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Essay Contests for School Pupils re Fire Prevention

One Thousand Gold-Plated Medals for Public and Separate School Pupils. Twenty-two Grand Prizes for High School, College and University Students.

In connection with the campaign for greater interest and attention to fire prevention, one of the features of which campaign is the present Fire Prevention Week—the Ontario Fire Prevention League is offering a number of prizes for essays on Fire Prevention, particulars of which may be gathered below:—

1.—All boys and girls in the Third and Fourth Forms of Public, Private and Separate Schools are eligible to compete for the medals given by the Ontario Fire Prevention League, Inc., on the subject, "Prevention of Fire in the Home and Factory."

2.—One thousand ornate gold-plated enamel medals will be presented by the Ontario Fire Prevention League, Inc., in the various cities, towns, villages and counties, according to population on a proportionate basis.

3.—Not more than three medals will be allotted to any one school, one of which should be given in the Third and one in the Fourth Form.

4.—Essay must not exceed five hundred words in length. Write only on one side of the paper.

5.—For information and statistics, outside of that which may be obtained at the Public Library, etc., read the booklet, "Is Your Home Fire Safe?" If you haven't a copy, write for one to the Secretary of the Ontario Fire Prevention League, Inc., 48 King St. West, Toronto.

6.—All essays must be in the hands of the principals of schools not later than November 15th. Reports, giving the names and addresses of the successful pupils, should be sent to the Secretary of the Ontario Fire Prevention League by December 1st.

7.—The principals may make such other rules as they deem necessary so as to conduct the contest in a fair and uniform manner for the district. Essays are to be written during school hours with the idea of forming a regular exercise in composition.

8.—Principals of schools or persons appointed by them are to be the judges. To simplify the work the teachers are requested to select the five best essays and submit them to the judges for final decision.

In regard to the prizes for essays by High School, College and University students, the rules above apply with some changes.

Essays are not to exceed 1000 words.

"Lightning, Its Origin and Control" is added to the literature mentioned in paragraph 5 above. Rules 6 and 7 apply practically as for the Public and Separate School pupils. A list of judges is named.

Students, male and female, in Colleges and Universities and High Schools throughout Ontario are eligible to compete for the twenty-two grand prizes, seven prizes of books fifteen solid silver medals, presented

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by the Ontario Fire Prevention League, for the best essays on the topic, "Prevention of Fire in the Home and Factory."

Not more than one prize will be awarded to any one High School, College or University.

Further details may be secured from the Secretary of the Ontario Fire Prevention League.

LADY MACCABEES LODGE ORGANIZED HERE MONDAY

Provincial Commander and Supreme Auditor of Society Pay Visit to Timmins.

On Monday evening in the Odd-fellows Hall, Timmins, the Lady Maccabees Lodge of Timmins was duly organized. It will be known as the Northland Tent of Maccabees, and its objects are both social and fraternal. Two distinguished officers of the Order were present for the organization meeting, these being W. H. Eggleston, Provincial Commander, and Mr. Mulholland, Supreme Auditor. The latter was the installing Officer for the occasion.

The following officers were elected and installed:—

Lady Past Commander—Mrs. M. Salley.

Commander—Miss Plouffe.

Lieut.-Com.—Mrs. Briggs.

Record Keeper—Mrs. Wheeler.

Chaplain—Mrs. W. A. Devine.

Sergt.—Miss Spence.

L. M. A.—Miss Troffert.

First Guard—Mrs. O'Connor.

Second Guard—Mrs. Hornby.

Sentinel—Mrs. Latang.

Picket—Mrs. Irvine.

After the installation ceremony the ladies entertained the visitors to a delightful lunch and a social hour.

It is the object of this newly-formed organization to reach a membership of 100 this season.

BOX SOCIAL AND DANCE AT PORCUPINE ON MONDAY

Porcupine Agricultural Society announces a Box Social and Dance to be held in the Orange Hall, Porcupine (Golden City), on Monday evening, Oct. 12th. There will be good music and a good time, and everybody will be welcome. There should be a good turnout to this event.

FAVOUR CLOSE SEASON FOR PARTRIDGE THIS YEAR

Mr. Luxton, of Cochrane, Game Warden for this wide district stretching from Province to Province, and from North Bay to the North Pole, was a visitor to town this week. Game Warden Luxton is making efforts to see that the fish and game laws are observed in this district. If he succeeds he will prove himself equal to the task of ridding a country of flies by killing them all by hand one at a time. In the immense territory Mr. Luxton oversees, he can be travelling miles by wagon or canoe or by power to see about the enforcement of the law in that particular section, while scores of other areas can disregard the law, knowing that he is too far away to check them up. The territory is altogether too large for one man. They seem to have a much better plan in Quebec where one man's range will only be about 20 miles. On various occasions The Advance has pointed out the desirability of a game warden for the Porcupine alone. It would keep one man busy here, and his salary and expenses would be money well invested from the standpoint of the conservation of fish and game. But why worry? If the fish and game is all destroyed in a few years, as seems likely, there will be no need for a game warden here. And if any fish or game are left soon, why worry?

While in town Mr. Luxton was testing out the general opinion in regard to the close season this year for partridge. Apparently there are some who want the open season this year for partridge, but the sports up this way seem to think otherwise. Mr. Luxton secured the opinion of many leading sportsmen in Cochrane, Iroquois Falls, Timmins and other places, and up to Monday night they all seemed to be unanimously in favor of keeping the close season for partridge. "Give the birds a chance," was the general opinion.

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Quality

The most urgent requirement in Canada's Agricultural Products

CANADA produces every year large quantities of wheat, oats, barley, butter, cheese, bacon, beef, eggs, apples, potatoes, grass seed and clover seed that she cannot consume. Her natural outlet for these products is, of course, Great Britain—the one great consuming country of the world with an open market.

Unfortunately, nearly every other country with any surplus of food products seems to want to send its surplus to this same market.

The keenness of the competition on this, our only market, and the energy and resourcefulness of our competitors began to impress themselves upon the Department of Agriculture some time ago, but it is only within very recent years that the real and only way to grapple with this problem has been discovered, or at least put into effect. This Department now believes, as do also most of the farmers of this country, that the "grading" of our agricultural products is the policy and practice that is seeing us through the struggle and will assure us of our rightful place on the British market.

"Grading" means the classifying of products, whether they be hogs, butter, cheese, eggs or anything else, into what might be called in a general way "BEST", "GOOD", "FAIR" and "POOR" classes.

These exact words are not used in describing the grades, but that is what is meant. The purpose served in grading is threefold—

(1) **Educational.** When the producer sees the relative quality of his product he is spurred on to maintain that quality if it is the "best" or to improve the quality where necessary.

(2) **Fair Play.** When products are not graded the inferior article for various reasons often brings as much as the superior article, and the credit and advantage of putting the superior product on the market is lost to the one who really deserves it.

(3) **Facilitating Trade.** The dealer learns to have confidence in the article he is buying and buys more freely, because it is guaranteed by grading, and gradually everybody gets to know what the "best" article really looks like or tastes like. In short, grading brings about standardization and ensures to the producer the best price.

Canada now grades her cereals, grass seeds, hay, potatoes, apples, eggs, butter, cheese, wool and bacon hogs. The results have been in every case beneficial and in some cases quite markedly so, even though the grading system has been in effect in some cases for only two or three years, thus:—

Cheese—Grading began April 1st, 1923. Canadian cheese the year before had fallen into such disfavour on the British market that New Zealand cheese was quite commonly preferred. Today Canadian cheese commands cents per pound higher than New Zealand.

Butter—Grading began same time as for cheese. The reputation of our butter was then indeed at low ebb. Canadian butter today, while not the best on the market, is rapidly improving in quality and gaining in reputation.

Hogs—Over two years ago the Department of Agriculture began to grade live hogs at the packing houses and stock yards. The 10% premium paid by the packers for "select" bacon hogs as against "thick smooths" was classed by departmental graders as done wonders to improve the quality of our hogs and develop the bacon industry.

Best Canadian bacon, which ordinarily was quoted two years ago from 10 to

18 shillings a long hundredweight below Danish, has gradually grown in the estimation of the British wholesale buyer until it is now quoted at only from 1 or less to at most 5 or 6 shillings per long hundredweight below the best Danish.

This improvement in price is, of course, due to quality and has come about very gradually, the spread narrowing down by a shilling or two a month until now it is not at all a rare occurrence to see best Canadian selling on a par with the Danish article.

Eggs—Canada was the first country to grade and standardize eggs. These grades and standards apply not only to export, interprovincial and import shipments, but also to domestic trading.

The basis is interior quality, cleanliness and weight.

Standardizing Canadian eggs has established confidence between producer and consumer and between exporter and British importer, and has resulted in a greatly-increased demand for the Canadian egg both at home and abroad.

Other products might be mentioned where grading has worked to the great advantage of the producer and to the advancement of Canadian agriculture.

Already Great Britain recognizes our store cattle, wheat, cheese, eggs, apples and oats as the best she can buy.

It is for us to so improve our other products, particularly our butter and bacon, as to bring them also into this list of "the best on the British market" and consequently the highest priced.

Grading enabled us to do this for cheese, wheat, eggs and apples.

Grading is helping us to do it for butter and bacon.

Quality Counts
Quality is thus the first objective for the Canadian export trade, and, then steady, regular supply. It is along these lines the Department of Agriculture is working by educational methods, and the result of this policy is seen in the growing volume of Canada's agricultural exports. Look at these figures:—

Canada's Principal Exports of Farm Products

	1922-23	1924-25
Wheat (bus.)	129,215,157	191,764,537
Flour (bbls.)	6,017,032	11,029,227
Bacon and Hams (cwt.)	92,338	1,208,721
Beef Cattle	296,511	218,084
Butter (lbs.)	9,739,414	24,501,961
Cheese (cwt.)	1,366,208	1,269,632
Oats (bus.)	1,338,499	1,408,237
Apples (bbls.)	14,321,048	32,775,761
Rye (bus.)	8,563,553	22,220,434
Brain Shorts and Middlings (cwt.)	3,201,430	7,524,395
Oatmeal and Rolled Oats (cwt.)	397,266	830,046
Clover Seeds (bus.)	179,255	417,907
Tobacco (lbs.)	200,153	3,531,422
Cream (gals.)	1,279,195	2,384,156
Flax Seed (bus.)	1,345,591	3,030,105

For further information and publications write
DOMINION DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, OTTAWA