

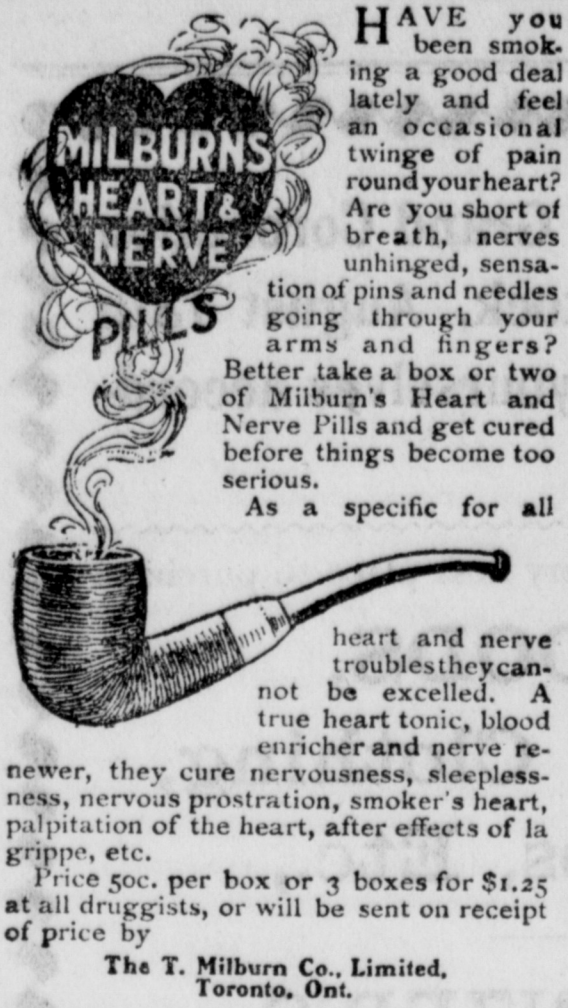
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**ECONOMICAL PORK PRODUCTION**

In the past some objections have been raised by the packers re the use of forage plants and roots for pork production, but the light of recent experiments would seem to show their fears or objections groundless; in fact, the good influence of a considerable proportion of green feed or roots in the ration of a pig can scarcely be overestimated. It has long been known that skim milk has a most beneficial influence upon the thrift of the porkers, and quality of the pork, even when the amount fed forms only a small portion of the ration. Green food and roots seem in a large measure to be capable of supplementing the n.w.,—in view of the tremendous expansion in the Canadian bacon industry,—quite inadequate supply of dairy by-products, for use in pig feeding. The farmer whose conditions permit may go even further than to use forage plants as a supplementary food. He may even make them the chief item of his pig feed if he is careful to use a good proportion of grain, (oats, peas and barley,) during the last month of the feeding period.

As the season is rather far advanced for an exhaustive discussion of forage crops suitable for this purpose, I shall confine my remarks to such as are still seasonable.

**CLOVER**—Probably no crop is better adapted to young pigs than clover, and a bit of clover stubble used for this purpose will give very good returns. So far as our experiments go, the pork so produced is of good quality.

**RAPE**—Of all the crops used here so far for pasturing pigs, rape quite easily stands first. The principal points in its favor are: (1) its quick growth, (2) its wide range, as it grows well on almost any kind of land, (3) its long season, as it may be sown as late as September and still do fairly well, (4) its evident palatability, as the pigs eat it greedily, and (5) its good effect upon the quality of the bacon, producing as it does, almost invariably a good firm carcass. Rape may be expected to be fit for pasturage from 6 to 8 weeks from date of sowing. It should be sown in rows about 24 in. apart, since when so grown it gives the greatest return per acre, and is best adapted for pasturing. It should be sown fairly thickly in the rows, say three lbs. of seed per acre. An acre may be expected to carry from 20 to 40 pigs through a season, depending on the season and the condition of the crop when the pigs are turned in.

**VETCHES**—Vetches also are valuable as forage for swine, and may be, under exceptional conditions, sown late in the season. Especially is this true of the hairy vetch, which species has the peculiar quality of growing up again after having been cut off or eaten down.

**OATS**—Probably no green crop will give a better return in pork than oats. They may be sown late or early in the season at the rate of 5 or 6 bushels to the acre and the pigs turned on about a month after they germinate. The fault of this crop is that it lasts only a short time, as it does not seem to be able to recover when once eaten down.

**ARTICHOKES**—Another crop of great value for pork production is the artichoke. It should be sown late in the fall or very early in the spring. The pigs may be allowed to feed on it in October and the early spring. They will do the harvesting themselves. This is a most excellent crop for brood sows in spring and autumn.

Almost all varieties of juicy forage crops are suitable for pork production, the sorts mentioned above being probably the best for Canada.

The question as to the advisability of allowing pigs to graze, or shutting in a small pen and feeding them the green crops, does not seem to have been positively settled yet, for while greater daily gains may be expected where animals are kept in close quarters, there is always the item of extra labor for cutting and carrying the forage.

Another item of some importance to the feeder is the comparative economy of winter and summer feeding of pigs. According to various experiments conducted here recently, pork may be produced at about \$1.00 per hundred pounds, live weight, less cost in summer than in winter. This seems to be due to less cost of green feed, as well as to low temperature, which must be overcome by food or by artificial heat.

J. H. GRISDALE, Agriculturist,  
Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, Ont.

**What May Happen.**

Reassuring reports concerning the ultimate results of the recent volcanic disturbances must not be taken as final. A prominent scientist of Coopwood, Miss., thinks differently. He has calculated that the Mississippi River and its numerous tributaries have for a vast period of time been engaged in carrying the material of the land from countries far in the north to the Gulf of Mexico. This process of transportation has resulted in shifting an enormous mass and weight through nearly thirty degrees of latitude from the north to the south, and this transfer of



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weight may so disturb the center of gravity of our planet that finally it will lose its poise and assume a new position of adjustment to the new center of weight. If this should happen there would be a corresponding vast flow of water to the side turned down, and a disappearance of water from regions now covered. Moreover, the piling up of so vast a weight on the floor of the Gulf of Mexico may break through it and let the water of the sea upon the vast interior fires supposed to be there. In such a case, there would be an enormous forming of steam which might produce terrific explosions and consequent disturbances of land and sea. If there were such a result in our time, no precaution which human foresight could suggest would be of any use. It would probably mean a great rush of waters from the Southern to the Northern Hemisphere, but just when and where even the scientist of Coopwood cannot predict. Entire populations would be overwhelmed, as wide regions of country would be engulfed. As to how the people would behave when all this happens, the Coopwood scientist is not encouraging. He does not believe that they would act any better than they did in the time of Noah.—New York Post.

**A Family Necessity**

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**If America's Stream Ran North.**

Among America's natural advantages the tendency of the streams to flow southward rather than to the north is of great importance. A river which is frozen at the mouth while open and overflowing at its head waters is a particularly troublesome neighbor. The whole history of this continent would have been different had the Mississippi found its outlet in Hudson Bay.

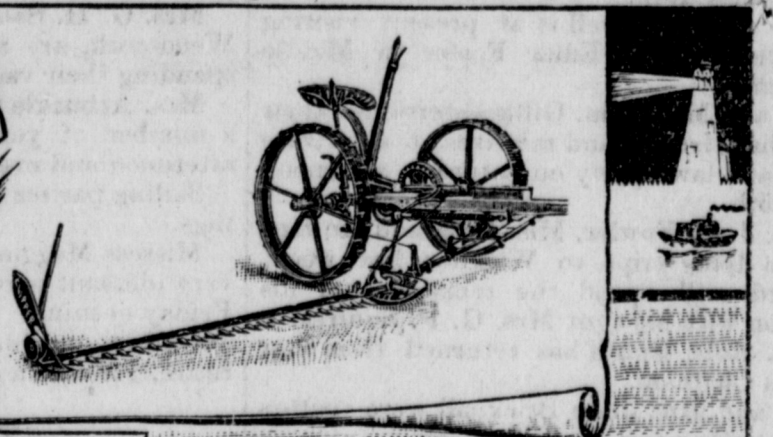
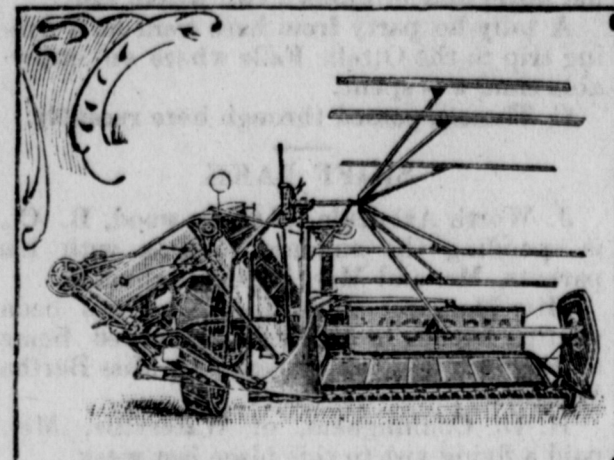
Telescope Proprietor: "Step up, ladies and gents, and view the planet Mars. One penny, num."

Old Lady: "Oh, lor! Hain't it round and smooth!"

Telescope Proprietor: "Will the bald-headed gent please step away from the front of the instrument?"

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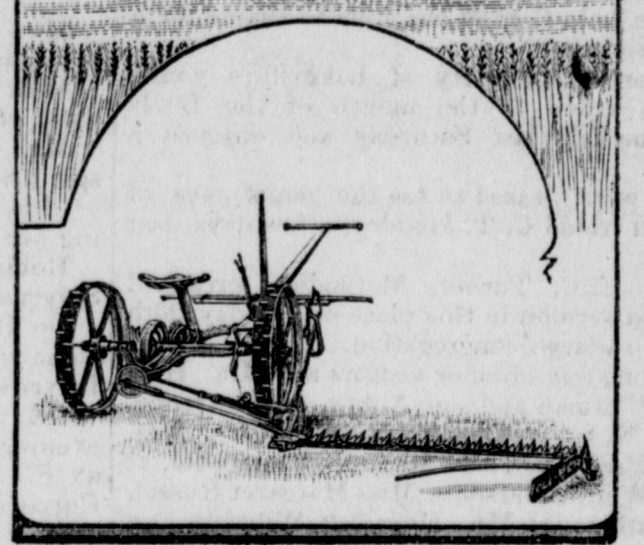
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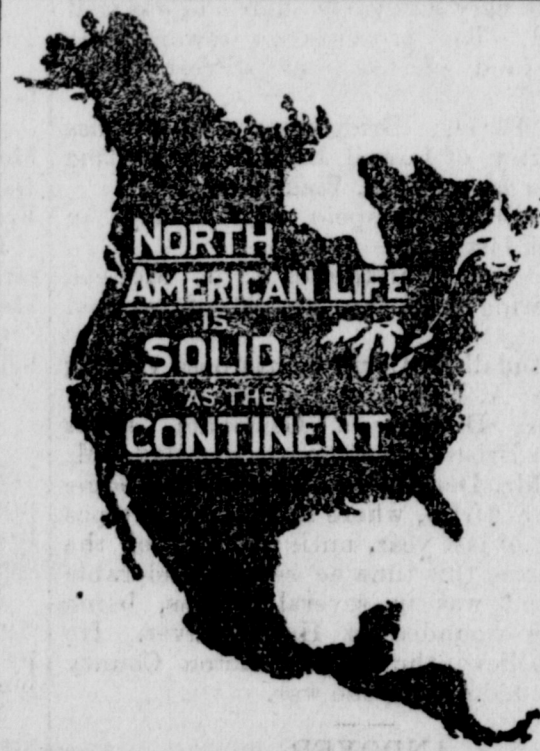


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