

Britain Will Pay Off Her Financial Debts To the United States As They May Fall Due

Niagara Peninsula Fruitgrowers Do Not Want Vineland Experiment Station Taken Over By Dominion

Will Ask the Ontario Minister of Agriculture to Improve It Rather—Interesting Address on the Raising of Strawberries—Resolutions Passed By the Association.

The Niagara Peninsula Fruitgrowers Association closed a profitable series of meetings at Queen's Hall last evening. The two sessions have been productive of much valuable information to the growers of fruit. The attendance of growers has been large and the men who grow the bulk of the fruit used in Canada have listened with interest to the various speakers.

At yesterday afternoon's session the chair was occupied by the President, F. A. J. Sheppard, and the main item on the program was an interesting address on strawberry raising by E. L. McConnell, of Port Burwell. Mr. McConnell stated that strawberries were considered the most important fruit grown by many. They are profitable if handled properly and are three essentials in the profitable growing of the luscious berry, the character of the plant, cultivation and care of these.

Preparation of a field for strawberries should commence a year ahead and Mr. McConnell. A crop of potatoes might be grown on the soil first. Many make a mistake in preparing the land. Plowing is not the first importance. In England cultivation or stirring up the soil with manure is the best process. After this plowing comes and the top half of the furrow has been already cultivated. The bottom half of the furrow feeds the plant.

Planting a crop of potatoes then if well looked after, a profitable crop is obtained.

Preserving the moisture is absolutely essential for good returns. After the potatoes are taken out a little manure may be applied, not too much as it clogs the earth. About ten loads to the acre is sufficient, well cultivating it in with the soil. Good fresh plants, freshly dug should be used. The plants should be well sprayed and the grower is insured success if the plants are properly handled by taking off surplus leaves and shorten-

REPORT ON CANADA RACETRACKS SLAMS AMERICAN OWNERS

OTTAWA, March 12.—Some Canadian racetracks in which American capital is heavily invested "are not being operated to the best interests of the public," according to an exhaustive report on Dominion racing conditions submitted to-day to parliament by Dr. J. G. Rutherford, a special commissioner for the government.

This report, which is expected to serve as a basis for legislation governing racing, makes no definite recommendations, but devotes considerable space to the question of eliminating certain tracks and banning "touts," railbirds and purveyors of supposedly secret or stolen information.

Fleet Wasn't Kept Ready For Service

ADMIRAL SIMMS CONTINUES HIS CRITICISM OF SECRETARY DANIELS.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 12.—Charges that the Atlantic fleet was not kept in readiness for battle during the war was added by Rear Admiral Sims to his testimony today before the senate investigating committee. He told the committee that frequent pleas for American warships were disregarded and months were lost in dispatching a squadron of battleships to join the British grand fleet. When the squadron finally was ordered abroad he said it was composed of four ships of different types, evidence that other ships to form a homogeneous unit were "not ready for sea service." He read also a message from the navy department showing that after the four were selected, it was necessary to dock them before they could proceed, a delay of another two or three weeks.

Amateur Minstrels Put on a Most Enjoyable Show

The Minstrel Concert given last night by the St. Paul Street Church Athletic Association was an unqualified success and a large audience crowded into the Sunday School room to enjoy the fun and music.

The black face comedians and singers left nothing to be desired. Everything was entertaining, the music and the local grips being thoroughly enjoyed.

The playlet, "In the Wrong House" was a scream from beginning to end, the boys excelling themselves in the different parts. The cast for the playlet was: R. N. Pencock, A. J. Whitlock, C. J. Harris, V. C. Jones, H. Byrne, and W. Newman.

The musical numbers by the Plumley trio were especially enjoyed.

GEORGES DISPENSES IDOLATROUS CROWD

PARIS, March 12.—An announcement that the religious marriage ceremony for Georges Carpentier, the heavyweight pugilist and Mile. Gergette Laurentia Elasse would be celebrated at a Paris church Tuesday, proved to be an error.

Crowds appeared before the church blocking the street, and finally the police requested Carpentier and his bride, whose civil marriage took place in the city hall Monday, to appear and disperse the throng. This they did. Later Carpentier said the date for the church wedding had not been had from

Shoe Prices Not Likely to Drop Just Yet

The hopeful consumer who saw in the decided drop in hide prices bright prospects for securing a pair of shoes at a price within the means of the average well-to-do person will have his expectations dashed to pieces if he converses with almost any shoe man, be he retailer, wholesaler or manufacturer.

"Will the much weaker hide market have any immediate effect in lowering shoe prices?" was a query referred to a shoe dealer to-day.

"Not for some time," was the answer. "The shoes being sold this spring were contracted for last fall, so that conditions existing now cannot possibly have any effect. Eventually, if hide prices remain down, shoes will certainly come down too but there is no immediate prospect of lower prices."

"Will they be cheaper next fall?" he was asked.

"No, not next fall. We are paying more for the leather than we used to. It's up to the tanners. They are holding us up."

It was stated that all kinds of leather could be obtained in Canada with the exception of goat. This was purchased in the United States, and used to cost \$1.25 a foot, three months ago. The present price is \$2.50 a foot.

Tremendous amounts of orders and no concessions from the tanners are conditions which make a combination not favorable to appreciable decreases in shoe prices. The only hope appears to be the big stocks with which tanners are said to be loaded up at present. Increasing stocks was stated may have the effect of weakening and leathers, owing to the existing off of the export business in hides and leathers, owing to the exchange situation which makes it impossible for Europe to pay the prices now may further tend to shade prices. The big stocks which are accumulating all the time, on account of the cessation of export will eventually have the effect of shading prices considerably. And the decreases in cost of material should be reflected in the price a consumer will have to pay for a pair of shoes.

Just how long this change will take to become a welcome fact nobody cared to guess. It was said however, that it would take at least six months for the lower priced hides, which are a feature of the tanneries at present to get to the manufacturers to be made up into the goods which should sell below present excessive figures. Whether shoe prices will drop within this year appears to be a disputed point, certain manufacturers declaring that this will be the case while others emphatically say no.

Keep Embargo On Sugar and Save For Canucks

The Niagara Peninsula Fruitgrowers Association has decided to petition the Canadian Government not to remove the embargo on sugar just yet, as the stocks in this country are only sufficient for the needs of Canadians during the coming canning season.

Last year the fruit industry suffered greatly because the shortage of sugar made it impossible for the housewives to do their usual amount of fruit preserving and the factories of this district were likewise handicapped.

CONGRESS REFUSES TO MAKE PERSHING CHIEF OF STAFF

WASHINGTON, March 12.—With-out a record vote the house yesterday refused to amend the army reorganization bill so as to make Gen. Pershing the permanent Chief of Staff. In doing so it approved the section permitting the secretary of war to make the selection.

TENDERS

SEALED TENDERS addressed to the undersigned will be received up to March 18th by the Board of Education for the city of St. Catharines for school supplies. Specifications may be had from

C. T. McBRIDE, City Treas.
March 12, 13.

Funeral of the Young Daughter Of A. E. Coombs

The funeral of the late Alice Frances, eldest daughter of Principal and Mrs. A. E. Coombs was held yesterday afternoon from the family residence 197 Church street to Victoria Lawn Cemetery. The house was filled with sympathizing friends who had gathered to pay their last respects to one who they had held in very high esteem. Rev. Dr. Martin conducted the services and spoke comforting words to the family and friends in their great loss and also of the beautiful life led by the deceased young lady. The floral offerings were very numerous being taken to the cemetery in a special conveyance, and placed around the grave. Clarence Colton, Leo Bradt, Jas Olds, Hugh Zumstien, Henry Parkhouse and Herb Smith acted as bearers.

"Listen Lester" Makes Great Hit At the Grand

"Listen Lester," the new musical piece completely captivated one of the largest audiences of the season at the Grand last night and quite rightly as it was one of the best things in musical comedy seen here in some time.

A lot of novelty is introduced in connection with the fun-making and the catchy music, and there is never a dull moment during the whole rollicking affair.

This is principally due to the effort of Gus Shy who is a whole show in himself. His eccentric comedy and dancing brought down the house.

Virginia Watson captivated every body with her vivacious interpretation of "Mary Dodge," and in the handling of the part left nothing to be desired.

Able support is given by Mayme Gehrue as "Miss Quilty," Jean Thomas, the charming widow, Joseph Mack as "Lester" the porter, Irving Brooks as "Colonel Dodge," Cecil Williams and others of the cast.

There is a good singing chorus and the whole show has a wealth of dance about it which finishes it off just right

Young Couple Passed Away Within A Few Minutes of Each Other When Stricken With Pneumonia

The death occurred yesterday of Business Albert Robins of 12½ Thorold Road, aged 29 years, at the General and Marine Hospital, after an illness of one week from pneumonia.

A few minutes later his wife, Lela Pearl, aged 28 years passed away at the Welland Hospital, after an illness of the same disease. When the young couple were attacked with the prevailing epidemic, efforts were made to have them placed in the same room in the same hospital, but owing to the overcrowded conditions this was impossible.

Mr. Robins was born in Gainsboro Township, later moving to Fonhill, where he resided for a short time before coming to St. Catharines about six months ago, where he took a position with the Whitman & Barnes Company.

Besides his father, Orlando Robins of Silverdale, he is survived by two sons, Clarence C. of Welland, Ont., and Clarence C. of Welland, Ont., and CC. Clarence C. of Welland, Ont., and CC. Clarence C. of Welland, Ont.

Mrs. Robins was also born in Gainsboro Township. She is survived by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Moore, who reside on their farm at Elcho, in Gainsboro Township, and one brother, Adam Moore, who have many friends in St. Catharines, who extend to them their heartfelt sympathy in their hour of double trouble.

Mr. and Mrs. Robins were regular attendants at the Methodist C.C. Church and took an active part in church work. The funeral will be held on Sunday afternoon from Grobb Bros. chapel, when the young couple will be buried together in the Fonhill cemetery. Funeral services will be held at 1:30 on Sunday March 14th at Grobb Bros. Chapel.

Young Girl Accused of Forgery Is Given a Further Remand of Seven Days This Morning

Mrs. Leola Greenwood, the 20 year old girl who is held on a charge of forgery in connection with bogus cheques, was arraigned in police court this morning and pleaded not guilty. She is being defended by Terence McCarron while Crown Attorney Brennan appeared for the crown.

Mr. Brennan asked for a remand to allow him time to get an order from the Judge to bring Stanley West the woman's accomplice, here to testify. West received a three-year sentence at Niagara on Monday.

Mr. McCarron protested that his client had been in jail a week and

This Will Indicate a Spirit of Economy and Lesson to Business Men—Will Not Ask Republic For Time in Paying Obligations As They Fall Due.

LONDON, March 12.—The British Government has decided upon a policy of wiping out all of its debt in America and to the United States Government as soon as possible. While there has never been any doubt, in the minds of the authorities here, as to eventual payments this decision came as a big surprise to Americans because while nothing official was known it was expected that Great Britain and the other allies would follow a different policy—one of waiting—to see what developments would come in the next few years before deciding to pay their war debts.

The British Government has decided however, that from economic as well as political and moral standpoints the best policy is to repay its debt as soon as possible.

Meet Obligations When Due

This does not mean that Britain cannot or will anticipate the maturity of its loans but that the Government will meet each obligation as it becomes due. It is further explained that repayment is not a matter of one or even five years, but that this decision is on a policy which is to be followed from now on, by the British Government.

This information came from an absolutely reliable source and after extensive questioning and investigation I am able fully to confirm the fact that this policy has been officially decided upon by the Government, and that it will be followed by the Treasury Department.

To Pay All Promptly

When I made the first inquiries in British circles, officials were frankly astonished, replying that obviously England expected to repay its indebtedness to America, but when I pointed out that recent interest due the United States Treasury was funded, that there was an impression that the allied governments would make no attempt to repay their war debts for considerable period of years they admitted just as candidly that the British Government's policy now was to pay all obligations in America promptly. They explained, furthermore, that the decision to meet the Anglo-French loan was based upon this new policy of government in England.

Will Have Good Effect

Americans with whom I discussed the question were astonished, even the bankers expressed surprise, but all

Will Not Lift Ban Till One at Border is Lifted

The Board of Health yesterday afternoon decided not to remove the vaccination ban on the public schools in view of the fact that the ban has not yet been lifted at the border.

This it is expected will be done next week, in which case the Board will then take action.

Dr. Curry expressed the view that as the parents of 1500 children had obeyed the order of vaccination these should be protected and considered as against the 150 who refused.

Hay Disappeared And Theft Charge Is the Outcome

James G. Harris appeared in police court today on a charge of stealing a quantity of hay from Kenneth McIntee. Crown Attorney Brennan prosecuted and Terence McCarron defended Harris.

McIntee stated that about January 1st, a third of a ton and a half of hay which he had in Grantham disappeared. Sleigh tracks led to Welland Ave. in the city. A lad named Hipwell, who lives with Harris, stated that he had got about two wheel barrows of hay from the McIntee place because his brother had told him he could have it. The boy said bedding was needed at Harris' place and he had told Harris about the McIntee scrapings and Harris told him to go and get it.

As another witness was needed the case was adjourned till tomorrow morning.

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Fletcher's
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TO (Union Station)

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