

THE TRURO WEEKLY NEWS

VOL XXVII, No 9.

[16 Pages]

TRURO, NOVA SCOTIA, THURSDAY, JANUARY 2, 1919. [Get All The Paper]

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BOY TELLS THRILLER, HE HELD UP BURGLAR.

Alone in House, Fourteen-Year-Old James McLeod, son of Rev. G. B. McLeod, Had Exciting Experience.

(Daily Star, Toronto, Dec. 23.)

James Russell McLeod, fourteen years of age, the son of Rev. G. B. McLeod, Minister of Deer Park Presbyterian Church, had a thrilling adventure with a burglar last evening, according to the boy's story, and compelled the miscreant to disgorge the property of the family, which he had stolen, at the point of a rifle.

The lad was left at home yesterday evening when the family went to church because about four weeks ago a thief tried to force his way into the house, but was interrupted and fled.

"We have been afraid of burglars ever since the last attempt was made," said Rev. G. B. McLeod, recounting the measures which were taken to safeguard the home. "We left Russell at home on that account and we have a special method of barring the back-door with a stout staple. He got in by the cellar window, which is broken. It was then that the boy heard him and he went up to the attic to secure the rifle which was there. He had no shells, however, but there were some in a bedroom at the foot of the attic stairs.

Boy Lay Unconscious.

"As Russell came down the stair the burglar jumped out of a bedroom door at the foot of the upper stairs and hit him over the heart with some instrument. The blow fell on the lad's watch which was in his pocket, and he fell on his back, and was all smashed up, but in doing so it was minimized, and the boy lay unconscious for at least ten minutes," he said.

"When he recovered, he heard the burglar downstairs, and as he still had the empty gun, he got a shell and plucked it and advanced down and ordered the man who wore the regulation black mask to hold up his hands. A grunt of disgust was the reply, but the burglar did as he was ordered. He carried a large bag, into which he had collected all the valuables in sight, including the table silver and even some brassware," he continued.

"He was in the dining-room when I came on him," said young Russell, "and I could not telephone and keep an eye on him, so I ordered him into the hall. As he bent down to empty his bag I saw some papers in his pocket, and I made him take them out. They were valuable papers of father's."

"I was feeling queer, and the man seemed far away from me, so I made him come nearer while I used the telephone to call up the church. I had just called up when the man made a dash into the dining-room again, through that to the kitchen and out at the back door. I wish I had shot him now," he added.

At the church, Rev. Mr. McLeod was engaged in the first prayer heard by Mr. J. W. Nimmo, who is one of the officers of the church, and who answered it.

"The boy told me he was holding up a burglar, and I could judge for myself that he was in distress. I know the boy well, he is in my Sunday school class, and is a fine little fellow. He certainly showed pluck last night. We got some help and went over and found the boy and the plunder, but the man had made his get away before we arrived, and we could only help the boy."

Burglar Was Big Man.

Russell gives the following description of the burglar. A man of five feet ten or eleven, who wore a reddish brown coat, and had black hair. His features were concealed by a mask which covered the upper part of his face, and which appeared to be black.

"Next time we will have a gun ready loaded," he said. "If I had had shells he would not have got away with anything, and I would have held him."

The McLeod family consists of the father and mother and three boys, the eldest of whom is at the front. The second son was at Church with his mother Sunday night. Mr. McLeod says about \$20 is missing.

(The Star also gives fine pictures of this bright boy at the telephone, his 22 rifle and the watch, as it appeared broken up after the burglar had delivered his powerful blow at this mere lad. We are very proud of Russell. He comes from that good old Scotch stock with the defiant motto, "Nemo me impune lacessit," and born and cradled in the health-giving air of Truro he could not help being brave and turning out a hero when the emergency arose.—F.A. News.)

HEAR HIM SQUEAL.

Amsterdam, Dec. 10.—Prince Maximilian of Baden, the former imperial German chancellor, has issued a statement in which he refers to the "unheard of oppression which the enemy's last for revenge and fever of victory has inflicted upon our Fatherland," according to a Berlin news-agency telegram to the Dutch newspapers. "By the imposition," the ex-Chancellor declares, Germany's enemies are "menacing the foundations of our national life."

(It rejoices us and every other decent Britisher to hear this Princling, one of the murderers of innocent men, women and children in devastated Belgium, squeal for mercy.)

MINERAL REQUIREMENTS OF HOGS.

(Experimental Farms Note.)

Anyone familiar with the feeding of hogs knows that much crude or raw mineral matter is consumed by them aside from that actually contained in the food eaten and known technically as the ash content. While a general statement as to the mineral or earthy requirements of the hog may be made, certain abnormalities may appear at various stages of the animal's existence due to a definite lack of some vital constituent in an apparently perfectly balanced ration, this lack due in turn to the absence of the required mineral or salt in the soil that grew the foods. Here of course specific feeding is required.

In general, pigs under summer or outdoor conditions supply their own wants in the foregoing connection consuming earth slate weathered stones ashes wood etc. If they are penned some two or three of these easily available materials may be supplied. Even under outdoor conditions however many large feeders provide supplemental mineral and corrective feed. Of these charcoal in various forms, ground rock phosphate, ground limestone, slaked lime, bone meal, wood ashes salt etc are the most important. A readily accessible supply of a mixture of the above is advised as a general corrective of possible deficiencies in the mineral constituent supplied by the regular ration.

General Recommendations

For Breeding Stock in Winter: Sods earth and ashes are easily supplied. Charcoal may be purchased in various degrees of coarseness or may be supplied from charred corn-cobs or wood. Aside from the value of its mineral constituent charcoal is an excellent tonic and corrective. Where the spring litters lack evidence of strong bony structure a mineral deficiency of the dam rather than of the pig is often responsible where other probable causes are difficult to ascribe. Hairless pigs at birth, a phenomenon difficult to explain definitely, would seem to have as one of the several probable causative conditions some mineral lack in the blood of the dam. Feeding the pregnant sow a mixture containing charcoal, ground rock-phosphate, slaked lime, wood ashes and salt will frequently prevent the condition. These constituents are cheap and easily procurable. Aside from their value as a natural food in winter roots supply much mineral constituents in themselves and in the earth which usually accompanies them.

For the Sucking Pig:—The winter farrowed litter should have access to earth sods and ashes as soon as they begin to run about. This with the milk of a properly fed dam will usually suffice. Early spring litters should be similarly supplied and allowed to run outside at the first possible moment.

For the Fattening Pig:—Fattening hogs particularly if pen-fed should be supplied with a general mixture. A box kept filled or a self feeding device will allow the hog to appease the demands of the system. Here, with the heavily fed hog charcoal in some form is particularly indicated both from the mineral and medicinal standpoint. Rock phosphate bone meal slaked lime and granulated charcoal would supply practically all of the necessary elements. Some doubt exists as to the necessity of salt for hogs. All domestic animals require it in greater or lesser quantities. With the hog it is preferable to allow free choice rather than to force the consumption of definite quantities. Salt therefore should be added to all mineral or corrective mixtures.

To conclude—in most localities simple home-procured mineral foods as mentioned will prove sufficient. To the feeder who wishes to leave no stone unturned or in localities where there is evidence of a lack of necessary plant food a more diversified mixture would be indicated. The quantities consumed are so small comparatively that the cost will prove almost negligible. The growth and development of hogs with rations so supplemented cannot be injured and in most cases will likely be greatly benefitted.

Montreal, Dec. 10.—Fines amounting to \$7,500 were imposed by Recorder Geoffrion to-day upon thirty-six disorderly houses and 114 inmates of the houses. In one of them raided by the police Monday night two girls of the age of fourteen years were found.

PEDIGREED SEED

(Experimental Farm Note.)

When seed grain is advertised as pedigreed seed it should mean two things: first that the record of that particular strain is known from its origin; second that it is rich in the qualities that make it superior to other selections of the same sort.

In order that the term pedigreed may have the proper significance to those who wish to purchase seed grain of high quality the following outline is given of the essential methods in the primary selection work of pedigreed varieties or strains of grain. Before seed grain can be termed pedigreed it must be descended from a single plant; that particular plant must have been a superior plant to others of its kind and must have had the ability to transmit the high yield and the desirable characters for which it has been selected. This superiority can only be determined by careful observation at the time of the first selection and by a careful test under uniform conditions with the parent or other standard varieties. Also this selected strain must be watched closely during the multiplication period for the appearance of false heads or the breaking up of the variety. This is the essential work in the propagation of pedigreed seed and unless it has been selected in accordance with above methods the word pedigreed should not be used.

Apart from those who are associated with the experiment stations there are but few men in Canada who have the facilities and the knowledge essential to perform the primary selection work in the production of pedigreed grain. Any observant person can however obtain pedigreed seed and by the maintenance of a seed plot and the careful roguing out of false heads and chance impurities preserve the purity and quality of his seed grain that it may continue to rank as pedigreed seed. As the production of pedigreed strains and varieties is practically confined to the various Dominion and Provincial Experiment Stations any so-called pedigreed seed that does not trace back to these sources or is not registered in the Canadian Seed Grower's Association should not be purchased as such without careful inquiry into its origin.

Pedigreed seed bears the same relation to the grain growing industry as pedigreed breeds bear to the live stock industry and its use is necessary if a grower desires to maintain the yield purity and quality of his grain.

"FREEDOM OF THE SEAS" INTERPRETED BY BRITISH ATTORNEY-GENERAL.

Britain Must Have Regard to National Security and Existence of Empire.

London, December 10.—One of the gravest problems at the peace conference will be based on what is meant by "freedom of the seas," and what concessions Great Britain is going to make in that direction, said Sir Frederick E. Smith, Attorney General, in a speech at Liverpool yesterday. He added that he was engaged in preparing a memorandum on the subject of the war cabinet.

"The United States has rendered brilliant service in the cause of civilization," Sir Frederick said, "and Great Britain is bound to approach the conference with a determination to concede everything possible to American sentiment and existence of the empire.

"Americans must remember that the seas are free to everyone in peace time, and to none has the freedom been denied. In time of war, however, one might as well talk of the freedom of the sea. Imagine Belgium, Northern France or Serbia talking about freedom of the land. The moment war arises great coercive and primal forces assert themselves and the region of the law is abandoned for the assertion of naval and military forces. Belligerents during the war had a right to carry on war. Neutrals had the right to carry on trade. But if there was a collision between the fight of belligerents to put restraint upon the enemy and the neutrals to carry on trade, the subordinate right of the neutrals had to give way to the imperious primary right of the belligerent.

With the Fingers! Says Corns Lift Out Without Any Pain

Sore corns, hard corns, soft corns, or any kind of a corn can shortly be lifted right out with the fingers if you will apply directly upon the corn a few drops of freezone, says a Cincinnati authority.

It is claimed that at small cost one can get a quarter of an ounce of freezone at any drug store, which is sufficient to rid one's feet of every corn or callus without pain or soreness or the danger of infection.

This new drug is an ether compound and while sticky, dries the moment it is applied and does not inflame or even irritate the surrounding tissue.

This announcement, will interest many women here, for it is said that the present high-heeled footwear is put

will not have to say to the allies at the peace conference, "We shall be quite satisfied with such a definition of freedom of the seas as will enable the British navy in the unfortunate event of future wars to do exactly what the British navy, aided by the American navy has been doing for the past eighteen months."

\$100 FOR SHOOTING A ROOSTER—WHEN ROOSTERS AND SUCH LIKE MAY BE SHOT.

Paul Briggs of Gagetown, N.B., shot a rooster belonging to his neighbor, Fred Boyd; and for this he was ordered by the court to pay \$100, or take three months in jail. It is not likely that this rooster was in any way annoying Briggs or destroying his property, so he committed a high handed trespass against his neighbor by shooting his chancier.

If that rooster had, with a flock of lady hens, been scratching up seeds in a newly sown garden of Mr. Boyd then there was full justification for the shooting and no \$100 fine nor any other fine would have been imposed.

Why, take the case of "Screech Owl" guarding a summer garden;—there has never been a "kick" over any hen he has ever kild that was scratching up seeds or otherwise destroying garden beds.

Because the owners of such hens know they are "guilty," as their hens should be housed; and here is a warning 4 or 5 more months ahead, to poultry-fanciers to shut up these biped garden-destroyers as soon as the snow, is off, and the frost is out of the ground.

INFORMAL BUT INTIMATE CONFERENCE AT BUCKINGHAM PALACE—BIG WORLD WIDE QUESTIONS CONSIDERED.

London, Dec. 27.—President Wilson's conferences today with British statesmen are described in American quarters as having been satisfactory. The President spent more than three hours before Premier Lloyd George's luncheon in most intimate discussion with the Premier in Foreign Secretary Balfour at Buckingham Palace, going over the general aspects of the fourteen points of his peace program. No one particular phrase was taken up but the whole discussion was a general one. No official announcements were made of the result of the conference and afterwards the President continued the discussions with the British statesmen at the Luncheon in Downing Street and later resumed them at Buckingham Palace. It was learned that a great deal of progress was made in making clear some phases of the President's points, which are uppermost in the minds of the British, particularly as regards the question of British naval supremacy. At Buckingham Palace before the luncheon President Wilson, the Prime minister and the Foreign Secretary met in one of the rooms of the President's suite before a cheerful fire with no Secretaries or documents to lend any air of formality to the discussion. It was entirely an informal conference intended to develop the most intimate aspects of the situation.

Washington, Dec. 6.—One hundred and two ocean going steamers of 330,336 gross tons were built by American shipyards during November the Bureau of Navigation announced today. In addition 63 smaller vessels of 18,108 gross tons were constructed during the same period.