THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker than the Weakest Ink."

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1939.

Farmers Week

Always a matter of prime interest and importance is Farmers' Week, during which period the annual meetings of the various farm organizations are held in Charlottetown, and special time devoted to the discussion of agricultural problems. The sessions of the Central Farmers' Institute which begin this morning will include six practical addresses by young and progressive farmers, and will be followed by meetings of the Swine Growers, Sheep Breeders, Egg and Poultry Association, Horse Breeders and Dairymen's Associations. The conveniently located board room of the City Building has been obtained for the meetings, to which the public is invited. The evening meetings especially are of public interest, and it is hoped there will be a large attendance from the city as well as the rural communities.

In no part of Canada are the interests of town and country more closely related than in this agricultural Province, where we are all more or less dependent on the price which the farmer obtains for his products, and his consequent position financially. Notwithstanding general improvement in world conditions in recent years, it is admitted that farm prices are still on a hazardous basis and in some cases actually below the cost of production. The maintaince of high quality standards has tended to offset this disadvantage, but there are so many factors entering into the problem of farm marketing as to make cooperative effort on the part of all concerned not only desirable, but absolutely necessary. The situation in this regard will doubtless be fully discussed at this week's meetings.

Leaving It To The Municipalities

Some time ago the unemployment relief system in Ottawa was investigated by provincial authorities, with the result that there was discovered what the Financial Post (Toronto) describes as "a story of individual trickery and public mismanagement—all of it going on under the very noses of Federal legislators who have contributed hundreds of millions of dollars to sustain the Canadian relief system in the past five years."

Commenting the Ottawa Journal says:

"Surely the Financial Post doesn't suppose Federal legislators would interest themselves actively in the administration of relief funds! It isn't done. After an annual spell of haggling the Dominion Government makes certain grants to the provinces for relief. After another spell of haggling the provinces make grants to the municipalities. The municipalities, having no lesser bodies to whom to pass the burden, must make up the share of relief their senior collaborators refuse to assume. Meanwhole politicians make noble orations about relief being a national responsibility — but does the nation, through its Parliament, administer the relief funds? It does not. Does the province? No. The municipalities must take on this task — under, of course, detailed rules laid down for them by the Provincial Government. The Federal legislators very cautiously keep their noses out of the spending of all these hundreds of millions, let the money be handled by a host of mayors and controllers and aldermen whose lords and masters, when election time comes, in large part are the very people to whom they pay out relief money. In these circumstances we think it is extraordinary that there has been no more evidence of misuse of public relief funds."

A Farmer As Farm Minister

"Once when a prominent opposition critic was attacking the policies of the French Government in the Chamber of Deputies," says the Montreal Gazette, "the leader of the administration took the wind out of his sails by remarking, 'Take care, you may soon be in power.' Prime Minister Chamberlain has done something like this, though without the witty warning, by naming Sir Reginald Dorman-Smith as the new Minister of Agriculture. The former Minister was a lawyer, but his successor is a farmer, he having, since the war, farmed some three hundred acres around Dockenfield Manor. More than that, Sir Reginald has for years been the leading critic of the Government's farming policy. 'Idle acres' has been the reproachful cry of the advocates of greater attention to agriculture in the Kingdom. The new Minister in a recent speech in London declared that a million more people could find work on the land, and that agriculture could increase its output by at least £100,000,000 a year. That is a rather tall statement, but it has captured the fancy of a goodly number of the citizens at a time when fears are being expressed that in the event of war Great Britain might be faced with an acute shortage of food before very long.

"Sir Reginald Dorman-Smith, in discussing his appointment, said that, although some people may think it a smart trick of Mr. Chamberlain's to give him the post, he holds no such opinion. After his talk with the Prime Minister at Downing street, he stated, he became convinced that Mr. Chamberlain really wants to have agriculture put right. He further believes that whatever legislation is found to be necessary will be proceeded with as quickly as possible. For his part he wants to sell agriculture to the country, wants everybody to realize that there cannot be a prosperous Britain without prosperous agriculture. As already stated, he knows farming and has the support of the farmers, for he is a former president of the National Farmers' Union. He was to have led the Union's delegation which is to negotiate with the Ministry of Agriculture over a new farming policy. Now he will be on the other side of the conference table, listening to his former associates' recommendations for a programme the object of which is to grow more food. He promises to stop the drift from the land and bring about a situation in which the farmer can make a reasonable living. The new Minister of Agriculture has undertaken a formidable task, but he has experience and comparative youth on his side—he is only 39."

Editorial Notes

Newman, "Load, Kindly Light," born this date, 1801.

* * * *

In the season just over, Australia has canned the record pack of 3,030,928 cases of fruit, of which considerably more than half were peaches. So far 1,350,000 cases have been exported to the United Kingdom alone.

* * * *

Public utilities throughout Great Britain are going to form a reserve of equipment at a cost of $15,000,000 to replace plants that may be destroyed in air raids. A recent "blackout" in the Thames Valley during a fire at one of the grid stations indicated the necessity for some reserve installation.

* * * *

Coming events cast their shadows before. Prime Minister Mackenzie King having practically eliminated Hon. Ian Mackenzie from his government, is now boosting the Rt. Hon. Ernest Lapointe as his own successor. It was generally understood that Chief Justice Duff would retire before the election to make room for the Minister of Justice, but now the move is to promote Mr. Lapointe to the Liberal Leadership to offset the popularity of Dr. Manion in Quebec.

* * * *

Whichever way the Royal Party is coming to Charlottetown from Tormentine it is not by rail. That is settled. What will not be definitely known till later is whether they will proceed hence by cruiser or launch. There is little or no expectation that autos will be brought into requisition. This would entail a very extensive policing arrangement for which the Province is not provided, even with the importation of a galaxy of R.C.M.P.

* * * *

Oysters that couldn't get their mouths shut were found to be paralyzed by parasitic one-celled animals, in researches conducted by Dr. Herbert F. Prytherch, director of the United States Fisheries Station in North Carolino. The parasites were carried about the oyster bed by mud crabs, in and on whose bodies they lived during part of their life cycle. The crabs play much the same role in the oyster sickness that mosquitoes do in transmitting human malaria. The disease is now kept out of commercial oyster beds by scraping up all the crabs before planting new oysters. For his discovery of the nature of the trouble and means for eliminating it, Dr. Prytherch has been awarded a gold medal and a cash prize of $100.

* * * *

An English woman's admiration for the corps has enriched the Canadian Mounted Police by £15,000 ($75,000). Their benefactor was the late Miss Audrey Carden, of London, who bequeathed that amount to them and £20,000 to the British Professional Fire Brigades Association. She made no stipulation about the manner in which the bequests are to be used, leaving the matter to the governing bodies of the two forces. Her will also contained this clause: "All my personal chattels equally between Ethel Grace Southey, of Langley, Bucks, and Kathleen Jennings, with whom I was a mailvan driver and £7,500 to each of them, or £15,000 to the suvivor." Miss Carden was 40 years old when she died. Her brother, Sir John Craven Carden, the army tank designer and aero-engine expert, was killed in a Belgian air liner crash at Tatsfield, Surrey, in 1935.

* * * *

The splitting of a uranium atom into two parts, each consisting of a gigantic atomic "cannonball" of the tremendous energy of 100,000,000 electron-volts, the greatest amount of atomic energy so far liberated by man on earth, is announced by the Columbia University Department of Physics. The splitting of the uranium atom, it is said, constitutes an entirely new atomic process, the possibility of which did not even occur to any of the world's atom smashers. This new process, "yields the largest conversion of mass into energy that has yet been obtained by terrestrial methods." One of the most startling phenomena in this newly discovered atomic process is the relatively small amount of energy necessary to liberate the enormous amounts developed through the splitting of the uranium atom. The uranium atom is split by means of neutrons that is, neutral atomic particles carrying no electrical charge. These neutrol bullets travel with energies of only one-thirtieth of a volt. Yet they produce two atomic "cannonballs" of a total of 200,000,000 electron-volts, representing an energy 6,000,000,000 times greater.

* * * *

Loose administration and flagrant abuses of relief distribution in Ottawa up to a year ago, and the corrective methods largely responsible for a $400,000 saving in the Ottawa's gross relief cost last year, are outlined in a report compiled for the Ontario Department of Welfare. Purchase by relief recipients of a wide range of luxury and unnecessary articles, from canaries and signet rings to pleasure autos and radios, and wasteful, unneeded relief payments for fuel and rent, are among the highlights of the report's revelations. Access to the report was given The Financial Post to illustrate the results obtainable from the department's campaign of relief waste check-up and correction. Take one specific example from the scores of flagrant cases of abuse listed in this memorandum: "Purchased electric sewing machine Aug. 1937, price $70; chesterfield suite April, 1937, price $25; fur coat and neckpiece Nov., 1937, $79; table and chairs, Jan. 1938, $25; radio April, 1937, $44. Opened an account in another department store Jan., 1938, total $49.80. These items were purchased while in receipt of relief and were purchased under maiden name. Has one roomer and board. Case closed March 11, 1938."

NOTES BY THE WAY

The Chatham News has left us one of those openings which it is difficult to resist. Says The News; "A bill to legalize sweepstakes has again been introduced in the House of Commons. This is a bill which, like the poor, we have with us always". When a statement of this nature has been made, it is almost impossible to leave it at that. The temptation is too great to add one sentence. Depending upon one's moral views about sweepstakes the sentence can be either to the, effect that sweepstakes are likely to result in at least some of the poor being no longer with us or to the effect that there will be more than ever with us if Canadians as a nation begin taking too great an interest in sweepstakes. As a matter of fact the effect of the legalization of sweepstakes in Canada would likely be a not very important combination of the two statements, so far as the poor are concerned. Naturally many people who could not reasonably afford the outlay for tickets would try for sweepstakes prizes, but it is doubtful if they would be a great deal poorer than they are now. Some of the people, a very small fraction of them, would suddenly become rich, but this would not affect the great mass of the less wealthy Canadians. The real argument against sweepstakes is that it is an unbusinesslike way of raising money. And a country which cannot raise money in businesslike ways for any necessary social services is not in the healthiest condition. —Kingston Whig-Standard.

When he estimates that sixty per cent of our national wealth is produced in territory served by the C.N.R., the Canadian people will have a new conception of the value of the government railway and the importance of the service which it is rendering, even though it must be bonused for doing so until there is greater development. If the deficit on the T. and N. O. Railway is not a reproach, and if the deficit on the branch to Flin Flon is not either, where is the reproach in the deficit on the Canadian National, when it, also, is incurred mainly on its development lines and is offset many times over by the new wealth that is produced? —Winnipeg Free Press.

Smart Nazi propagandists have been spreading through South America the story that the British Empire is breaking up. Berlin is fostering the thought that ever since Munich, the various Dominions have begun to turn their faces from London. The idea behind the story is to try and undermine British influence in South America. There is also the thought that the South Americans may try to seize all British investments and tell the owners to whistle for their money. The example of Mexico's seizure of oil wells is emphasized by the Nazi agents. That is just one of the many irons Berlin has in the fire. The Nazis have been getting away with a lot and they keep adding insult to insult. —Clark in Windsor Star.

The Liberals know that when the Conservatives were in the Conservatives were getting the jobs, and the Conservatives know that when the Liberals are in the Liberals get the jobs. If the C.C.F. comes in, the C.C.F. crowd will get the "pickings", unless its leaders hold higher views of their opponents than they profess in their public statements. This is pretty much the practice in Saskatchewan as it is in the other provinces. Most Canadians are aware of the situation. Good Social Crediters are getting the jobs in Alberta and, we imagine that few C.C.F.-ers or Communists are getting jobs from Mr. Duplessis in Quebec. The Federal situation at Ottawa is on a better basis. After a long and hard fight at Ottawa certain men in all the political groups have been able to get the Federal Civil Service pretty well out of politics. —Regina Leader-Post.

In an average year more than 60,000,000 bunches of bananas are brought into the United States and sold. Each bunch, according to the story by which most of us have been raised, is the possible home of a tarantula spider whose bite brings instant death. It's a good story but only partly true. Tarantulas do hide in banana bunches, but by the time they have ridden all the way from their tropical homes to the United States in the refrigerated hold of a fruit ship they are semi-paralized and quite inactive from the cold. It is possible for them to thaw out and give you a poison-out bite, but the chances of your dying from it are one in a million unless you are exceptionally run-down physically. In medieval times it was believed that the bite of this spider gave rise to a disease called tarantism the first symptom of which has a state of depression and lethargy. From this the sufferer could be aroused only by music, which excited in the victim an overpowering desire to dance until he fell to the ground bathed in perspiration and was supposedly cured. Tarantism was believed to attack men, women and children, with whole areas of population being stricken at one time by this highly infectious disease. Science today has pretty well established the fact that tarantism is just one more case of the world's recurring frenzies of fear which have no basis except in men's minds. —The Commentator.

The recent announcement that Winter sports would be introduced in Florida had more significance than many people may have, at first thought, supposed. The North is at last giving the South a real battle as a Winer resort. Young people have acquired a tremendous fondness for vigorous outdoor Winter life in these latitudes, as the development of Winter sports in Michigan shows. Oldtimers can remember when there was a bit of sleigh-riding, when children coasted down nearby hills and young and old skated leisurely on neighborhood ponds and streams, but when, for the rest, Winter was a bore from which those who could, fled to warmer climes. All that is changed or changing. And how fast it is changing is shown by Census Bureau reports that from 1935 to 1937 the ski output in this country increased by nearly 200 percent, the ice-skate output increased by nearly 100 per cent, and the output of toboggans and sleds more than trebled. Winters have changed not only for youth, but also for the railroads, which now feature snowtrains and ski-trains; for hotels, which formerly closed for the Winter but now stay open; and for every other industry that purveys to a younger generation that prefers battling with ice and snow to running away from them. —Detroit Free Press.

COULDN'T SLEEP COULDN'T WORK

What a relief to settle down to a real night's rest, and awake fully refreshed ready for the day's duties. I was tortured by fretful nights—tossing, turning — never comfortable. Half awake days —over-tired, driving body and mind to work when they needed rest. "Try Dodd's Kidney Pills," said a friend — "it may be your kidneys". I'm glad I followed his advice as now I'm sleeping like a top—thanks to (1)

Dodd's Kidney Pills

OCEAN TRANSPORTATION ITS POSSIBILITIES

By H. K. S. HEMMING

OCEAN FREIGHT

In a previous letter I referred to the great number of tourists who would come to the Charlottetown harbour, when a pier had been built to accommodate large ocean going vessels. Enticing, however, as are these prospects they are not to be compared with the dollars and cents benefit that would accrue to our farmers and fishermen from the shipment abroad of practically everything that they can offer for sale.

By some this statement may be doubted because of the fact that in recent years Island business firms have been doing little if any export business to outside countries, which fact has been the direct result of the inability of the sailing vessels and steamers, which formerly handled this trade, to compete with the immense ocean steamships of today, whose speed and lower freight costs have driven the older and smaller vessels off the seas. Once, however, we are able to accommodate the larger ships at a longer and higher pier, there is no reason why a constantly increasing export trade cannot be worked up, not only with Great Britain but with many other countries.

There is still another and equally important matter. Our farmers are naturally producing only those things for which there is a demand, either for local consumption or for shipment to Canada or the United States, such as butter, cheese, poultry, eggs, potatoes, turnips, pork, lamb, and some live animals, upon almost all of which the prices are set in a world of the keenest competition.

In the raising of fruits and vegetables, however, the financial return per acre is substantially ahead of that obtained from the established mixed farming products. On the other hand there is no demand for either fruits or vegetables from either Ontario or Quebec or from the United States, because in these countries they are being produced to a surplus for export.

As a result of the above untoward conditions our farmers are being prevented from making the natural and the most profitable use of a fair portion of each of their farms.

It is universally admitted that our apples, strawberries and other fruits have a finer flavour than that of similar lines imported from Ontario, British Columbia or the United States; also that with few exceptions our vegetables grow almost to perfection.

For the above superiority in quality and growth there appears to be four special reasons: (1) tractable acid soil, (2) a remarkable sandwiching of rain and sunshine throughout the whole growing season, (3) a heavy morning dew, (4) the salty atmosphere which protects the plant growth.

It would seem to be the irony of fate that, with all these natural advantages, the growth and sale of fruits and vegetables should be prevented simply because shipping facilities have never been established. Once the harbour has been improved, by the building of a longer and higher dock, there need be no misgivings that would wide connections will be made particularly with countries where fruits and vegetables such as ours are not grown.

In the meantime nothing can be done until an announcement has been made in Parliament at Ottawa regarding the Government's intention in this matter.

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open for the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest. The Charlottetown Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinions of correspondents.

DR. GRANT'S REACTION

Sir,—In your issue of the 11th., instant a Winsloe writer suggested the insertion of a picture of Mr. L. P. Tanton on the cover of an album scene depicted by the latter in his letter of the 4th, with reference to my remarks in the House of Commons. I would advise the addition of a pair of horns to complete the picture.

I am, Sir, etc.
THOMAS V. GRANT.

Ottawa, Ontario,
February 15, 1939.

CANADA'S RADIO BUNGLE

Sir,—Hon. Denton Massey, in his condemnation of the Government radio policy, referred to the "nuisance tax." If he had added a little and described it as —a "nuisance tax" for the maintenance of a "nuisance," he would have sounded a note in accord with the greater mass of radio users in Canada.

So far as the broadcasting programs are concerned they are not worth 2 1-2c instead of the $2.50 charged by the Government. The general tendency is to switch away from them to the better selections from the United States, and the more amusing as well as instructive of foreign broadcasts.

The Act in itself can not be paralelled on the continent, in its capacity of antagonism to every recognized principle of business practice and common sense, while its method of enforcement would dishonor the intelligence of any teen aged high school or university student in the country.

Potentially, if you possess an unlicensed radio for half an hour you come under the penal range of the Act. Thus, if an unlicensed dealer sells to you he is liable for a $50. fine. If you carry this as a gift to a friend, you are liable for a $25. fine, while in your possession, and the recipient could be fined another $25. for waiting till after the mid day meal to get his licence. All this, and other features, dependent upon the whim, mercy, capacity or incapacity of a sole individual, a Minister of Transport.

If I borrow money from the bank for a single month no law will permit them to fleece me for a whole year's interest. If I get a month's use of water, our Commission does not demand pay for a full year's service. I cannot collect a year's rent from a tenant of one month's occupation. I pay the Maritime Electric for the week or month's current used and no legitimate business concern looks for a whole year's pay. The newspaper cannot collect a year's subscription for a month's delivery.

But for the radio, if you buy it on the morning of the 31st of March, you must pay a whole year's license fee; and the following day, you are again unlicenced, and under penalty, unless you plank down another $2.50 for another licence.

Late fall and winter is the purchasing season for radios often in the Christmas gift season. But you must load yourself with the $2.50 "nuisance tax," a whole years cost, for only a three months service.

Then comes the mode of collecting. Whoever devised it was surely devoid of anything approaching a business education. If private business, or even the generality of governments, adopted their methods there would be a national insurrection which no power could quell. Imagine the result if every merchant, every tax collecting system, State, Federal, Provincial and Municipal, instead of furnishing an account, and requesting payment would proceed to a court of law, issue summonses, and demand costs for a default which in many cases he was unaware to be due.

The Government have the free use of the mails. A manilla c notifying a radio owner that his licence is due would cost a mere trifle. But, to provide some hanger-on with a job, without notice of any kind, a case is entered in court, and he must pay up, including costs.

In private litigation, if he wins his case, he is allowed his costs, but in the Government's program the victim pays costs, win or lose. It is worse than playing with loaded dice, it more betokens the bandit with his gun at your temple —deliver or die.

In the Bennett days the fee was $2. The "anti-tax Government" raised it to $2.50. Under the old Act the radio owner was notified by mail of his liability, and a collector called regularly at your door to receive your fee and give you your licence. To give place to the "nuisance tax," and establish an annoyance without precedent in civilization, this Bennett Act was repealed and this madness of legislation introduced.

In saner days, the laws and regulations were available to the public. Issuers of licences could furnish applicants with a copy. Radio dealers and repair men would have them almost without asking. Here, no dealer has a copy, or knows the law. There is a copy in the Marine Office, for office use. None at the Post Office, where licences are issued. The public kept in the dark, until the summons comes like a bolt from the blue.

And who asked for or wanted this administrative mess with its obnoxious tax and impotent uninteresting broadcasts? If the owners of radio in Canada were consulted the verdict would be almost unanimous to bury the whole incubus in oblivion.

There are pocket radios sold in the United States as low as a dollar, there are others almost toys, capable of "receiving" sold in thousands at about $5. each. These would be the poor man's solace and comfort. But our "beneficent poor man's friend" Government taxes these for the same $2.50 as it does the $700. radio of the millionaire.

It would be safe to offer a million dollar prize to any one who could find in the whole of Christendom a counter part to this system, and you would find no winner.

I am, Sir, etc.,
LEWIS P. TANTON

Note: —I observe recently press complaints of intolerable "interference," with a remark that a detector was imported to locate this trouble. Perhaps that detector was only camouflage to conceal a detector worming around to find instruments emitting a squeak with a licence squeak.

The Poets' Corner

AT GLASTONBURY

Magdalen at Michael's gate
Tirled at the pin;
On Joseph's horn sang the blackbird,
'Let her in! Let her in!'

'Hast thou seen the wounds?' said Michael,
'Knowest thou thy sin?'
'It is evening, evening,' sang the blackbird,
'Let her in! Let her in!'

'Yes, I have seen the wounds,
And I know my sin.'
'She knows it well, well, well,' sang the blackbird,
'Let her in! Let her in!'

'Thou bringest no offerings,' said Michael,
'Nought save sin.'
And the blackbird sang, 'She is sorry, sorry, sorry,
'Let her in! Let her in!'

When he had sung himself to sleep,
And night did begin,
One came and opened Michael's gate,
And Magdalen went in.

—Henry Kingsley. (1830-76)

FARMERS' WEEK

"ERBAN" Rust-resistant SEED OATS No. 1

We have purchased from Ontario a limited quantity of this variety of Seed Oats. Farmers are strongly advised to purchase a bag or two, which would bring them into Seed for next year, and escape the Rust, which has been so prevalent for the last few years. It is a heavy yielder, ripens a few days earlier than Banner, strong straw, and stands up well, and we believe will be the coming variety of Oats for this country. See samples, and get our price at our SEED STORE, and BOOK STORE OFFICE.

"CORONATION" RUST-RESISTANT SEED WHEAT No. 1

We still have a limited quantity of this excellent variety of RUST-RESISTANT SEED WHEAT, and are unable to purchase any further supplies for this Season.

Leave your order at CARTER'S. Price remains the same $1.85 per bushel F. O. B. Charlottetown (Bags Free.)

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That Body of Yours

By James W. Barton, M.D.

CAUSE OF SOME CASES OF TIREDNESS AND DEPRESSION

There may be times when you feel unusually tired and depressed yet there is no apparent reason for this tiredness. There is no infection of teeth, tonsils, or other parts; there is no real worry on the mind, and no unusual amount of mental or physical work has recently been done or is being done. That this tiredness is not imaginary is proven by the fact that your physician finds your blood pressure low and your heart has not quite its usual power. An examination of the blood which he would expect to find below normal in haemoglobin or iron shows that it is up or nearly up to normal.

What is likely causing this tiredness and depression if there is no infection and no deep anxiety present?

While there are other causes, there are two that are often present and on e may be dependent upon the other in causing these symptoms.

First, although there is no deep anxiety present, there may be some degree of anxiety which is not even suspected but yet it is in the subconscious mind all the time. This anxiety, slight as it is, interferes to some extent with the appetite for food, interferes to some extent with the digestion and absorption of food, and, further, interferes with the muscular action of the large intestine so that wastes remain in the bowel much longer than they should.

Second, this waste in lower bowel remaining longer than it should not only allows the blood to absorb some of this waste but, as pointed out some years ago by Dr. Walter Alvarez, Mayo Clinic, the actual weight or pressure of this waste against the sides of the bowel affects the nerves of the bowel so that the brain and nervous system are likewise affected. Dr. Alvarez was able to prove this by getting the same effects when absorbent cotton was inserted into the lower bowel.

The treatment for this tired, depressed feeling, when no other cause for it can be found, is a break in the routine of life, a little change, the removal of any fear or anxiety at present unsuspected, the eating of more fruit, daily rests, and more outdoor exercise.

FARMERS

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Pratt's Animal Regulator — — — — — — — 35c & 70c
Pratt's Poultry Regulator — — — — — — — 35c & 70c
Pratt's Worm Powders — — — — — — — 35c & 70c
Pratt's Roost Paint — — 85c

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AND
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