

EFFICIENT FARMING

A LITTLE PIG DISEASE.

A very heavy loss is experienced by many farmers each spring through the loss of little pigs. Not among the pigs that are born and reared out on the green grass where everything is clean, but among those that are born during February and March under conditions that are very favorable for the presence and development of *Bacillus Necrovoria*. The little pig looks as though it had a dirty face. The sides of the mouth and cheeks are discolored with adhering grime. Small pustules and ulcers are present in the mouth about the lips. Small sores are present wherever the bacteria have gained entrance—any place on the body where the pig may have scratched itself—frequently seen on knees, sides of forearm, base of ear; just a black, scurfy patch with pus beneath; may be very small or even as large as a quarter dollar. The bacillus responsible for the disease cannot penetrate a normal, unbroken skin, but finds entrance in scratches usually made by the pigs when fighting. These abrasions may be ever so small, yet give entrance to the germ.

Clean, sterile conditions are, of course, the best insurance of health. Not always possible to keep a pig pen like a hospital ward, but it is possible to have clean, comfortable, dry quarters somewhere about the premises in which the young pigs may be housed during the nursing period. The germ is present in filth, and probably always will be, so the first thing to do is to get the sows that have not farrowed away from the immediate vicinity of those whose families are showing disease, and put them in clean pens.

In preparing a pen for the brood sow, the walls and floor should be scraped clean and then given a washing with hot water in which a generous quantity of lye has been dissolved. After scraping and washing, a lime wash to which 3 or 4 per cent. of creolin has been added should be applied. If the brood sow has been exposed to filth in which the germs are likely to be, she should be given a washing with a warm water to which a small quantity of creolin or other disinfectant has been added. A dry, clean yard is just as essential as a dry, clean pen.

With the progeny of the brood sow worth \$25 to \$50 at weaning time, it is surely worth while to have things right and prevent an unnecessary loss by doing a few hours' work. During some seasons the careless man will get by without losses, then again he will lose all. The man that looks after the breeding hygiene and sanitation of his pig breeding operations generally saves a large percentage of the young pigs twice every year.—L. Stevenson.

Supervision of Stock Yards.

Stock raisers who have not been in the habit of marketing stock for themselves or in co-operation with others, need have no hesitation in submitting their animals for sale on the public stock yards. Through the Dominion Live Stock and Live Stock Products Act, stock yards are under government control, which sees to it that full justice is done to the sellers. The system, which has been in operation since 1917, has done much to inspire confidence in production as well as in marketing. It has not only promoted a feeling of confidence but has resulted in many stock raisers obtaining a knowledge of the business of marketing. Marketing at the public stock yards is so regulated as to prevent any form of extortion. Equal opportunities are provided for all, both in purchase and sale, and disinterested and timely information as to the live stock market situation is constantly being issued from the yards. The facilities provided tend to safeguard against abnormal market conditions, by promoting intelligent distribution and the encouragement of more marketable types of live stock. During the course of the year covered by the latest annual report of the Hon. W. R. Motherwell, Minister of Agriculture, approximately 865,000 cattle, 265,000 calves, 800,000 hogs, 595,000 sheep, were sold at the various stock yards in Canada under conditions supervised by officers of the Live Stock Branch. All of this stock, valued approximately at \$35,000,000 for cattle, \$2,250,000 for calves, \$14,300,000 for hogs, and \$3,500,000 for sheep and lambs, besides passing under the supervision of the stock yards agent, was checked and recorded as to the point of origin, sale and disposition.

Supervision of Stock Yards.

The varieties of grain which have been carrying off most of the prizes at the International Seed Grain and Hay Show at Chicago since the inception of that organization four years ago have been largely originated in Canada by Canadian plant breeders. In the case of wheat, the Canadian-bred Marquis variety has been a consistent winner of the Grand Sweepstakes prize. At the last exhibition, held in Chicago in December, 1923, the first thirteen prizes, including the Grand Sweepstakes, were won by Marquis. Out of the twenty-five prizes awarded in the hard red spring wheat class, twenty-one went to the Marquis variety, two to Kitchener which is a selection out of Marquis, and one to Ruby which is a cross-bred sort produced at the Experimental Farm at Ottawa.

In the oat class, most of the winning samples were of the Victory and Banner varieties. These varieties, while not of Canadian origin, have been developed considerably by members of the Canadian Seed Growers' Association in Canada. Twenty-eight out of a total of thirty-five prizes in oats were captured by Canada, twenty-one of these going to growers in the Province of Alberta.

In the two-rowed barley class, the sweepstakes were won by Duckbill Ottawa 57. This is a very fine, two-rowed variety originated by the Central Farm at Ottawa and which is giving a very good account of itself in trials being conducted at the various Experimental Farms throughout Canada.

Supervision of Stock Yards.

Cut off every lamb's tail when the lambs are between one and four weeks old. Use hot pliers or a sharp knife for the operation. Make the cut three-fourths of an inch from the body.

Sheep Notes

Ewes require additional care at lambing time. I think it wise to watch every ewe closely to make sure she is coming along all right.

Very frequently a little ailment will attack a ewe following lambing such as caked udder, indigestion and inflammation of the bowels, which, if taken in due time, can be restored without causing a setback to the ewes and lamb. Ailments that get two or three days the start, are more difficult to overcome than if treated immediately when first symptoms appear.

It has been my experience that it pays to keep the ewes near by where they can be gone over every morning and carefully examined. Ewes that lamb along about the first of May usually are turned to pasture. This is a splendid place for them, but I like to get the flock up at night and keep them near at hand. Then I can look them over and, in case of sudden change in the weather, they can be protected.

It is very common for ewes that have been well fed during the winter to have udder trouble at lambing time. Every flock-owner has his particular remedy for this trouble, but I have had excellent success with rubbing the udders, twice daily with vaseline to which is added one-fourth part spirit of camphor and the same amount of ammonia.

Bacon Type Described.

The bacon hog should be long and smooth, with a nicely arched back and a straight, trim and neat underline. Length without smoothness and finish does not make a desirable hog, neither does smoothness and finish without length. The jaw and shoulder should be light and smooth, showing no flabbiness in the former and no coarseness or openness in the latter. Heavy jowls generally go with thick, fat or coarse hogs. Heavy shoulders throw the side out of balance. The side should be fairly flat, carrying even with the shoulder and ham, of medium depth dropping straight from the back. No round-ribbed hogs can get in the select class. The rump should round off even with the arch of the back and should show no surplus fat at the tail head. The ham should be fairly full yet tapered nicely down to the hock. The bone should be clean and strong, and the body should show no tendency to wrinkle. The belly should be trim and neat, and the whole body show that muscular tendency which denotes lean meat rather than fat.—Ontario Government Pamphlet.

Bedtime Stories

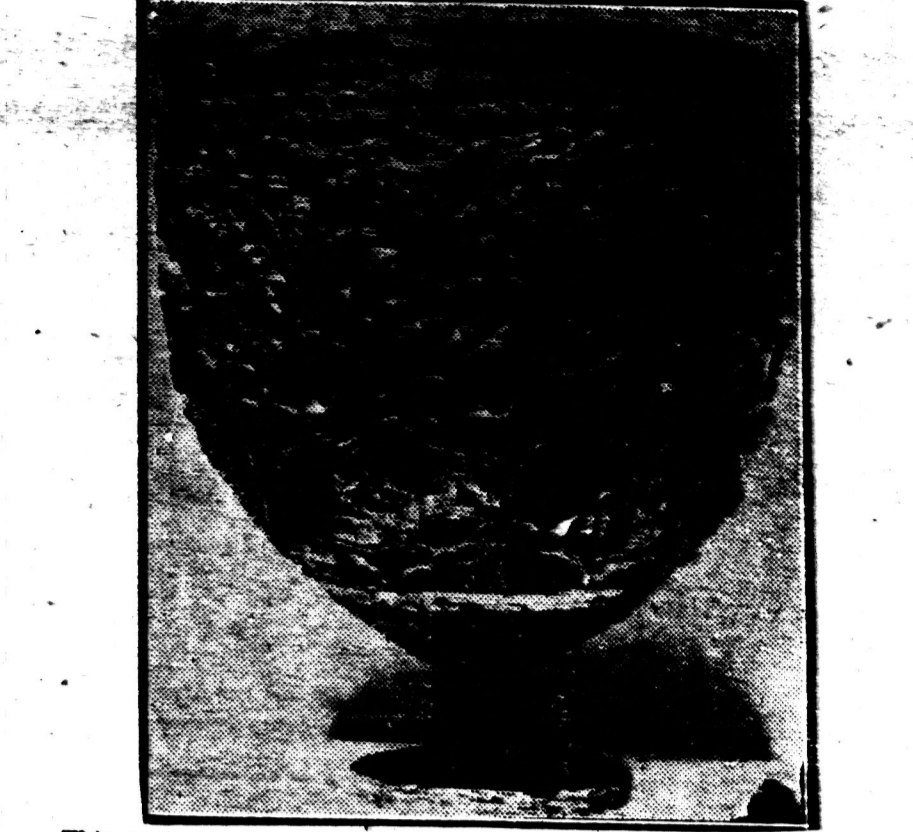
My Pennies.
Sometimes when I run errands my Grandma gives me pennies; They rattle in my pocket in a very jolly way.

I always like to feel them, way down where they are hiding,
The shining little pennies, who in the dark must stay.

A little song they're singing—a sort of cheerful jingle;
I'm careful not to lose them, or even let them fall.

You see because I earned them,
They're not like other pennies—
More nice, and kind of different,
and so I save them all.

In setting out to cut down expenses, look out that you do not saw off the limbs that bear the fruit.



This antique silver chalice, for fifteen years the property of two New York Orientalists, has now come up for discussion as the possible "Holy Grail" of the Last Supper. It was dug up at Antioch.

Poultry on the Village Lot.

Through many years of investigation the Experimental Farms have arrived at a system of housing and feeding laying hens to secure what the officials believe to be maximum returns. The pens in the Egg Laying Contest correspond closely in number of fowls to the flocks of town and village poultry keepers, who keep birds to supply their own tables. Ten good layers will produce a large number of eggs in the course of a year. If properly taken care of, a flock of this size should produce from 100 to 150 dozen eggs in the year, and few ordinary families use more than this quantity. Two hundred eggs per bird, or 2,000 eggs in the year is rather too much to expect, although this is not impossible.

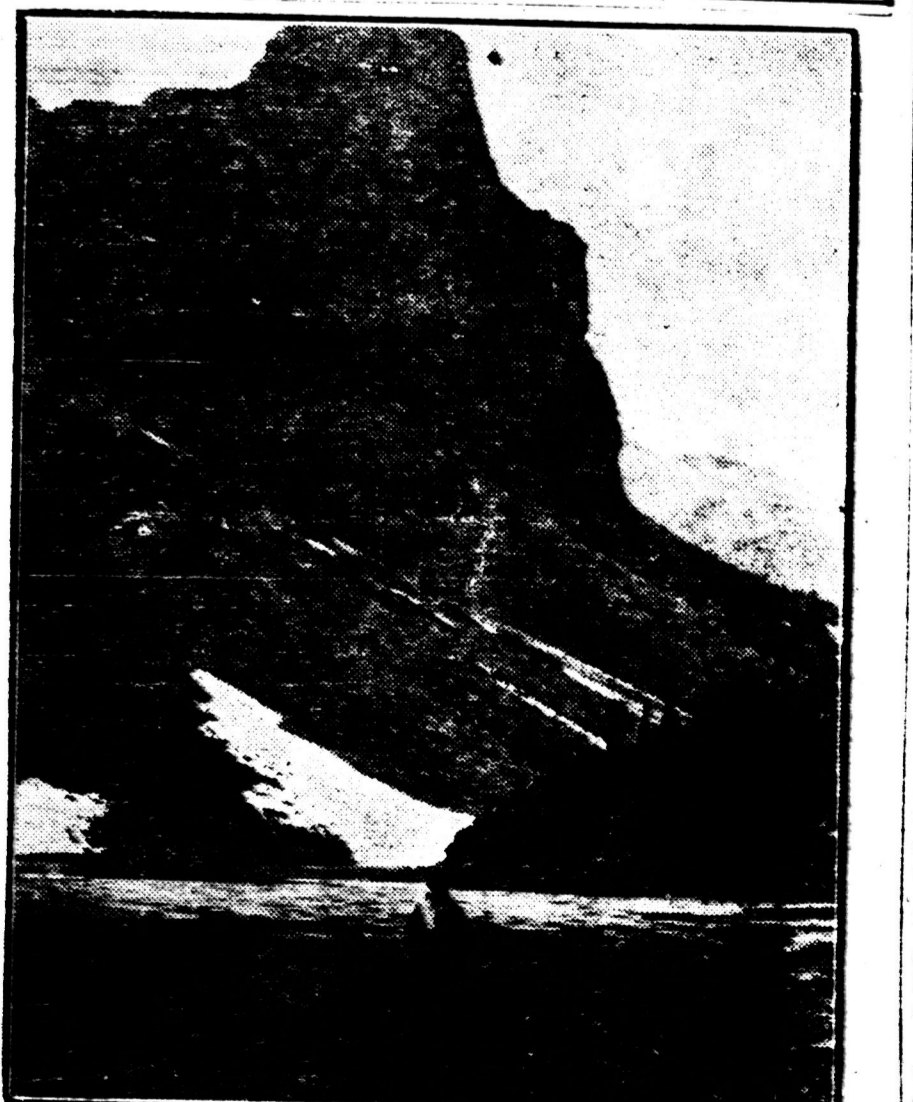
The Egg Laying Contest hens are housed in pens six feet wide by ten feet long. The windows face the south. Straw is used for litter in the houses, and the scratch grains are fed in this litter. Scratch grains consist of cracked corn, whole wheat and oats, about equal parts. The birds are given all the scratch grains they will consume, care being taken not to have much grain in the litter at any time. Dry mash (a mixture of bran, shorts, cornmeal and ground oats, with ten percent beef scrap) is kept before the birds at all times, and fed from a self-feeding hopper. At noon each day the birds are given a very small amount of wet mash. This wet mash is made by moistening some of the dry mash with water. Grit, oyster-shell, and water are kept before the birds at all times. Green food is also provided in the form of mangel, cabbage, cut clover, or alfalfa. Whatever green food is used the birds are given all they will eat. The quarters are kept clean at all times. The Dept. of Agriculture at Ottawa issues a useful bulletin on "Poultry Keeping in Town and Country," which is available on request.

Oat Varieties Recommended.

The most popular variety of oats, and certainly one of the best, is the Banner, says the Dept. of Agriculture at Ottawa. The straw is of good length and it stands up well under average conditions. The grains are long, it ripens in midseason, and is very productive. The Banner succeeds best on rather heavy soil. The Swedish variety called Victory, closely resembles Banner. Indeed it is possibly equal to it in many ways as a cropping sort. Another high producing variety of oats is the Siberian. A selected strain of this variety now goes by the name of Ontario Agricultural College No. 72. This sort ripens rather later than the others named. On account of its vigorous growth it is perhaps to be preferred to Banner on lighter soils. Gold Rain, Ligowo, and Daubeny all stand high in the range of varieties of oats grown throughout the country. Between any of these varieties and some of the older sorts that are still grown, there is frequently a difference of several bushels to the acre.

Superiority of Canadian Varieties.

The varieties of grain which have been carrying off most of the prizes at the International Seed Grain and Hay Show at Chicago since the inception of that organization four years ago have been largely originated in Canada by Canadian plant breeders. In the case of wheat, the Canadian-bred Marquis variety has been a consistent winner of the Grand Sweepstakes prize. At the last exhibition, held in Chicago in December, 1923, the first thirteen prizes, including the Grand Sweepstakes, were won by Marquis. Out of the twenty-five prizes awarded in the hard red spring wheat class, twenty-one went to the Marquis variety, two to Kitchener which is a selection out of Marquis, and one to Ruby which is a cross-bred sort produced at the Experimental Farm at Ottawa.



How many Canadians know that Canada has a Tower of Babel? British Columbia has named this huge rock formation near Lake Louise after the famous structure of biblical history.

The Sunday School Lesson

APRIL 6

The Kingdom Rest Assured, I Kings 12: 1 to 16: 28.
Cabal Text—Pish Goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.—Prov. 16: 18.

CONTINUATION OF THE STORY.—The kingdom which seemed to have been so firmly established by Saul and David, fell apart after the death of Solomon. The immediate cause of the disruption was the heavy burden of taxation and of forced labor laid upon the people by Solomon, from which his own tribe of Judah seems to have been partially exempt (see chs. 4: 7-19, 27, 28; 5: 13-18; 9: 15-23).

Not only did Solomon alienate the freedom-loving people of Israel by his heavy burdens, but he displeased the prophets also by his folly in filling his harem with foreign wives who "turned away his heart after other gods," and in building altars and sanctuaries for these false gods. The wisdom of his earlier and better years was submerged in this later extravagance and folly. And so, the historian says, "The Lord was angry with Solomon because his heart was turned away from the Lord." This was the reason why the prophet Ahijah went to Jeroboam, a young man of Ephraim and a servant of Solomon, who was in charge of the labor of Ephraim and Manasseh, and stirred him up to revolt against the king, ch. 11: 26-40.

There was no doubt also the addition of a minister of Solomon in charge of the levy of forced labor, and so was bitterly hated. The king was almost unpopular a messenger. Instead of listening to him, they stoned him to death. The king fled to Jerusalem. Va. 19, 20. Unto the congregation. A representative assembly was called, in the old democratic way, and Jeroboam was chosen king over the revolting tribes.

APPLICATION.
The essential quality in every one who would be a leader of his people, is a supreme regard for their welfare. If a king regards his soldiers as "fodder for cannon"; if a public man regards the electors as merely pawns in the game of politics; if the motive of a man in seeking an office is petty ambition, the love of the limelight, or personal vanity—all such have destroyed the possibility of genuine service, by their selfish outlook.

Jesus said in mocking irony, that those great ones who exacted tribute from others were called "benefactors." But among his disciples he was to be counted "greatest" who rendered the most extensive human service. Jesus is our leader always, because he studied the welfare of others, and gave himself to the bitterness of the fellowship with God. Our most illustrious leaders and helpers of mankind, like Paul, Luther, Livingstone, and a thousand others, were impelled to their tasks by the thought of the need of the people, and in the overwhelming desire to minister to these needs advice of his counsellors. The older

in the spirit of Jesus.

For Home and Country

A Winter Picnic.

"Whatever were you expected to wear?"

This was the first anxious query in the minds of the guests invited to join with the Elgin County Women's Institutes in their Winter Picnic held in the stormy month of February in Alma College, St. Thomas. It turned out, that like all real life picnics, you wore whatever you chose besides a pleasant smile and the basket or box of country delectables you bore in your hand.

For Elgin County Institutes met, with their mankind and the College principal and staff, to have a good time—and to study history. Their own history, too, that which they themselves as rural homemakers had made in Elgin County, Ontario, and helped to make in the world at large, for the idea of a State Dept. of Home-making, set going in Wentworth County twenty-seven years ago, they found had now become an international thing. They were inspired by the work and progress of the nineteen Institutes working for home and community betterment in the own county with the very practical maxims, "Begin with the fellow under your own hat if you want to improve the world," and "If you know a good thing, pass it on."

A further thrill was added to this inspiration by the report that nearly three thousand institutes, following the Ontario methods, were now working for similar ends in England and Wales, with hundreds more in Scotland, Belgium, France, and even in remote New Zealand, with some in the United States; while they were all over Canada, from the Atlantic to the Pacific Coasts.

After addresses from the Departmental representative and the Provincial President, some stories of activities were told by the Branches represented.

The Principal of the College, Dr. Dobson, was so interested that in a short address of welcome he invited the homemakers to make this an all-day and annual event, promising that the College physical director would plan a half day of games and recreation for the visitors in the gymnasium and swimming pool, while the College hall, domestic science rooms, and dishes would also be at their service.

A very pleasing feature was the uniting of city and country on this occasion, also almost every woman's organization, as well as some of the men's in St. Thomas being represented.

The Press entered heartily into the full page supplement in their Saturday issue, giving photos and the history of the Institutes of Elgin County. It was a delightful page and widely read by old and new members and their friends as well as students of Canadian historic developments of note, to say nothing of the Provincial Superintendent and its governmental head, the Minister of Agriculture.

One charming story was that of the discovery by one Branch of a family of new Canadians in dire distress, bravely and silently struggling through their first winter in the country. "They are eating off the window ledges," came the report from a friendly neighbor who had called, "and I don't know how they sleep, for the have scarcely any bedding." The father was working until winter closed in but now he can't get any, and there are two children.

To hear was to act with this group of homemakers and in a short time food, clothing, dishes, bedding, and fuel were unloaded with a prompt hospitality that even pioneer days could not beat at this farm house door. Sewing was secured for the mother, and later, work for the man too. But the very best thing about it was the human touch, the neighborliness of it all. The mother was made an honorary member of the Branch, and when some time later the collector was going the rounds for the annual donations to the County Hospital (another of the community interests of the Institutes) she called on the new member. "Not for a donation, but just because I did not like to pass any member by," she explained cordially. "Oh, but we want to help," the mother cried, going to the cupboard and emptying the contents of a cup. "This is all the cash I have, but the Institute was so good to us when we were starting. Whenever the Institute is in on anything I want to be in it too. Here," and she handed over twenty cents.

"And we considered that the biggest and most generous donation we gave to our Hospital," said the speaker. "It was like the widow's mite. That is the thing we are proud of, not what we gave them in material things so much as that we helped them to get on their feet, and that then they wanted like real Canadians to help others as they could."

They helped them to get on their feet! The best kind of immigration work. Long life and prosperity to the Institutes.

Cows that freshen in fall or early winter are best milk producers. Breed in March for December calves.