

NEWS AND INFORMATION FOR THE BUSY FARMER

(Furnished by the Ontario Department of Agriculture)

Farmers who wish to obtain selected seed for co-operative experiments with outstanding varieties of winter wheat and other autumn-sown crops may obtain this material, free of charge, by writing the Department of Field Husbandry, Ontario Agricultural College.

Autumn Sown Crops

As a foreword to a review of experiments with autumn sown crops at O.A.C., W. J. Squirrel, professor of field husbandry, says: "Extremely dry weather during the latter part of August and the month of September was responsible for considerable decrease in the area of winter wheat sown in Ontario in 1929. Winter killing, although severe in some districts, seems to have been about average for the province. Growing conditions since early spring have been excellent and winter crops were harvested under exceptionally good conditions. Very slight damage was caused this year by either Hessian fly or rust. More damage than usual was occasioned by the presence of barren spikelets in the heads of winter wheat. Yield and quality of autumn sown crops in the experiments at the college were very good in the crop harvested in 1930. Yields per acre in the variety tests of winter wheat were greater than for several years."

Buy Home-grown Products

Announcement has been made by Premier Ferguson that the Government will launch an extensive educational campaign to encourage the buying and eating of Canadian products in Ontario. Radio, lecture staffs and newspapers will all figure in the program. "We are determined," said the Prime Minister, "to show to the people the real qualities of our products, to demonstrate the value of our own markets and to prove to them the advantages of buying at home. In short, we want to establish a greater measure of co-operation between consumer and producer." In commenting upon the projected campaign, one in which the large Ontario distributors of food will be asked to join, Mr. J. B. Fairbairn, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, said that most Canadians would be astonished at the amount of foodstuffs imported at the very time of year when Canadians are producing similar products. An extra slice of bread a day would help to take care of surplus Canadian wheat, he stated, and unemployment would be relieved considerably by vigorous prosecution of the campaign in mind.

Changes in Representatives

Several changes have recently been made in the agricultural representatives of Ontario. M. F. Cook, who has been assistant in Middlesex County, will take the office at New Liskeard on September 1. The north country is not new to Mr. Cook, as he was a representative in the Kenora district for nine years. J. A. Berry, former assistant in York County, succeeds Mr. Cook at London. He is a graduate of the O.A.C., coming originally from Dunrobin, Carleton County. A. M. Barr, assistant agricultural representative for Huron County, with office at Clinton, has been appointed representative for Grenville County with office at Kemptonville. A. G. Kirstine has been appointed agricultural representative for Halton County, succeeding A. H. McVannell, who resigned. Mr. Kirstine graduated from the O. A. C. in 1925, after taking animal husbandry option. After graduation he spent a year at an abattoir in Toronto, and later returned to his farm near Walkerton. During his stay on the farm he became one of the county leaders in community development.

The Crop Situation

Reports of crop conditions for the latter part of August indicate that the

showers which fell in most sections of Southwestern Ontario were badly needed, as pastures had been burnt up and corn and root crops were suffering severely for lack of moisture. Harvesting throughout the province has been completed and excellent yields are reported. Alfalfa, alsike, and clovers yielded very satisfactorily, as high as nine bushels per acre of red clover having been reported in Kenora district. Many drovers and cattlemen have reported heavy losses on their grass cattle, due to low prices and scarcity of pasture. Many are holding their cattle over for the Christmas trade. Some excellent crops of barley, oats and mixed grains have been harvested this season. In Norfolk County one farmer secured a yield of 1487 bushels of oats from a 15-acre field, or nearly 100 bushels per acre.

Valuable O. A. C. Exhibit

Taking as its keynote the crop-producing power of Ontario soils, the O. A. C. Department of Chemistry exhibit at the C. N. E. has attracted great attention. It embodies a huge cornucopia picturing the fertile soils of Ontario pouring forth hundreds of thousands of bushels of wheat, oats and barley, and thousands of tons of potatoes, roots, corn, vegetables, hay and other products. A giant map of the province shows the location of the 1,100 fertility test plots which the department is operating throughout Ontario. This year with nearly every crop grown in Ontario on these plots a wide variety of fertilizers have been applied on the farmers' own lands under their own conditions. Field representatives ensure accurate application of fertilizers and equally accurate harvesting of test areas. The records show interesting and valuable figures. Meadows fertilized with a high nitrogen fertilizer gave an increase of 45 per cent in yield while alfalfa fertilized with high potash fertilizers gave an increase of 2 1/2 tons per acre over the unfertilized area. In the fall wheat fertility tests, the average yield of all fertilized plots was 44 bushels per acre, weighing 60.4 pounds per bushel. The yield of unfertilized wheat was 34 bushels, weighing 59.8 pounds per bushel. The functions of the main plant-food elements were admirably shown by crops growing in plant solutions, and the pasture fertility work in operation in connection with the college farm claimed considerable interest. Soil testing for acidity and general discussion of soil survey work provided much valuable information for callers.

FROZEN APPLES USED IN JUNE OR JULY

A new wrinkle in apple marketing which provides the zestful delight of fresh apple pie to the jaded palate of the summer tourist is announced in the latest Cold Storage news letter of the Dominion Department of Agriculture. By a new process developed by E. W. Elwell of Chicago, known as the Kazer Patent, apples are frozen and held in storage at a zero temperature, from the harvest season until the summer months when the apple is passe. Briefly described, the Kazer process applies to some procedure for paring and curing apples for pies. The fruit is peeled and sliced in the approved fashion and it is then treated with the patent solution, being dipped three times in specially designed tanks. It is then packed in regulation apple boxes and placed in a freezer. By the dipping process the fruit retains its flavour and color—it does not turn brown. It maintains all the fine qualities of the fresh fruit unimpaired for use during June, July, August and September when fresh apples are not available. It is during this season of the year that the new frozen apple stock is used by the pie bakers. Not only will the new process mean a considerable increase in the volume of business for cold storage plants, but it should also help to market a considerable proportion of the apple crop which would not otherwise sell to advantage.

HELPING THE FARMER

The Publications Branch of the Dominion Department of Agriculture is the medium through which the results of scientific research and experiment in agriculture are made available to the farmers and public of Canada. The principal media through which this information is disseminated takes the form of bulletins, pamphlets, circulars and reports. These are available to the public on application to the Branch, free of charge. All that is necessary is for anyone interested to write the Branch for the information desired. During the last fiscal year a total of 4,442,958 publications of various sorts were distributed. These included the popular "Seasonal Hints" which is prepared by experts in the respective fields of operation. This bulletin contains much of interest to everyone concerned in agriculture. "Hints" includes a list of the more recent publications as a guide in selection. There are at present time over 300 individual publications available for distribution. It should also be of interest to note that bulletins and pamphlets on agricultural topics to the number of 767,317 were issued during the fiscal year just closed; an average of 63,000 a month, 16,000 a week, or 2,666 a day. These publications all contain useful authoritative information on farm problems and in the range of publications available is something relating to almost any farm problem which might conceivably arise.



RIVALRY CLASH IN BOMBAY STREETS
First photos of fighting in India to reach this country. This remarkable picture of rioting in Bombay was taken in the thick of the fighting by a venturesome photographer. A Sepoy police constable, with lathi drawn back, is taking a Nationalist flag from a colorbearer in the picketing riots. Note the confusion among the other rioters.

English and Irish Agriculture

by T. Stewart Cooper

We left you at Dublin a week ago. Since we have seen North Ireland and Scotland. The system of agriculture followed in both of these countries is very similar. There is a much larger proportion of land under grain crops in either the parts of South Ireland or England visited. Oats, wheat and barley with large proportions of the farm in roots and potatoes were the principal crop grown. Every one of these were very heavy, wheat being specially so. Hay is just being cut in Scotland. Timothy and Meadow Fowl with Perennial Rye make up the mixture as seen from the bus. The crop was, therefore, much more bulky than in the other districts.

In North Ireland a new crop was seen. Flax is quite extensively grown and when going through from Dublin to Belfast many men and women were to be seen pulling the crop. It was quite long and free of weeds and thick on the ground. It is used in the linen mills of Belfast, the largest in the world, which employ 2500 to 5000 men and women annually. The World's Congress delegates were taken through this factory. Many of the employees, especially the women—of all ages—were going about in their bare feet. In this section of the factory it is quite warm and humid as steam is all through this section of the plant. Every bit of linen seen since reminds me of the labors of these people.

The districts of Scotland visited have large rectangular fields as we have in Ontario but separated by hedges. The arrangement lends itself to more efficient use of horse labor and machinery than in England. Even the same arrangement is to be noted in the cities of Belfast, Glasgow and Edinburgh. The streets are straight, long and not forked to the same degree as are London, Liverpool, Dublin or Cork. What Edinburgh loses in quaintness is more than made up by the modern ideas which always appeal to Canadians.

In Scotland large herds of Ayrshires, Shorthorn and Angus cattle were to be seen. These were high grade stock and, as mentioned in my previous letters, are large-framed, strong constitutioned animals. They surely are a credit to the land owners and farmers of Great Britain. If England had good horses, Scotland has gone one better. Never has so many high class horses been seen as those on Glasgow streets. Every one is heavy, large bodied and what appeals to a horse lover especially a Clydesdale breeder—clean boned and silky haired "beasties". The same can be said of all farm horses seen as the bus passed the field in which they were pasturing.

On our return from Scotland, the World's Poultry delegates were taken to visit many Poultry Plants in Lancashire, the greatest poultry producing section in the British Isles and I believe in the world. It surpasses Potluma district in California. Here 1-5 of Great Britain's total production of 53,000,000 pounds of poultry and poultry products are annually produced. It is a strongly specialized poultry district. Each farmer having from 1,000 to 25,000 or more chickens each.

At Edinburgh, we visited the Buttercup Poultry Farm, the largest in the world. Here 250,000 chickens are found in all stages of development. They ranged from a couple of days old to high producing layers. The owner has sunk \$1,200,000 in his plant. It surely is a wonder. More will be said at a future date re this project.

As this is finished we leave for the Continent. Within four hours we will be landed in Ostend, Belgium, where so many Canadian Boys have gone before.

T. Stewart Cooper.

Horse Feathers

"Pardon me!" said the motorman to the truck driver, "would you mind moving over a little and allow me to pass?" The truck driver promptly pulled to one side. "Thank you ever so much," added the motorman, "with a smile." "You're quite welcome," responded the truck driver, "but you must pardon my seeming carelessness. Really I had no idea your car was so near."

THE CAREER OF CANADA'S NEW PRIME MINISTER

Richard Bedford Bennett, leader of the Liberal-Conservative party in the Dominion, who was returned with a clear majority over all others in the recent polling, has been greatly interested in public affairs for the past 25 years or more, and so it is said, cherished the hope for many long years to be Premier of Canada. That goal, to which he has been treading since early manhood, is now in his grasp and his majority will enable him to give effect to his policies.

Mr. Bennett was born at Houville, New Brunswick, on July 3, 1870, and is thus a month over 60 years of age. He is of United Empire Loyalist stock, the ninth generation in America, and spent his early manhood in New Brunswick, beginning the practice of law at Chatham, N.B. In 1897 he felt the call of the west and went to Calgary, and that has been his home ever since.

He served as a member of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories and of Alberta, resigning his seat in the Alberta House to contest a federal seat and entered the Dominion Parliament as a member for Calgary in 1911. He was the director-general of national service during the early years of the war, before Canada passed the Conscription Act. He was named Minister of Justice by Right Hon. Arthur Meighen in 1921 holding this post until the defeat of the government the same year. During the brief time that Mr. Bennett was Premier in 1926, Mr. Bennett was the only Conservative returned from the Prairie Provinces. He was chosen leader of the Conservative party at the national convention held at Winnipeg in 1927.

Mr. Bennett, having been interested in political life so long, is well informed on all questions in connection with public affairs and is a very rapid speaker. It is said that since he became leader of the Conservative party he has taken pains to speak slower, thus gaining in impressiveness.

As leader of the Opposition, he did not seem to think that it was his duty to oppose everything the Government did, just for the sake of opposition, and on occasion commended. So mild was he in his first session after his election to the party leadership that some impatient followers began to feel that a mistake had been made, that he had no "fight" in him. But he soon demonstrated, that when he saw reason for it he could do any amount of "opposing". He was seldom bitter, however, and he was the first to offer to Speaker Lemieux, who was later appointed to the Senate at the close of last session, hearty congratulations for the fairness of his decisions. Mr. Bennett's tribute was appreciated very highly.

Some of Mr. Bennett's opponents have used the fact that he is a very wealthy man to insinuate that he favors the rich and has little consideration for the poor, but Mr. Bennett, when chosen leader of his party at the Winnipeg convention, said he would consecrate both himself and his wealth to the service of his country. He reiterated this statement in his pre-election discourses, and is going to have an opportunity of proving his sincerity as a man who must indeed devote his time to the job, and Mr. Bennett can do this without feeling any anxiety regarding provision for his old age.

He holds the degrees of LL.D. from several Canadian Universities, also of P.C., K.C., and LL.B. He is unmarried and is a member of the following clubs: British Empire, London; Ranchmen's, Calgary; Country, Calgary; Rideau, Ottawa; Mount Royal, Montreal; and Country, Ottawa.

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE IN BENNETT CABINET

Colonel Robert Weir, new Minister of Agriculture in the Bennett Cabinet, seems to be a sort of western Hon. John S. Martin—a school teacher who has turned farmer and by applying business and scientific methods to agriculture has made a huge success. He was born on a farm in Huron County, graduated in mathematics from Toronto University and turned to teaching as a profession. Sixteen years ago he went as a teacher in mathematics in Regina Collegiate. Shortly after the outbreak of war he enlisted and saw long service overseas, being decorated for bravery and attaining the rank of major.

The war over, he returned to Saskatchewan, and was elevated to be a

school inspector. However, his health was impaired by war service. He wanted to secure outdoor work. He chucked his position and homesteaded in the newly opened Carrot River country, in the northern part of the province. It was a bush country. He decided that this was a good district for mixed farming. He bought three Hereford cows at a sale in Regina and commenced to learn about cows and dairying. He bought Percheron horses, Berkshire swin and Shropshire sheep.

A few years later he astounded Saskatchewan by carrying off the first prize at Chicago Fair for the best bull and the gold medal at the Toronto Royal Winter Fair for the best group of Percherons. "June" his original gray Percheron mare, said to have been bought for \$225, won him \$3,000 in prize money last year.

He was nominated as the Conservative candidate in Melfort late in the campaign. However, he was so highly respected and put up such a vigorous fight that he turned a Liberal majority of 3000 into a majority of 1500 for himself. He is evidently the right type of man for Ottawa.—London Free Press.

An Ottawa doctor lost an election bet that will cost him \$700. He has to provide a dinner for every doctor in the city.

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