The Modern Farmer

- NEWSY NOTES -

By AGRICOLA

An Old Prophecy

As the Great War (1914-1918) went on, men's minds were filled with the idea that it was the Armageddon of the Scriptures, and there was a revival of interest in prophecy, both Biblical and secular. One of the French newspapers printed the "Vision of St. Odile," while the Figaro (of Paris) printed the prophecy of one "Johannes"—supposed to date from the year 1600. The New York Evening Standard translated and issued the latter before the end of the war, and I pasted the Standard's version into my scrap-book. When the Great War came to an uneasy end, the march of events showed that Johannes could not have been referring to it: and that we must still look for something further ahead—and worse. Here is the text of Johannes's prophecy:—

"Towards the year 2000 the Antichrist will manifest himself and his army will surpass in numbers all that can be imagined. There will be Christians among his legions and Mohammedans and savages among the defenders of the Lamb.

"For the first time the Lamb will be all red. There will not be a single spot in the Christian world that will not be red, and red will be in the heavens, the earth, the waters, and even the air, for blood will flow in the domains of the four elements at once.

"The Black Eagle (i.e., Germany) will throw himself on the Cock (France) who will lose many of his feathers but will strike back heroically with his spurs, but would soon be crushed were it not for the help of the Leopard and his claws. (Leopard or Royal Standard of England).

"The Black Eagle (G) will come from the country of the Lutherans and will surprise the Cock (Fr.) and will invade the country of the Cock (F), up to the middle of it. The White Eagle (Russia) coming from the north will surprise the Black Eagle (G) and the other Eagle (supposed to be Austria, but as likely to be America?) will invade the country of the Antichrist from one end to the other. The Black Eagle (G) will see himself forced to liberate the Cock (F) in order to fight the White Eagle (Russ.) and the Cock (F) will pursue the Black Eagle (G) into the country of the Antichrist to help the White Eagle (R).

"The battles fought up to this time will be as nothing compared to those which will take place in the country of the Lutherans, for the seven angels will together pour in their censers on the impious earth which signifies that the Lamb will order the extermination of the race of the Antichrist.

"When the beast sees that he is lost he will become furious, and for many months the beak of the White Eagle (G), the claws of the Leopard (E), and the spurs of the Cock (F) will furiously strike at him. They will cross the rivers over the bodies of the slain and these in places will change the course of the waters. They will bury only the men of noble families and leading commanders, because to the carnage made by the armies will be joined the wholesale death of those who will die of hunger and pestilence.

"The Antichrist will ask many times for peace, but the seven angels who walk in front of the three animals defending the Lamb, have declared that peace will only be granted on the condition that the Antichrist be crushed like straw on the barn floor. (Unconditional surrender.) The executors of the justice of the Lamb cannot stop fighting as long as the Antichrist has soldiers to fight against them. That which makes the decrees of the Lamb so implacable is that the Antichrist has pretended to be a follower of Christ and to act in his name. If he does not perish the fruit of the Redeemer will be lost and the doors of Hades would prevail against the Saviour.

"The fight which will take place where the Antichrist forges his arms will not be in any way a human fight. The three animals (i.e., the Leopard, Cock, and Eagle) will exterminate the last army of the Antichrist but they will be forced to erect a pyre (i.e., to burn the dead) as large as a city for the bodies of the dead will change the aspect of the country-side as there will be mounds of slain.

"The Antichrist will lose his crown and will die in solitude and madness. His empire will be divided into 22 states, but none of them will possess fortresses, armies, or ships.

"The White Eagle by order of St. Michael will drive the Crescent (Turkey) from Europe and will install himself at Constantinople. (i.e., Russia will command the Dardanelles, and have an outlet to the Mediterranean). Then will begin an era of peace and prosperity for the earth and there will be no more wars, each nation being governed according to its desires and living according to the rules of justice.

"There will no longer be Lutherans or schismatics. The Lamb will reign and the supreme happiness of humanity will begin. Happy will be those who escaping the perils of that period, will be able to enjoy the fruit of the reign of the Spirit and of the purging of humanity which can only come after the defeat of the Antichrist."

So ends the prophecy of "Johannes". I am sorry that I cannot give any information about the man himself, nor where the original manuscript was found. A footnote defines the Lamb as the Spirit of Justice, Mercy and Truth.

Something About The Moon

Speaking astronomically, the Moon is our nearest neighbor, and this fact has enabled men of science to find out many things about it which laymen in general are ignorant of. The subject may be divided into two parts: (1) what the Moon is, and (2) what it does.

We learn first, that the Moon is a satellite of the Earth, a faithful travelling companion that accompanies our planet in its long journey round the sun. We see its silvery disc in the sky and if we had lived in the Dark Ages we would have thought it a flat mirror of polished metal, reflecting the irregularities of the Earth's surface. Today we know it is a sphere, and need no other proof than its analogy with the other heavenly bodies. On account of its nearness, astronomers have been able to measure it very accurately and to fix its diameter at 2,159.6 miles. In my schooldays I learned that it would cost £1,000 for a one-way ticket to the Moon at the ordinary railway fare of 1 penny per mile! As there are 240 pence in £1, it meant a journey of 240,000 miles before I reached my destination! Put in such graphic fashion it was simply impossible to forget the distance.

That of course is an average, or mean, distance, for the Moon does not go round the Earth in a perfect circle, it is sometimes nearest to the Earth (in Perigee, as it is called), and sometimes furthest from the Earth, or in Apogee. For instance, on Friday, January 5th of this year the Moon in Apogee was 251,300 miles from us; while in Perigee on January 17th it was only 226,200 miles away. For some reason (which I am not sufficiently learned to explain) the distances vary, for in February the Apogee distance will be 251,700 miles and the Perigee 224,700. These variations should make some difference to the tides, and perhaps to the weather.

At this point we may consider the force of gravity on the Moon. It is about one-sixth its value on the Earth. Since weight may be considered a measure of gravity, a person who weighed 120 lbs. here, would be astonished to find himself weighing only 20 lbs. if he visited the Moon. Other curious effects would follow: if he could make a high jump of 6 feet while on earth, with the same expenditure of effort he could clear an eminence of 36 feet on the Moon, and if he were a golfer with a terrestrial 150-yard drive, he would, to his astonishment, drive the ball half a mile! The Moon therefore would be an athlete's paradise — if he could stand the climate. Its day is the length of fourteen of ours, and the sun shines relentlessly till the temperature reaches 212 degrees; with never a breath of fresh air nor a cloud in the sky. As the night — which is of the same duration — falls, the temperature falls too, till it reaches 150 degrees below freezing point or even lower! It is the entire absence of an atmosphere that produces the extreme temperatures. In our own case it is the air and the water-vapour (in the form of clouds) that temper the sun's heat and the winter's cold.

There is another odd matter that crops up in connection with our satellite: nobody has seen the other side of the Moon. That is because it rotates on its axis in exactly the same length of time it revolves round the earth. The hidden side, we may assume, is rather like that which we can see, in its general features. By reason of certain "wobblings" (called librations), astronomers are afforded a peep "round the corner" of the Moon, so to speak, and have mapped out 59 per cent of its surface, instead of just one-half. There are many more curious features connected with our satellite, which, all in all, is a study in itself.

Man's Height Increasing?

Says a Canadian newspaper, "We seem to be in process of producing a generation of giants in contrast with those that preceded it. It is nothing nowadays for a boy or girl in his or her teens to reach a greater height than his or her parents; some actually tower over them." A few years ago I read of students protesting against the shortness of the beds in the dormitories of a celebrated College in the United States. Their fathers had gone to the same College and found the beds comfortably long! In the Tower of London is a fine collection of suits of armor dating from the fifteenth to the seventeenth centuries, but the average Englishman of the nineteenth century could not possibly squeeze himself into one of them.

Years ago the French anthropologist Topinard called attention to the fact that the Australians were growing taller, and by a series of careful measurements he demonstrated that the increase came about by the lengthening of the leg-bones, particularly those between the knee and the thigh.

Whether an increase in size is all to the good, is a debatable subject. It may disturb our complacency to reflect that the primeval animals, whose huge skeletons are still being dug up, always began as smaller forms, increased in size till they dominated the scene, and then died out. Perfection leads to decay?

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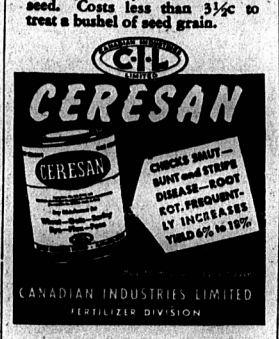

Insect Forecasts

Insect forecasts are taking their place alongside those dealing with the weather, according to the Agricultural Department of the Canadian National Railways. Along this line a recent forecast by M. P. Neary, Acting Provincial Entomologist for the Nova Scotia Government at Truro, N. S., states the rosy aphid would likely be an important pest throughout the famous Annapolis Valley apple growing district of the province this season; also the bud and codling moths. Nova Scotia's commercial apple crop for the season of 1944 is estimated at 1,750,000 barrels. Exports to Great Britain to the end of November totalled 130,091 barrels. Deliveries to processing plants, including exports to the United States, totalled 548,099 barrels. Quebec took 63,726 barrels, Newfoundland 27,086 barrels.

Denmark Increase Hog Production

Canada's greatest competitor for the British bacon market—Denmark—is again building up its supply of hogs. According to information received by the Dominion Department of Agriculture, Denmark had a larger population of hogs in 1944 than in any year since 1941.

Before the war, in the years 1937 and 1938, the number of hogs on Danish farms was about 2 700,000. This rose to 3,100,000 in 1939, and increased still further to 3,200,000 in the year Denmark was invaded—1940. The reason for this increase was Britain's eagerness to buy every surplus pound of Danish bacon.

With the Germans in control of her small territory, Denmark was obliged to cut down her hog production. From 1940 to 1941, it declined by an estimated one million head, from 3,200,000 to 2,200,000. From 1941 to 1942, another million hogs disappeared and the hog population reached a new low of 1,100,000. This limiting of Denmark's hog population by two-thirds within two years from the time the kingdom was invaded, was not primarily due to pillage. Apparently the Germans did not do anything so foolish as to slaughter willy-nilly such fine bacon breeding stock. They, did however, help themselves to the hogs which were obliged to be killed off for lack of feed. Denmark has always been dependent on imported feed for its bacon hog industry and with the invader's navy unable to give protection to convoys, hog production had to be curtailed.

Eventually, the Germans succeeded in preventing too great a decline in Dannish hog production by obtaining new sources of feed. The brought in feed from the Danube basin which together with a better domestic feed crop produced the result that by 1943 the Danish hog production was again moving upward. In 1944, it made another gain with latest estimates placing the number of hogs on Danish farms at nearly 2 million head. This represents nearly3 hogs for every 4 on Danish farms in the year just before the war. By contrasts the end of the First Great War found Denmark with only one hog on hand for every four when that war began. At the end of this war, Denmark will presumably be in better shape than ever to compete with Canada.

The Canadian farmer is now producing a better bacon hog than ever. Only by continuing to deliver quality bacon regularly, and maintaining continuity of supply, will Canada be able to lessen the threat of foreign competition.

TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH Silver Fox Farming

Last Saturday we were not able to give a complete report of the Canadian Fur Auction Sales Company's offering of Silver Fox and mutations sold on the first five days of the week. It was the most important auction of a year, corresponding with the January auction of 1944. The general opinion is that prices were on an average of 33 1-3% lower than those of 1944. The demand was quite good and the presence of South American and Mexican buyers in addition to American buyers stimulated interest and enthusiasm and no doubt led to more goods being sold. It is regrettable that the Argentina continues to be closed to us for reasons which we cannot fathom. That market would certainly have meant a tremendous difference as Marcel Kummer of Buenos Aires was one of the largest buyers, particularly of new types a year ago.

We have looked over reports in Women's Wear Daily and other sources but believe that issued by George A. Callbeck, Manager Fur Marketing Department Canadian National Silver Fox Breeders' Association, is the clearest and gives the best picture, so we are publishing it. Before passing it along, however, we would like to draw attention to the fact that in the Special Collection which comprised the show pelts of Ontario and Prince Edward Island, a lot of four Platinum skins, two from male pup foxes and two from female pup foxes sired by a Quebec type Platinum male, brought the highest price we have record of this season either in the United States or Canada—$220 each.

These pelts were from the McLure & MacKinnon Silver Fox Farms, Ltd., Vimy Ranch near Charlottetown. Two of them a male and female were born April 29th and the other two, male and female were born May 1st. All the pelts were sired by the same sire out of litters of six each. All the credit for the price obtained must not go to the ranch or the pelts but a very considerable part of it to the Association for placing the four pelts in one lot in which as Women's Wear Daily, New York, states, "They were beautifully matched."

A collection of fox pelts containing 31,306 skins was offered at Public Auction by the Canadian Fur Auction Sales Co. Ltd., Montreal, January 22nd to 26th inclusive. A large number of buyers were in attendance representing the American, Mexican and South American, as well as Canadian Fur Trade.

Considerable merchandise was required by the Argentine trade, and their agents were keen to secure goods. However, due to Canadian export permits to that country being withheld at the present time, and the uncertainty in regard to when such permits may be available, these buyers hesitated to make purchases.

Of the large offering 64% was taken up by the trade at an average price of $30.59. Included in the offering also were three "Special Consignments," a summary of which is given in our enclosed supplementary report.

The following table summarizes the general catalogue:—

	No. Skins	% Sold	Av. Price	Comp. Dec. 1944
C.F.A.S. Specials (Mixed types)	2961	67%	$45.45	No comp.
White-marked skins	3080	76%	41.33	Adv. 10%
½ to ¾ Silvers	1657	34%	23.33	Dec. 2%
Selected Full Silvers	1087	92%	47.46	Adv. 21%
Regular Full Silvers	8896	64%	31.58	Adv. 7%
Inferior types	12865	54%	20.87	Adv. 10%
Low Grades	760	87%	10.24	—
Total	31306	64%	30.59	—

It will be noted from the above tabulation that there was a general price advance over December 1944 price levels in all classifications, except ½ to ¾ types, particularly in the better quality full silvers, of which a high percentage was sold.

It is the intention of this Association to offer on the March Sale a Special Collection of Standard Silver fox pelts from the Ontario and Prince Edward Island Show collection. We are preparing also a second Special Collection of newer color phase skins. These will receive appropriate and extensive advertising similar to our previous Special Offerings.

The following is a brief resume of our "Special Collection" of fox furs offered at Public Auction on the Can. Fur Auction Sales Company's Jan. 1945 sale. This summary is submitted in keeping with our policy of endeavoring to keep our shippers well informed in regard to raw fur trade trends, and to give some guide to breeders in their production programs.

Our collection contained 1,036 skins, consisting of Platinum, Platinum Silver, Pearl Platinum and White-Marked types, consigned to us from breeders across Canada. Included in it were the Ontario and Prince Edward Island Show Pelts from the newer color phase sections. Standard Silver types from these two Show Collections have not yet been offered.

As in the case of our previous "Special Collections", this collection was well advertised, and we believe that, on a comparative basis, it was well received by the trade. To indicate the general quality of skins in the collection we give the following analysis based on Canadian Government Grades, a comparison being made with our 1944 Special Collection offered on the January sale.

	Top Grade	A Grade	B Grade	C Grade
1945	4%	22%	70%	4%
1944	23%	54%	23%	0%

The following table indicates the number of skins offered, sold and prices realized:—

Type	No. Offered	No. Sold	Av. Price 1945	Lowest Price	Highest Price	Av. Pr. 1944
Platinums	260	221	$109.87	$76.00	$220.00	$163.41
Plat. Sil.	266	226	92.77	52.00	125.00	130.78
Pearl Plats.	71	37	66.32	52.00	90.00	134.46
Wh.-Mkd. Sil.	419	401	62.17	45.00	98.00	99.13

The following lots contained in this collection are described in an effort to give you some indication of the breeding and characteristics of a few of the pelts and their relative value.

A lot containing 4 Platinum skins, 2 from male pup foxes, 2 from female pups, sired by Quebec type Platinum male and from Silver females. These 4 pelts were graded Grade A, extra light color, large size, bordering on the "light" color phase. This lot was very uniform throughout, pelts having a definite bluish cast with delicate bluish undercolor. They were fine in quality of fur, medium volume, clear blue color, clear bellies blending with sides and back, slight white-markings and having very slight silvery appearance. Lot sold for $220.00 each.

Lot containing 2 Platinum skins from yearling foxes, one male, one female, sired by Colpitts type Platinum male; dam of male pelt being Quebec type Platinum. dam of female being Burroughs strain Platinum. This pair of pelts were graded Select, extra light color, large size. These were ordinarily furred, uniform throughout with bluish cast having slight silvery appearance and having collars—$160.00 each.

Lot containing 3 Platinum skins from yearling foxes, 1 male, 2 females, sired by Norwegian type male. Graded Select, light color, large size. 3 uniform skins, medium volume fur, clear color having silvery appearance with slightly darker centre stripe down back of skins and having collars—$155.00 each.

Lot of 5 Platinum silver skins, 4 from male pup foxes, 1 from yearling male, all sired by Quebec type males, and from Standard Silver dams. Solidly furred skins. Grade A, light color, medium size, slightly off in color, having slight white markings,—lot sold for $122 each.

Lot of 5 Platinum Silver skins, 2 from male pup foxes, 3 from female pups, all sired by Norwegian type. Graded A, light color, medium size, these were ordinarily furred, slightly off in color, uniform throughout having collars—$120.00 each.

It was our privilege to examine at the Can. Fur Auction Sales Company's warehouse other "Special Consignments" to them, and to follow the selling of these which were catalogued as "Western Canada New Types" and "New Brunswick Show Pelts." From the report issued by the Sales Co., we tabulate the following:—

	No. Skins	% Sold	Av. Price	Av. Pr. 1944
Western Canada New types	501	73%	$85.87	$142.80
New Brunswiwck Show Pelts	420	66%	65.50	109.88

(The latter contained Standard Silver skins as well as the newer color phases).

From a detailed knowledge of our collection and considering consignments referred to above, there are a number of conclusions which may be drawn. We would emphasize that in all types and color classifications, cleanness and clearness of color is essential. A prevalent contention is that extra light colored Platinums are comparatively undesirable. We concur in this opinion generally, as it applies to the flat, whitish or casty extra light pelts with a whitish underground. We must point out, however, that if this color phase has a definite bluish underfur, and bluish cast throughout, it appears acceptable to the trade, as evidenced by our top priced lot.

Preference for one particular type of Platinum or Platinum Silver over another was not evidenced, the competitive factors being rather quality, cleanness of color, uniformity and size. Pearl Platinum types did not receive the keen competition experienced a year ago. In white-marked silvers, full silvered, flashy color phases were in strongest demand, those having full collars drawing a slight premium in price, other quality factors being equal. Pelts carrying a medium volume of close strong fur appeared more acceptable than the more shaggy, and sometimes loose, type skins.

Let us again emphasize to ranchers the necessity of a breeding, feeding and management program which will produce large, clean colored, strongly and solidly furred skins.

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Soil Survey, Its Purpose And Value

(Experimental Farms News)

Lack of knowledge concerning soils has been to a large extent responsible for many of the difficulties encountered in soil management and proper land use. Although the use of land is as old as civilization itself, it is only within the past fifty years or so that systematic studies or surveys of the soils of the world have been undertaken.

Throughout Canada an extensive soil survey program is being conducted by the Dominion Experimental Farms Service in co-operation with the Provincial Departments of Agriculture and the Soils Departments of various agricultural colleges.

Before any sound plans for soils conservation and rehabilitation can be formulated for any area it is necessary to have as complete information as possible about the soils of that area.

The soil survey will provide the farmer with information about the type of soil on his farm, its relationship to the soil on neighbouring farms and in other sections of his county and province. Knowing the soil type or types on his own farm and their relationship to soils of other areas the farmer will be in a better position to study the farm practices used on neighbouring farms, also the results of the investigational work conducted on Illustration Stations and Experimental Stations. He will be able to select and use information as will be most applicable and beneficial to his own soil conditions. Consequently, he will be in a position to plan his own farm organization more intelligently, be able to select and use the cropping system, fertilizer practice and soil management practices that are best suited to his own soils.

The value of the soil survey in such large scale projects is to be found in the wide use made of soil surveys by the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation administration in Western Canada and in the use of soil survey information in the soil conservation work conducted in the United States.

Soil survey information has proved of value in taxation studies, financing farm loans and in agricultural economic studies.

While a soil survey of any region will provide much fundamental information concerning the soils of that region, it will not in itself solve the agricultural problems of that region. The greatest value of a soil survey can only be realized when the farmer, the technical worker and others interested in the progress of agriculture make the fullest use of the information obtained from the soil survey.

Swarming Reduces Honey Production

There are two fundamental instincts of the honey bee in which the bee-keeper is vitally concerned, C. B. Gooderham, Dominion Apiarist told the delegates who attended the recent convention of the Alberta Beekeepers' Association held in Edmonton. These instincts, he said, are to gather and store honey and the urge to procreate or swarm. The desire of the beekeeper is to keep swarming subordinate to the gathering of honey.

Swarming is the bees method of propagation or increase. The production of young bees within the hive is for the primary purpose of strengthening the colony. No increase is made until the colony divides itself by swarming or is divided by the beekeeper. Only a few days ago, the success of a beekeeper was measured by the number of swarms that issued from his colonies. Today, success is measured by the ability of the beekeeper to prevent them.

Natural swarming reduces honey production, in that it usually occurs just before or during the main honey flow at a time when the colony is in the best condition for storing the biggest crop. Should the bees swarm, there is a loss of crop, time, and labour, and perhaps the possible loss of the bees through absconding. When a beekeeper desires to increase the number of his colonies, it is better for him to divide the bees himself rather than allow the bees to do it in their way.

The actual cause of swarming is not fully understood but so far as all observations indicate, it is caused by congestion of the brood-nest. By brood-nest is meant that area of the comb within the brood chamber in which brood is being reared. If this area is too small to hold all the brood the queen is capable of producing, there is congestion and swarming is likely to occur, no matter what the size of the brood chamber itself. However, there are other influences, such as, some strains of bees are more readily aroused to swarm than others; small hives restricting the brood-test expansion; unbalanced proportion of young and old bees; and age and quality of the queen. Correction of these conditions may go a long way towards suppressing the instinct to swarm, but it will not prevent swarming.

Foxes For Sale

Platinum males, 2 Norwegian and several LaForest. White face males, 1 proven breeder 1 pup. Standard Silver, 1 proven breeder several pups Muttart strain. Pearl Platinums, 2 males. Also several females of all these breeds as well as several half-blood females that will produce pearl platinums on the first cross.

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Number of extra good Platinum male pups.

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FERTILIZER FACTS

In the following table, we make an endeavour to show the plant food content of various Mixed Fertilizers and to indicate the relation in quantities of the materials from which they are made.

Formula	Units Plant Food in one ton	Price per ton ex our Factory	Pounds Materials That Will Make One Ton				
			Sulphate of Ammonia 20%	Super-Phosphate 20%	Muriate of Potash 60%	Other Materials Sometimes called filler	Total Pounds
2-12-6	20	$29.00	200	1200	200	400	2000
3-15-6	24	33.50	300	1500	200	None	2000
4-8-10	22	32.40	400	800	334	466	2000
5-10-10	25	36.00	500	1000	334	166	2000
4-12-6	22	32.75	400	1200	200	200	2000

2-12-6 and 3-15-6 are largely used for similar crops — Grain, Hay, Turnips and Pastures. The latter contains more plant food and less "other materials", resulting in a lower cost per unit for the plant food.

4-8-10 and 5-10-10 are largely used for Potatoes. The latter contains more plant food and less "other materials", resulting in a lower cost per unit for the plant food.

4-12-6 is occasionally used for Potatoes. It is a good Grain, Hay and Pasture fertilizer on soils where grass and straw do not thrive.

We manufacture 2-12-6 only for specially placed orders.

We make 3-15-6 with 3% Borax at an extra cost of $3.00 per ton.

We make 4-8-10 and 5-10-10 with 1% soluble Magnesium Oxide at an extra cost of $1.00 per ton.

"Other materials" is usually Limestone, Sand, or a mixture of both. There is a limit to the quantity of Limestone that can be safely added to Mixed Fertilizers.

We can make prompt shipment of well cured Mixed Fertilizers, and would suggest your taking delivery as early as possible. THE LABOUR SITUATION IS STILL ACUTE AND WE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO GIVE YOU SATISFACTORY SERVICE IN THE SPRING.

The car shortage is also a matter for consideration and may prevent us from making shipments when needed.

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