

## NEWS AND INFORMATION FOR THE BUSY FARMER

(Furnished by the Ontario Department of Agriculture)

### Soil Deficiency

Prof. G. N. Ruhnke told the Field Crop convention in Toronto that many soils in Ontario were showing signs of mineral deficiency and this was reflected in the crops and live stock. Fertility is lost in the ordinary course of farming. It cannot be replaced by the manure alone and there is a demand for fertilizers to bring back farms to full productive capacity. Before applying these commercial mixtures it is necessary to determine if drainage is required and to test for acidity. Where there is an acid condition lime is the remedy. In choosing a fertilizer a soil test is the best guide though the crop history is also to be taken into consideration.

### Field Crop Convention

Organizations of district associations to promote the growing of better seed in Ontario was urged by Alex. M. Stewart, president of the Field Crop Association at the annual meeting in Toronto. With the province divided into zones the particular problems of soil and climate could be studied by local groups. Representatives from these groups could then discuss at the general convention the larger problems of sale and distribution of seed. It was decided to ask for greater financial aid to carry out experimental work. One of the matters demanding attention is a method of controlling seedborne diseases.

Dr. G. P. McRostie outlined the crop testing program which had been proposed a year ago and on which some progress has been made. Based on soil surveys made in Western Ontario and the counties between Toronto and Kingston a number of zones have been marked off. Attention has been given to differences of climate so that some uniformity of conditions in each zone can be depended upon. The corn growing area of Essex and Kent and the Niagara fruit belt are striking examples of crops adapted to certain areas. Dr. McRostie thinks there is a possibility of producing turnip seed in a strip of land bordering on Lake Huron and Georgian Bay where conditions are similar to those in Nova Scotia.

## Memorandum Re. Radio Broadcasting

The recent actions of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation in (1) actively entering the commercial network field and (2) recommending an increased license fee from \$2.00 to \$2.50 in addition to also recommending the licensing of duplicate sets and automobile radios, have focussed the attention of both the Press and the Public on this Government Body which is now definitely entering the commercial field in competition to previously established commercial interests and it would seem that now is the time to thoroughly look into the entire situation and decide on what lines to proceed for the future or, in the alternative, for the Government to make up its mind whether it is not now time to call a halt before the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation becomes the type of political and financial headache that the Canadian National Railway now is.

The Aird Commission started the ball rolling with its recommendations that radio in Canada should be nationalized somewhat along the line of the British Broadcasting Corporation and recommended in its report that the revenue for such Nationalization should be derived from (1) a \$3.00 license fee estimated to net something like Two Million Dollars annually (2) a Million Dollar per year subsidy from the Public Treasury, and (3) approximately Seven Hundred Thousand Dollars per year for what they referred to as sponsored programmes. Their definition of a sponsored programme being one that would merely carry the name of the sponsor but no other direct advertising. The \$3.00 license fee did not seem to meet with popular approval, particularly in view of the fact that the best radio entertainment available for Canadians does, in fact, originate in the United States where no license fee is charged at all. Financial conditions in Canada were in such a shape that the Government of the day did not see fit to grant them the Million Dollar annual subsidy and any hopes of getting Seven Hundred Thousand Dollars a year out of advertisers for merely the mention of their name on the air is absolutely ridiculous. The Commission therefore, started its activities with a \$2.00 license fee which, at the present time, nets them in the neighbourhood of Two Million Dollars, they receive no other subsidy from the Public Treasury, but they do receive some commercial revenue, not as yet up to the Seven Hundred Thousand Dollars that was suggested, but it would be considerably in excess of Seven Hundred Thousand Dollars if the Corporation had the funds to buy out, and own and operate, all of the Private Stations in

on the thousands of tests conducted on small plots throughout Ontario. These have indicated in a general way the best yielding varieties. To get more accurate data twenty-five larger plots were tried last year by students of the Agricultural College. Results so far have been satisfactory and obtained at moderate cost. There were also fourteen supervised tests with fertilizers which cost about \$30 each and were 85 percent, reliable.

Rust of oats has become one of the major enemies of the grain grower in Eastern Canada. There were heavy losses in the harvest of 1937, some fields being reduced to ten bushels or less per acre. Fortunately there are a few varieties that are resistant to the disease which may show itself either on the stem or leaf. Dr. L. H. Newman, Dominion Cerealist of the Central Experimental Farm has collected results of supervised tests on farms in Eastern Ontario and finds that the old varieties are susceptible and may have to be discarded, at least in areas where this disease is a controlling factor, and rust-free roots grown in their place.

As rust, rather than soil, seems to be the determining factor in obtaining good crops in many districts Dr. Newman has taken steps to map out the areas where the stems are attacked and where the leaf is affected. With this information it will be possible to recommend varieties that may be grown with relative safety. How great a gain may result is seen in a case at Winchester where a variety resistant to leaf rust went 60 bushels to the acre while Victory only gave 8 bushels. At the Ottawa Experimental Farm it is planned to drop Victory for Vanguard and at the Kempsville School, Erban is recommended. Even outside the districts affected with rust Lanark and Erban have given better results in yields than other sorts.

Spring wheat which is grown to a limited extent in Eastern Canada, chiefly for poultry feed, also needs to be rust resistant. Huron and Marquis, so well known to Eastern farmers, cannot be depended upon as they are both susceptible to stem rust.

Canada.

It might be interesting at this time to just pursue our thoughts along the various lines of action that may be open to the Government in directing its radio policy. Let us look first at the policy that was originally suggested by the Aird Commission, and to which the present Canadian Broadcasting Corporation seem to be, in part, directing its activities, that of complete Nationalization of all radio in Canada. At the present time there are some Eighty stations operating in the Dominion of Canada of which only Eight are either owned or operated by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. The balance of the radio service to the people of this country is still dependent on the Seventy-three stations operated by private enterprise. What would be the capital investment to acquire these additional seventy-three stations and to bring their equipment into first-class shape, we are not in a position to estimate, but it would run into Millions. The Government of Canada would then find itself definitely in the radio business whether it liked it or not and with an investment, while not comparable to the investment they have in the Canadian National Railways, still a very considerable investment for the tax-payer to carry from now on. But that isn't anything like the whole story. It is presumed that, having acquired all of the stations which the Corporation contemplates doing, they will then have to operate them on a purely National basis, providing all or most of the programmes to operate these stations from within Canada's border, accepting only occasional programmes of International importance from various foreign sources, and possibly accepting some assistance in their service from the British Broadcasting Corporation. Such programmes as they accepted from the networks in the United States would, of course, have to be paid for. In the main, however, the programme service on a Nationalized basis would have to originate, as it does in Great Britain, practically all in Canada.

The situation, however, in Great Britain is comparatively simple—they have only one major language, (true a few broadcasts are put on in the Welsh tongue), they have no other countries around them that speak the same language, therefore there is little or no competition from foreign broadcasts, they have no transmission wire problems on account of their very small area, their population of Forty-six Million is concentrated into an area a fraction the size of Ontario, and all of their broadcasting time is on the same hour. What do we find, however, in Canada—we have two languages that have to be definitely catered to, the French population, occupying a considerable percentage of Canada's total population, we have five time changes across our fast country, we have a small population of approximately Eleven Millions, we have Thousands of Miles of transmission wires to provide in order to food programmes, and we have several times the number of stations to erect and operate if we are to provide the same service Nationally to Canadian listeners as is provided by B.B.C. to British listeners.

The difficult feature of the whole thing is that Canada's population merely forms a fringe on the North

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side of the International boundary and in the United States there are some Eight Hundred stations operating, having an output of power of some Two Million, Six Hundred Thousand Watts, so that every radio listener in Canada has the choice of several different Stations to which he may listen and in the United States there is an Annual expenditure of something like Two Hundred and Fifty Million Dollars in radio entertainment competing with whatever money we could scrape up to spend here, so that it leads us to the conclusion that even if we were to provide upwards of Seventeen Million Dollars per annum to completely Nationalize Canadian radio, the question of how much Canadian audience the Nationalized system could retain would depend entirely on how Canadian programs would compare with those produced by Private Enterprise in the country to the South of us. Whether or not these programmes are carried over Canadian stations is immaterial because there is hardly any section of the country to-day that cannot perfectly receive these high-class American programmes either by Long or Short Wave. We contend, therefore, that to pursue this exclusively Nationalized policy to its logical conclusion will ultimately face the people of Canada with an Annual Deficit which will compare in size to the Annual Deficit of the Canadian National Railways.

What are the other alternatives that the Government might adopt? The system that prevails in Australia, that of having two parallel systems, (1) a chain of "A" Stations operated by the Government on a National basis and free of advertising, for which the Australians pay a license fee, (2) a further chain of "B" stations operated by commercial interests as an alternative service, subsisting mainly on advertising revenue. Such a system might be successful in Canada, thus giving the listener an alternative choice of programmes.

The plan outlined herein would not preclude the Government controlling and regulating ALL radio stations in Canada, even to the point of taking them over, or cutting down in the event of a National Crisis developing.

When you have a few minutes to spare don't bother someone who hasn't.

One tiny fact will often upset a whole library of theory.

## Temperance Column

### THAT ALCOHOL TEST

(The following, as will be seen, is a letter sent to the Attorney-General of Manitoba by the Good Templars of Manitoba.)  
Hon. W. J. Major, (K.C., Winnipeg).  
Dear Mr. Major:—I have been asked by my Grand Lodge Executive, I.O.G.T., to bring this subject to your attention.

We are grateful to our magistrates or the manner in which they have conducted their duty, in handling the drunken drivers. But is that enough?

The danger on the road is on the last few yards, that a car travels in emergency, which produces the accident, and only too often it is the ALCOHOL that the driver has consumed that is responsible for those last few yards being traversed at all. As Sir Lauder Brunton puts it "Paralysis of the judgment begins with the first glass."

Such responsibility, can only be determined by a scientific test. The blood test perfected by a Swedish doctor, and highly commended, by British experts is simple and conclusive. Should the laboratory examination of a drop or two of blood extracted from the lobe of the ear or finger reveal that ALCOHOL is present in the proportion of one part in a thousand, the driver is definitely under its influence, and unfit to be in charge of a motor vehicle. If the proportion were one part in five hundred, he would be dead drunk.

The following resolution on blood test was passed at our last Grand Lodge session:

"Impressed by the fact that the sustained propaganda for road safety has largely failed to reduce road fatalities and accidents, and gravely concerned at the seeming disregard of drivers of the natural effects of ALCOHOL, that this conference requests the executive to arrange with the least possible delay an influential deputation to wait upon the authorities of the Province to urge the imperative need of determining the responsibility of ALCOHOL for road casualties, by requiring a scientific test for the presence of ALCOHOL in the blood, to be made in all cases where drivers are concerned in accidents involving injury to any person, or where their actions in driving, give suspicion to the highway police.

This method has been developed in Sweden, to ascertain the amount of ALCOHOL in the blood, and hence the degree of intoxication of the subject. This test has been officially adopted in Berlin, and has been used in Denmark, Switzerland, and Iceland, and is on its way in Great Britain and the U.S.A. so that its accuracy has now wide confirmation.

It is not the smell of liquor on the man's breath, not even the amount of ALCOHOL he has consumed. But the amount of ALCOHOL circulating in his blood at the time of the accident, that determines his condition. Such a test is valuable protection to the innocent. Occasionally as a result of nervousness or shock following an accident, the action of a driver who has taken

## TELEPHONE TALKS IN THE WATSON FAMILY



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no liquor may be mistaken for signs of intoxication. On the other hand this fact frequently comes up in court as an alibi for the guilty. The blood test is an unerring witness. It protects the innocent, and on the other hand it is a good lie detector.

"Knowing your attitude towards keeping up law and order, I trust that you will be able to place this on the statute books of this good Province of ours.

WE'D BETTER BE CAREFUL

(Winchester Press)  
A Toronto doctor said recently that "ninety per cent. of the men over 40 attending sporting events are taking a chance of dropping dead of heart failure." This business of keeping alive has certainly developed into a complicated affair. However, there is some consolation for all sport fans in the fact that more people die in bed than anywhere else.

## THE REAL REASON

(Amprior Chronicle)  
According to a newspaper story a secret was kept from two hundred women. Which is probably why it remained a secret.

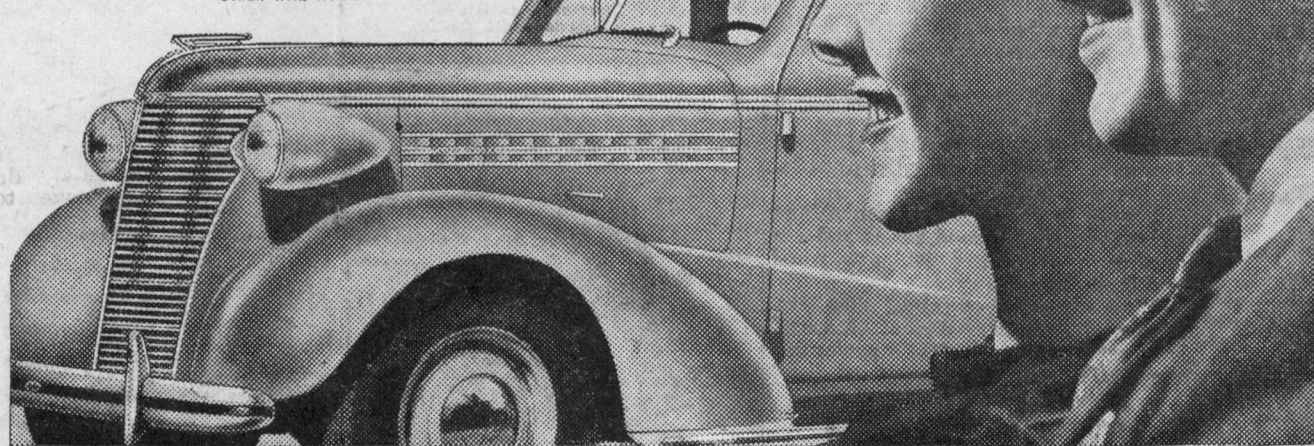
Boss: Can't you find something to do?  
Office Boy: Gee Whiz, am I expected to do the work and find it, too?

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