A Page for the MODERN FARMER

- NEWSY NOTES -

By AGRICOLA

As I Look Back—(1)

Did you ever hear, gentle reader, of the Law of Acceleration? It is a labor-saving method of proclaiming that the last twenty-five years have seen more changes in our way of living than did the previous fifty; and the last fifty years more than the previous hundred. These sage reflections came to the surface on reading the "Morning Smile" a day or two ago. "The Mistress wants to see you", says the maid-servant to the postman. He waits, anticipating a generous tip. "Are you the regular postman?" says Mrs De Smythe. "Yes, ma'am," says postie. "Then, was it you who broke our door-bell?" she asked sadly.

That little story pre-dates the electric bell. Possibly some of my older readers may remember the "bell-pull," a little knob-like affair, made in a variety of shapes, which projected from one of the door-jambs. On making a call one took hold of the knob and pulled; whereupon a bell in the interior summoned the maid to "attend to the door." Not infrequently, through much use, or some flaw, the wire motivating the bell snapped; and the visitor felt a bit of a fool when the maid arrived to find him (or her) holding the knob with a yard or so of wire attached! So it must have happened to the poor postie.

Forty or fifty years ago in the Old Country all houses of any consequence had a range of bells connected up by such wires, one bell to each room usually occupied In the home of my boyhood there was a row of eight bells located above the front-kitchen door. The "bell-pulls" in the bedrooms were fancy cords ending in tassels, hanging by each bed-head. The bell was of good size and made quite a jangle: and as it hung at the end of a curved spring, it vibrated for a considerable time after it was silent, so it was easy to trace the call.

After many years the electric bell made its appearance, but it was not as reliable as the old bell-pull system. It was the battery that occasioned the trouble rather than the somewhat clumsy electric bell. There were no slick dry-cells those days for the very few electric gadgets in use, so you made your own "Leclanche cell." Procuring a square glass jar, you put a zinc rod in one corner, and a carbon rod in the other, to each of which a conducting wire was attached. Then you filled the jar with a mixture of sal-ammoniac and water. In the circuit was a push-button, and of course the bell. The Leclanche contraption had to be watched, for if the water got low, or a glassy coat formed on the zinc—as it always did after a time,—your visitor might push the button in vain.

Twenty-five years ago there were no traffic lights, talkies, television, neon-lighting, broadcasting, or air travel. Thirty years ago a group of young folk presented the writer with a grammophone—the latest marvel of science—in which the records were "wax" cylinders. Each record played two minutes. I doubt if one could buy a grammophone now: the disc record has supplanted the cylinder.

Fifty years ago there were no motor cycles, no scanty bathing costumes, no running water in bathrooms—in most houses there were no bathrooms—no airplanes, no taxis, and very few taxes!

Sixty years ago, in Good Queen Victoria's golden days, life in England was leisurely and peaceful. Not that there was little to do; there was hard work and plenty of it, but there also was plenty of time to do it. There were no labor-saving appliances as there are now; neither was there unemployment or government relief. Science has made many changes, but not all are gains. We shall talk of them anon.

Sutton Hoo Again

The entire collection of gold, silver, and jewelled objects found in the Anglo-Saxon burial-ship at Sutton Hoo, Suffolk, has been turned over to the nation by Mrs. E. M. Pretty, the owner of the land where they were found. The British Museum claims that the find is the greatest ever made in England.

The ancient galley is still talked of as King Redwald's burial-ship, though there does not seem to be any justification for this. Redwald is mentioned in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle under date 617 A.D.; and from being King of East-Anglia, he became ruler of the greater part of England by conquest. Little more is told of him, except that he defeated and slew Aethelfrith, King of the Northumbrians.

Excavations are to be carried out again this summer, for it is said there are nine more mounds at Sutton Hoo, still untouched. The moving spirit in the quest is Mr. Stanley Brown, a retired farmer, of Rickinghall, Suffolk. "We shall open the mound nearest to Redwald's next," he says. "I think it may be the grave of his Queen, and in that case may contain great riches."

More likely these mounds are the burial places of Saxon Kings or Chiefs; in all the old writings, no mention is made of any special honors being paid to Saxon Queens in their burials, though they were greatly reverenced while living.

The Last of the Moss-Troopers

To the inhabitants of no part of England can the union of the Scottish and English Crowns in 1603 have been more welcome than to the people of the three Northern Counties. For centuries the dwellers on both sides of the "Border" had lived a precarious existence, for even when there was no actual state of war between England and Scotland, they were exposed to raids by parties of freebooters and moss-troopers, who looted and burned the towns and villages, slew the men, enslaved the women and children and carried off the cattle. (Some of the legends coming down from this period would appear incredible, did we not witness the same incidents today in other parts of the world.)

Even in 1603, when the son of Mary Queen of Scots was slowly making his way to London, to be crowned King of England, a body of his countrymen swept down into Cumberland, and pillaged that County as far south as Penrith. But they did not escape "scot-free!" The Governor of Berwick (on the other coast remember) flung his garrison right across the country and intercepted them; they were defeated and many were taken prisoners. In accordance with the spirit of the age, these raiders were taken to Carlisle, the capital of the County, and straightway hanged, as a warning to others

It was not surprising then that the new dynasty was warmly welcomed in the North, and that King James had a rousing welcome when he reached the City of Durham, the ecclesiastical capital of the North, in April 1603. It was realized that a new era was beginning, particularly when the King ordered the destruction of all fortified places along the Border, and appointed Lord William Howard of Naworth to carry out his orders. Lord Howard also took vigorous measures to suppress the moss-troopers, and for the first time for centuries the Borderland was at peace.

What's In A Name?

It was a poet who asked the question a long time ago, and I think gave a rather unsatisfactory answer to his own query. The farmers of Ontario, now united into a collective organization—as all farmers should be—have been exercised over the same question. Their organization, with which is affiliated most of the cooperative farm groups in the Province, has hitherto been known by the rather remote name of the Ontario "Chamber of Agriculture." At a recent meeting, a very enthusiastic one too, it was decided to do something about this and other names were put before the members for consideration. Miss McPhail spoke strongly in favor of the organization being renamed the Farmers' Union of Ontario. It was pointed out that there were similar "Farmers Unions" in Britain, South Africa, Rhodesia, and New Zealand, and that a common name for these bodies all over the Empire would make for unity. But this was not grandiose enough, and "The Federation of Agriculture" was voted to be the correct designation. Aside from its name the Federation deserves to be highly commended for the work it is doing in the farmers' interests.

In our own Province too there is a sign of awakening. The Island Research and Development Council has prepared a comprehensive list of projects for the betterment of our economic conditions. The list is well thought out, and when those items that touch the agricultural community come into being, it is to be hoped that they will be placed on a truly cooperative basis, rather than on that of private venture. Only in that way can the producer have his just share of the benefits they can, and will, provide.

"But," said a friend to whom I read the last paragraph, "our cooperative enterprises haven't made any great showing up to now." "I know," I said, "but do you know where the blame lies? In the members themselves. A few years ago, I asked five neighbors,—who were members of a cooperative body—if they had been to the Annual Meeting? Every one of them answered "No". Doubtless this neglect was duplicated in hundreds of other cases, and if people won't look after their own business, how can they expect any 'great showing'?" 'But we had Directors"—he commenced. "Yes, but the Directors are responsible to the Annual Meeting, just as the Manager is to the Directors. And if the members don't attend the A. M., it's like a tree dying at the top! Of course I make some excuse for these men who had to drive thirty miles or so over winter roads, and perhaps do their chores when they get back; winter travelling such as the last generation knew, went out when the cars came in. Perhaps the remedy is to hold the Annual Meeting in the evening when the cars can run, and transport is easy. In a cooperative society to which I belonged in the Old Country there was a "full meeting" every three months; always at night. We did not pass a resolution at the Annual Meeting and then wait a whole year to ascertain whether the management had carried it out or ignored it! These meetings were lively and kept everybody on their tip-toes!

Three of the five members previously mentioned, gradually dropped out, but I never heard that anybody connected with the management made any enquiry as to why they did so. A live organization would have investigated, and put up some propaganda at that point. I have the By-laws of another similar concern at hand, end excellent By-laws they are—the work of somebody who knew his bookkeeping. There was provision made for Reserve Account, Depreciation, etc., and an account for general Dividends, all subdivisions of the Profit and Loss account. These items were ignored and the effect was anything but happy. I am heartily in sympathy with the cooperative cause, and perceive that it is the one thing that will help the farmer; but it is not a system that will run itself, and it requires like some other things, eternal vigilance.

"Scot-free"

Scot-free, used in a previous note, has nothing to do with nationality; its root meaning is "untaxed," with a secondary meaning "unhurt." It has a very ancient origin. In Anglo-Saxon times the commonest coin was the sceat; plural sceatta. The land tax in the Shetland Islands is still called the Scat, which is akin to the Icelandic skot, meaning a contribution. In Northumbrian parlance "to pay your shot" is to discharge your individual share of a reckoning. The word in this form reappears as a component in English place-names; for example a village called "Shotley" arose on a ley (lea, that is, field) on which a tax (shot) was anciently paid

Use Minard's for aches

WEEKLY LIVESTOCK MARKET REPORT

Ottawa, April 11.

SUMMARY

Sharply curtailed cattle receipts proved beneficial to the trade during the past week and all classes staged a very good recovery following the break in prices during the previous week. The advance, however, was due entirely to the light nature of the offering. Calf prices were irregular, Toronto recovering 50c of last week's losses, while some declines were shown in one or two western markets. Hog prices fluctuated considerably. Markets opened sharply lower but European developments brought a quick reversal of the situation and most of the early declines were wiped out by the close. The lamb market was also irregular, Toronto losing 25 cents to 50c, Winnipeg gaining 25c and other yards holding about steady

Eastern Cattle Markets

The cattle supply was well cleared at TORONTO at an advance of 25c on active trade. Weighty steers closed up to $7.50 for choice while butcher steers and heifers made up to $7.35 and a few as high as $7.50. MONTREAL was a shade firmer with good steers mostly $7.25 to $7.50, tops $7.75, and good cows generally $5.50 to $5.75. MARITIME trade was fairly even with last week. Good cattle were in real demand but there were practically none on offer. Some good choice steers brought $7.25 to $7.50.

Western Cattle Markets

The trade in the west showed a firmer trend due to the light offering of cattle at all markets. The ban on the use of trucks on highways has served to keep deliveries at a minimum. WINNIPEG appeared to be fully 50c or more higher on most killing classes and buyers were claiming that live cattle prices are out of line with the beef trade. Ordinary kinds of steers sold from $6.50 downward, while the better grades were in demand at $6.75 to $7, with odd tops $7.25. Good to choice butcher steers at CALGARY made $6.50 to $6.75. EDMONTON was firm with odd choice steers making up to $7. PRINCE ALBERT had some good steers at $5.50 to $6.25, and MOOSE JAW sold choice butchers at $6 to $6.25. Choice steers at REGINA ranged from $6 to $6.50 while SASKATOON was 25c to 50c higher, under the influence of orders for steers for the west coast. Steers sold up to $6.50 with a few choice up to $6.85. There were not sufficient cattle at VANCOUVER to establish a market

United States Market

The week's trade at Buffalo indicated a better market on the whole. Sales of Canadian steers were made off cars at $8.60 to $9.25 which would net back to Ontario country points about $8.30 to $7.50. St. Paul quoted medium Canadian steers from $7.25 to $8.25, good cows $6.25 and bulls $6 to $6.25.

Exports to the U. S. for the week amounted to 2,658 beef cattle, 112 dairy, and 1,341 calves. The totals from January 1st to April 11th were 24,732 beef, 2,202 dairy, and 11,172 calves, compared with 50,763 beef, 2,706 dairy, and 18,322 calves in the same period last year. Exports under the second quarterly quota from April 1st to 11th, inclusive, were 5,377 head, compared with 13,280 in the same period last year.

Calf Market Uneven

Toronto recovered 50c of last week's decline in calf prices, choice veals closing at $10.50 with a few at $11. Montreal remained steady with good veals from $7 up to $7.50 Winnipeg was irregular but closed stronger under short arrivals up to $8. Calagary paid as high as $9, and Edmonton also up to $9 .Good veals made $7.50 at Prince Albert, while Moose Jaw was 50c lower with a top of $7.50. Regina was also down sharply with odd tops at $8.50. Best veals at Saskatoon sold between $8 and $9

Recovery in Hog Market

Hogs opened lower at Toronto with bacons at $8.50 off trucks and $11.50 dressed. The dressed price jumped up, however, to $12 late on Thursday. Montreal closed with bacons at $9 f. & w., and Winnipeg advanced late Thursday to $8.60 f & w. Calgary closed with bacons at $7.90 off trucks , Edmonton $8, Prince Albert $7.95, Moose Jaw and Regina $8, Saskatoon $8.30. Vancouver paid $8.60 for slaughter hogs

Lamb Market Irregular

Lamb prices were 25c to 50c lower at Toronto with opening sales at $10.50 for good westerns and two cars making $10.75 on Tuesday. A few choice locals sold up to $11. Odd lambs bought up to $9 at Montreal. Winnipeg was firmer on a short supply and good lambs topped at $9.75. The high at Calgary was $9.50. Elsewhere, there were not enough sheep or lambs offered to test the trade

CATTLE MARKETS

TORONTO cleared out an offering of 4,987 cattle at an advance of 15c on Monday's market which was extended to 25c by Wednesday. Weighty steers closed at a top of $7.50, with others from $6.50 to $7.25. The close on butcher steers and heifers was 6.50 to $7.35, with a few tops $7.50. Butcher cows sold at $4 to $5.50 and canners and cutters at $3.25 to $3.75. Bulls ranged from $4.75 to $5.60. Feed calves closed at $7.50 to $8.75, with three tops at $9. A few lots of stockers and feeders brought $5.50 to $6.50. Good milkers and springers held steady at $75 to $85 each. Common kinds were not in demand.

MONTREAL moved out 1,341 cattle at prices a shade firmer. Top steers were $7.75 with good quality mostly $7.25 to $7.50, and mediums $6.25 to $7. Heifers ranged from $4 to $7, good cows from $5.50 to $5.75, top butchers $6, common down to $4 and canners and cutters $3 to $3.75. Bulls were $4.25 to $6 and milkers $40 to $85 each.

MARITIMES—Cattle prices fairly steady, plain and medium classes were adequate but good cattle scarce. Good to choice steers made $7.25 to $7.50, medium to good $6.25 to $6.75, others down to $4. Heifers sold 50c below similar quality steers. Good cows brought $5 to $5.50, mediums $4 to $4.75 and canners and cutters $2.50 to $3.25.

CALF MARKETS

TORONTO calves opened with choice up to $10 and closed at $10.50 with a few $11. Common to medium calves, the bulk of the supply, made $6 to $9.50.

MONTREAL calves steady, good veals from $7 to $7.50, mediums around $6.50, and common to just fair, the bulk of the receipts, brought $5.50 to $6.

HOG MARKETS

TORONTO hog market opened lower with bacons at $8.50 off trucks and $11.50 dressed. The close, however, late on Thursday was sharply higher with the dressed price at $12.

Closing prices for direct deliveries to packing plants at HAMILTON were on a basis of $11.50 to $11.75 for the basic grade dressed delivered and $11 plus transportation; and MONCTON $11.80 delivered.

MONTREAL bacons were down 60c or more on Monday but by the close of the week there was a good demand and bacons were making $9 f. & w. Rail grades ranged from $11.50 to $12.

SHEEP & LAMB MARKETS

TORONTO lambs were down 50c at the opening at $10.50 for good westerns with two cars on Tuesday at $10.75. Locals made from $8 for culls up to $11 for a few choice. Sheep were steady at $3 to $6.50. A few common to medium spring lambs made $5 to $12 each.

MONTREAL sold last year's lambs at $8 to $9 per cwt., and sheep from $2 to $6.

EXPORTS OF BACON & HAMS TO UNITED KINGDOM

Weight of Wiltshires and cuts leaving packing plants for export, week ended April 6th, 1940, 5,265,629 lbs.

Ask your neighbors what Bray Chicks did for them. Then phone, or drop in.

W. I. Bowman, Hunter River.
W. K. Crafer, Kensington.
Francis Gardiner, Launching Place.
Mrs. Basil MacDonald, Tracadie Cross.
Waldo MacDonald, Bothwell.
Lloyd H. McEwen, Souris.
Mrs. George Myers, Hunter River
Earl Diamond, Winsloe; or
O. C. Johnson, North Tryon.
Elmer Waugh, Wilmot Valley.

Canadian Garden Service 1940

By GORDON LINDSAY SMITH

Eliminating Drudgery

A few handy tools and a little knowledge regarding the handling of soils will eliminate all the drudgery in gardening. There is no need whatever for constant digging in sticky soil. In fact no soil should remain sticky very long after a real gardener takes it over.

Experts advise one thorough digging or spading in the late fall or spring, or if the lot is a large one it will be bettter to get it plowed. Just before either operation, if the ground is poor it is a splendid idea to have some good rotted manure turned under. After this spading or plowing it will only be necessary to cultivate fine with a rake. One thorough cultivation like this once a year shoul keep the soil in shape and permit one to carry on easily with a small hand cultivator or Dutch hoe. Either of these inexpensive tools can be operated without bending the back and both will be sufficient to keep the soil stirred and the weeds down during the remainder of the season.

Heavy soil can be loosened permanently by the spading or plowing in of some well rottted strawy manure or lacking this vegetable growth such as clover, quickly grown oats or even weeds. In very small gardens it is possible to secure a load or two of sand, or loose black loam. These will also help to loosen the heavy clay and make it easily worked. Just plain cultivation alone will help. The beginner with a brand new piece of raw clay should not get discouraged. Such soil is always hardest to work at first. Each year will find the job simpler.

Light sandy soils are always greatly benefited by the addition of strawy manure or black loam. The incoroporotion of vegetable mattter such as straw, and weeds or clover will add humus to the sand and make it hold moisture better and give it a more desirable body.

Garden Tools

A few special garden implements will make the job more interesting and less arduous. These things are not expensive. For ordinary digging both a spade and a digging fork have a place. The first is ideal for turning over soil in the spring or for breaking up sod. The fork, lighter and quicker to operate is through the season and especially for breaking up soil that has been plowed or spaded sometime earlier.

For killing weeds, thinning, cultivating large vegetables and shrubbery, a small not-to-wide hoe well sharpened is the ideal tool. For working under shrubbery and around small bedding plants, such as newly set petunias, asters, cabbage, etc., a Dutch hoe is ideal

This is a U-shaped affair and is pushed along just under the surface of the soil. It cuts off any weeds and leaves the soil broken and crumbly. For routine cultivation some sort of a three to five pronged cultivator is recommended. The larger of these are dragged along rows and between plants. They have long handles, and cost about a dollar. For working in among closely set flowers, shorter handled smaller cultivators can be used.

Fast Vegetables

Among the earliest vegetables to be sown in Canadian gardens will be peas, leaf letttuce, radish and spinach. These may be planted as soon as the ground is fit to work. All of the seeds should be sown at least threee times at intervals of ten days so that there will be successsion of vegetables. The second sowing will be carrots, beets, onlons, potatoes, etc. which can stand a little frost and then beans, corn and tomato, cabbage and cauliflower plants, melons, cucumbers etc, which are tender.

The Lawn

Thin lawns badly mixed with weeds, almost invariably have poor soil. Sometimes only a liberal appplication of commercial fertilizer or well rotted manure is necessary to restore rich greenness. Well fed grass will usually crowd out most weeds though it will appreciate some help from the gardener who does not mind spending a few hours with a sharp, long or short handled weeder. Such weeding shou'd be done when soil is fairly moist otherwise whole chunks of grass will come out with each weed.

Where grass is very thin it will also b eadvisable to scratch lightly with rake and sow some good packaged lawn grass seed. At the same time holes may be filled up gradually with good soil and seeded.

Recommended Cereals For P. E. I.

(Experimental Farms News)

Oats, the most valuable cereal crop grown in Prince Edward Island demands first consideration in making variety recommendations for cereal crops. For many years, Banner and Victory have been the leading oat varieties and under normal conditions are still quite satisfactory. In recent years, however, rust diseases, particularly leaf rust, have been increasingly serious. Fortunately, plant breeders have been able to meet the threat of rust injury and varieties resistant to rust are now available. Of these new varieties, Erban is of greatest interest to Prince Edward Island farmers. Besides having resistance to leaf rust, Erban has high resistance to both loose and covered smut. It matures earlier than Banner, has excellent straw and carries a lower percentage of hull than either Banner or Victory.

Vanguard, a variety developed by the plant breeders of the Cereal Division, Dominion Experimental Farms Service, at the Rust Laboratory in Winnipeg, is highly resistant to stem rust but susceptible to leaf rust It resembles Banner closely in many respects but matures earlier and has a lower percentage of hull. Under normal conditions, Vanguard does not cutyield Banner or Victory in P. E. I. and its usefulness will probably be limited to the relatively few areas where stem rust is serious.

Coronation is recommended because of its ability to withstand the rust attack and produce a reasonably good crop of satisfactory quality. Tests conducted for the past few years indicate that under normal conditions, Coronation yields quite favorably as compared with the older standard sorts. In tests where severe stem rust has occurred, it invariably far outyielded susceptible varieties. A fault of Coronation is its inability to thresh cleanly.

Barley acreage in Prince Edward Island has been increasing steadily during the past few years. A further increase is justified in that barley makes a satisfactory nurse crop for grasses, produces as much feed value per acre as oats, under favorable conditions, and is more useful as a hog ration

In the matter of varieties, Charlottetown No. 80 continues to be the most popular. It is a high yielding, two-rowed variety, has good length of straw and threshes much more cleanly than most of its competitors.

For those who prefer a six-rowed type, O. A. C. No. 21 is quite satisfactory. A number of smooth-awned, six-rowed varieties have been developed but as yet seed of these is difficult to obtain.

Effect of Minor Elements on Crops

(Experimental Farms News)

During recent years, startling results have been obtained by applying to the soil, for certain crops, small amounts of elements required by the plant only in small quantities. It has long been known that plants need small amounts of a large variety of elements, but it was considered, in the past, that these elements existed in the soil in quantities sufficient for plant requirements. What has caused a depletion of these elements in certain areas, so that some of these elements now have to be added? asks Thomas C. Chiasson, Dominion Experimental Station, Fredericton, N.B. Two reasons suggest themselves as the answer, and both are closely related. The first is continued use of fertilizer without manure. A good portion of these elements which would be returned to the land by manure is thus taken out of the soil. Secondly, the careful refinement of fertilizer has removed these elements from it. Formerly these fertilizer contained, as impurities, enough of these elements to help maintain the necessary amount in the soil.

Probably the best example of the role played by small quantities of an element is the role of boron in controlling brown heart of swedes. Brown heart of swedes was a rather troublesome disease; there was no reliable way of detecting it from the outside, but when the roots were cut open, the presence of brown, watery areas inside made the roots unfit for human consumption. In districts selling table stock, this was a very crucial problem. Happily, after a good deal of research, a remedy was found which was at once cheap, simple and effective. It was found that boron applied at the rate of about 15 pounds to the acre in the row, or 30 pounds to the acre broadcast, would effectively control brown heart in swedes.

Experiments conducted at the Fredericton Experimental Station have shown that boron residues will not injure subsequent crops such as oats, wheat, barley, potatoes and clover. Even when much higher rates than these recommended for swedes were used, no injurious effects were noted on the crops mentioned.

Other cases of minor element deficiency with other plants have been noted, e.g. magnesium deficiency in potatoes, manganese deficiency of oats in certain sections, copper deficiency in a large number of plants in other sections, etc. Where these deficiencies do occur, small applications of the elements in question give good results. As knowledge about the role of these elements in plant life increases, it seems quite probable that the clue to many of the failures of crops to respond to ordinary fertilizers will be found in the lack of these minor elements in the soil.

Feeding Dairy Calves

(Experimental Farms News)

The raising of strong, healthy dairy calves depends, first of all, on the condition of the cow during the gestation period. She should be maintained in a good physical condition and receive a suitable ration for the development of a strong and healthy calf, states C. D. T. Cameron, Dominion Experimental Farms, Nappan, N. S.

Whole milk being the natural food for young animals, the calf should receive the first milk or colustrum, and whole milk should be continued until it is five to six weeks of age. Wean when not over three days of age and start pail feeding. Give about four pounds daily divided into three equal quantities. Gradually increase this to about 8 to 12 pounds daily at the end of the first month, the amount depending on the size, breed and condition of the calf. During the fifth and sixth weeks gradually change to skim-milk until the calf is receiving all skim-milk.

Thereafter feed about one pound of skim milk for each 10 pounds live weight, or a maximum of about 12 pounds daily for a large calf of the small breeds and about 18 for the larger breeds. Continue feeding skim milk if available until about six months of age. Milk should always be fed at near body temperature, i.e. 95 to 100 degrees Fahrenheit.

Care should always be taken in changing feeds or methods of feeding. Make all changes gradually as sudden changes may cause a set back, requiring weeks to overcome. Another important point is to keep all feed utensils clean, particularly milk pails.

Further information on the feeding of dairy calves is contained in a bulletin published by the Maritime Feed Board which may be obtained by request from the nearest Agricultural Office.

Anaemia Enemy of Suckling Pigs

During the winter and early spring, anaemia is responsible for heavy losses among young pigs. Some of the young pigs die suddenly while still fat, but generally they carry the symptoms of the disease — pale colour of the gums, snout, and ears,, and a rough curly hair. Diarrhoea is common and within a day or two the young pigs show a decided unthriftiness and lose weight rapidly. There is a heavy deposit of fat at the jowl, and it will be observed that anaemic pigs do not run and play as they should but prefer to lie in the straw most of the time. They become exhausted quickly when they exert themselves and show a labored jerky breathing which is usually called "thumps". Anaemia is most critical in continuously housed pigs from one to four weeks old and it often affects the fattest and sleekest in the litter. As soon as the pigs begin to feed at the trough, danger of anaemia is considerably lessened.

Suckling pigs farrowed during the winter and early spring are the most likely to develop anaemia, particularly those which are confined to pens with wood or concrete floors and are not fed minerals apart from the mother's milk. Pigs born in late spring or early summer are less likely to be affected, because they have the benefit of the sun and free access to suitable soil and vegetation.

Anaemia in suckling pigs is traceable to deficiency of iron in the mother pig's milk. Feeding iron to the nursing mother will not help because it will not increase the iron in the milk. The iron must be fed direct to the little pigs. The most convenient way of administering it is in the form of finely powdered "reduced iron" which can be purchased at any drug store. Dosing the pigs on the seventh and fourteenth days after birth is suffcitent, the dose consisting of the amount of iron capable of being picked up on a ten-cent piece. The dose, administered on a home-made wooden spoon, is dropped on the back of the tongue. The body of the pig should be marked for identification and put back in the pen. It is a good practice to place sods in the pen with the sow and pigs. In rooting the dirt, the pigs eat sufficient quantities to make good any shortage of iron. To insure the presence of iron in the sods, they may be sprinkled with a solution of iron subhate at the rate of one teaspoonful of iron to one quart of water. Treated sods are good for young pigs at any time.

Any Dominion Experimental Farm will be glad to give advice on the treatment of anaemia among pigs.

CONSERVATION

A WEEKLY COLUMN OF PRACTICAL OPINIONS OF THE VITAL ISSUES AFFECTING THE USES AND ABUSES OF NATURAL RESOURCES BY MR. LUDLOW JENKINS MARSHFIELD.

TO A FUR SCARF

The trap jaws clanked and held
him fast;
None marked his fright, none heard
his cries.
His struggles ceased; he lay at last
With wide, uncomprehending eyes
And watched the sky grow dark
above
And watched the sunset turn to
gray;
And quaked in anguish while he
strove
To gnaw the prisoned leg away.
Then day came rosy from the East,
But still those steel jaws kept their
hold;
And no one watched the prisoned
beast
But Fear and Hunger, Thirst and
Cold.
Oppressed by pain his dread grew
numb
Fright no more stirred his flagging
breath.
He longed in vain to see him come,
The cruel biped, bringing death.
Then through the gloom that night
came ONE
Who set the timid spirit free:
"I know thine anguish, little son—
So once men trapped and tortured
me"

—F. F. Van de Water.

A NEW CROW TRAP

The Biological Survey has recently announced, in an illustrated release, the perfection of a trap for catching wintering crows in quantity. For fifty years the Survey has been studying the crow, and on several occasions has issued reports that, while advocating the removal of individual crows that have proven to be unduly destructive, have given the bird credit for being a friend rather than a foe of the agriculturist, and insisted that indiscriminate killing is not warranted. This attitude of mercy, however, and the evidence that supported it have been lost on the majority of hunters and the spokesmen, and crow killing campaigns that involve methods that are cruel, wasteful, and indiscriminate in their results, have been widely recommended and carried on ad nauseam, especially during the past few years.

With most of the State game agencies, many sportsmen's Associations, several ammunition companies, and thousands of individuals actively reducing its ranks with guns, traps, poisons and dynamite, mainly on its reputation as a destroyer of game, it would seem that the crow was already sufficiently harassed, and that small game species should be on the increase. It has been evident for some years that the crow, especially in the East, has been greatly reduced in numbers, but we look in vain for any increase in its supposed victims.

Now comes the Survey with this attack on a new front. After detailing the good points of its trap, the Survey somewhat ironically alludes to the many good qualities of the crow, especially in its spring activities, and advocates caution in trapping. This seems to us like pointing out a songbird to a ravenous cat and then asking pussy to be gentle in her methods.

We are sorry to note the Survey's advocacy of a plan that is bound to bring undeserved encouragement to all agencies that are striving to exterminate this interesting bird.. Not that we fear actual extermination, for we believe that the crow will exist long after the hunters have put away their guns for want of legitimate game to pursue; but adding even slightly to present crow-killing methods looks like

Foundation Seed Potatoes Are Getting Scarce

SEED POTATO GROWERS ARE URGED TO PLACE THEIR ORDERS NOW TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT.

(Experimental Farms News)

It is a well known fact that under certain conditions a few diseased potatoes in a barrel may spoil the lot. The same thing may apply in a field of potatoes intended for seed purposes; that is to say, that under certain well known conditions the disease present in a few plants may be spread far and wide throughout the field during the growing season. Some of these diseases do not cause any particular wastage from rots or such-like breakdowns, but they do cause serious degeneration and the resulting crop may be quite unsuitable for seed purposes, even though the tubers may appear perfectly normal to the casual observer.

It has been demonstrated time and time again that seed potato growers whose fields just barely passed field inspections, or were reaching that marginal stage, have made the mistake of continuing with the same seed for another year, only to have the field rejected, and frequently after much roguing was done. Such marginal seed is suitable for the production of table potatoes but should never be relied upon for the production of certified seed.

Every year some fields are recorded as free or practically free from diseases, and it is obvious that seed of such high quality should serve as a source of foundation seed for commercial certified seed producers, to replace all seed showing signs of degeneration. A special foundation standard was put into effect in 1939 and special recognition was given to seed which qualified, by the issuance of an official tag that designates it as Certified Foundation Seed. This seed is produced in tuber-unit plots well isolated from all other potatoes, and on farms on which no table potatoes are planted, and the tag is supplied only providing it was not found necessary to rogue more than one unit in one hundred for diseases.

The crop of foundation seed produced in 1939 was limited in quantity, as was to be expected, and, with the object of reserving this high quality material for the use of Canadian seed potato growers, the Agricultural Supplies Board purchased all available stocks of Green Mountain, Irish Cobbler and President varieties at a very moderate cost, slightly in excess of certified seed prices. It was realized that seed potato growers had first to dispose of their own seed before laying in supplies of foundation seed, but unless the foundation seed was held, it would have been exported early last fall.

Foundation certified seed has been placed on sale this spring at cost by the Agricultural Supplies Board, and much of it has already been sold, but there is still a fair quantity to be disposed of, and seed growers are urged to place their orders immediately to avoid disappointment. No more will be available to anyone after the lot is sold as none will be left in the hands of the growers.

Apply immediately to District Inspector S. G. Pepin, Experimental Station, Charlottetown; to W. K. McCulloch, Experimental Station, Kentville; to C. H. Godwin, Customs Building, Fredericton, or to the Plant Protection Division, Dominion Department of Agriculture Ottawa, for any further information desired, and place your order now to avoid disappointment.

GET BETTER TEA

LONDON — (CP) — The English will get a better brand of tea shortly. The whole crop of Indian and Ceylon tea has been bought by the government and there will be no cheaper China and Java grades in tea blends.

Good Seed Potatoes are Still Available

Seed potatoes which are not good enough to qualify as certified seed might be very dear, even as a gift. When a potato grower figures his labour costs for planting, cultivating, spraying, and harvesting, and his outlay for fertilizer and spray materials, depreciation on machinery, marketing costs, and other items, then it becomes very evident that success or failure of the whole season's operations may depend largely upon the quality of the seed he is planting, the weather conditions during the growing period, and the marketing situation following harvest. The weather hazards he is aware of. He must, of course, take the weather as it comes, but he can arrange his cultural practices for either wet or dry seasons or both. The decision he makes about seed, however, must rest with himself, and it is a most important decision to make, for it may mean not only the difference between a good yield and a poor ence in the world as to the disposition of the crop, due to quality of yield, but may make all the difference marketability.

All good seed potato dealers now recommend only the planting of certified seed for the logical reason that they are convinced that certified seed is improved seed and more growers are asking for it. The dealers like to have a constant and dependable supply of well-graded, healthy vigorous seed potatoes for their trade and they know that certified seed has been selected, grown and rogued for diseases under supervision, and is inspected and passed upon by an unbiased third party of sound integrity who is past as anxious as the dealers are that the seed purchasers are fully satisfied. Furthermore, the field reports of the inspectors are available, and can be relied upon, which is better, in their opinion, than having to depend upon the grower's own interpretation of the quality of their own seed. The best and safest way of all for them is to secure foundation seed which sale. Another important point is that the dealer knows that the table potatoes produced from certified seed are going to be more readily saleable at harvest, and that will aid his table stock business very materially.

Of course, it is necessary that the seed growers fully maintain the quality of their own seed which has been produced for the purpose by growers specializing in the tuber-unit methods recommended by the inspectors of the Plant Protection Division, Dominion Department of Agriculture. To identify it, this seed has a new special white tag with red printing, and which has been issued for the first time this season, clearly marked "Foundation Seed."

Only a limited quantity of foundation seed was produced in 1939 and this was grown in the Maritime Provinces. The Agricultural Supplies Board, fully realizing the value of this high-quality seed to the Canadian seed industry, bought up all available supplies of Green Mountain, Irish Cobbler and President foundation seed early last autumn at a cost slightly above that of certified seed. It is now being offered to the Maritime seed growers in small lots at cost.

This offers a splendid opportunity for seed growers to discard marginal seed and get into the best seed available anywhere at an extremely low cost. They should write immediately to the local district inspector or direct to the Agricultural Supplies Board, Ottawa, and reserve supplies before it is too late. Now is the time to throw out the culls and plant something worth while. It will avoid wasted effort and unnecessary loss, and should make satisfied customers for future business.

Minard's kills pain.