

### NEWS AND INFORMATION FOR THE BUSY FARMER

(Furnished by the Ontario Department of Agriculture)

#### Brant County Dairy Show

The annual Brant County Dairy Show will be held in co-operation with the Paris Agricultural Society on September 20th. Classes are provided for four breeds of dairy cattle with a prize list of over \$1,000 offered. In 1929 at this show there were 220 cattle shown from some of the outstanding herds in Western Ontario.

#### Valuable Meadow Results

Good ordinary meadow mixtures of clover and timothy can be increased as high as 40 per cent green in weight by proper fertilization. This is the average result of ten carefully conducted tests throughout the province last summer by the Department of Chemistry. In these tests, one-half acre blocks of meadow were measured off during early spring and fertilizer of various mixtures was applied. In most cases the fertilizer was sown with the drill.

The average gain for the entire test was a little over a ton per acre green weight. This showed a nice return for the money invested in fertilizers. The addition made to the meadows in these tests averaged about 300 pounds per acre or represented an investment of five or six dollars per acre.

#### Aid to Fruit Growers

As an aid to the overseas marketing of Ontario's surplus fruit crop, the Ontario Government has decided to come to the aid of the Fruit Growers' Association insofar as guaranteeing sufficient monies to the banks to allow proper financing of the shippers. This step has been taken to allow absolute independence in marketing and will mean that with the association in a position to finance export shipments, a large number of shippers who have been barred in the past will now be able to take advantage of the services of Mr. Andrew Fulton, the association's representative in Great Britain. As a further step in organizing the province's fruit trade, the appointment is announced of Kenneth Crews of Trenton to assist P. W. Hodgetts, director of the fruit branch and secretary of the association. He will keep constantly in touch with the shippers in advising of market conditions and acting as liaison officer between the shippers and Mr. Fulton. Further, a series of experiments will be undertaken at once with a view to controlling the "apple scald" disease which annually causes tremendous loss to Ontario shippers.

#### Crop Conditions

Recent reports from agricultural representatives would indicate that the yields of fall wheat and spring grains have been exceptionally good. Weather conditions have been ideal for the storing of grain and for stook threshing which is becoming very popular. Crops such as potatoes, beans, sugar beets, corn and tobacco, will have light fields due to lack of rainfall. The yields of all fruits, especially apples and grapes,

will be detrimentally affected. Pastures in many sections were severely burned and dairymen, especially in Western Ontario, have had to resort to feeding their cattle grain and ensilage. This expense, in addition to the low price paid for milk at the cheese factories has caused the farmers no little concern. The shortage of pasture has also increased the shipments of cattle and lambs, with the result that many cattle will be sold at a loss.

#### Doing Valuable Work

The work done at the Ridgetown Experimental Farm in selecting and propagating a variety of beans that is freer from disease and gives a much greater yield than varieties formerly grown, has alone justified the establishment of this farm. This is only one branch of work undertaken there which is of substantial benefit to individual farmers of Southwestern Ontario and to the province as a whole. Valuable work has been done with tobacco, canning factory crops, cereal grains and hogs. Besides this, W. R. Reek, the superintendent and his staff have been instrumental in helping along the good work done at the Agricultural Vocational school at Ridgetown.

It is interesting to note that the farm was established at a time when the bean growers were discouraged and disease was taking a heavy toll. As little or no work had been done in selection, the seed had become run out, resulting in a poor yield. Beans have long been an important cash crop in Kent and Essex. Mr. Reek was able to get some selected bean seed from Michigan which he propagated the first year and placed in small lots on neighboring farms the second year.

The variety is known as Robust, and it is in general use at the present time being resistant to disease and a heavy yielder. There are 30 acres sown to beans on the farm this year and this will go out for seed. On the plots special work is done in selection to further improve the strain.

#### A Contrast in Weather

The contrast in weather conditions and Northern Ontario and in Quebec has been of a most astonishing nature and holds more than a touch of irony for farmers generally. In the north and in Quebec the rain came in such copious quantities that crops were injured, seriously in some districts. In Old Ontario, particularly in the southwest, crops sweltered day after day under a merciless sun for a period of nearly two months. Rainfall figures for July afford the most striking illustration of what the countryside has borne. In Southern Ontario the rainfall was 5.3 inches, whereas the average figure is 3.5 inches, whereas the average on the other hand, had the greatest rainfall in thirty years. The total for the month was 5.6 inches as compared with a normal of 3.7 inches.

#### Use Plenty of Litter

It is good policy to use an abundance of clean, fresh litter in the laying pens and poultry economy to restrict the quantity even when litter must be purchased. A laying hen is always a happy hen and a hen cannot be happy unless she is busy most of the time. Litter on the floor, especially if it is fresh and clean, is an excellent means of keeping the layers busy even though all the grain is being fed in hoppers and none is thrown on the floor. One of the best materials for litter is wheat straw, which is not so stiff as rye straw and does not break as easily as oat straw. Litter absorbs considerable moisture from the droppings and from the air of the hen house and should be changed frequently in wet weather. Moldy straw is almost certain to cause trouble and should never be used in poultry houses.

#### Apple Yield Lower

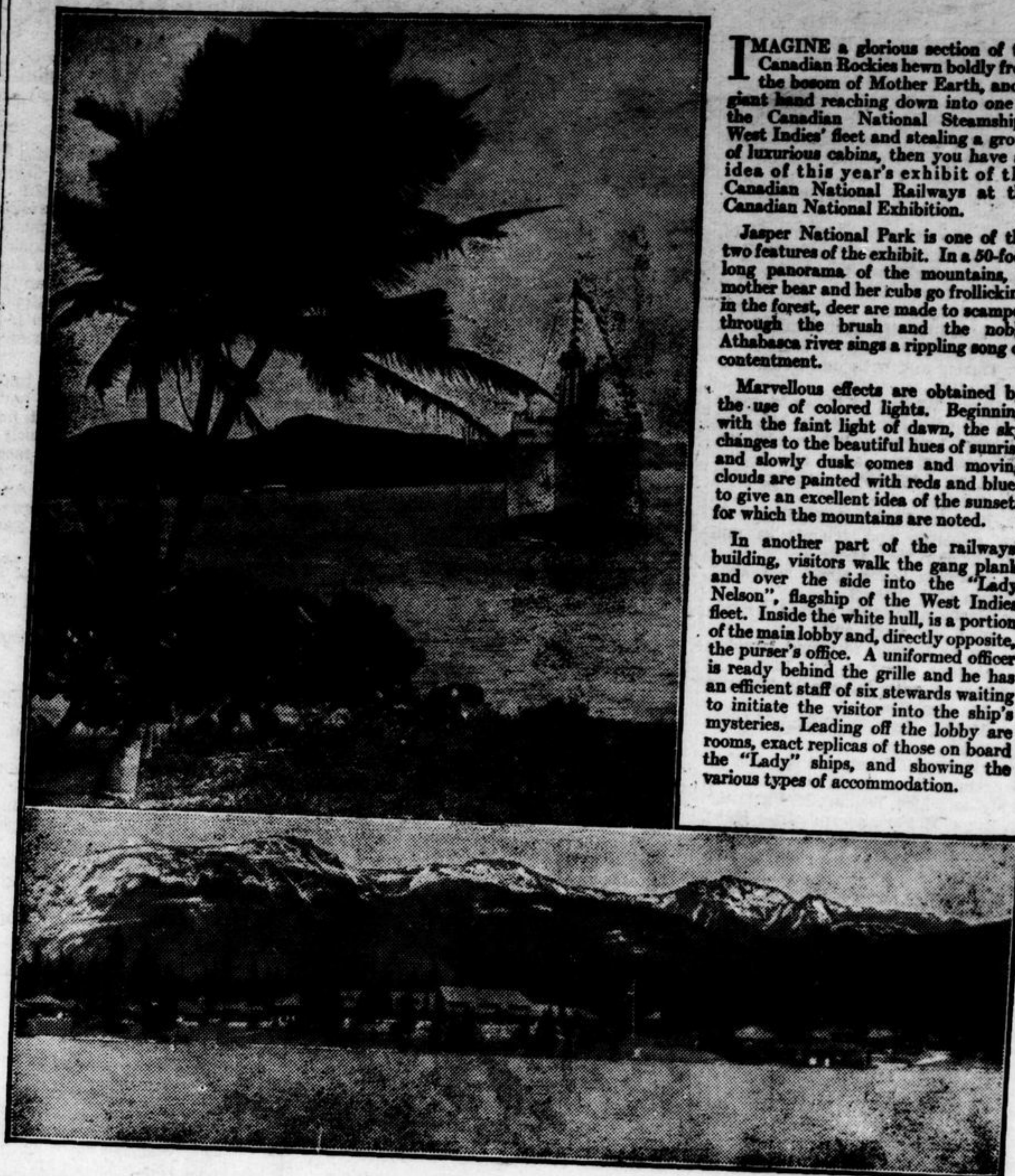
The Canadian commercial apple crop prospect, reported on August 1, indicates a yield of 2,990,109 barrels, as compared with a yield of 3,939,915 barrels in 1929, or 75.8 per cent of last year, or 93.9 of the five-year average of 3,122,195 barrels. British Columbia, with an estimated crop of 4,169,136 boxes, is the only province reporting an increase over last year. Nova Scotia expects a crop of slightly over half that of the bumper crop in 1929, while Ontario, Quebec and New Brunswick report decreases ranging from 12.5 per cent to 38.9 per cent. Indications are that fruit will be of fair to good size, and in general color prospects are favorable. The extremely dry weather which has prevailed throughout most sections of Ontario and British Columbia has resulted in a slight reduction in the estimates for plums and prunes, peaches and grapes, although in all cases expected yields are considerably larger than last year.

#### MARKETING POULTRY IS GOING TO BE DIFFICULT

"The poultry market during the balance of the year is going to be a trying one, perhaps the most difficult through which the industry has passed in recent years," observes experts of the Poultry Market service of the Dominion Department of Agriculture. Not only are storage stocks heavy and production fully up to normal, but the market in which dressed poultry can be sold to advantage is materially restricted this year through the new United States tariff barrier. Producers are urged to pay particular attention to the proper fitting of poultry for market, and to the development of the type the consumer wants. Poultry should never be marketed without first having been properly finished through special feeding, and young stock should never be put into finishing pens until fully grown and properly matured.

Fame and lightning don't strike where there's nothing to attract them. You have to think out some things yourself—nobody can help you.

### CANADIAN NATIONAL HIGH SPOTS AT C.N.E.



IMAGINE a glorious section of the Canadian Rockies hewn boldly from the bosom of Mother Earth, and a giant hand reaching down into one of the Canadian National Steamships' West Indies' fleet and stealing a group of luxurious cabins, then you have an idea of this year's exhibit of the Canadian National Railways at the Canadian National Exhibition.

Jasper National Park is one of the two features of the exhibit. In a 50-foot long panorama of the mountains, a mother bear and her cubs go frolicking in the forest, deer are made to scamper through the brush and the noble Athabasca river sings a rippling song of contentment.

Marvelous effects are obtained by the use of colored lights. Beginning with the faint light of dawn, the sky changes to the beautiful hues of sunrise and slowly dusk comes and moving clouds are painted with reds and blues to give an excellent idea of the sunsets for which the mountains are noted.

In another part of the railways' building, visitors walk the gang plank and over the side into the "Lady Nelson", flagship of the West Indies fleet. Inside the white hull, is a portion of the main lobby and, directly opposite, the purser's office. A uniformed officer is ready behind the grille and he has an efficient staff of six stewards waiting to initiate the visitor into the ship's mysteries. Leading off the lobby are rooms, exact replicas of those on board the "Lady" ships, and showing the various types of accommodation.

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### English and Irish Agriculture

by T. Stewart Cooper

Undoubtedly the farmers of Grey County will be anxious to know about Farming in England and Ireland. Scotland at time of writing has not been visited but expect to go there within a few days.

We were taken from Liverpool by bus on Sunday morning, July 20th, through Rural England by way of Warwick, Stratford-on-Avon and Oxford to London. Throughout the entire distance rural conditions were to be seen. The crops consisted chiefly of pasture, hay, wheat, oats, potatoes and mangolds or turnips. The pastures were luxuriant, a most beautiful green and showed the effect of high fertilization and recent rains. A Canadian could not help but be impressed by the beautiful healthy color of the fields.

Hay is just now being cut throughout the west side of England. From the bus it seemed to be made up of grasses almost entirely. Clovers seemed to be absent from the fields along the route traversed. The hay cocks were not nearly so thick as in Grey County alfalfa fields. The hay, it is since learned, is composed largely of perennial ryegrass seldom used in Ontario except for perennial pastures. The plant itself is very much like twitch grass but here it does not grow quite so tall as twitch with us. Needless to say the hay crop was a disappointment to me when the pastures are so wonderful.

Oats and wheat are most promising. The oats were going down or lodging as we say. They were heavy but all in small areas. The wheat—as seen from the bus—was much coarser in straw, had longer heads and the large leaves on the stem gave indications of heavy feeding of either manure or nitrogenous fertilizers. Considerable rainy weather during the past two or three weeks has undoubtedly accounted for some of the rank growth.

The oats in some fields were quite green while in others they were ripe. It is presumed the variation was caused by light and heavier types of soil or difference in ripening periods of the varieties.

Potatoes were everywhere. The growth was at least 15 to 20 inches in height. The crop was most carefully cultivated, sprayed and gave evidence of carefully selected seed. It gave evidence of exceeding Grey County yields by at least 50 per cent and I feel certain would in most instances indicate at least 250 to 300 bags per acre.

Everywhere not a weed was to be seen. Even in the pastures only a few Canada thistles grew. A few poppies were seen and along the ditches only an occasional curled dock grew. English farmers are exercising every precaution against weeds.

The cattle seen were of Shorthorn breeding. All herds were most uniform and in size showed the large frame seen in the English type of Shorthorn. They were larger than Grey County cattle—the average here comparing with our largest.

Sheep were everywhere. The flocks varied in size but every holder of land had some. Even in the parks of London flocks of 15 to 150 wethers are to be seen. Some pure breeds were seen but for the most part they were grades of good commercial quality and breeding.

The horses seen were all heavy animals. From the bus they seemed to range from 1500 to 1700 pounds. These were large cart horses and always were used to draw 2-wheeled carts which take the place of our wagons. Not only were they large but they were very clean limbed, had excellent breeding of

Clyde or Shire blood and were superior to our Grey county animals.

#### The Homestead

The Grey County ladies would not be satisfied if something was not said of this most important point. The houses are, as a rule, small. There are large homes too but these do not belong to the small land holder. The good 100-acre farm in Grey has a much more pretentious home.

All the ladies, by remarks passed, were much impressed by the wonderfully clean windows and the exquisite spotless and although it was Sunday when passing through numberless ladies were scrubbing the step which was of flag stones. Many homes which were built right along the road had thatched roofs.

Unpretentious as were the homes the outside was so attractive that the size was forgotten. Flowers were everywhere. Never were so many roses seen blooming, shasta daisies, nasturtiums and countless others, all competing to make the rural England landscape more beautiful is a sight which is not to be forgotten.

Nor is this, the rose time, in England, the only time it is beautiful. Just previous to our coming the Hawthornes adorned the country side, and Hawthornes hedges, always trimmed, separate every field regardless of size. It may be only a corner 1/2 acre in extent or it may be 1 to 10 more acres. Dotted along roadsides, through fields and everywhere were great large trees.

Every home in England has its garden full of a riot of the most colorful flowers. The space in front of the house may only be 4 feet square or it may be large. The shape matters not, the type of soil is of secondary importance, the wealth of the householder may be small or large yet flowers carpet the ground, creep over the hedges, whether they be holly or hawthorne and cover the entire side of the one-storey house even extending over the roof. Would that every Grey County yard had even a fraction of the flowers about.

#### Ireland

At time of writing only southern Ireland has been visited. The crops of oats and barley are still green, August, not nearly so far advanced as in England. I am told however it was a very late spring here. Hay is only about one half cut. This crop seems to exceed the English tonnage per acre. In many fields it is put into large cocks each holding, by the appearance, from the train or bus window, about one-half to three-quarters of a load. The information was also gleaned that these small stacks would remain there till as late as September.

In England the hay was drawn into stacks near the buildings or was housed in hay barns. These are open sided affairs covered by a circular roof which is supported on wooden or steel posts about 15 to 20 feet in height. When these buildings are empty they are used to store the machinery. Some of these were found in Ireland also.

In Ireland flowers were not so plentiful, nor were the hedges trimmed. The part traversed was quite wet and the Irish Free State Government, which is the southern part of Ireland, have several drainage schemes either nearing completion or in operation.

Sheep and Shorthorn grade cattle are everywhere and here we see many goats. Lastly, the most dejected lot of funny looking little donkeys were seen on many holdings. They were not large, their head being the largest part of them, but they are seen trailing the Irish jaunting car or the more useful work such as milk carts, hay racks and hay carts. For the small Irish landowner they are a "Divan-Sant Blessing".

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