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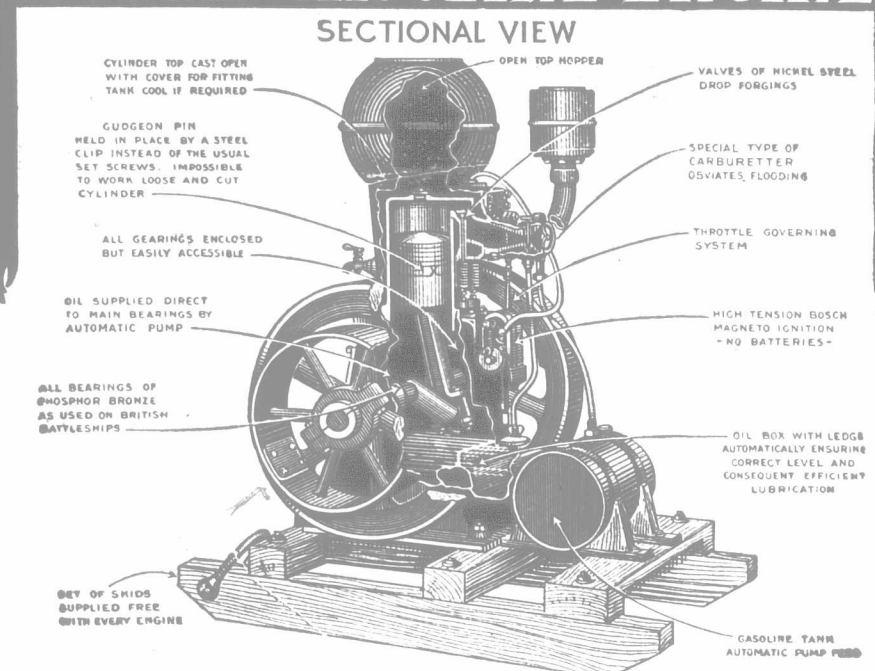
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The Alsike Situation.

Ontario alsike seed is usually sold in large quantities to the European market. The demand from this source is now greatly reduced because of war conditions. Ontario growers should note that the present stability in prices is due to the much smaller production in the Province this season. A big crop next year, with continued war conditions, might cause a heavy drop in the market. Ontario alsike growers would be well advised to save seed only from specially clean fields.

DISTRICT SEED-GROWERS' ASSOCIATIONS.

Superior seed stocks produced from time to time by Experiment Stations may be multiplied for commerce under the direction of the Canadian Seed-growers' Association. The growing seed crops of members are inspected and reported on generally by officers of Provincial Departments of Agriculture. The cleaned and graded seed which comes up to the standard—no impurities, and 95 per cent. germination—is inspected and sealed in sacks under registration number by officers in the employ of the Association. But the quantity of registered seed, though increasing yearly, is yet relatively small, hence the recent organizations of District Associations for Eastern and Western Ontario, each under a directorate which includes a prominent grower of each kind of seed crop. These associations have grown out of committees of management of Provincial Seed Exhibitions at Guelph and Ottawa. They aim to assist individuals and organizations concerned in the production, exhibition and sale of high-class farm and garden seeds through educational and advertising movements. Seed shall be sold under guarantee by the grower as to variety, purity, and germination. R. W. Wade, Toronto, is Secretary-Treasurer for Western Ontario, and W. H. Smith, Athens, for Eastern Ontario.

Gossip.

BEE-KEEPERS, ATTENTION!

The fifth bee-keeping short course will be held at the Ontario Agricultural College January 12-23. No fees will be charged, and no examination held. Students should reach the college on Monday, 11th. A very interesting program of lectures has been prepared, and most of the lectures will be illustrated with lantern slides and the actual objects under discussion. Those interested should write at once for program.

MAPLE GROVE SHORTHORNS.

Established over 30 years, and managed by a business man on business principles, whose business education taught him that satisfactory results in live-stock breeding could never be attained through the use of inferior sires, the Maple Grange herd of R. J. Doyle, of Owen Sound, Ont., has during all these years had the benefit of the best imported sires procurable, and the pedigrees show the sires used have been well and carefully selected. For the last dozen years, which is far enough to go back to interest modern breeders of to-day, the sires used were the Brawith Bud-bred Golden Abel (imp.); following him was the Bruce Mayflower-bred bull, Royal Bruce (imp.); then came the Jilt-bred Mount Royal (imp.), which is still in service. The female end of the herd shows the same careful selection of breeding. The majority of the forty-odd head that make up the herd at present are daughters and granddaughters of the Claret-bred Crissy (imp.), by Kintore Hero. The Nonpareil-bred Dame-na-glass Nonpareil, imported in dam, by Villager, the Myrtle-bred Myrtle 5th, by Imp. Albert Victor, and out of Imp. Myrtle 3rd. Others are descendants of Rosa (imp.). The herd are all in splendid condition, and carry a wealth of flesh. This is particularly true of the younger ones, among which are some choice heifers. The dozen or so young bulls, several of which are of breeding age, show a beautiful balance, and their breeding stamps them as herd headers of a high order.

Questions and Answers.

Miscellaneous.

Tanning.

I am a reader of your valuable farmers' paper, and would like to know something about the particulars regarding the tanning of hides and the dressing of harness leathers. With the price of green hides and harness leathers of about 50c. per pound, there must be an opportunity to carry on a profitable tanning business. The farming industry in the Province of Quebec has greatly improved during the last few years, but the manufacturing industry is not equal to that of Ontario. It has been said that necessity is the mother of invention. By the present situation in Europe, it looks as if Canada will have to provide her own manufacturing. I would like to have you tell me, through your paper, something about the process of tanning hides, and the cost of a tannery plant large enough for tanning four or five thousand hides in a year. Hemlock bark is greatly used for tanning hides. I own timber lands with good quantities of hemlock bark, so can furnish my own bark for tanning. There are large quantities of hides being shipped from this section of the country, so there are numerous reasons for a tannery to be profitable in this section.

G. W. F.

Ans.—We cannot give details regarding a tanning factory, as to cost, etc. We would advise that you get in touch with some tanners and learn from them as near as possible the cost of a plant and the cost of machinery, etc., to operate. We feel sure you could get necessary information in this way. Also get in touch with some big dealers in leather goods. There should be a good opening for a tannery in your section.

Gasoline Engines—Fertilizers—Marine.

1. Would it be advisable to grind grain with a three-horse-power gasoline engine and a grinder, when we have about 600 bushels to grind yearly?

2. Which would be the most economical, to pump water for a small irrigating plant with a six-horse-power engine and grind grain with a medium grinder, or use a small outfit for the above purpose, three-horse-power being plenty power to pump?

3. What mixture of fertilizer would be most useful for the following, and how much per acre—potatoes, onions, and tomatoes? This is for field competition, and land intended for it is good garden ground, and well manured.

4. Does the word marine mean every man in the navy or just those who take part in the actual fighting? Are sailors and marines on the same man-of-war?

J. S. K.

Ans.—1. A three-horse-power engine appears rather small for grinding grain. You can do it, of course, with a grinder which is small enough to correspond with that power of engine, and makers of grinders would recommend to you what size to buy to use with that engine.

2. We have seen a 3½-horse-power gasoline engine lifting water 80 feet, and pumping it with the same stroke through an irrigating system, so we agree with you that a three-horse-power engine would do that work, yet grinding requires more power, and where you have both grinding and pumping to do, we believe it would be more economical to use a larger engine.

3. On account of the lack of potash, or its great scarcity this coming spring, it is very hard to recommend mixtures of fertilizers for farm crops. However, we can give you the proper proportions of the different ingredients. Potatoes—130 pounds nitrate of soda, 370 pounds acid phosphate, and 160 pounds sulphate of potash per acre. Onions—250 pounds nitrate of soda, 450 pounds acid phosphate, and 200 pounds muriate of potash per acre. For tomatoes—150 pounds nitrate of soda, 350 pounds acid phosphate, and 200 pounds of muriate of potash. If the land is rich, you might reduce the amount per acre to a certain extent.

4. The word "marine" applies only to a certain class of men on the one ship. When they enlist they enter different departments, most of which lead up to certain goals, while some do not have the possibilities of arriving at the highest honors in the navy. The marine is a department by itself.