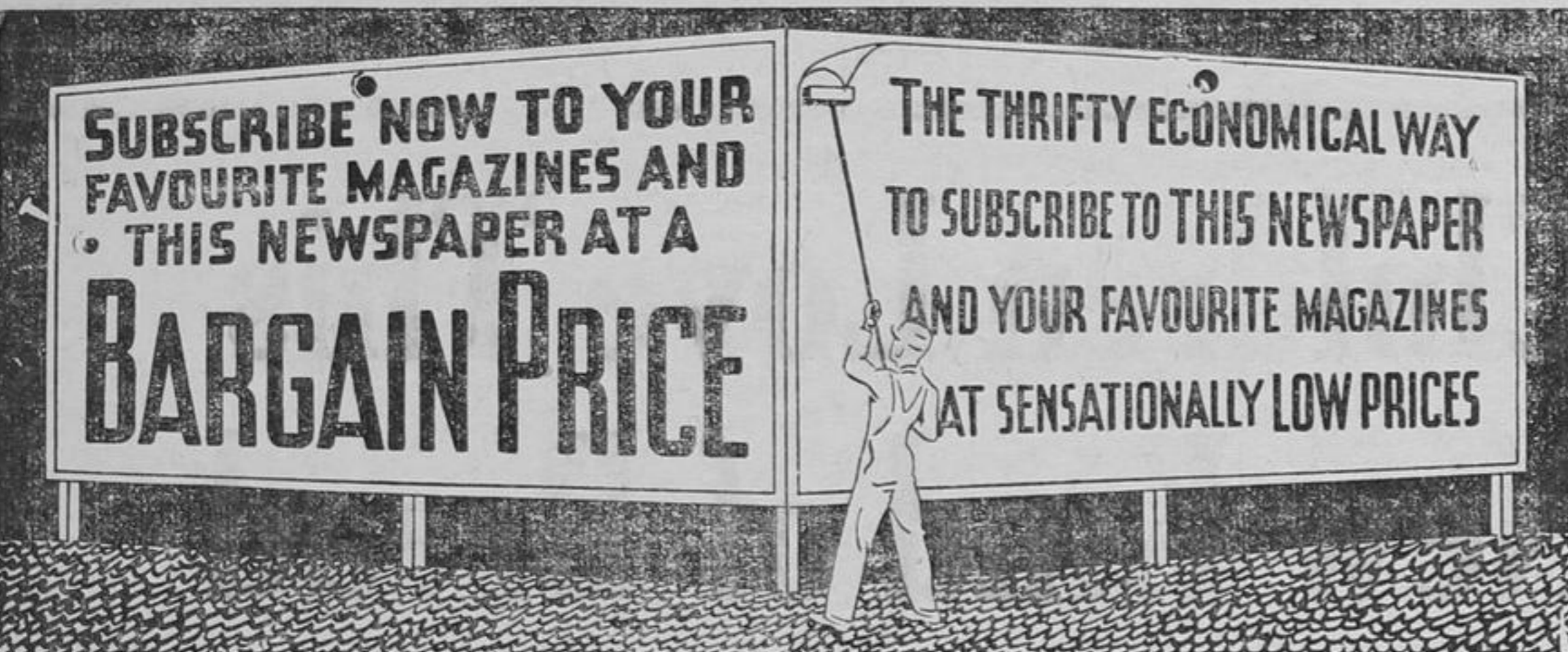
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