

### NEWS AND INFORMATION FOR THE BUSY FARMER

(Furnished by the Ontario Department of Agriculture)

#### Given Provincial Award

Joseph E. Brethour, Burford farmer, was last week presented with the first \$1,000 award by Premier Ferguson in recognition of his contributions to agriculture, particularly respecting the improvement in bacon hogs which raised the standard in the whole bacon industry in the province. Premier Ferguson, in making the presentation explained that it was just as a recognition, not as an inducement, to indicate to the farmers of Ontario that the people as a whole were vitally interested in their progress.

#### Bean Growers Hit

Despite an increase of approximately 20 per cent in the acreage of beans in Elgin County over last year, the yield will show a decided drop because of the drought which lasted in that district for over six weeks. F. S. Thomas, district representative, states that the crop will only be fair, while others interested in the growing of beans for commercial purposes are still more pessimistic. The effect of the lack of rain is clearly evident in many fields in the shrunken bean, the poorly filled pod and the vines that are only partially podded. Elgin has between 8,000 and 10,000 acres in beans this year. It is unlikely that the yield per acre will be much over 12 bushels whereas yields of 25 bushels to the acre have not been uncommon in that district in the past.

#### Sow Thistle Conference

The re-establishment of the hog-raising industry in Eastern Canada by the liberal utilization of coarse grains grown in Western Canada, thus also assisting the West to solve the problem of marketing its crops, is the underlying idea of plans now in the course of development by the Western wheat pools, the Eastern live stock interests and the packers, with the aid of the Ontario and Dominion Departments of Agriculture, and the O.A.C. A representative of the grain growers has already been visiting various parts of Ontario with a view to organizing for the distribution to live stock breeders of coarse grain feeds of which there is now a large surplus tied up in terminal elevators. In this way it is hoped that Canada may recapture her former export market for bacon, hams and other pork products. At the same time a domestic market will be provided for barley, oats and lower grade wheat produced in Western Canada, thus easing the marketing problem of the West at times when grains are slow to move. According to the plan, these grains will be made available at any point in Ontario at equalized prices and an assurance given the stock-raiser that he will be able to obtain such grain every month in the year at a comparative level with world prices. It is hoped that new stimulus will be given the live stock industry by the inauguration of this program.

#### Current Crop Report

The first report from representatives for the month of September showed that crop conditions had improved considerably for later crops such as

potatoes and ensilage corn, but the showers arrived too late in the season to be much help to buckwheat, which is reported as being more or less a failure throughout Western Ontario. Decrease in milk flow was reported in practically all counties, especially in Western Ontario, due to shortage of pastures. Northern Ontario was enjoying good weather for harvesting and a keen demand for hay was noted.

#### Overseas Export Resumed

After a lapse of two years during which time price levels for cattle in Canada were above an export basis, the cattle trade with Great Britain has been resumed. Recently the Manchester Commerce sailed from Montreal with 128 head on order for Manchester. Some of the cattle were purchased in Toronto and these, according to the buyer, were known as light Manchester feeders. They averaged around 1,100 pounds. In addition to the Manchester line, the Anchor-Donaldson line is also offering space and the S.S. Castalian has all space taken except for 50 head. Another large shipment from a western province is also reported as moving. These new developments are resulting in renewed confidence in the export market as an outlet for Canadian products.

#### Fertilizer Field Meetings Popular

Fertilizer tests with potatoes, grain crops, canning crops and pasture are being tried out in South Simcoe under the direction of the Chemistry Department, O.A.C., Guelph, and in co-operation with F. A. Lashley, agricultural representative. These experiments have shown up extremely well and very interesting results are expected.

#### Recently a fertilizer field meeting

was held on E. C. Whiteside's farm near Alliston, where an extensive test is being carried out on a field of 42 acres of potatoes. In spite of a busy time for farmers, 175 growers from Simcoe and adjoining counties turned out in the middle of the afternoon to hear addresses delivered by various fertilizer experts. Later the party made a tour of the Alliston potato district, stopping at T. H. Wilson and Sons, where demonstrations in spraying and dusting were given. To add to the success of the program the Wilson Bros. staged a display of modern potato machinery which they have in use on their own farm.

While potatoes are looked upon as a specialized crop around Alliston, the Collingwood district can boast of its production of tomatoes and other canning crops. Fertilizer tests on the Smart Bros. farm near Collingwood have so far shown amazing results.

#### PREFER CANADIAN HAY

The increase in popularity of Canadian graded hay in the Overseas market, coupled with an acute shortage in the United States, is the basis for the forecast by the seed branch of the Dominion Department of Agriculture of an increase in hay exports at advantageous prices this year. Canadian hay has secured for itself a high reputation during the past three years, and reports indicate that among particular customers it is preferred to anything grown in Great Britain. This is another case in which quality assured by government grading means much to the Canadian farmer.

#### SASKATCHEWAN LEADS IN EGGLAYING CONTEST

The pen of Barred Plymouth Rocks entered by Mrs. W. J. Thompson of Saskatchewan, continues to lead in the 11th Canadian Egg Laying contest at the Dominion Experimental Farm, at Ottawa, with a score of 1770.1 points. The pen lead is now 46.9 points ahead of the nearest competitor, with but a few points separating the second and 40th week close scoring between pens and individual layers brings added interest. At the present time production is better than for the corresponding week in any preceding contest, an all round improvement being shown by layers.

#### HELIGOLAND BECOMING SMALLER

Repeated storms in recent years have little by little eaten away the coastline of the island of Heligoland and given rise to the fear that eventually the whole island will disappear. A severe storm recently resulted in a considerable piece of the island slipping into the North Sea, taking with it three houses, a water reservoir and two storage sheds.

It will pay you to advertise in The Chronicle.

### A Happy Quartette at Empire Games



It was a great day at Hamilton, Ont., when the British Empire Games were opened; a day of sunshine and smiles, as is shown by the above picture of four distinguished Canadian citizens in the viceregal box. Whatever the smile is born of, it is unanimous. Left to right: E. W. Beatty Chairman and President of the Canadian Pacific Railway; His Excellency Viscount Willingdon, Governor-General of Canada; Hon. R. B. Bennett, Prime Minister of the Dominion; and Hon. J. Howard Ferguson, Prime Minister of the Province of Ontario.

### Agriculture On The Continent

by T. Stewart Cooper

Another week has gone. We are on the Continent now. Belgium, Holland and Germany have been visited. Necessarily my remarks on each of these can only be made through observation from the car or bus window.

We arrived at Ostend, Belgium, from England a week ago. By the time we passed through the customs and had passports examined, the day was so far spent that little could be seen from the train window on our trip to Brussels. The country however seemed very level. Trees lined the roadways but these were small, not over 12 feet in height. The trip took the congress party of 240—some have returned home—through the edge of the war zone, therefore these trees had evidently been planted since.

Brussels is a large city, quite historical and beautiful. The Grand Place—a square—which dated to the 14th century when Spain owned Belgium, the large Spanish Guild Houses, Houses of Parliament and Royal Palaces were shown. The German army occupied all of these from August 1914 to November 1918.

The grave of the "Unknown Belgian Soldier" is placed at the base of a large monument of Leopold II who won Belgium's independence from the Hollanders in 1830. It was surrounded by wreaths of flowers and quite close is a large gas burner flaming. It never ceases to burn day or night, year in and year out.

From Belgium we were taken by train to Holland. As the trip was conducted during the afternoon a good view of the country could be seen. It is very flat and divided into very small parcels of land. Here are grown the vegetables, hay and a little grain. Little stock was seen. The dog was used to pull the two wheeled carts in which the milk, vegetables, etc., were carried from place to place. H. was always hitched under the cart and some of them would draw like a horse. The loads were astonishingly large. The man holds the legs of the cart off the ground as the dog pulled it. I was not personally impressed by this country but a change was soon to be noted.

Holland Crossing the border the train entered Holland. As a traveller looks over this neat little country he is reminded of Proton Township as far as the contour of the country is concerned. It is extremely level and a large proportion is in grass. The trees are not scarce but not so many are found as in England, Scotland or even Belgium.

Everywhere are found canals. These vary in size from small ditches, having possibly one foot of water to those in which flat bottomed row boats could be pushed along by means of a long stick or paddle. Farms were divided by the large ones spoken of. No fences are to be seen. The water from those were pumped into larger canals upon which large gasoline and freight boats would operate. The pumping is done by large windmills, pictures of which everyone has seen. Men with their wives and families live in the base of these mills tax free but they have to operate the mill as necessity demands. This is indicated when the water reaches a certain height in each ditch.

The fans, which are 15 to 25 feet in length, are covered with a long canvas which is replaced when it is desired to start the mill. During the first day of our stay in Holland a bus drive of 115 miles was taken. The trip led us through the great tulip area where all the bulbs are produced. The district just now is covered with rows and rows of bulbs lying in the field like we harvest onions or like the row of potatoes left on the field after the digger has passed over. These are left to dry then taken to large warehouses like our apple houses for grading, packing and distribution to the world's bulb trade. 46,000 tons of these bulbs are produced annually.

We next landed at the greatest of all Holland's public works—the draining of the Zuider Zee. Here they expect to dyke in 550,000 acres of land now covered by sea, before 1952. Inside of another 5 years they will have about one half of this done. The work was started in 1920. This land lies from 3 to 20 feet below the sea level. The pumping of this water will be done by large pumps into large canals built high above the surrounding country. We also saw the Barneveldt district where the greatest egg production is made in Holland. Here in a district of 4 miles radius over 5,000,000 dozen of eggs are exported annually. This does not include local consumption. The district council has built recently a large egg marketing house because the other was too small. Every Thursday the farmers meet bringing their eggs to dispose of. They received about \$1.00 in one money the Thursday we visited the village, August 1928.

In addition to this they have a live fowl market and a little further a live pig market. Here every Thursday

help was so scarce that the ladies were working out. They were seen plowing, loading hay and grain, cutting hay with a scythe, raking it up, binding wheat and stooking grain. They were certainly working very hard.

But the greatest revelation of German efficiency was seen on the trip up the Rhine. From the boat could be seen, almost the entire length up the very steep mountainous sides of this river, terraces made by the building of stone walls varying in height from three feet to seven or eight feet and the little space between the top of the lower wall and the bottom of the next filled with earth carried, we were told, in baskets. On this area grape vines were planted and seemed to be the only source of revenue to the farmers living thereon. These vineyards extended up the mountain side for 200 to 300 feet it seemed. The endless labor must have been heart breaking.

Oberammergau, the last place, revealed the exceptional emotional and artistic side of this great nation. Here for a period of seven hours on Sunday, August 17th, some 400 natives of this lovely little village, Oberammergau, picturesquely nestling among the Bavarian Alps towering for 1600 feet above the streets gave a most dramatic presentation of the sufferings of our Saviour from the time of his entry into Jerusalem till his Resurrection. Twenty-four of the most soul touching, inspiring yet pathetic Tableaux were shown. In addition some of the finest acting was performed as each individual represented Christ, Judas, Ananias, Calapha, Mary, Disciples and others. It was a most wonderful dramatization.

Generally speaking, efficiency is stamped on everything. Everywhere

people are working. There are no idlers. Construction along railway lines, in towns and everywhere are apparent and anyone here cannot help but be impressed with the efforts of the German people. We like them. They are always most willing to help and especially those of us who cannot (Continued on page 7.)

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