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CONTROLLING POTATO TUBER DISEASES

Diseased potato tubers are undesirable for marketing purposes because diseased stock may rot in storage or in transit, necessitating sales at discount prices or possible disqualification. As a consequence consumers' costs are increased while the growers' profits are lowered accordingly. Surpassing these difficulties met in the marketing phase of this industry in Canada, however, is the more serious problem arising from the use of diseased potatoes for seed, a practice leading to seed-piece rot, weak germination, poor stands and low yields. Moreover, the use of diseased seed tubers results in contamination of the soil, thus making it most difficult, if not impossible, to produce disease-free potatoes on the same location for several years. The importance of this principle is better appreciated when it is known that new land is relatively free from disease organisms and should be safeguarded against contamination. In seeking to control potato tuber diseases it is well to know that a number of them attack both tubers and tops, so that they must be dealt with in the seed stock supply and in the field. Those diseases confined to the tubers alone necessitate such measures as seed treatment, soil treatment and seed-selection, all of which are being investigated by the Division of Botany of the Dominion Experimental Farms through its Branch Laboratories. Although such practices are subject to limitations, when carefully conducted they provide a means of bettering crop production, and of reducing, very materially, the otherwise appreciable losses. It must be clearly understood that seed treatment will not prevent diseases originating in the soil. Under these circumstances a scheme of soil treatment or soil management is a distinct advantage. Seed treatment, of course, can only be effective against diseases occurring on the surface of the potato tubers, whereas the more deeply seated infection, notably late blight rot, black leg, and Fusarium rot cannot be reached by seed treatment. In these instances the correct preventive measure is to avoid using the diseased tubers.

Certain diseases such as leaf roll, mosaic and spindle tuber cannot be detected in the seed-tubers, although they give rise to definite symptoms in the growing tops. The eradication of these disorders can be accomplished only by a system of thorough roguing combined with the operation of a tuber-unit seed-plot. Detailed information on the subject under consideration may be secured from the nearest Dominion Laboratory of Plant Pathology.

PULLING CORDS IN ENGLAND

Under the heading "Pulling Cords in England" an article in the September issue of the Canadian National Railways Magazine refers to the discontinuance of the practice on Canadian railways of the long pullcord for applying the emergency brakes. Nowadays, the article goes on to state, in place of the cord that used to sway along the top of the cars there is a very short one dangling from a lever at either end of the cars. Referring to the practice in England, the article goes on:

"But in England the emergency stop cord is still in evidence. British railways combined report that 200 people who had no business to, pulled it during one year."

"Here are some of the explanations: One woman felt the train was going too fast. One man wanted mint sauce for his lamb and thought pulling the cord would bring a waiter. One woman said: 'It will probably cost me five pounds, but it's worth it to stop payment of a cheque I have mislaid.' One young woman stepped briskly from the train after pulling the cord, joined an apparent lover and with him rode off at a good clip off horseback. One man paid the fine of five pounds for pulling the cord and won a 'dare' bet of ten pounds. Another man bet a large sum that the crack train in which he rode would be late that day—it was, by several minutes."

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CANADA PROMINENT IN RUBBER INDUSTRY

Canada occupies a prominent position in the rubber industry. She is Great Britain's chief source of supply for imported rubber footwear, boots, shoes, gaiters and galoshes, and Canada pioneered in the introduction of rubber soles and heels in that market, according to the Industrial Department of the Canadian National Railways. Canada is the chief source of supply of rubber gloves to Australia. In Scotland there has been a falling off in the demand for ladies' "Wellingtons" due to the exceptionally dry weather of the last two seasons and they now appear to be going out of fashion in the larger towns although they are still almost universally worn in the rural districts. The exports of India rubber tires and tubes to China has been resumed. Canada supplied 20.4 per cent of the total imports for the first six months of 1934.

RAIL EARNINGS INCREASE WITH BUSINESS REVIVAL

The upturn in business activity is having its effect upon railway earnings which show a gain of 13.6 per cent in gross revenues for the lines of the two Canadian systems in Canada for the first seven months of the present as compared with last year. Canadian National gross revenues increased by \$10,329,000. The construction industry in Canada shows an increase of approximately 10 per cent July over June this year and building permits 9.4 per cent. As indicating the trend in return of passenger travel to the railways there were 40,000,000 more passengers carried one mile during the month of June this year as compared with the same month 1933.

International debt negotiations are reported near collapse. So are the taxpayers.

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LAMB FEEDING PROJECT

A policy whereby western range lambs will again be fattened in Eastern Canada has been approved by Hon. Robert Weir, Federal Minister of Agriculture, and already members of the Southern Saskatchewan Sheep Breeders' Association have signed up seven thousand head of feeder lambs for shipment to Eastern feeding points.

Officials of the Dominion Live Stock Branch are charged with the responsibility of locating suitable feeding farms and supervising the feeding, fattening and marketing operations. Members of the Ranchers' Association at a recent meeting in Maple Creek have agreed to consign lambs for fattening under the terms of a rancher-feeder agreement whereby a valuation of three cents a pound is placed on the lambs at the Moose Jaw Stockyards where officials weights are to be established. Freight from shipping point to feed lot will be added to the initial price charged against the feeder when lambs go into the feed lot.

Under the above project farmers who apply for feeder lambs will not

be prepaid by the Dominion Department of Agriculture, reimbursement being made to the Department for freight so paid from the proceeds of sale when lambs are fat. Feeders are required to have suitable equipment in the form of feeding sheds, plenty of feed and good water. They are also required to feed and market in accordance with the procedure prescribed by the Dominion Live Stock Branch officials. Ranchers retain ownership of the lambs until marketed so that under the agreement the rancher and the feeder receive their share of the net proceeds after the lambs are marketed.

The rancher-feeder agreement for 1934 is based on a three cent price for official weights at Moose Jaw. The feeder gets the value of all the gain in weight plus sixty per cent of the spread after freight and marketing charges have been deducted. The rancher receives the value at three cents per pound, Moose Jaw weights, plus forty per cent of the spread.

In 1933 about three thousand head of feeder lambs were fattened in Ontario under a similar agreement. The best feeders were able to make gains above twenty-five pounds per lamb. Selling price for feed lambs when sold as fat lambs at Toronto ranged from seven to nine and a half cents a pound. Lambs off the range usually weigh between 50 to 60 pounds. The feeding period is from 100 to 150 days depending on feeds management, etc.

Saskatchewan lambs will be approved before shipment by an official of the Dominion Live Stock Branch and will be shipped in double-deck cars containing the lambs on grain feed. Whole oats is considered to be the safest grain to feed at this time. When lambs have become accustomed to eating a pound of grain daily they may be fed a more fattening grain feed by gradually adding barley, wheat screenings or other home-grown grains. Clover or alfalfa hay are almost essential for best results. The amount of hay required may be greatly reduced if corn ensilage is available. Turnips or roots of any kind are also excellent.

Those desiring to fatten range feeder lambs should communicate with A. A. MacMillan, Associate Chief, Field Services, Live Stock Branch, Ottawa. Some indication should be given of the accommodation available, the amount of feed on hand, and the experience in fattening stock.

CANADIAN HEATERS IN SOUTH AFRICA

South Africa's climate varies with the elevation of the land surface. The greater portion of the Union of South Africa has an elevation of over 3,000 feet. There is a narrow fringe around the coast which is below 1,500 feet. Frosts may occur over the interior at any time of the year although the period when they are most likely to be experienced is April to October. This has brought about a demand for electric heaters, electric current being comparatively cheap, and the use of electricity in heating is rapidly increasing, according to the Industrial Department of the Canadian National Railways. The large centres of distribution for electric heaters is found in the cities of the Cape Province Transvaal and Orange Free State such as Johannesburg, Cape Town, Victoria, Bloemfontein, Germiston, Kimberley, Benoni. Stores are showing a tendency to put on greater displays of electric heaters in their windows, types of heaters varying over a wide

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FRENCH DELEGATION LAY WREATH ON ACADIAN GRAVE

Shediac, N. B., Sept. 11—In the presence of distinguished visitors from France who formed part of the official delegation attending the ceremonies connected with the celebration of the 400th anniversary of Jacques Cartier's voyage of discovery to Canada at Charlottetown, P. E. I., Gaspé, Que., and other places, Madame C. Badier, Secretary of the official commission from France, deposited a wreath on the grave of the late Hon. Pascal Poirier, first Acadian to occupy a seat in the Senate of Canada and who was dean of that body, in the cemetery at Shediac. Following the ceremony a luncheon was tendered to the visitors by the citizens of Shediac with Dr. A. Sormany, Mayor of the town, presiding. Other members of the party were M. Gabriel Louis Garay, President of the Executive Commission of the Jacques Cartier Committee; Comte de Caix, former Secretary General of the French Government in Syria; M. Fortunat Strowski, Professor of Modern Literature in the Sorbonne and representative of the University of

margin and also with regard to size. The Canadian product is already represented in South Africa and there would appear to be possibilities of a greatly increased demand for the Canadian heaters.

INTERESTING WILD LIFE DISPLAY

Fredericton, N. B., Sept. 11—One of the finest exhibits of native wild life of the Province of New Brunswick ever before the public was presented by the Fredericton Branch of the New Brunswick Fish and Game Protective Association at the Fredericton Exhibition during the present week. The extensive display, requiring in all some 2,800 square feet of space, occupied one entire side of the ground floor of the commodious Transportation Building on the Exhibition grounds.

Designing and erection of the gigantic display was under the personal supervision of F. Codrre Cooper, Provincial Secretary of the Protective Association. Acting with Mr. Cooper are Wendall Hay, president of the Fredericton Branch; and Harry C. Moore, chairman of the game bird committee of the Fredericton Branch. This committee has been ably assisted by members of the Association.

Foremost among the many specimens of live game animals is a full grown moose. The big game section also included two buck deer, two fawns, and a black bear one-and-one-half years old. Among the fur-bearing animals were four mink, two red fox, two raccoons, a groundhog, and one of the very rare species known as the white porcupine.

(Continued on page eight)

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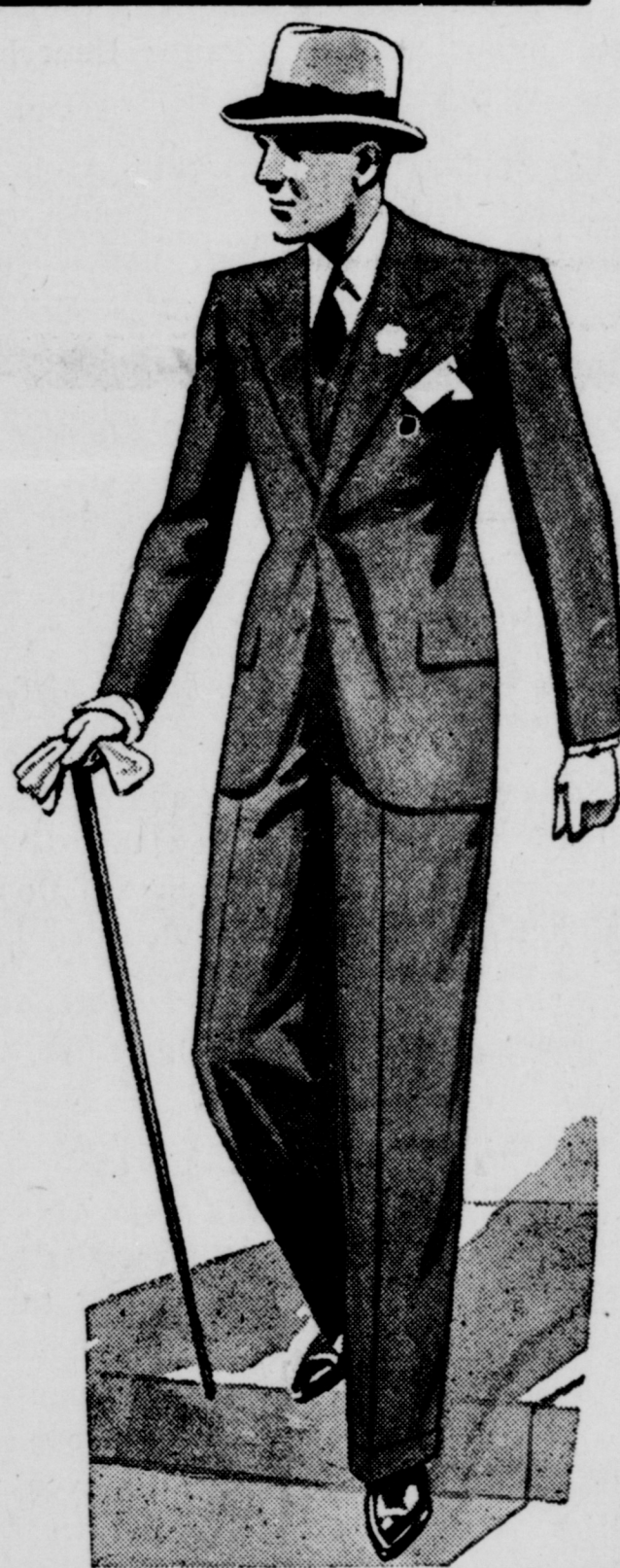
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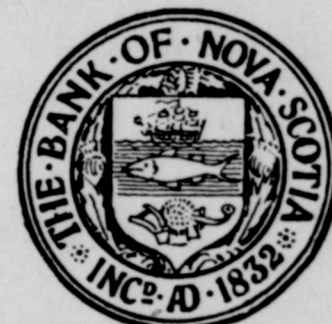
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