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TUESDAY and WEDNESDAY
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Public Health and Economy

In analyzing Public Health work various economic aspects come under review. Bad economic conditions—low wages, unemployment, etc.—tends to produce a large proportion of the illhealth of the modern community. This condition must be recognized, and Public Health work must be directed to attack this problem.

Communities are gradually becoming more Public Health minded and are coming to look upon the doctor more as a preserver of health rather than a restorer of health. They are more fully realizing that it pays to keep well—that prevention is better than cure—and besides it is far more economical.

Probably one of the most important economic aspects of Public Health today is this: that ill health gives rise to an extraordinary amount of economic waste and that preventive medicine, Public Health work, in improving health conditions is performing a most valuable economic service, not only to those individuals whom it protects, but also to the whole province. From an economic standpoint preventive medicine outranks such great agencies of waste elimination as forest conservation, chemical research on the utilization of waste products, or engineering projects to improve mechanical efficiency, in its present economic value to the community at large.

Poor health involves economic loss in so far as it leads to loss of time from work, inefficiency and turnover of labor, premature death, and expenses in caring for those who are ill. Some ill health is to be expected. The medical profession as yet cannot guarantee us complete immunity from measles, cancer, tuberculosis, and other diseases, not to mention the common cold, even under the most favorable conditions. But a great deal of illness and death is preventable and it is the losses flowing from this that one can classify as economic waste.

Illness as a cause of loss of time by workers compared in importance with unemployment. In Great Britain the average wage earner loses about two weeks' work through sickness and about five weeks from unemployment. In the United States workers lose about one week per year from sickness and four weeks from unemployment. Certainly more than half of this illness and consequent loss of time from work is preventable. The Social Hygiene Council make a similar estimate for Canada.

a factory building burns. Clearly it must be expensive to any community to have any of these valuable capital assets destroyed a moment earlier than the strict necessities of nature decree.

A further item in this balance sheet of economic loss and waste consists of the expense of caring for the sick and disabled. In Canada the total expenditure upon hospitals, sanatoria and asylums, apart from other items of medical care, exceed \$50,000,000.00 annually. Surely the expenditures made necessary by preventable illness may be considered as wasted, even although they might be replaced by others as large, if our programme of health preservation was more adequate. Dr. J. W. S. McCullough of the Ontario Department of Health recently estimated that the total cost of illness in Canada amounted to more than \$300,000,000.00 annually and that the loss from premature deaths exceeded \$1,000,000,000.00. On assumption that half of this illness is preventable, the annual loss from this source which might be avoided is \$150,000,000.00—a good deal more than the huge Dominion deficit recently announced for the last fiscal year.

Thus it appears that preventable illness and premature death rank high in the list of economic wastes. It is clear that those who strive and succeed in improving public health conditions are not merely humanitarian salvagers of pain and suffering, but also waste eliminators of the first importance.

The economic service rendered by the Public Health movement in conserving health and life is shown definitely by the remarkable decline both in the morbidity and mortality rates which have occurred during the last few decades. These impressive achievements have been coincident with the rise of preventive medicine and nobody doubts them due other than Public Health efforts.

It is quite impossible to say just what economic value this Public Health programme has been in dollars but when we consider that the last few decades some fifteen years and the crude death rate averaged expectation of life has increased in our country during the has declined more than 100 percent and the infant mortality rate from 250 per thousand in 1875 to 75 in 1925 and that typhus, smallpox, diphtheria, scarlet fever, and diarrhoeal diseases have been very greatly reduced—in some parts, where Public Health programmes have been in force for some time, almost eliminated; and when we consider such estimates of loss from bad health as have been above mentioned—then it must be abundantly clear that the value of the Public Health achievement in the modern community, from the economic standpoint alone, has already been enormous.

The Public Health movement has, I venture to say, paid for itself over and over again. The saving of infant lives, for which any adequate Public Health service is responsible, alone repays the community in terms of dollars and cents, for the full expenses of

maintaining the service and much more. But it is not sufficient to rest on our oars and be content with what we have done. I have already said a good deal about the terrific economic wastes incidental to the bad health that is still present in spite of the remarkable achievements of the Public Health movement. And, as I have noted, there is abundant testimony that a vast amount of sickness can be prevented, if only adequate provision is made for the extension of the principles and practices of preventive medicine. This extension, no less than what has already been done, ought to return large dividends.

The public would benefit directly from an extension of Public Health programmes through having to spend less upon such charitable and welfare items as hospitalization of indigents, poor relief, old age pensions, and mothers' pensions. A good deal of the poverty which confronts us is induced largely by illness or premature death of the bread winner. There is no greater opportunity for a quick and more certain return on any investment than an investment in Public Health. The people of Canada and the United States and, in fact the whole world are only beginning to awaken to the enormous possibilities of profit in preserving life and health.

—Canadian Public Health Journal, February 1932.

Rome Getting Ready For Poultry Congress

Word has been received by F. C. Elford, Canadian member of Italy's Poultry Congress Executive Committee, that preparations for the Congress next year are well in hand, and will be most complete.

The definite dates for the opening has been set for Wednesday, September 6th, and it will continue until Friday, Sept. 15th. The opening and closing will be held in the Historic Hall of the Capitol, the exhibition will be staged in the "Market of Trajanus", where 2000 years ago the noise of the geese saved Rome from the enemies' attack. The sessions of Congress will be held in the magnificent building that houses the International Institute of Agriculture. Membership is open to all who take the tour, but in order to be eligible for the host's hospitably congress membership will be necessary.

The Italian government also is contemplating very attractive hospitality, much of which will be complimentary, and where charges are made they will be very reasonable, for instance, good rooms will be available in Rome during the Congress at 20 lire per day, (\$1.00). Italy owns its own Railroads and Steamships, on both of which low rates will be offered. At present the indications are that Canadian delegates will go via New York on an Italian S. S. to Naples, with stopovers at Gibraltar and at Algiers. After the close of the Congress at least 6 days will be spent on a special tour of Italy arranged by

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CENTRAL GUARDIAN

CHILDREN'S Chamollette Gloves odd sizes. Clearing at 19c. Prowse Bros., Ltd. 1844-4-4-31.
DO NOT MISS the auction sale of valuable furniture in mahogany, walnut and oak, at 220 Hillsboro St., on Tuesday next at 11 a. m. 1837-4-2-21
SEE OUR Ladies' Hand Bags, worth up to \$5.50, now clearing \$1.00. Prowse Bros., Ltd. 1844-4-4-31.

ASSISTED ORCHESTRA—The names of Joseph Kelly and Leo Dolren, Clarinet and Cornet players were inadvertently omitted from the Orchestra which played during the performance of Easter Monday and Tuesday nights.

LADIES' New Cotton House Dresses, all sizes. Special good value at \$1.00. Prowse Bros., Ltd. 1844-4-4-31.

SOCIAL GATHERING—Miss Irene Gallant entertained at an informal card party and dance at her home on First Street, Summerside, on Wednesday evening in honour of Mr. Paul Perry who is leaving for his home in Portland, Maine, on Saturday.—S

LADIES' New Celinee Dresses short and long sleeves. Specially priced \$3.79. Prowse Bros., Ltd. 1844-4-4-31.

ON SAD MISSION—Mrs. Thomas Green, Abercrombie Road, left Thursday morning accompanying the remains of her mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Cahoon to Murray Harbor, P. E. I., for burial. Her friend and neighbor, Mrs. J. R. MacKay, travelled as far as Truro with her. —New Glasgow News.

IF YOU WANT a smart Blouse for your Spring Suit see these Celinee Blouses. Price \$1.39. Prowse Bros., Ltd. 1844-4-4-31.

CENTRAL ROYALTY INSTITUTE

The March meeting of the Central Royalty Women's Institute met at the home of Mrs. W. P. MacLeod, nine members and three visitors being present. The meeting having been opened by singing the Ode, the roll call was answered by an Irish Joke. After the reading of the minutes, the sick and school committee's gave their reports. It was decided that a globe be bought for the school. The new committees then appointed were: Sick, Mrs. W. P. MacLeod and Miss Lila Wood; School, Mrs. Major MacRae and Mrs. Alex Agnew; Program, Miss Laura Cullen and Mrs. W. P. MacLeod. After some correspondence was read it was decided to send \$1.00 to the Sanatorium. The next meeting is to be held at the home of Mrs. Major MacRae, the roll call to be answered by Garden and Poultry Hints. The following program was then enjoyed: Solo, Mrs. Major MacRae; reading, Mrs. Russel Roper; music, Helen Douglas; recitation, Miss Lila Wood; Irish Jigs, Mrs. Russel Roper; sonnet. A delicious lunch was then served by Mrs. MacLeod.

DATE BASKETS CARRY COINS

Vast numbers of foreign coins are being smuggled into Karachi, India, in baskets of dates, according to the police, who have arrested several wealthy Arabs. Among the coins seized are 11,000 Russian silver pieces bearing the date of 1718, and 121 guineas, said to have been exchanged for the Russian coins.

Souris

Mr. H. H. Aorn, of Souris, spent a few days in Charlottetown this week on business.

Mr. Melvin McQuaid has resumed his studies at St. Dunstan's University, after a very pleasant visit at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John McQuaid, of Souris.

Mr. Donald McInyre, East Point, spent Wednesday in our town visiting friends.

Mr. Percy Turner, of Charlottetown, made a flying visit to our town this week.

Replies To Questions

By **GEORGE ENNIS SMITH**
Superintendent Experimental Fox Ranch.

Question: Is there any modification in the diet that would benefit the quality of the pelts, while not advisable to feed to the foxes I shall keep for breeding purposes?

We would recommend you to feed the same ration to foxes you intend to pelt as those you will keep for breeding purposes. Many fox breeders deliberately force their breeding foxes and more particularly the pups. The evidence we have obtained in our experimental work indicates that this only eventually leads them into a great deal of trouble. The majority of fox breeders are quite aware that it does not pay to force the foxes that they are going to pelt. It does not pay either to force your breeding foxes. Of course there is one point that must be kept in mind. Your pups must make a continual growth from the time they are born until they are six months old, that is up to about the middle of September. At that time they should be the same weight as in subsequent years when they have reached the adult stage, but after that time it will not pay to force them and they should be fed the same as if you intend to pelt them. In reply to this question, we would say that there should be no difference in the diet for breeding foxes than those you intend to pelt. Fur qualities and breeding qualities go hand in hand.

Question: Your polygamous method is working good. Besides the four females one male was running with, I had him down to breed one more. The funny part of it is that all five females came in heat on the same day. I did not want these particular females bred by any other male, so I let this male breed them all, two females the first day, one the next and then the third day the other two. This male is very large and exceptionally vigorous. The question is, was it expecting too much of this male to breed all those females in three days? Will this weaken his offspring?

Your experience with the mating of your foxes this year has been similar to the experience that we have had for years at the Experimental Fox Ranch, that is it is easier to mate one male with four or five females in two or three days, rather than when one male mates with the same number of females over a spread of a long period. When a male mates with one or two females at the beginning of the breeding season, very often it is very difficult to get him to mate with other females at the end of the breeding season. With regard to your question of whether it will affect the offspring, in our experimental work we have had some males mate with two females on the same day. In practically all cases the second female that has been mated has raised strong and vigorous pups. In fact in some cases the first female that was mated with, did not become pregnant, whilst the second raised healthy pups. In this case it did not seem to affect the offspring when the males mated with two females on the same day. We have had cases where the males have mated with three and four females in successive days. In one case there were four pups, from the first mating, five from the second and six from the third and all of those pups were raised to maturity. The evidence that we have obtained up to the present time would indicate that when a male mates with several females in either one or two days, it does not affect the vitality of the offspring produced.

Question: I notice that you recommend board floors. A fox breeder has recommended me to use wire bottom pens, the wire raised about two feet from the ground. Don't you think it would be easier to keep the pens clean than having board floors? What is your honest opinion of same?

In the Experimental Fox Ranch for several years we have been able to control both lung worm and bladder worm infestation with both adult foxes and pups in pens with board floors. The board floors raised about two feet from the ground and made from one and a half or two inch tongued and grooved lumber, fitted together as closely as possible. It has been an easy matter to collect and destroy the feces. With wire bottom pens the feces would drop through onto the soil and it would make it difficult, if not impossible, to collect and destroy the feces and the worm eggs that might be present would incubate and the young worms migrate to other parts of the ranch where they might be a menace to the other foxes in the ranch, especially those that were on soil bottom pens. So while there may be every probability that the foxes in pens with wire

bottoms would free themselves from worms, the worm eggs that they pass in the feces may produce other worms which might reinfest and be a menace to other foxes in the ranch. There is also the point of the effect that the wire bottoms have on the condition of the foxes. From time to time we have visited ranches where part of the foxes have been in pens with wire bottoms. The foxes in those pens have compared most unfavourably with other foxes in the ranch. The fur has been rough and coarse and the foxes looked in poor condition. Invariably they were down on their legs and did not have a natural gait. In reply to this question we would say that it is much easier to get rid of the feces and to avoid any further trouble from the feces when the foxes are kept in pens with board floors than when kept in pens with wire bottoms. Also the foxes themselves will be in better condition on board floors than in wire bottom pens.

Question: I would like to know what to do to make my foxes shed their fur in the summer.

During the summer time foxes should receive some green vegetation so that they can be fed in step with the season. We would recommend you to feed each day during the months of June and July, small quantities of some form of green vegetation, about one ounce to each fox, using either young green grass, or young green clover, or young turnip tops, or young beet tops, or spinach or watercress or some other similar vegetation. We would warn you against feeding the turnip tops or the beet tops after the roots have started to grow. These should be fed when the turnip and beet beds are being thinned out, also we would warn you to avoid feeding corn meal, oatmeal, whole wheat flour and any other cereals that would have a heating effect on the blood, as our experimental work indicates that when foxes are fed those cereals during the summer months, it tends to hold the fur tight on the body. It will repay you to feed mostly rice during the summer months, either cooked or raw rice flour, fed according to the recommendations of the Experimental Fox Ranch. If you feed green vegetation and feed lots of rice during the summer your foxes should have entirely lost their underfur at the beginning or some time during the month of July. In reply to this question we would advise you to feed your foxes in step with the season. During June and July when green vegetation is prevalent in nature feed your foxes some of that green vegetation. On the other hand avoid feeding cereals that are not ripe or ready for feeding until September and October, such as cornmeal, oatmeal, and whole wheat flour.

Question: In the last report of your ranch, you give a raw cereal ration from June 1st to December 31st. I intend to feed my foxes on this ration this year, but you do not give any rations up to June 1st. I would like you to give me a ration so that I can feed it all the year round.

As a result of our experimental work in feeding raw cereals during the summer and fall months, we can recommend fox breeders to feed such a ration from the 1st of June to December 31st. We have been able to produce on those rations better fur than on any other rations. The length, texture and colour of the guard hairs have been a vast improvement over anything that we have been able to produce when feeding different kinds of cooked cereals. It has also been conducive to good breeding results. We have also carried out experimental work feeding raw cereals during three breeding seasons, but up to the present time there is no conclusive evidence that it is any advantage when fed at that time over cooked cereal ration. In reply to this question we would advise you to feed a raw cereal ration from June 1st to December 31st, but during the breeding season and until the month of May or the first of June to feed a well cooked biscuit, or a well cooked bread or some other well cooked cereal, if convenient when the weather permits, a well cooked porridge.

Question: One of my females had a litter of five last year and did not care for them as she was badly caked. We raised one on a cat, but we lost all the others. Do you think it would be safe to trust her this year?

I would certainly advise you to trust this female at least another season. She evidently is a good breeder. It may not be her fault that she was badly caked when the pups were born. It might have been due to the manner in which she had been fed, but I would advise you to look at the pups before they are one day old and each day following. If there should be any signs of weakness in the pups and they do not seem to be contented, I would suggest that you catch the female, examine her and see whether there is any caking of the milk glands, if so your best plan would be to massage the abdomen and teats with olive oil in a very gentle manner and at the same time to gradually force out the excess amount of milk, but I would warn you to be very careful also; you may bruise the whole area of the abdomen in forcing out the milk. The milk should be forced out in as gentle a manner as possible. When all the teats and the area around the teats are soft and pliable and there is no more sign of caking, the pups should be suckled before the females is returned to the nest. Regarding the feeding of this female, whether you have trouble with or whether you do not, I would warn you to avoid feeding too much meat as that will tend to increase the amount of milk and make the caking worse. On the other hand, you will help to improve conditions if you feed small quantities of milk before and after the female whelps. In reply to this question we would recommend you to trust the female for another year, but we would not recommend fox breeders to trust a female a third time. If any female loses her litter for two or more years in succession, it is very probable that it is not due to the manner in which she has been fed, but there is something else radically wrong with her, so that in cases where females have lost two or three litters in succession, we would recommend fox breeders to take the pups away from the female and raise them on a cat.

Question: Some of our fox pups get soft legs below the knees so that they bend. What can be done to prevent this? Some ranchers say it is caused by feeding too much meat.

Evidently your fox pups have been suffering from a form of rickets, but there are different forms of malformation of the bones of the legs that have been designated as rickets. Some young animals will develop malformation of the bones of the legs due to the fact that the diet has been deficient in the vitamins A and D, in which case there is a pronounced enlargement of the bones throughout the entire length, but more particularly at the joints in proportion to the deficiency of those vitamins. This is a true form of rickets, but there is also a malformation of the bones of the legs which may be caused by feeding excessive quantities of the vitamins A and D and this is the condition that is most prevalent in fox ranches throughout the country. It is due to a lopsided development, foxes getting too much of one thing and not enough of another. In some cases it is due to too much meat, in others too much milk and in others through feeding a combination of milk and cod liver oil. We would warn fox breeders to avoid feeding excessive quantities of meat or milk to their fox pups, and avoid feeding cod liver oil in any shape or form to the pups after they are six weeks old. In reply to this question we would say that the condition that your pups have suffered from can be prevented by proper feeding and it is quite probable as the ranchers said that in your case it has been due to feeding too much meat. We would recommend you to use as a guide, in feeding your fox pups the outlines of daily rations for pups during the different stages of growth that are given in the reports of the Experimental Fox Ranch.

NEW FRENCH GUN SHOOT HIGH

That a new anti-aircraft gun can bring down an attacking bomber seven and one half miles up in the air, is the claim of those conducting tests on the Riviera coast, near La Seyne, France. The secret of the gun's construction is jealously guarded by the firm whose engineers planned it. Anti-aircraft guns have previously proved effective at a height of about three and one half miles, but modern aircraft can attack much greater altitudes. In the experiments off La Seyne an aeroplane with pilot and mechanic, ascended seven and one half miles towing, suspended 1,000 feet beneath it, a target on which the anti-aircraft gun opened fire with live shells. Aviation, military and navy men of Europe are watching the tests.

AIRPORT ON CITY ISLAND

Auckland, N. Z., is considering placing its first airport on Pollen's Island, which is owned by the city, and to have the work done by the unemployed. The plans were considered during the opening recently of the Avendale street car system, which will run to a point near the island.

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