

### NEWS AND INFORMATION FOR THE BUSY FARMER

(Furnished by the Ontario Department of Agriculture)

#### Fertilizer Experiments

In 1931 under auspices of the Experimental Union, 194 co-operative fertilizer experiments were conducted with farm crops on 776 plots. Cereal grains showed an average increased yield of 10 bushels per acre where fertilizers were used; potatoes, 50 bushels per acre; mangels, 10.7 tons; silage corn 25 per cent., and meadows gave an increase of 4,315 pounds of green weight materials. Commenting on the work, Dr. Harcourt, Professor of Chemistry at O. A. C., emphasizes the necessity of placing the fertilizer within reach of the growing plant and deep enough in the soil to be affected by moisture. Surface applications are condemned except where land is drilled for roots, in which case the fertilizer is brought into the drill. On meadows and alfalfa the fertilizer must necessarily be spread on the surface, but where possible the material should be put into the soil and near but not in contact with the seed, he advises.

#### Current Crop Report

Crop reports received from Representatives would indicate that the majority of livestock are in good condition and have had the opportunity of more exercise this winter than for some seasons past. A number of poultrymen report that their flocks are starting to moult due to heavy production early in the season and the supply of eggs has fallen off as high as 50 per cent. in some counties. Considerable concern is expressed regarding the supply of ice and wood, as there has not been sufficient cold weather and snow to supply ice and allow for transportation of ice and wood. Down in Glengarry, it was reported that all roads were open for cars, a condition that had never before prevailed in that section of the country. Peel county states that baby chicks are being hatched now for the earlier broiler market and that hatcherymen are expecting a normal demand for baby chicks this spring. Waterloo County reports that the farm outlook seems more optimistic than for some months, and that there is a tendency for prices of farm products to improve. Wellington County has increased its alfalfa acreage from 10,000 to 18,000 acres in the last five years and with the cheap alfalfa seed this year it is expected that more alfalfa than ever before will be sown.

#### Weed Killer Experiments

Co-operative trials with chemical weed killers were conducted in 1930 and 1931 by Prof. J. E. Howitt of O. A. C., assisted by Mr. W. M. Gammon. They achieved favourable results, getting a complete kill in some cases with one application, but with stubborn weeds, two applications and sometimes three applications were required. Ox-eye daisy, wild carrot, blue weed and surdock were killed with one application. Poison ivy and chitney were sometimes killed with one application, though occasionally new growth appeared. Twitch grass and field bindweed required three applications, and at least two applications were found necessary to exterminate perennial sow thistle. A study of residual effects showed no marked damage to crops the following year, when only two applications were made, but three or more proved quite injurious to crops in the year after treatment was given.

#### Grow Alfalfa

With alfalfa seed cheaper today than in a long time, this is a splendid time to grow your own fertilizer. Since re-trenchment is vital there is no alternative for the farmer, but to raise a large proportion of his needs on his own land. He will grow more of his own vegetables, meats and fuel, and many will use alfalfa and sweet clover to put fresh energy into the soil. Alfalfa can be grown over a wide range of territory, but sweet clover should be restricted to those areas where there is no danger of getting it mixed with the small seed crops. Seeding down a field of alfalfa is easily equal to a liberal application of manure. Also because of its long, thick roots, alfalfa is a splendid plant for opening up heavy clay and also for adding moisture-retaining humus to light soils. Once established, it will in a few years smother out most weeds. To derive most advantage from this cheap fertilizer, it should be followed with heavy feeding crops, such as corn, cabbage, potatoes, or any market garden truck. Where seeding down for the first time, it is advisable to sow at the rate of 12 to 15 pounds to the acre, and it is also a good plan to inoculate the seed. As there is an abundance of high-grade, home-grown seed offered this spring and the price is low, there should be no temptation to buy anything but Government-tested alfalfa.

#### Seed Corn Unexcelled

The quality of corn for seed, unex-

celled in the history of corn growing in this Province, is now offered the Ontario farmer, states G. R. Paterson of the Marketing Board.

The seed corn standards are being placed on a higher level this year. Improved selection in the field and more rigid government inspection will add further assurance to your choice of Ontario Seed Corn. Ask your dealer to supply you with Ontario Grown Seed. The varieties of Dent and Flint are especially suited to your needs. An abundance of the better varieties of Sweet may be obtained, also, from reliable sources.

During years in which the European Corn Borer played a disastrous part in curtailing production of corn in Ontario, growers of silage and corn fodder in Eastern Canada became more or less dependent on sources other than Ontario for their seed requirements. Much seed, as a consequence, has been imported from other seed corn producing areas. It is a well known fact that, for Canadian conditions, northern-grown seed is superior to that produced in southern climates. It will not be necessary to import any seed corn for 1932.

#### Registering Growers

The Growers' Markets Council at the present time is asking all fruit and vegetable growers to register their acreage under cultivation and the amount of each crop they produce. Forms are being sent out as widely as possible and any grower who does not receive a copy is asked to write to the council for one. A concerted effort is to be made to provide next year against any repetition of the disastrous marketing season experienced by growers last fall.

So far as fruits and vegetables are concerned, dependable information has been available from practically all producing districts in Canada with the exception of Ontario. This has resulted in Ontario production always being a most disturbing factor on domestic and export markets and the net returns to the growers for their production highly unsatisfactory.

With this information available for Ontario as provided for in the registration forms, an accurate estimate of Ontario production can be made and thus closer working facilities can be arranged between all the fruit and vegetable producing Provinces in order that the greatest possible advantage may be taken of all markets. Registration will serve many other purposes such as pest and disease control, provide mailing lists for marketing and other information, yet its primary purpose is to enable the Council to know who produces the various varieties of fruits and keep growers informed of opportunities to sell at better prices. Blank forms can be obtained from the Ontario Growers' Markets Council for this purpose.

#### FERTILIZER HELPS GRAIN

Hardier plant and root growth ensure increased yields, and better quality wheat is reported as the result of using fertilizers in raising wheat on prairie soils. It is probably only a matter of time and price until the use of fertilizer in grain growing becomes fairly general.

"Germination did not appear to be effected by use of fertilizers but three weeks after fermentation the treated plots invariably showed stimulation in growth. Greater tillering and quicker root development, as well as a deeper green color were quite evident on most of treated plots.

Where any appreciable amount of blowing took place in spring the treated plots showed less effects and recovered more quickly.

At time of heading, the treated plots in some trials were from 4 to 9 days ahead of the untreated and showed a difference of from 10 to 12 inches in height at this stage of growth. Later on the untreated plots appeared to catch up and differences were less marked at harvesting time, while in some cases the treated plots showed a tendency for retarding the weed growth. Early maturity, ranging from two to five days was observed in 1929, but not so marked in 1930, no doubt due to the heavy rust epidemic along with the dry season at time of maturity. On a late variety like Marquis a difference of two grades was noticed between the treated and untreated plots, while the early maturing varieties showed little or no differences in grade.

From indications it appears there is a place for commercial fertilizers on Manitoba farms providing the price is such that it will be permissible for farmers to use it without expecting phenomenal yields, but that they may expect increases around four, five and six bushels per acre, when land used is properly prepared and in good physical condition."—Department of Agriculture, Ottawa.

### Miss Macphail's Letter

The ten percent cut on Civil Service salaries occupied the time of the House on Friday. The ten percent is to apply to all Civil Servants receiving \$1200 a year and over, except Lieutenant Governors, Judges, members of the Military, Naval and Air Forces, and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. In short, all the elements of force are to be paid in full. There are more highly paid men in the Department of National Defence than in any other department of the service. 139 people receive between \$4,000 and \$4,900; 30 people receive between \$5,000 and \$5,900 and 15 between \$6,000 and \$6,900. We seem to have enough arm-chair generals to swing a good-sized war any time and they take no cut in salary. The Prime Minister has been saying on more than one occasion that the Civil Servants of Great Britain, also the teachers, policemen, etc., were most willing, even anxious to have their salaries reduced. It is close enough for us to recall the near-mutiny of the British Navy over the cut, in fact it is rumored that this threatened mutiny scared the bankers into advising the Government to go off the gold standard and we all recall reading of huge demonstrations of public workers in London. Of the all round slashing of expenditure in Great Britain, Lord Marley said: "We have a bankers' Government carrying out a bankers' policy to meet a bankers' crisis caused by bankers' mismanagement." Which seems a rather neat way of putting it.

In sharp contrast to the fat living of the arm-chair military officers is the fate of several hundred privates in the last war. The Canadian Legion has a shelter for single, destitute soldiers. It was opened on December 8th, 1930, with sixty beds and when I visited it this week I found that four hundred of these men were being sheltered every night. They are serving fifteen hundred meals a day. A few men still have a room but no money to buy food, so they eat at the shelter. These last few months, many "white-collar" workers, are forced to seek the hospitality of the shelter. Two buildings are occupied, the old Perley Home and an old Government building. Everything is kept very clean and cooks, waiters and workers of all kinds are drawn from their own ranks, except the nurse in charge of the hospital. A group of medical doctors give their time to the sick. It is financed as follows: \$10,000 from the sale of poppies; \$10,000 from the city of Ottawa, for direct relief and \$10,000 from private donations by the public. Each meal costs on the average 5½c. I ate there and had good soup, beef and potatoes, pie and coffee. They get clothing and supplies direct from the manufacturer at the lowest possible cost. When outfitting a man for work in the north woods or on the national highway, the Colonel in charge told me they did it for \$8.95.

The House discussed this week the advisability of a bonus on sugar beets. The question that naturally comes to the mind of a member for a mixed farming district like Southeast Grey is how is the stock farmer to pay a bonus to the wheat farmer, the wool farmer and the beet farmer. There is no end to this bonusing business once we start on it.

An astonishing thing happened early in the week. The Prime Minister refused to allow Mr. Woodsworth to introduce a bill to amend the Criminal Code, a bill which has already five times passed the Commons and as many times been turned down by the Senate. The Opposition challenged his right to exclude the bill, but of course were defeated, 72-49. When the Speaker, following the usual routine, said: "Shall the Hon. Member have leave to introduce his bill?" the Prime Minister in a loud voice said "No!" And after a general hubbub and a lot of warm passages a vote was taken with the result given above.

A resolution was introduced asking that the British Empire Conference meeting in July in Ottawa be asked to study the stabilization of currency in an endeavor to work out economic unity in the Empire. The debate showed a great difference of opinion in the Commons on the question of the gold standard. The Hon. H. H. Stevens, Minister of Trade and Commerce made an excellent speech on money standards throughout the world. The Prime Minister was all for the gold standard. "Few things have done more injury, using the word in a broad sense, than the action taken by Great Britain in going off the gold standard," he said. In opposition to that view, Mr. Coote of MacLeod, said that Great Britain had made her greatest mistake in going back on the gold standard in 1925. He showed that unemployment figures have dropped considerably in Great Britain since she abandoned the gold standard. He quoted St. Thomas White and the Financial Post as having said that Great Britain had gained an advantage in foreign markets by leaving the gold standard. Another member quoted the Hon. Reginald McKenna,

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|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
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| California Lemons, per doz. .... 25c | Tomatoes lb. .... 18c          |
| Grapefruit ..... 5 for 25c           | Parsnips ..... 2 lbs. 9c       |
| Pineapples each ..... 25c            | Carrots ..... 2 lbs. 9c        |
| Cooking Apples ..... 7 lbs. 25c      | Head Lettuce ..... 3 for 25c   |
| Celery Hearts ..... 24c              | Leaf Lettuce, bunch ..... 5c   |

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president of the Midland Bank of Great Britain, as having said in January this year: "The time has gone by for the child-like belief that as long as a country is on a gold standard all is well. We must have a managed gold standard by an international agreement or we must definitely abandon gold and rely on a managed standard of credit and currency without any metallic base at all." And in the same speech the Hon. Mr. McKenna said: "The world crisis is due in part to the inefficient working of our monetary machinery."

One thing is very clear to me. Canadian agriculture is at a great disadvantage since our exportable surplus for the most part must be sold in Great Britain, paid in British funds which when translated into our money brings to the producer less than it would if we were on a parity with the British pound sterling. At the present time the pound is worth in Canada \$3.97. The old value was \$4.87. When we send cattle to England an animal which brings a net price of £10 in Liverpool today, brings the Canadian exporter only \$39.70. If our currency were at a par with British currency the same animal would bring the Canadian producer \$48.70. We lose \$9 on the exchange racket. Take one other example; a shipment of wheat bringing £1,000 in Liverpool funds, when translated into Canadian would at the moment bring \$3,970 to the Canadian grower. If our currency were at a par with the British pound, the same shipment would bring the Canadian producer, \$4,870. Agriculture could gain much by allowing our money to fall in value to the British level. The monied interests in Canada meeting payments in New York are entirely against this policy and want as rapidly as they can to bring the Canadian currency back to the American level, in other words to the gold standard level.

This week has brought me many opportunities of meeting interesting people. Last night at the home of Dr. O. D. Skilton, I had the opportunity of chatting informally with Mr. Burton of the Robert Simpson Company, Pro-

fessor Macdonald of the Department of English, Toronto University and others. I have been reading Mr. Burton's speeches for some time with interest, and so enjoyed meeting him. A small dinner party at Government House provided the opportunity of meeting the Countess of Bessborough. She was even more beautiful in the informal setting of her own home than when seen at a state function and though French is her native tongue, she speaks perfect English. You will possibly have noticed that the Countess has sailed for England. She did not take the baby with her.

On Wednesday evening the reception of the Cabinet Ministers held a reception for members of Parliament, Senators and their wives and daughters. It was a thoroughly enjoyable affair, a little gayer and less formal than usual. Everybody seemed to have a good time. The reception is an annual event which always takes place on a Wednesday,

since that is the only night of the working week on which the House does not sit.

**ENGLAND'S EARTHQUAKE YEAR**  
About one hundred and seventy years ago England experienced the first of a series of severe earthquakes, which created great alarm. The first shock was very distinct, the second still more severe, and a crazy soldier scared many folk almost out of their wits by predicting that the third, which he timed for April 6, would totally destroy London. On April 5, tens of thousands of all ranks quitted the metropolis, and many who remained were afraid to go to bed, but spent the night in the streets. The prophecy proved false, of course, but further shocks were felt in various parts of the country in the spring and summer of that year, and some held the prophet justified—with some error of date and locality—by the awful earthquake which shortly after destroyed Lisbon.

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