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The Oldest Presbytery

Nearly a century and a quarter ago the Presbytery of Truro, N.S., was organized and stands in the honored position of being the most ancient in the Dominion of Canada. At the time of its formation, it consisted of five ministers and two elders. Owing to paucity of laborers it could do little to supply the spiritual necessities of the sparse population. Here and there throughout the Maritime Provinces there were several families of Highlanders who had emigrated from Scotland who were not privileged to enjoy the ministrations of the Gospel. One of their own number, after the formation of the Truro Presbytery, the Rev. J. McGregor, D.D., was the great pioneer of the Presbyterian Church in Nova Scotia.

Navigating With no Chronometer

The French sea captains who take their vessels across the Atlantic every spring to fish on the Newfoundland Banks navigate almost exactly as they did in the days of Columbus. Of the 250 French sailing vessels on the Banks last year 240 were fitted out in Normandy and Brittany. Able captains found their way across the trackless wastes of the ocean without difficulty. They take observations for latitude, but they have no chronometers and are unable to tell their longitude except by guesswork.

Waste in Potatoes

Enormous waste is caused both in the field and in the kitchen by the peeling of potatoes before cooking them. There are thousands of pounds of peels wasted every day through the country. To be convinced of this it is only necessary to note the bulk of the peels when you peel the potatoes before cooking. But this is not the only waste. When peeled potatoes are boiled in the ordinary way, there is a loss of nitrogenous and saline matter by extraction into the water, which does not occur when potatoes are boiled in their skins, or baked.

Northern Potato Seed Best

Authorities agree that northern-grown seed will give the best results in old Ontario and that immature seed does better than mature seed. "In parts of Scotland," said Professor Davitz of Guelph, speaking on this point, "they grow an early crop of potatoes and then plant a later crop for seed purposes, and they find that the immature potatoes make the best seed, and the same result has been found at the college; potatoes not fully matured make better seed than a well matured potato."

Arm is For Food

A rather curious fact is that the bones of the arm are arranged primarily for the purpose of carrying the hand to the mouth—food being, of course, the first necessity of life. If you do not believe it, try to hold your arm up and see how much more naturally, when your arm is bent, your hand moves in that direction than it does when it is straight.

New Bronze Composite

Copper, zinc, aluminum and magnesium compose a new bronze invented in Germany for airship parts.

Yew Nearly Extinct

The remnant of a primeval yew forest, about half a mile square, is carefully preserved in Bavaria, the tree, once widely distributed, being almost extinct in Europe.

While a man's heart is beating 70 times a minute, a horse's is pulsating but 40 times and an elephant's only 20.

FOR DUCK HUNTERS

How to Successfully Decoy the Elusive Bird

Every duck hunter requires a blind so that he can go out into the open and wait for the elusive bird. The man who hasn't a blind can easily construct one by using a flat bottomed boat or punt as a basis for his structure. The one shown in the illustration is an excellent shape to follow. It is 15 feet long, 4 feet wide and about 20 inches deep in the centre and can be rowed from either end with the additional advantage of having plenty of room for the hunter to lie down. The sides are made with boards held together with battens on the inside of the boat near the ends and at the middle. Two pins are driven in the top of each side board to be used as row locks. The bottom is made of matched boards 5 inches wide nailed to the side pieces and to a keel-strip which runs the length of the boat inside, with galvanized nails. These boards should be placed as closely together as possible, with white lead liberally applied to the joints. Before



ailing, place strips of lamp wick between them and the side boards.

On the inside of the boat along the tops of the side boards nail a narrow strip of wood, lathing will do, held away from the side with small cleats. A similar strip should be placed near the bottom.

When ready to be placed in company as a blind, reeds or weeds similar to those growing in the river should be stuck under these strips all around the boat so as to form a complete screen. It is well to anchor the blind out in the river and keep it there for some time during the duck season so that the ducks can become accustomed to seeing it.

HORSES IN THE WEST

Some Timely Advice on the Need of Brood Mares

Canadian farmers do not appear to have fully grasped the situation with regard to horse breeding. The Canadian west, particularly Saskatchewan and Alberta, have had to import horses from eastern Canada quite heavily, and this is an expensive process, because eastern horses require a very considerable amount of acclimatizing in the west. The wastage of horses in the war, while it is not so great as when there are heavy cavalry charges, is very serious, and these horses will have to be replaced. Good heavy horses cannot be produced in a day or a year.

From Ontario comes the report that Americans are buying mares quite heavily. In that province, out of a shipment of 65 horses made from Toronto to New York recently, 52 per cent were females suitable for breeding. The American market is short of brood mares, and has been and will continue to buy quite freely in Canada. It is up to the Canadian farmers to see that this depletion of breeding stock is not carried to excess. In the west there is an abundance of feed and there is no reasonable excuse for all available mares not being bred.

START PRAIRIE FIRES

Saskatchewan Official Censures Careless Travellers in West

Fire Commissioner J. K. Wilson, of Saskatchewan, referring to the losses by prairie fires, said: "Much of the waste caused by the destructive prairie fire may be charged to those who, in travelling across the prairie, carelessly throw away a lighted match, cigar or cigarette or leave a camp fire not extinguished. The careless thrasher leaves live coals around his engine when closing down for the night. In the morning he finds that a high wind sprang up during the night, his thrashing outfit has gone up in smoke and a disastrous prairie fire is raging. The direct result of carelessness is that hundreds of settlers are deprived of their homes and crops, while some are penniless and dependent upon the community for assistance to tide them through the winter. The person who starts a prairie fire through carelessness or neglect should be severely punished. Such a measure surely would educate people to be more careful."