

NEWS AND INFORMATION FOR THE BUSY FARMER

(Furnished by the Ontario Department of Agriculture)

Inoculate Alfalfa

Inoculation of alfalfa has always been regarded as an aid to a good stand. But it is even more than that. Besides being indispensable for maximum yields inoculation also improves the quality. Hay from inoculated plants contains more protein per ton than that from plants not inoculated. Inoculate alfalfa and use lime if the soil needs it.

Brood Sow Policy

The Brood Sow Policy introduced by the Federal Department just one year ago has resulted in 1977 brood sows being placed with farmers at a total cost to the Department of \$17,323.88 or \$8.76 each. Under this policy any farmer may order a select bacon type sow and when the initial deposit is received by an official of the Department the sow is purchased on the stockyards at the current market price. It is then fed and bred free of charge and one-half the freight to the purchaser's nearest railway station is paid by the Department.

The Seed Crop

The movement of clovers and grass seeds continues to be below the average for the season. Ordinary export demand has relieved the domestic market of much larger quantities this year. The production in 1931 plus the carryover from 1930 constitutes a very much larger supply than the domestic market is likely to require this season, and this coupled with limited exports has resulted in fewer offers to growers and very low prices as compared with other years. Estimates of production in 1931 and supplies in sight show substantial surpluses of red clover, alsike, alfalfa, sweet clover and blue grass. Timothy is in better domestic demand than some of the other seeds owing to insufficient production to meet domestic requirements. There is virtually no market at present for alfalfa, alsike and sweet clover in Ontario where the largest quantity is grown commercially in Canada. The following percentage of seeds produced in Ontario is reported sold: Red clover, 30; alfalfa, 10; alsike 50; sweet clover, 5; timothy, 2; Canadian blue grass, 50. The number of pounds unsold is estimated: red clover, 775,000; alfalfa, 3,600,000; alsike, 1,150,000; sweet clover, 1,000,000; timothy, 24,000; Canadian blue grass, 400,000.

Essex Corn Crop

The splendid corn crop which was harvested in Essex County this year is now moving to market somewhat ahead of the usual time. Not in years have the growers been able to shell corn until January. The past year has been quite favorable and corn has been dry enough for shelling since November. There is much more corn than is needed for the live stock population of the county and there should be a large quantity for sale to other distributors. Corn has been selling at from 35c to 42c a bushel.

O.A.C. Short Courses

Winter short courses in Livestock and Field Crops, Poultry-raising, Factory Cheese and Buttermaking, Beekeeping, and Drainage, started at the Ontario Agricultural College this week. In February courses will be given in Fruit and Vegetable growing, Floriculture and Landscape Gardening, Ice Cream Making, and Farm Mechanics. There will be other courses for the month of March. Young men from Ontario farms are especially urged to attend one or more of these courses this winter. They provide a new interest in farm work and will give new ideas and practical instruction.

Essay Winners

Winners of the essay contest conducted in connection with the "Fifth Junior Farmers' Trip" to the Royal Winter Fair have been announced. In addition to special prizes awarded to writers of the winning essays in each county, the Department has awarded ten championship prizes for the ten best essays submitted. Each championship prize consists of a two weeks'

short course at either O.A.C. or the Kemptville Agricultural School. The purpose of the essay competition was to encourage members of the party to study and analyze the exhibits, displays, etc. during their stay in Toronto. The winners are: Wellington, Gordon Green of Arthur; Grey, Edgar Ash of Chesley R.4; Haldimand, Wm. T. Stadler, of Selkirk; Perth, Robt. Ballantyne of St. Paul; Muskoka, Lloyd Stephens, Bracebridge; Parry Sound, Victor Irwin, Magnetawan; Lanark, Stewart Rodger, Lanark; Renfrew, Lorne Whelan of Adamston; Leeds, Donald E. Turner, of Mallorytown R.1; Dundas, James Ashton of Newington.

Experimental Union

The Ontario Experimental Union will hold its annual meeting at the Ontario Agricultural College on January 12 and 13, according to announcement by Prof. Wm. Squirrell, head of the Field Husbandry Department of the O.A.C., and secretary of the Union. The meeting will be attended by farmers from all parts of Ontario and from many points outside the province.

Market for Barley in Bacon and Beef

There is practically no limit to the production of barley in Canada, and recent tests show that it produces better bacon and beef than other grains. It is proving fully the equal of corn when fed with suitable supplements in the form of home-grown leguminous roughages. Barley can be used in almost any proportion of the grain ration up to one hundred per cent. As a hog feed it develops an entirely satisfactory class of bacon, which is more than can be said for corn fed in equal proportions, and as a feed for beef cattle barley is undoubtedly one of the best of our Canadian grown coarse grains at their present low levels will make for much better quality in the beef being marketed, and this in turn will help create a demand for more beef.

Potato Champion Honored

Edmund Maurice of Simcoe County, who won first prize for his potatoes at the Royal Winter Fair, was recently the guest of honor at a banquet sponsored by the Barrie Kiwanis Club. It was attended by nearly two hundred townspeople and farmers, including leading federal and provincial agricultural officials. It is noteworthy that seven years ago the Barrie Kiwanians purchased certified seed potatoes at \$5 per bag and distributed them among the farmers of North Simcoe as an incentive to growing better crops. The work was promoted largely by Stewart L. Page, local Agricultural Representative, who was instrumental in interesting Mr. Maurice in growing Dooleys three years ago. Prof. W. J. Squirrell of O.A.C. declared that at no place or by no man has there ever been a better sample of potato shown than those exhibited by Mr. Maurice. Occasion was taken by Dr. G. I. Christie, O.A.C. President, to refer to the six grown-up sons of the potato champion, who assisted him in producing the prize potatoes: "If you want to forward agriculture, it will not be done by raising boys and sending them to the cities. Success can only come by keeping the boys reared on the farm and who love it, at home."

ALL GONE TO PIECES

A farmer, rather than subscribe to his home paper, sent his boy to borrow a neighbor's. The lad knocked over a stand of bees. His father, hurrying to help him, ran into a barbed wire fence, gashing his leg and ruining a pair of overalls. Hearing the noise, his wife rushed out, upsetting a four-gallon churn of cream into a basket of kittens, drowning the latter. At the same time she dropped and broke a brand new set of false teeth. During the excitement the daughter eloped with the hired man, the dog broke up eleven sitting hens, and the calves got out and chewed up a line of washing hung out to dry. All to save two dollars, the price of subscription to his home town paper!

Johnston's Second

FREE PANT SALE

DURING JANUARY ONLY

The message in a nutshell—

You buy a "Royal York" suit at \$27.50 or a "Johnston Approved" at \$35.00 and get an extra pair of pants ABSOLUTELY FREE.

"Johnston" clothes are made-to-measure and fully guaranteed, unexcelled in fit, value and workmanship.

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WINTERING DAIRY CATTLE IN OPEN-FRONT SHEDS

(Experimental Farm Note.)

There is no doubt that big barns generally make a farmer feel that his lot in this world is as good as that of any other member of society. On the other hand, there is no getting out of the fact that these imposing structures are costly propositions when interest, insurance, and depreciation are taken into consideration. They certainly do bring up the cost of barn room, for each occupant.

During the last 16 years, 10 bulls and more than 100 heifers have been wintered in single-boarded open-front sheds at the Cap Rouge Station and only a few had to be brought in under exceptional circumstances when suffering from injury. Amongst the lot were future champion producers of the breed, in the 2, 3 and year, and mature classes, and it is thought that exercise and pure air gave them the vitality and ruggedness necessary for making high records. The herd is accredited since 1922 and has passed four consecutive tests for abortion without a single reactor, which shows that it is at least as well to prevent diseases with pure air as to try to cure them.

It should, however, be understood, that no cow in milk, or weak calf, should be thus wintered; that calves not six months old at the beginning of November had better be kept in; that stock should be turned out before September to gradually get used to cold; that no half-starved calf which has been tormented by flies all summer should be wintered outside; also that sheds should front south and have no cracks to create drafts.

CULTIVATING THE BLUEBERRY

Repeated attempts have been made by the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa to improve the wild blueberry, and to find out whether or not crops of this fruit could be produced profitably under cultivation. One of the difficulties of extending the cultivation of blueberries has been the lack of areas possessing correct soil conditions. Even when soil has been taken from blueberry country and moved to other areas success in growing the crop has not been achieved. What apparently is needed is soils of a peaty nature, where the peat is in an acid condition.

Another factor that seems necessary is a constant moisture and a suitable soil temperature. At the Central Experimental Farm at Ottawa plants taken from wild locations have been tried out in soils treated in many different ways. Various kinds and combinations of fertilizers have been used and the soil has been mulched with peat and also with straw. These have been used without fertilizers and also in combinations of several different mixtures.

While no definite conclusions have been reached, certain inferences have been drawn by the Dominion Horticulturist, under whose direction the test were made, in the report for the past year. The tests indicated that ordinary garden soil can be made to grow blueberry plants satisfactorily if treated with a mulch of peat mull together with an annual dressing of aluminum sulphate. The peat mull in addition to increasing the acidity also provides the necessary coolness and moisture conditions required by the roots for their well doing.

SOME TIME

Some time, when all life's lessons have been learned, And sun and stars for evermore have faded, The things which our weak judgment here has spurned— The things of which we've grieved with lashes wet— Will flash before us out of life's dark night, As stars shine most in deeper tints of blue: And we shall see how all God's plans were right, And how what seemed reproof was love most true. But not today. Then be content, poor heart! God's plans, like lilies pure and white unfold: We must not tear the close-shut leaves apart: Time will reveal the calyxes of gold, And through patient toil we reach the land Where tired feet, with sandals loosed, may rest. When we shall clearly know and understand, I think that we shall say that "God knew best."

MYSELF

I have to live with myself and so I want to be fit for myself to know. I want to be able as the days go by Always to look myself straight in the eye. I don't want to stand with the setting sun And hate myself for the things I've done; I don't want to keep on a closet shelf A lot of secrets about myself, And fool myself, as I come and go Into thinking that nobody else will know The kind of a person I really am. I don't want to cover myself with sham, I want to go out with my head erect, I want to deserve the world's respect And in this struggle for fame and self I want to be able to like myself; For I never can hide myself from me I see what others can never see; I know what others can never know; I never can fool myself—and so Whatever happens I want to be Self-respecting and conscience free.

THE GROUCH

Jim Smith dropped in on old Doc Brown And said that "Things in this here town Are 'bout the worst they've been in years. Termites are down to twenty cents And folks can hardly pay their rents; The price of hogs and cows and sheep Are low enough to make you weep. I don't know what we're goin' to do— I tell you, Doc, I'm feelin' blue." But Doc was busy driving nails And couldn't listen to Jim's wails; So Jim put off to call on Jones

And entertain him with his groans.

But Jones was busy grinding corn And couldn't take the time to mourn; But Jim kept on around the town With head bent low and spirits down. He said that he was "out of cash and Soon the world would go to smash." "Mebby so," said Henry Moore. "But I've seen times like these before. Why, back in eighteen ninety-three, I couldn't buy a pound of tea, But I kept plugging just the same Cause that's the way to play the game. If every soul in this here place Weht on the street with your long face Who'd grind the corn and drive the nails. And milk the cows and fill the pails? I know that things don't break just right. But now's the time a man should fight, Go home, Jim Smith, and feed your goat— This is no time to rock the boat." —The Country Scribe.

A TEACHER'S MEDITATION

I ponder. What have we to give them, As they come to us day by day, Trusting us, eager for learning, What shall we do and say? In September, they come to us full of Their love of the Great Out Doors, And a dismal place the school room seems As they learn their two times fours. God, give to us understanding hearts, And make us a little less stern, Help us control our passions, When heads persistently burn. For were we not once like them, Restless and thoughtless and gay, Peeling the school house a prison, And fretting to get away. So let us be a little less hasty To stay their sweet frolic and fun, And put ourselves in their places And say "What would we once have done?"

Only Half the Poorest Man

Dr. Monteith, Ontario's Minister of Public Works and of Labor, has had some humorous experiences while practicing as a physician, says the Edmonston Journal. He was driving his horse and buggy home from a case when he stopped near a man working in a field. "How's crops?" he asked casually. "Fair tuh middlin'," the former replied. "Rather a bad hill you're plowing there, isn't it?" "I know," said the man in the field. "Bad horse pullin' the plow, bad plow, bad everything." "You talk like the poorest man in Ontario," Dr. Monteith remonstrated. "Well, I ain't," came the response. "Another fellow owns half of this crop."

THE SPICE OF LIFE

Mrs. Hen was in tears. One of her little ones had been sacrificed to make a roast for a visiting clergy. "Cheer up, madam," said the rooster. "You should rejoice that your son is entering the ministry. He was poorly qualified for a lay member, anyhow."

A patient went into a dentist's office with his face badly swollen and said: "I want to know what's the matter with my tooth!" The dentist looked at the offending molar and informed the patient that the nerve of the tooth was dead. "Well, by heavens," replied the patient. "The others must be holding a wake over it!"

The Chief Reason

"Oh, what a strange looking cow," said the dear old lady. "But why hasn't it any horns?" "Well, you see," replied the farmer, some cows are born without horns and never have any; and some shed theirs; and some are dehorned. There are a lot of reasons why some cows haven't any horns, but the big reason why that cow ain't got any horns is because it aint a cow—it's a horse!"

The proud owner of the Austin car offered to take a friend for a ride in the country. The offer was accepted, and off they went at a very fair pace. After some time the friend turned to the driver and said: "Say, old man, when do we reach the country?" "Country," replied the other. "Why we're in the country now." "But hang it all," said the passenger, "all I've seen is that beastly wall on each side of us for miles." "Wall, indeed!" said the owner, "that is the curb."

Old Daddy Mulligan had to go for the first time and Dr. B. sent a porous plaster to ease his back. "Well, Daddy," he said one next day, "and did the plaster do any good?" "It's early to talk yet, get out the patient, I c... takes a... needed."

Pat Knew the Answer

An Irishman was newly employed at a lumber office. The proprietors of the company were young men and decided to have some fun with the new Irish hand. Patrick was duly left in charge of the office with instructions to take all orders which might come in during their absence. Going to nearby drug store one of them proceeded to call up the lumber company's office and the following conversation ensued: "Hello! Is this the East Side Lumber Company?" "Yes, sir. And what would ye be havin'?" "Take an order, will you?" "Sure. That's what I'm here for." "Please send us up a thousand knot-holes." "What's that?" "One thousand knot-holes." "Well, now, an ain't that a bloomin' shame, Im sorry, but we are just out of them." "How's that?" "Just sold them to the new brewery." "To the brewery? What do they want with them?" "By golly, ar, they use them for bungholes in barrels."

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