

was no good cropping it too close to the hens as they would only scratch things up as fast as they came thru, so there won't be anything for a rod this side."

Mrs. Robinson looked around her with a critical eye. The wind swept prairie, with only a few buildings scattered around the farmyard, did not appeal to her as an ideal place to raise several hundred chickens.

"I am afraid you will think me a very fault-finding old woman," she said, "but you really should have more shelter. You see you have no bluffs or anything."

"Yes, I know," admitted Margaret, coloring slightly, "but I am afraid we can hardly afford the lumber—"

"Now that is where people make a big mistake," interrupted her visitor. "Hens are not any happier and what is more to the point, don't lay any more eggs just because they have elaborate buildings. If you have plenty of money get them by all means, but if you are like most people, only got a very little, put it all into your stock and the feed for them. All you want here is a pound of sunflower seeds—they only cost ten cents. It is getting rather late now, so you had better soak them in water twenty-four hours. Plant them in rows two feet apart and thin out to two feet apart in the rows. They will make you the dandiest shelter all summer long. Then, when they are ripe, bend them over and the chickens will pick out

every bit of seed. Even then they are not done with. The last thing in the fall chop them off close to the root, dry them well, tie them up in bundles and stack them against one of the buildings, they make the best of kindling when you are in a hurry, and are easy to chop, too," she added feelingly, "besides which they are so pretty. They look from a distance like a beautiful grove of trees. Now for one peep at the incubator and I must be going," and they hurried toward the house.

"Yes," said Margaret, looking at the thermometer, "just 103. They should be off in about three days. There are 100 eggs, just what I put in. I didn't test any out because I was afraid I might throw away some good ones."

"Oh, but that will never do," laughed her visitor. "An infertile egg does not warm up like a good one. The same with a bad or partly developed egg. Besides, they affect the other eggs surrounding them. Let us take some of them down to the cellar and test them now."

She quickly transferred about twenty into one of the little boxes and they went down into the cellar with a lamp and an egg tester.

"Isn't this a splendid tester," said Mrs. Robinson. "I think it is wonderful the way the government helps people who really want to learn. Only fancy, all you have to do is to drop a post card saying please send me your egg tester free of charge and address it to Depart-

ment of Agriculture, Livestock Branch, Ottawa, and away it comes. Now look here," she continued, adjusting it over the lamp, "this egg is dark all over except the airspace, no doubt it will hatch out fine, and this, and this; but this one, do you see that rim of light all round it? Well that evidently reached a certain stage and then died. This one looks as bad, or worse; this, you see, is quite clear, but you need not throw the clear ones away. On the other hand don't give it to the hired man for his breakfast, he might not like it. The storekeeper does not appreciate them as much as one would wish, but you can boil them real hard and feed them out to your little chickens when they hatch out. Now I really must run," she finished, "or I shall lose my train. Goodbye."

She clambered into the buggy and they shook hands warmly. "Don't thank me," she laughed, "I wanted to see you in the worst possible way. Give me that good long switch down there. Thanks, awfully. Now go ahead girlie. You only belong to the livery keeper anyway," and off she went in a cloud of dust.

The British transport 'Manitou' was attacked by a Turkish torpedo boat in the Aegean Sea on April 16, and suffered the loss of fifty lives. The torpedo boat was headed off by British cruisers after the attack, and had to be beached in the Bay of Chios, where the crew surrendered to the Greek Coast Guard.

MACDONALD INDEPENDENT CONVENTION

A Convention of the Independent electors of the constituency of Macdonald, Manitoba, has been called to meet at Carman on Friday, May 7, for the purpose of nominating an Independent candidate for the federal election. Many of the Independents in the constituency are hoping that R. C. Henders, President of the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association, may be prevailed upon to accept the nomination.

SASKATCHEWAN DAIRY TRAIN

The dairy branch of the Department of Agriculture has recently completed a special series of dairy meetings of a valuable character. Working in conjunction with the railway companies and the College of Agriculture, a series of 100 meetings was arranged. Fifty-three meetings were held at points on the C.P.R. and forty-seven on the C.N.R. Both companies placed at the disposal of the Department of Agriculture a large first class passenger coach in which to hold the meetings, and a tourist sleeper for the accommodation of the speakers. The itinerary was mapped out and the cars fitted up by the dairy branch. The particular feature worthy of note is that all lectures were illustrated by an elaborate series of lantern slides, which proved exceedingly valuable in bringing home to the audience the most important points dwelt upon by the speakers. The use of the lantern has another important bearing on the educational features in that it proves a strong attraction in securing an audience. Lack of interest in public meetings is sometimes overcome by curiosity, but it is impossible to teach those who are prompted to come to such meetings thru curiosity. One of the great difficulties in agricultural educational work is to get the people most concerned sufficiently interested to attend meetings and the lantern reaches a good many that otherwise would not be available. The strong feature, however, in connection with lantern work is that the speaker is able to show his audience what he is trying to tell and for one to see the work thus illustrated very often makes one remember the instructions given.

The attendance was all that could be desired and in several cases the audience had to be divided and two meetings held. At the fifty-three meetings held on the C.P.R. lines, the total attendance was 2,572, with an average of 52. On the C.N.R. lines there was a total attendance of 3,792 at 47 meetings and an average attendance of 80. Encouraging as the attendance was, the interest manifested by the various audiences was much more gratifying, showing that so far, at least, the prospect of high priced wheat has not slackened their interest in dairying.

NEUVE CHAPELLE

A long review of the fighting at Neuve Chapelle by Sir John French confirms the report that the heavy casualties suffered by the British were due to a mistake committed by one of the British commanders. In his introductory remarks Sir John specially states that 'considerable delay occurred after the capture of Neuve Chapelle. The infantry was disorganized by the violent nature of the attack.' Further in the despatch he says: 'I am of the opinion that this delay would not have occurred had the clearly expressed order of the commander of the First Army been more carefully observed.' Sir John confirms in part the report that at one point in the fighting British artillery fired by mistake upon British troops. He estimated the British losses in the battle of Neuve Chapelle as follows: Killed, 190 officers, 2,337 men; wounded, 359 officers, 8,174 men; missing, 23 officers, 1,728 men; total casualties, 12,811. The German losses in this battle were estimated at about 17,000. Sir John says the British found thousands of dead on the field, while he claims positive information that upwards of 12,000 German wounded were removed. Thirty German officers and 1,657 men were taken prisoners.

The total of British casualties in the war from the beginning of hostilities up to April 11 is 139,347 men, according to an announcement made in the House of Commons on April 15 by the Under Secretary for War.



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