

FOR FARMERS, STOCK BREEDERS AND GARDENERS

NEWSY NOTES

BY AGRICOLA

ASTRONOMICAL HAPPENINGS

There are two dates in October on which (if the theory of planetary influence is well-founded) we may expect disturbances in the terrestrial atmosphere, and perhaps earthquakes.

On October 14th the planets Mars and Venus are in conjunction, and will be but two degrees apart. The disturbance in this case I presume, will be slight, in accordance with previous experience.

On Oct. 19th, Uranus is in opposition to the sun, and is sixth magnitude, which means it is just visible to the "naked eye." On the same date it is new moon. There will thus be four celestial bodies in a straight line: first the sun, then the new moon, then the earth and lastly, far out, the planet Uranus.

ODDS AND ENDS

Ralph. When I first came to P. E. I. I became acquainted with a small boy whose parents called him Ralph, pronouncing the "L" so that the name sounded like Ra-l-f. Now in Northern England the name is pronounced to rhyme with "half," the "L" being silent. Proper names in England are notoriously intractable, so I reserved judgment as to which was in the right, and wisely determined to "do as the Romans do" under the circumstances. But now I find classical sanction for the northern usage in "Hudibras," thus:

"A Squire he had whose name was Ralph, That in the adventure went his half. Though waiters, for more stately tone, Do call him Ralpho, 'tis all one: And when we can with metre safe, We'll call him so; if not, plain Ralpho."

To make it rhyme with "safe" is just a doggerel joke.

Hudibras. Does anybody read "Hudibras" now? I doubt it. Written by Samuel Butler, and first published in 1662, it at once achieved extraordinary popularity. King Charles II was so much taken by its witty satire that he slept with Hudibras under his pillow. It has provided English literature with more quotations than any other book, if we except the Bible, and the works of Shakespeare; and, though probably it is quoted as often as ever, "has dropped into the class of books which are more quoted than talked of, and more talked of than read." The plot is of the slightest character, and one instinctively looks to Cervantes for the originals of Hudibras the Knight, and Ralpho the Squire; but the characters are so lightly drawn as to banish any suspicion of plagiarism. "We have really very little kept before us but the sordid vice of the retailers" (that is, during the Commonwealth) "their hypocrisy, their churlish ungraciousness, their greed of money and authority, their fast and loose morality, their inordinate pride." (Geo. Sainsbury).

Not very promising material with which to build up a classic; but Butler, by force of a doggerel metre, smooth-running, "and framed to be the very voice of mocking laughter," by marvellously wide knowledge (sometimes expressed with all the coarseness of the period), by a subtle strain of ridicule, and by astounding similes, has produced a work unlike any other in the language.

"A man convinced against his will Is of the same opinion still."

as some have quoted it; but in Part II, Canto III, we get the correct version as

"He that complains against his will, Is of his own opinion still."

Which is, of course, more logical.

Shakespeare, according to a recent article in the Guardian has two references to the bagpipes, "one of which is unprintable;" there is in Hudibras, Part II, Canto II, a description of the pipes which is still more unprintable!

A great many homely sayings were first given to the world in these witty pages, such as "I smell a rat;" "you have a wrong sow by the ear;" He knew what's what, and that's as high as metaphysics wit can fly!" There are about ten thousand lines in the whole book; and Hazlitt once remarked that "more than half of them are got by heart;"—meaning that they are known as familiar quotations.

Love-Birds or Budgerigars?—There are, I hear, two pairs of foreign cage-birds—other than canaries—on the Island: one pair in the city, and the other at Summerside. They are said to be Love-Birds. The commonest of these domestic pets is the Budgerigar (or "Buddie") a species of small parrot, native of Australia. The Budgies are often incorrectly called "Australian Love-Birds."

The Love-Bird proper comes from Africa, and is also a species of small parrot; this bird has a short square tail, whereas the Buddie has a long tapering tail. Both will breed in captivity, and both are spiteful to other birds, though devoted to their mates. The Buddie is a good talker, but I cannot say for the Love-Bird.

THE YEAR'S BOTANIZING

The summer is gone, the leaves are falling, and one naturally takes stock of the botanical discoveries of the year. There are a few plants new to the Island, recorded for 1933. They are:— Round-leaved Mallow, Malva rotundifolia L. Dog Mustard, Erucastrum galli-cum.

Purple Loosestrife, Lythrum Salicaria L. Lesser Bugloss, Lycopsis arvensis L.

These plants were put on record by Prof. Herbert Groh, of Ottawa, Prof. R. R. Hurst, and H. A. Messervy, Esq., of Charlottetown. This year's list is a short one, and it is likely that future lists will be equally short; since the bulk of the flowering plants have already been put on record in these notes.

This fall has been noteworthy for the great quantity of fleshy fungi, commonly called toadstools, which spring up after the heavy rains. The knowledge of these plants forms a separate—and difficult—branch of botany; but the student of fungi in Canada is fortunate in having a capably illustrated manual well within the range of his purse.

I refer to Dr. Gussow's "Mushrooms and Toadstools," a copy of which may be consulted at the Public Library. In some years these lowly tribes are extremely abundant, and in others they are hardly to be found. In the years 1918 and 1927 they grew in extraordinary numbers; and by a coincidence these were bad influenza years. Or is it that the type of weather that favors the growth of the fungi is responsible also for the spread of the epidemic?

A large white toadstool, with a distinct ring (something like an old-fashioned composter!) round the stem, and having white spores, turns out to be Lepiota naucina Fr., the "Smooth Lepota." It is often taken for a white mushroom as it grows in similar situations, and is edible. Dr. Gussow warns against confusing the Agaricus phalloides (a poisonous species) with this fungus.

Another large fungus of striking appearance and weight was sent in for identification on Oct. 9th. It was Tricholoma personatum Fr., the "Lilac-hued Tricholoma." The cap or pileus was five inches across, dull violet at the edges fading to brownish in the middle; the gills were close set, and lilac in color. The stem was about one inch thick and two long. This is edible too, and used to be sold in the south of England as "Blewits."

THE STARLING: OTHER POINTS OF VIEW

The Montreal Gazette says: "The noisy stolid birds (Starlings) who have defied who's police departments and fire brigades in several Ontario cities . . . are silent and edible in blackbird p.e." "Hear Jack Miner, Kingsville's famous naturalist, who can find good in every bird."

Jack Miner And The Birds

By Jack Miner Himself—A History of This Notable Bird Lover's Life

CHAPTER IX

WEASELS, AND HOW TO DESTROY THEM

Now, as a field-mouse destroyer we have come to the king of them all. I have found as high as twenty seven adult mice stored in a weasel's winter home. Yet of all the four-legged enemies our birds have, I know of none to compare with the weasel. But if I were to ask the experienced hunters of America if they know the weasel, all would be disgusted, because the weasel is so common throughout this country. I was once in that class myself; I thought I knew all there was to be known about them. I had shot them out of the tops of trees, and dug them out of the ground; I had called them into the tile shed and even into the engine room; I had sat here in the woods and called them so they would come up and smell of the ends of my fingers; I had seen dozens of the little rascals in Northern Ontario when I had been hunting moose, and had sat down and called them across the creek to them. Yes, I thought I was well acquainted with them.

Now, when I come to think of it I am always reminded of a middle-aged, corpulent gentleman who once came to our tile yard. After he had his wagon loaded he climbed down over the wheel; as he struck the earth, he took both hands and pulled his loose trousers up over the dome of his constitution; then pushing his right hand down into his pants pocket he pulled it out, full of what looked to be tobacco, Canada thistles and milk-weed chaff; after pouring this from one hand to the other and blowing the coarse gravel out, he tipped his mouth on top of his face, and raising his hand above, he let this junk roll into the cavity, just like trucking garbage into a skunk-hole. Then he turned and said, "Mr. Miner, do you know Mr. —?" calling his neighbor by name. "Yes," I replied, "I am well acquainted with him."

"Well," he said, as he raised one hand and came towards me, "that is just where you are mistaken. Now, Mr. Miner, you think you know him, but you don't. Then raising both hands, he continued, "Now let me tell you who he is, Mr. Miner: He is a limb of the devil," and he continued coming closer and going from bad to worse, saying nasty, unclean things about his neighbor until this combination in his mouth was all churned into a dirty froth, with the over-splash slopping out the corners and running down his chin like tar boiling out of a hot-box on a manure-spreader. So I excused myself: The engine in the factory needed my attention.

So now, when I think of this man's conversation I always think of the weasel, as I was sure I knew him. To prove I didn't, the third year I raised pheasants; these innocent-looking little vermin took over two-thirds of what were hatched. You talk about worms bothering the farmers' crops; they weren't in it. Really, these weasels bothered me more than the heavy mortgage that held my buildings down and took care of my insurance policy.

COLLECTIONS OF INSECTS

Talking of Insects with a school teacher the other day, I asked how many insects were supposed to form a collection. The reply was that there did not seem to be a fixed number, but she thought she ought to include more specimens next year so as to get a higher rating for her collection. With due diffidence I brought forward the suggestion that it might be more satisfactory if teachers would agree upon a definite number of specimens, named, if possible, and representative of the different families of the insects.

There appears to be a bias in favor of the "Rikker mount" or some modification of it, the insects being laid in cotton batting. I suppose it has a better appearance, but with this mount it is almost impossible to preserve the antennae intact; and these are often of the highest importance in determining a species.

bor by name. "Yes," I replied, "I am well acquainted with him." "Well," he said, as he raised one hand and came towards me, "that is just where you are mistaken. Now, Mr. Miner, you think you know him, but you don't. Then raising both hands, he continued, "Now let me tell you who he is, Mr. Miner: He is a limb of the devil," and he continued coming closer and going from bad to worse, saying nasty, unclean things about his neighbor until this combination in his mouth was all churned into a dirty froth, with the over-splash slopping out the corners and running down his chin like tar boiling out of a hot-box on a manure-spreader. So I excused myself: The engine in the factory needed my attention.

So now, when I think of this man's conversation I always think of the weasel, as I was sure I knew him. To prove I didn't, the third year I raised pheasants; these innocent-looking little vermin took over two-thirds of what were hatched. You talk about worms bothering the farmers' crops; they weren't in it. Really, these weasels bothered me more than the heavy mortgage that held my buildings down and took care of my insurance policy.

I watched them day and night. I shut the birds in so tight that they smothered in their pens, and yet the weasels got them. I sat on the fence and blew several into fragments with a load of shot, and would go to the house quite light-headed; next morning likely I would find ten or fifteen more dead pheasants. I put traps everywhere and caught as many pheasants as weasels. I used all kinds of bait, and failed. I tried to call them, but no, no. I took young, live birds and put them in a small mesh wire cage and set traps on the outside, but nothing doing. At last I brought the pheasants near the house and all hands watched them, and even then we lost some. I studied weasels night and day, but I was beaten. Where did they come from?

For there were weasels in the dooryard.

Weasels in the barn.

There were weasels in the hen-house.

Weasels all over the farm;

There were weasels in the engine room.

Weasels in the shed.

And when I went to sleep at night.

There were weasels in my head.

I could see weasels on the bare ground.

Weasels in the weeds;

I could see weasels in the pheasant-coops.

Doing their bloody deeds;

I could see weasels coming across the road;

I could see weasels in the lane;

And in the morning when I awoke I had weasel on the brain.

For in spite of all my determined efforts the weasels were increasing by leaps and bounds. Not that they were getting more numerous throughout the whole country, but they were simply attracted here by the pheasants, and it was no use, as there would be more and more next season. I thought I would have to give in, beaten. But Mr. Weasel had run up against a determined fellow to kill, and I was dying hard; and while it is not my intention to preach a sermon, yet I want to tell you what happened.

A few years previous to this, a dear little boy whom God lent to me for a short time climbed upon my lap, and putting his little arms around my neck with his sweet face looking into mine, pleaded with me to go to Sunday School with him and mamma. I unclasped his little arms one at a time, and

Spinning and Weaving

Send me in your wool to be spun into Yarn and wove into Blankets. The charges are: single yarn 23 cents doubled 26 cents per pound. Blankets \$2.00, and if unlaundered \$1.85; it takes five lbs. of wool per Blanket. Wool must be well washed and all dirt and burrs picked out. The size of single yarn is medium, and doubled yarn fine, medium, coarse and hooking yarn. Put shipper's name on all parcels and owner's name, address and instructions inside. Send by mail or freight. Freight will be paid on 100 lb. lots.

WM. LANDRIGAN, 65 Queen Street, Charlottetown.

Send me in your wool to be spun into Yarn and wove into Blankets. The charges are: single yarn 23 cents doubled 26 cents per pound. Blankets \$2.00, and if unlaundered \$1.85; it takes five lbs. of wool per Blanket. Wool must be well washed and all dirt and burrs picked out. The size of single yarn is medium, and doubled yarn fine, medium, coarse and hooking yarn. Put shipper's name on all parcels and owner's name, address and instructions inside. Send by mail or freight. Freight will be paid on 100 lb. lots.

Send me in your wool to be spun into Yarn and wove into Blankets. The charges are: single yarn 23 cents doubled 26 cents per pound. Blankets \$2.00, and if unlaundered \$1.85; it takes five lbs. of wool per Blanket. Wool must be well washed and all dirt and burrs picked out. The size of single yarn is medium, and doubled yarn fine, medium, coarse and hooking yarn. Put shipper's name on all parcels and owner's name, address and instructions inside. Send by mail or freight. Freight will be paid on 100 lb. lots.

Send me in your wool to be spun into Yarn and wove into Blankets. The charges are: single yarn 23 cents doubled 26 cents per pound. Blankets \$2.00, and if unlaundered \$1.85; it takes five lbs. of wool per Blanket. Wool must be well washed and all dirt and burrs picked out. The size of single yarn is medium, and doubled yarn fine, medium, coarse and hooking yarn. Put shipper's name on all parcels and owner's name, address and instructions inside. Send by mail or freight. Freight will be paid on 100 lb. lots.

Send me in your wool to be spun into Yarn and wove into Blankets. The charges are: single yarn 23 cents doubled 26 cents per pound. Blankets \$2.00, and if unlaundered \$1.85; it takes five lbs. of wool per Blanket. Wool must be well washed and all dirt and burrs picked out. The size of single yarn is medium, and doubled yarn fine, medium, coarse and hooking yarn. Put shipper's name on all parcels and owner's name, address and instructions inside. Send by mail or freight. Freight will be paid on 100 lb. lots.

Send me in your wool to be spun into Yarn and wove into Blankets. The charges are: single yarn 23 cents doubled 26 cents per pound. Blankets \$2.00, and if unlaundered \$1.85; it takes five lbs. of wool per Blanket. Wool must be well washed and all dirt and burrs picked out. The size of single yarn is medium, and doubled yarn fine, medium, coarse and hooking yarn. Put shipper's name on all parcels and owner's name, address and instructions inside. Send by mail or freight. Freight will be paid on 100 lb. lots.

Send me in your wool to be spun into Yarn and wove into Blankets. The charges are: single yarn 23 cents doubled 26 cents per pound. Blankets \$2.00, and if unlaundered \$1.85; it takes five lbs. of wool per Blanket. Wool must be well washed and all dirt and burrs picked out. The size of single yarn is medium, and doubled yarn fine, medium, coarse and hooking yarn. Put shipper's name on all parcels and owner's name, address and instructions inside. Send by mail or freight. Freight will be paid on 100 lb. lots.

Send me in your wool to be spun into Yarn and wove into Blankets. The charges are: single yarn 23 cents doubled 26 cents per pound. Blankets \$2.00, and if unlaundered \$1.85; it takes five lbs. of wool per Blanket. Wool must be well washed and all dirt and burrs picked out. The size of single yarn is medium, and doubled yarn fine, medium, coarse and hooking yarn. Put shipper's name on all parcels and owner's name, address and instructions inside. Send by mail or freight. Freight will be paid on 100 lb. lots.

Send me in your wool to be spun into Yarn and wove into Blankets. The charges are: single yarn 23 cents doubled 26 cents per pound. Blankets \$2.00, and if unlaundered \$1.85; it takes five lbs. of wool per Blanket. Wool must be well washed and all dirt and burrs picked out. The size of single yarn is medium, and doubled yarn fine, medium, coarse and hooking yarn. Put shipper's name on all parcels and owner's name, address and instructions inside. Send by mail or freight. Freight will be paid on 100 lb. lots.

Send me in your wool to be spun into Yarn and wove into Blankets. The charges are: single yarn 23 cents doubled 26 cents per pound. Blankets \$2.00, and if unlaundered \$1.85; it takes five lbs. of wool per Blanket. Wool must be well washed and all dirt and burrs picked out. The size of single yarn is medium, and doubled yarn fine, medium, coarse and hooking yarn. Put shipper's name on all parcels and owner's name, address and instructions inside. Send by mail or freight. Freight will be paid on 100 lb. lots.

THE BACK STRETCH

Continued from page 7

has invited Mr. Zwicker to give riding lessons to its members. He is past master in horsemanship and very popular wherever he goes.

Messrs. Well McNeill and Raoul Reynold returned from Halifax recently and we understand while there purchased two thoroughbred running mares which were winners at the recent races in connection with the Exhibition.

This seems to be rushing it a bit but it appears as an item in the American Sportsman of October 5th. "The three year old Lochinvar by McGregor the Great 2.03 1/4 was trained just five weeks on the pace prior to his appearance at Northampton, Mass., last Thursday where he disposed of a dozen opponents in 2.08 1/4.

Miss Bertha C. (3) 2.10 1/4 and Nervola Belle have themselves and their daughters each acquired the same number of 2.10 performers, namely 19, as follows. Miss Bertha C. three; Miss Bertha Dillon five; The Divorcee four; Jane Dillon four; Sister Bertha three; Nervola Belle six; Voiga six; The Great Miss Morris three; Beatrice Volo two; Donna Volo one and Lulla Volo one.

An epidemic similar to sleeping sickness among human beings has broken out among horses in Utah and Western Kansas. The State veterinarian of Montana has announced that a brain fever epidemic in Utah had destroyed a thousand or more horses.

Dr. Rryhstra of Kansas City College stated the disease was known as equine encephalomyelitis and was believed to be identical with the horse plague of 1912. From the description we would say that it is very much the same kind of a disease as destroyed some thousands of foxes in Prince Edward Island during the years 1929 and 1930.

Who says there is a shortage of cash in the U. S. A.? If you think so just listen to this: During the thoroughbred racing at the Salem, N. H. mile track this summer of a duration of approximately six weeks, the sum of \$11,568,230 was bet through the Pari-Mutual machines. The crowds were so great on holidays and Saturdays that only about one-third of them could be accommodated on the immense grandstands.

The man who built the above race track at Salem, N. H. sinking a fortune in it had endeavored throughout the last ten years of his life or ever since the plant was built, to have a bill legalizing Pari-Mutual betting passed by the State Assembly. Just a month after he died the bill was passed with the above result.

"In old Kentucky" is America's

exterminated that we only keep one weasel platform, as we call them, and catch two or three weasels a year.

Please let me ask you to excuse me for writing so much to say so little, but I want you to understand just how to head off this pest, as one weasel will kill as high as twenty or thirty young fowl in one night, and to know how to catch him the night before, instead of the morning after, is worth the price of this book a good many times a year if you have had a taste of my experience. And the great beauty of it is you cannot help yourself without helping your neighbor. Previous to my exterminating over ninety per cent of the weasels in this neighborhood, some of my neighbors were almost discouraged trying to raise young turkeys, and in fact, any domestic fowl but today these complainers seem to be a thing of the past and the weasel's annoyance, ancient history.

Imperial Biscuit Co., Ltd. Feed Imperials for fine pelts. Says Jimmie to Sammie "Tis true, Of fine fox pelts, I've raised quite a few. You take it from me, I'm now telling thee, 'Twas IMPERIALS that saw the job through IMPERIAL BISCUIT CO., LTD. Charlottetown, P. E. I.

most famous melodrama, only one other play, "Uncle Tom's Cabin." There would appear to be every indication that a considerable quantity of Canadian hay can be sold in the United Kingdom market due to light second cuts in Great Britain, states the Agricultural Department of the Canadian National Railways. Inquiries have already been received by exporters in Canada. Latest reports on the cereal harvest in Great Britain indicate a greater yield than was at first anticipated due to the unusually fine and dry weather which maintained during the summer. The wheat yield is estimated at 18.4 cwt (35.00 bushels) per acre, which is 1.5 cwt above the average for the past ten years. The expected potato yield is 6.4 tons per acre, which is 0.2 tons above the average for the past ten years.

Market For Hay In Great Britain

(Canadian Press) MONTREAL, Que., Oct. 12—There would appear to be every indication that a considerable quantity of Canadian hay can be sold in the United Kingdom market due to light second cuts in Great Britain, states the Agricultural Department of the Canadian National Railways. Inquiries have already been received by exporters in Canada. Latest reports on the cereal harvest in Great Britain indicate a greater yield than was at first anticipated due to the unusually fine and dry weather which maintained during the summer. The wheat yield is estimated at 18.4 cwt (35.00 bushels) per acre, which is 1.5 cwt above the average for the past ten years. The expected potato yield is 6.4 tons per acre, which is 0.2 tons above the average for the past ten years.

In an editorial, trotting versus running, in the last issue of the Horseman and Fair World, a comparison is made between the results achieved by the respective breeders of these equines. "The writer contends that in one respect the trotter has outstripped the American thoroughbred completely. For whereas there is no market for the American thoroughbred in foreign lands the American trotter there reigns supreme and has for many years past."

Following are the statistics regarding the Halifax races which regrettably could not be completed on account of the severe rain storm on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. There were eight events raced including a match race between Darkey Grattan and Calumet Brownie, which only went to two heats, thus making a total of 23 heats all won by pacers, the average time being 2:12 1/4.

The fastest heat of the meeting was in the match race won by Darkey Grattan in which he stepped the first heat in 2:08 1/4, one-half second slower than the track record of 2:08 made by Eula H. 2:08 1/4 driven by Billy Keyes in 1931. The slowest heat of the meeting was in the Junior Free For All, the first heat of which was won by Star G. in 2:16.

Of the \$2,150 in prize money, Nova Scotia horses won \$1,437, Prince Edward Island horses \$683 and New Brunswick horses \$30. Counting each start as a separate horse in each race we find that the Nova Scotia horses totalled 29, the P. E. I. horses 13 and the New Brunswick horses 3, showing that we won almost half the amount of money won by the Nova Scotia horses with less than half the number of starters.

By George Inus

Bringin' Up Pather BY GOLLY! WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH ME MANAGER THIS MORNING? HE LOOKS AS IF HE JUST FINISHED MAKIN' OUT HIS INCOME TAX. DID YOUR WIFE LEAVE YOU? DO I LOOK AS IF I WAS LAUGHING? WELL, WHAT'S WRONG? OH! MY WIFE HASN'T SPOKEN TO ME FOR SIX WEEKS. WELL, DON'T LOSE HER! YOU'LL NEVER GET ANOTHER ONE LIKE THAT.