

# EFFICIENT FARMING

## A LITTLE PIG DISEASE.

A very heavy loss is experienced by many farmers each spring through the loss of little pigs. Not among the pigs that are born and reared out on the green grass where everything is clean, but among those that are born during February and March under conditions that are very favorable for the presence and development of *Bacillus Necrotyris*. The little pig looks as though it had a dirty face. The sides of the mouth and cheeks are discolored with adhering grime. Small pustules and ulcers are present in the mouth about the lips. Small sores are present wherever the bacteria have gained entrance—any place on the body where the pig may have scratched itself—frequently seen on knees, sides of forearm, base of ear; just a black, scurfy patch with pus beneath; may be very small or even as large as a quarter dollar. The bacillus responsible for the disease cannot penetrate a normal, unbroken skin, but finds entrance in scratches usually made by the pigs when fighting. These abrasions may be ever so small, yet give entrance to the germ. Clean, sterile conditions are, of course, the best insurance of health. Not always possible to keep a pig pen like a hospital ward, but it is possible to have clean, comfortable, dry quarters somewhere about the premises in which the young pigs may be housed

during the nursing period. The germ is present in filth, and probably always will be, so the first thing to do is to get the sows that have not farrowed away from the immediate vicinity of those whose families are showing disease, and put them in clean pens.

In preparing a pen for the brood sow, the walls and floor should be scraped clean and then given a washing with hot water in which a generous quantity of lye has been dissolved. After scraping and washing, a lime wash to which 3 or 4 per cent. of creolin has been added should be applied. If the brood sow has been exposed to filth in which the germs are likely to be, she should be given a washing with a warm water to which a small quantity of creolin or other disinfectant has been added. A dry, clean yard is just as essential as a dry, clean pen.

With the progeny of the brood sow worth \$25 to \$50 at weaning time, it is surely worth while to have things right and prevent an unnecessary loss by doing a few hours' work. During some seasons the careless man will get by without losses, then again he will lose all. The man that looks after the breeding hygiene and sanitation of his pig breeding operations generally saves a large percentage of the young pigs twice every year.—L. Stevenson.

## Potatoes in the Windermere Valley

Statistics record the growing popularity of potato culture in the Province of British Columbia in recent years. There is sound reason for this, and the belief is expressed that the Pacific Coast province possesses no handicap to the development into a great potato-producing territory rivaling the Canadian Maritimes in this regard. Experts state that, granted the tubers receive adequate attention, potatoes will grow as well in British Columbia as in any other country. Whilst, in general, this culture has not had the amount of attention it deserves devoted to it, there are many indications that it is increasing in popularity, and in some districts in particular a certain distinction in this regard is being achieved.

There has been a consistent increase in the acreage devoted to potatoes in British Columbia, whilst in little more than a decade the annual value of the crop has doubled. In 1910 the province's potato acreage was 10,872, the average yield 150.03 bushels to the acre, the total crop 1,631,211 bushels and its value 1,148,000. This does not represent the yield usually achieved in the province, as between the years 1910 and 1915 the average was 204.36 bushels. In 1915 there were 16,000 acres devoted to the potato crop, the average was 247.28 bus. per acre, the total crop 3,956,000 bushels and its value \$1,780,000. In 1923, according to the final crop estimate, British Columbia had 18,102 acres devoted to potatoes, achieved an average yield of 116 bushels to the acre, and harvested a total crop of 2,099,800 bushels, worth \$2,583,000.

**CARRIED OFF ALL AVAILABLE PRIZES.**  
A section of British Columbia which is making a particular name for itself in potato production is the Windermere Valley in the south-eastern part of the province midway between the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway and the Crow's Nest Branch of the same railway, and lying between the Rocky Mountains and the Selkirk Mountains. Though of recent and yet sparse development, the agricultural achievement of this district is marked and its potatoes have brought the valley particular renown.

The yields of potatoes in this district from half-acre plots, as shown by the records of the Farmers' Institutes in their crop competitions, vary from five to ten tons per half-acre. Prize winners have recorded productions of ten, eight, and seven tons from their plots, being respectively twenty, sixteen and fourteen tons to the acre. The quality is equal to any grown in the province, as has been many times proven.

**EXPORTS STEADILY INCREASING.**  
The Windermere district of British Columbia brought itself into very distinct prominence in the growing of first-class commercial potatoes recently by carrying off the chief prizes at the Provincial Potato Show at Vic-

toria. In this contest members of the district Potato Growers' Association carried off the provincial district prize, the shield for the best commercial potatoes, and every available prize with the exception of a cup presented by their own association. Their achievements in provincial potato circles in 1922 were equally outstanding.

There should be a future for the growing of quantities of commercial potatoes in British Columbia such as has been built up in the Maritime Provinces. Canada's exports of potatoes are voluminous and going to many countries. Potato exports in 1921 amounted to 1,715,537 bushels worth \$1,565,340; in 1922 to 1,735,678 bushels worth \$1,128,964; and in 1923 to 1,939,578 bushels worth \$1,809,247. These went to the United Kingdom, United States, Bermuda, British Guiana, British West Indies, Cuba, Hawaii, Newfoundland, Philippines, St. Pierre and Miquelon. Cuba is the principal purchaser of Canadian potatoes, followed by the United States.

## Supervision of Stock Yards.

Stock raisers who have not been in the habit of marketing stock for themselves or in co-operation with others, need have no hesitation in submitting their animals for sale on the public stock yards. Through the Dominion Live Stock and Live Stock Products Act, stock yards are under government control, which sees to it that full justice is done to the sellers. The system, which has been in operation since 1917, has done much to inspire confidence in production as well as in marketing. It has not only promoted a feeling of confidence but has resulted in many stock raisers obtaining a knowledge of the business of marketing. Marketing at the public stock yards is so regulated as to prevent any form of extortion. Equal opportunities are provided for all, both in purchase and sale, and disinterested and timely information as to the live stock market situation is constantly being issued from the yards. The facilities provided tend to safeguard against abnormal market conditions, by promoting intelligent distribution and the encouragement of more marketable types of live stock. During the course of the year covered by the latest annual report of the Hon. W. R. Motherwell, Minister of Agriculture, approximately 865,000 cattle, 265,000 calves, 800,000 hogs, 595,000 sheep, were sold at the various stock yards in Canada under conditions supervised by officers of the Live Stock Branch. All of this stock, valued approximately at \$35,000,000 for cattle, \$2,250,000 for calves, \$14,300,000 for hogs, and \$3,500,000 for sheep and lambs, besides passing under the supervision of the stock yards agent, was checked and recorded as to the point of origin, sale and disposition.

In setting out to cut down expenses, look out that you do not saw off the limbs that bear the fruit.

Success lies in the man and not in his materials. Martha, aged three, took great interest in her grandma's little chicks. One day when a little Leghorn got out she called: "Grandma! the little shoehorn got out."

## Sheep Notes

Ewes require additional care at lambing time. I think it wise to watch every ewe closely to make sure she is coming along all right.

Very frequently a little ailment will attack a ewe following lambing such as caked udder, indigestion and inflammation of the bowels, which, if taken in due time, can be restored without causing a setback to the ewe and lamb. Ailments that get two or three days the start, are more difficult to overcome than if treated immediately when first symptoms appear.

It has been my experience that it pays to keep the ewe near by where they can be gone over every morning and carefully examined. Ewes that lamb along about the first of May usually are turned to pasture. This is a splendid place for them, but I like to get the flock up at night and keep them near at hand. Then I can look them over and, in case of sudden change in the weather, they can be protected.

It is very common for ewes that have been well fed during the winter to have under trouble at lambing time. Every flock-owner has his particular remedy for this trouble, but I have had excellent success with rubbing the udders twice daily with vaseline to which is added one-fourth part spirits of camphor and the same amount of ammonia.

## Poultry on the Village Lot.

Through many years of investigation the Experimental Farms have arrived at a system of housing and feeding laying hens to secure what the officials believe to be maximum returns. The pens in the Egg Laying Contest correspond closely in number of fowls to the flocks of town and village poultry keepers, who keep birds to supply their own tables. Ten good layers will produce a large number of eggs in the course of a year. If properly taken care of, a flock of this size should produce from 100 to 150 dozen eggs in the year, and few ordinary families use more than this quantity. Two hundred eggs per bird, or 2,000 eggs in the year is rather too much to expect, although this is not impossible.

The Egg Laying Contest hens are housed in pens six feet wide by ten feet long. The windows face the south. Straw is used for litter in the houses, and the scratch grains are fed in this litter. Scratch grains consist of cracked corn, whole wheat and oats, about equal parts. The birds are given all the scratch grains they will consume, care being taken not to have much grain in the litter at any time. Dry mash (a mixture of bran, shorts, cornmeal and ground oats, with ten percent beef scrap) is kept before the birds at all times, and fed from a self-feeding hopper. At noon each day the birds are given a very small amount of wet mash. This wet mash is made by moistening some of the dry mash with water. Grit, oyster-shell, and water are kept before the birds at all times. Green food is also provided in the form of mangels, cabbage, cut clover, or alfalfa. Whatever green food is used the birds are given all they will eat. The quarters are kept clean at all times. The Dept. of Agriculture at Ottawa issues a useful bulletin on "Poultry Keeping in Town and Country," which is available on request.

## Superiority of Canadian Varieties.

The varieties of grain which have been carrying off most of the prizes at the International Seed Grain and Hay Show at Chicago since the inception of that organization four years ago have been largely originated in Canada by Canadian plant breeders. In the case of wheat, the Canadian-bred Marquis variety has been a consistent winner of the Grand Sweepstakes prize. At the last exhibition, held in Chicago in December, 1923, the first thirteen prizes, including the Grand Sweepstakes, were won by Marquis. Out of the twenty-five prizes awarded in the hard red spring wheat class, twenty-one went to the Marquis variety, two to Kitchener which is a selection out of Marquis, and one to Ruby which is a cross-bred sort produced at the Experimental Farm at Ottawa.

In the oat class, most of the winning samples were of the Victory and Banner varieties. These varieties, while not of Canadian origin, have been developed considerably by members of the Canadian Seed Growers' Association in Canada. Twenty-eight out of a total of thirty-five prizes in oats were captured by Canada, twenty-one of these going to growers in the Province of Alberta.

In the two-rowed barley class, the sweepstakes were won by Duckbill Ottawa 57. This is a very fine, two-rowed variety originated by the Central Farm at Ottawa and which is giving a very good account of itself in trials being conducted at the various Experimental Farms throughout Canada.

## For Home and Country

### A Winter Picnic.

"Whatever were you expected to wear?"

This was the first anxious query in the minds of the guests invited to join with the Elgin County Women's Institutes in their Winter Picnic held in the stormy month of February in Alma College, St. Thomas. It turned out, that like all real live picnics, you wore whatever you chose besides a pleasant smile and the basket or box of country delectables you bore in your hand.

For Elgin County Institutes met, with their mankind and the College principal and staff, to have a good time—and to study history. Their own history, too, that which they themselves as rural homemakers had made in Elgin County, Ontario, and helped to make in the world at large, for the idea of a State Dept. of Home-making, set going in Wentworth County twenty-seven years ago, they found had now become an international thing. They were inspired by the work and progress of the nineteen Institutes working for home and community betterment in the own county with the very practical maxims, "Begin with the fellow under your own hat if you want to improve the world," and "If you know a good thing, pass it on."

A further thrill was added to this inspiration by the report that nearly three thousand Institutes, following the Ontario methods, were now working for similar ends in England and Wales, with hundreds more in Scotland, Belgium, France, and even in remote New Zealand, with some in the United States; while they were all over Canada, from the Atlantic to the Pacific Coasts.

After addresses from the Departmental representative and the Provincial President, some stories of activities were told by the Branches represented.

The Principal of the College, Dr. Dobson, was so interested that in a short address of welcome he invited the homemakers to make this an all-day and annual event, promising that the College physical director would plan a half day of games and recreation for the visitors in the gymnasium and swimming pool, while the College hall, domestic science rooms, and dishes would also be at their service.

A very pleasing feature was the uniting of city and country on this occasion, also almost every woman's organization, as well as some of the men's in St. Thomas being represented.

## The Dairy

Most of the bacteria which gets into milk comes from utensils, such as cans, pails, strainers, coolers and separators, which have not been properly cleaned. A dairy authority recommends the following method for cleaning the utensils: First, rinse in lukewarm water as soon after use as possible; second, wash in hot water containing washing powder, which will remove grease; third, rinse in clean, hot water and place in live steam fifteen seconds, drain and place right side up until steam evaporates. Where steam is not available sunning will give effective results. Drying should not be done with a cloth, but by heating the utensils in steam or an oven sufficiently to evaporate the moisture. Fourth, invert a clean protected place when dry.

## Oat Varieties Recommended.

The most popular variety of oats, and certainly one of the best, is the Banner, says the Dept. of Agriculture at Ottawa. The straw is of good length and it stands up well under average conditions. The grains are long, it ripens in midseason, and is very productive. The Banner succeeds best on rather heavy soil. The Swedish variety called Victory, closely resembles Banner. Indeed it is possibly equal to it in many ways as a cropping sort. Another high producing variety of oats is the Siberian. A selected strain of this variety now goes by the name of Ontario Agricultural College No. 72. This sort ripens rather later than the others named. On account of its vigorous growth it is perhaps to be preferred to Banner on lighter soils. Gold Rain, Ligowo, and Daubency all stand high in the range of varieties of oats grown throughout the country. Between any of these varieties and some of the older sorts that are still grown, there is frequently a difference of several bushels to the acre.

Haircuts for horses are not a fad; there is a good reason for them. Clipping lessens the danger of colds. Horses with long hair should be clipped. Clip in early spring when warm weather approaches.

The Press entered heartily in the winter game too, printing a special full page supplement in their Saturday issue, giving photos and the history of the Institutes of Elgin County. It was a delightful page and widely read by old and new members and their friends as well as students of Canadian historic developments of note, to say nothing of the Provincial Superintendent and its governmental head, the Minister of Agriculture.

One charming story was that of the discovery by one Branch of a family of new Canadians in dire distress, bravely and silently struggling through their first winter in the country. "They are eating off the window ledges," came the report from a friendly neighbor who had called, "and I don't know how they sleep, for they have scarcely any bedding. The father was working until winter closed in but now he can't get any, and there are two children."

To hear was to act with this group of homemakers and in a short time food, clothing, dishes, bedding, and fuel were unloaded with a prompt hospitality that even pioneer days could not beat at this farm house door.

Sewing was secured for the mother, and later, work for the man too. But the very best thing about it was the human touch, the neighborliness of it all. The mother was made an honorary member of the Branch, and when some time later the collector was going the rounds for the annual donations to the County Hospital (another of the community interests of the Institutes) she called on the new member. "Not for a donation, but just because I did not like to pass any member by," she explained cordially.

"Oh, but we want to help," the mother cried, going to the cupboard and emptying the contents of a cup. "This is all the cash I have, but the Institute was so good to us when we were starting. Whenever the Institute is in on anything I want to be in it too. Here," and she handed over twenty cents.

"And we considered that the biggest and most generous donation we gave to our Hospital," said the speaker. "It was like the widow's mite. That is the thing we are proud of, not what we gave them in material things so much as that we helped them to get on their feet, and that then they wanted like real Canadians to help others as they could."

They helped them to get on their feet! The best kind of immigration work. Long life and prosperity to the Institutes.

## Bedtime Stories

**My Pennies.**  
Sometimes when I run errands my Grandma gives me pennies; They rattle in my pocket in a very jolly way. I always like to feel them, way down where they are hiding, The shining little pennies, who in the dark must stay. A little song they're singing—a sort of cheerful jingle; I'm careful not to lose them, or even let them fall. You see because I earned them, they're not like other pennies—More nice, and kind of different, and so I save them all.

## Gardeners Require Permit to Import Stock.

With the arrival of the seed and bulbs catalogues the amateur gardener begins to make his plans for the garden and grounds and to prepare a list of plants that he intends to buy. In order to avoid disappointment in securing the prompt delivery of shipments of plants from the United States or other countries, he is reminded of the regulations now in force whereby all importers of plants from any country are required to secure a permit to be presented to the Collector of Customs at the port where the shipment is cleared. Permits are required for the importation of trees, shrubs, vines, cuttings, greenhouse plants, roots, perennials, corms, bulbs, etc. Copies of the regulations and information regarding permits may be secured by writing to the Secretary, Destructive Insect and Pest Act Advisory Board, Dept. of Agriculture, Ottawa.

When the roads are bad, make the horse's load lighter. Do not allow the boy to drive furiously and stop suddenly. Take off the checkrein and blinders.

Cut off every lamb's tail when the lambs are between one and four weeks old. Use hot pinners or a sharp knife for the operation. Make the cut three-fourths of an inch from the body.