

NEWS AND INFORMATION FOR THE BUSY FARMER

(Furnished by the Ontario Department of Agriculture)

Co-operative Experiments with Field Crops

Good seed is one of the chief foundation stones in successful agriculture. Experiments conducted at O.A.C. for more than half a century in testing different varieties of field crops and seed selections of these crops have emphasized the importance of sowing only the best seed of the best varieties and those adapted to the farmer's particular locality.

The Agricultural and Experimental Union will once more distribute into every township and county of Ontario, free of charge to farmers who make application, selected seed of the best varieties according to the following list:

1. Testing three varieties of oats.
2. Testing two varieties of six-rowed barley, including one with smooth awns.
3. Testing two varieties of hulless barley.
4. Testing three varieties of spring wheat.
5. Testing two varieties of buckwheat.
6. Testing two varieties of field peas.
7. Testing two varieties of spring rye.
8. Testing three varieties of soy beans.
9. Testing seven varieties of flint and dent husking corn.
10. Testing three varieties of mangels.
11. Testing two varieties of sugar mangels.
12. Testing three varieties of swede turnips.
13. Testin two varieties of fall turnips.
14. Testing two varieties of field carrots.
15. Testing field corn and soy beans grown separately and in combination.
16. Testing Sudan grass and two varieties of millet.
17. Testing sunflower, sorghum and corn for fodder.
18. Testing grass peas, vetches and soy beans.
19. Testing rape, kale and field cabbage.
20. Testing three types of biennial sweet clover.
21. Testing two varieties of alfalfa.
22. Testing sweet corn for table use from different dates of planting.
23. Testing three varieties of field beans.

Each applicant must make a second choice indicating the number opposite the experiment in case the first cannot be granted.

Applications for this co-operative material should be addressed to W. J. Squirrel, O. A. College, Guelph, Ont.

Onion Production

Onion growers in Southwestern Ontario enjoyed a fairly successful year in 1931, but they fear that with the low prices in other lines of farm produce, there may be too many going into onions. An effort will be made by the co-operative association to limit the acreage this year. It is pointed out that last year the Erieau marshes were again cultivated and that considerable acreage was added for that reason. Weather counteracted the expected increase, however, and the co-operative was able to place such surplus as was at hand. A market glut is feared this year if the inexperienced grower should attempt onion production.

123 Red Clover Entries

What is reported to be a world's record entry of red clover seed, ever exhibited at any exhibition or fair, was the achievement of the Ottawa Valley Seed Growers' Association, according to George R. Paterson of the Ontario Marketing Board. At the annual seed fair held by this organization in Hawkesbury, March 16 to 18, one hundred and twenty-three individual lots of red clover were placed on display in two classes. There were 48 entries in the certified class, and 75 in the open class. That the quality of red clover produced in the Ottawa Valley is second to none, might be realized from the fact that, on official analysis, over forty of the total entries revealed absolute freedom from weed seeds, and over eighty per cent. graded No. 1.

Much of the success enjoyed by the growers in this district, in cereals as well as red clover, has been due to the establishment of well-managed seed cleaning plants.

Sow Thistle Decreasing

At the annual convention of Kent County Wood Inspectors held recently at Chatham, several delegates reported sow thistle to be decreasing in extent, according to A. H. Martin, assistant director, Crops and Markets Branch, Provincial Department of Agriculture. Thomas Skinner, weed inspector for Camden Township, reported a 30 per cent. decrease of sow thistle in one year. Mr. Skinner says that this successful battle against sow thistle was brought about by the whole-hearted co-operation of the farmers and road

superintendents with the weed inspector.

Control measures in Kent county, on small patches, consist of spraying with chemicals.

Where sow thistle has spread extensively, "early after harvest cultivation" or "summer fallowing" is practised. A short rotation, including one specialized crop such as tobacco, sugar beets, or some other hoed crop, is very effective in checking all weeds, including sow thistle.

Care of Baby Chicks

Proper care and management is essential to the successful raising of baby chicks. They should have a generous supply of pure water always available. Drinking vessels harbor germs and often the water will become contaminated and may spread disease through the entire flock. Then there is the danger of some infected chicks in every hatch, danger of diarrhoea in some form or other, loose bowel and intestinal trouble. Don't permit a few chicks to infect your entire flock.

March Weather

The value of snow in protecting crops and providing a reserve of moisture for the spring and summer is recognized this year as never before. The entire province enjoyed open weather until the first of March, so open in fact that it roused apprehension as to the effect on certain crops. Reports were received from a number of agricultural representatives noting that damage was being done to clover and to fall wheat. Then came a heavy snowfall, providing the most desirable kind of blanket against sun, wind and frost. Growth cannot be expected for several weeks and in the meantime it is desirable that roots be protected. While fruit tree buds may suffer to some extent from the low temperature, any loss of this nature is likely to be balanced by the killing of insects that are stirred into too early activity. Several species, among them the San Jose Scale, have increased in number with the recent mild winters. Nature's method of control is a near zero weather such as March has supplied.

Certified Seed

Field inspection of seed crops for certification in Canada results in the placing on the market of many thousands of bushels of seed of a quality superior to the commercial No. 1 grade.

Services of this kind are rendered by Dominion Seed Branch inspectors in connection with a wide range of seed crops. With cereals and corn, inspection is made of the standing crop to determine purity of variety; with red clover, type, hardness and freedom from badger campion; with alfalfa and sweet clover, origin and type; with alfalfa, origin and freedom from bladder campion; with timothy, origin and freedom from ox-eye daisy; with brome and western rye grass, origin and freedom from couch grass, and with crested wheat grass, origin and purity.

Certified seed, after cleaning, is graded, tagged and sealed by government inspectors. The seed inspection certificate tag attached bears the certification as to the origin, grade and quality of the seed.

The three prairie provinces provide the bulk of certified seed of cereals, flax and grasses; Manitoba and Ontario, the greater part of the certified seed of clovers, while most of the certified seed corn is of Ontario production.

ANCHOR ICE

The masses of ice—known as "anchor ice"—that form at the bottoms of rivers and other bodies of water are easily detached under the effects of the sun's rays, passing through the water, and then rise immediately to the surface, often bringing up rocks and other heavy objects with them. Prof. H. T. Barnes tells us that thousands of tons of such ice are brought up from the bed of the St. Lawrence early every morning in winter. The Canadian boatmen keep off the river when the ice is rising, to escape the danger of being surrounded and caught in masses of it, and carried downstream into the rapids. P. S. Smith and J. B. Mertie, of the U.S. Geological Survey, in a report on their explorations in north-western Alaska, describe the rising of anchor ice in the Killik River.

"The water," says this report, "was seen to swirl suddenly. A black tangle of willow roots and ice began to rise, and this was followed by more violent agitation of the water and a sheet of ice more than 100 feet long and several yards wide rose almost at the men's feet. The surface of this anchor ice was covered with gravel and small pebbles and matted masses of vegetation."

Miss Macphail's Letter

The Rt. Hon. Mackenzie King made an impassioned speech lasting one hour and a quarter, during which time the House and the galleries listened attentively and his Liberal followers sustained him by much hearty applause and at the end of which they cheered him to the echo. He was replying to the Government's taunt that the Opposition was holding up the Farm and Unemployment Relief Bill. Mr. King said that the Liberal opposition were willing to pass the money for relief the day before the Easter adjournment if the Government would consent to bring it in as supplementary estimates or in any Parliamentary form. The thing, he contended, that the Government was asking for was that the authority of Parliament be bestowed upon the Cabinet while Parliament was in session and to that he would never agree.

The resolution now before the House simply announces the intention of the Government to introduce a bill. Mr. King said that he would agree to the bill they wished to introduce if they would make these two changes in it: first, name the sum they wished, "whether it was one million, ten million or a hundred million" and omit the clause "for peace, order and good government." It was under the peace, order and good government clause that the abuse of power by the Cabinet was exercised.

In the afternoon the Minister of Agriculture, the Hon. Mr. Weir had spoken—and most offensively—in relation to the Rt. Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King. Last year, too, he had made a biting attack on him. But on this occasion he said Mr. King was trying to get back at Saskatchewan for sending nine Conservative members to the House. He said the leader of the Opposition was filled with revenge against Saskatchewan.

"What revenge would I have against Saskatchewan?" asked Mr. King. "Was not Saskatchewan the province which gave such splendid support to the Liberal party as to ensure its continuance in office from 1925 to 1930? Am I ungrateful of the fact that I stand tonight in this House honored with the representation of a constituency in the province of Saskatchewan and that Prince Albert has on three or four occasions returned me to this Parliament. I speak as a representative of the province of Saskatchewan."

"I challenge the Minister of Agriculture to point in the entire course of my public career, to one single act of mine which has been inspired by the spirit of revenge. Only those who are themselves capable of that kind of thing would think of imputing that sort of action to others. As for the remarks of the Minister, I am prepared to treat them as beneath contempt."

The Hon. James Malcolm, member for North Bruce, Ontario, was given a hearty welcome when he entered the Chamber on Tuesday. Mr. Malcolm has been very ill and his friends were much concerned over his condition. It made happy all members of the House to see him once more and looking so well. In each Parliament there are a few members who are held in affectionate regard by the whole House and Mr. Malcolm is one of these and if good wishes would make him altogether well, he would indeed have a speedy recovery.

On Wednesday, March 23rd, the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. R. B. Bennett gave notice of closure which will forcibly bring to an end the debate on Farm and Unemployment Relief on Tuesday, March 29th. The Prime Minister suggested that Mr. King might agree to permit the vote on the closure to be put the same afternoon (Wednesday, 23). When the closure comes into effect no speaker can speak more than once and then only for twenty minutes and the vote on the Farm and Unemployment Relief must take place before 2 o'clock on the morning of the next day. In beginning the Prime Minister referred to the victory of Conservative forces in Athabasca and said this showed that there was support for his government in the country and certainly sufficient in the House for all purposes. Athabasca was a constituency where a Conservative candidate had not stood for ten years. He did not draw the attention of the House to the fact that the total vote given to the opponents of the government candidate outnumbered those received by him.

In a speech of more than an hour and a half he justified one by one the acts of his government, which had been criticized by opposition speakers. The Orders-in-Council which prohibited the export of gold was justified, so was the Government's action in adding to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police; in granting to insurance companies certain unusual rights regarding the valuation of stock held by them; the action of the Government in refusing to allow Mr. Woodsworth to introduce his bill, in which he asked that Section 98 of the Criminal Code be amended. The Government had been right in increas-

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Garafraxa St., Durham Phone 58

ing the police force on Parliament Hill the day of the unemployed demonstration. In short, the Government had been right. The Government is right. There is no doubt at all the Prime Minister is a very able man, sincere, courageous. Unfortunately his manner of speaking in the House arouses in one resentment. He speaks with a studied insolence, as though he and he alone possessed all the righteousness on earth, or at any rate in Canada. It was rather noteworthy that when speaking in reply to the charge that his Cabinet were meek and servile, he ably defended them against such a charge and compared them in ability to any group in the Opposition to the great advantage of his Ministers. He did not, however, compare his Ministers to himself. I am inclined to think that the tactics of the Opposition have not been good. Strong opposition to the Government resolution could have been shown by a few strong speeches and a recorded vote and then on the first, second and third readings of the bill, the Opposition's dislike could have been further shown in a recorded vote. Such was the method used in opposition to the revision of the Bank Act, nine years ago by a small group of members in the House. The Hon. W. D. Euler speaks not often, but well—exceptionally well. He does not attempt oratory, never gets excited and never takes an extreme position. Because of his well known moderation the speech delivered by him just before the Easter recess is significant. While admitting he believed in tariffs, he stated that he did not believe that a country could live to itself alone and pointed out that furniture manufacturing establishments in his native city of Kitchener were having difficult times. "More furniture mechanics are walking the streets of Kitchener today than ever before, in fact some of the factories are closed down and that in spite of the fact of a tariff on furniture up to 40 per cent., or even 45 per cent." Mr. Euler pointed out that the market which Kitchener had found in New Zealand for rubber

and our public utilities under public ownership. As I have said, however, I am still an individualist, but go so far as to say I believe the great public services of the country, upon which the prosperity, convenience and happiness of nearly all the people depend, should be under the control of the public." He went on to approve of a resolution introduced earlier in the session which had asked for the setting up of a national council looking toward planned economy in our national life. Mr. Euler believed that more and more labor saving machines would be introduced freeing finally all men from unending toil and giving them the opportunity to enjoy the pleasures and blessings of life. He pointed out that capital, whether invested in financial or industrial undertakings, sets aside a reserve out of profits against a time when business may not be so profitable; capitalism also provides for the re-

(Continued on page 7.)

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