

NEWSY FARM NOTES

By Agricola

MOUSE-EAR CHICKWEED

Being endowed by nature with a considerable share of curiosity (not altogether idle, I hope), I was impelled to take two seed pods or capsules of this plant home for examination. The capsules are small, but (as I said in my last notes) many-seeded. One contained thirty-six seeds, and the other nineteen; the latter were ripe at the time of examination, June 17th. A total of 55 seeds from two flowers and the field, whence I procured the pods had hundreds of flowers! Small wonder that it is becoming a troublesome weed.

purpose of improving the yield of grass and of keeping down the weeds. This spring we followed this excellent advice; only as a sprayer was not available we sowed the chemical lightly broadcast at the rate of 200 lbs. to the acre. The application was made on a second year hayfield, and the result is most encouraging. The timothy is twice the height on the treated part of the field and of a rich dark green. The untreated strip has a fair supply of daisy, but it is well smothered on the fertilized part. There is no question but that the advice tendered is of the utmost value to those who would have "two blades of grass grow where one grew before."

SUNSPOTS AND RABBITS

A paragraph in The Guardian reports that the Hudson Bay Company finds a connection between these two unlikely objects, thence the number of animals being taken at the sunspot minimum years as compared with the number of skins offered at the maximum years.

I am strongly of the belief that sunspot maximum years give rise to some factor which is inimical to the normal multiplication of animal life. Twelve years ago I contributed an article to the local press setting forth these views, and it may interest my readers if I quote it in part. "For example, Dr. Johnson writing of the spring of 1771, says: 'the season was so severe in the Island of Skye, that it is remembered by the name of the 'Black Spring' . . . Many cattle died, and those that survived were so emaciated that they did not require the male at the usual season.' Gilbert White (whose Natural History of Selborne is a classic) wrote the case was just the same with us here in the south—whole dairies missed being in calf together." Now 1770 was a maximum sunspot year . . . We are just passing out of such a period now; the winter of 1917-1918 was very severe and in the spring there were few litters in the fox ranches and domestic rabbits which usually littered in April had no young till the end of June, and those few in number." The year 1918 was, I may say, maximum sunspot year.

So much for the extract. It will be observed that these writers (and myself) were inclined to blame the severe cold for the general barrenness of the animals; but there may be another explanation. It has recently been found that on exposing an egg to the X-rays, part of the germ is "killed" and the egg which might in the ordinary course have produced a rooster, invariably produces a pullet. It is well known that the sun, during an outburst of sunspots, emits a superabundance of ultra-violet rays, and perhaps other of these rays, is not yet cognizant; and it may be that this radiance is the cause of the sterility.

THE FARMER'S NEED

On a recent occasion, Dr. E. S. Archibald, Director of Dominion Experimental Farms, reviewed the needs of agriculture in Canada, which he summarizes under five principal sections as follows:

Canada needs the greatest possible co-operation between the livestock and poultry producers within all parts of Canada toward improving production methods, lowering production costs, improving selling methods and improving distribution methods.

We need the greatest cooperation between producers of animal and poultry products with the grain growers and manufacturers of mill feeds toward the financing and holding of feed stores for use in Canada.

There is need for the developing of a much broader statistical study which would show trends in production markets and costs, not only in Canada but in other countries as well, which would be a guide to economic increases in Canada's production. The newly created Branch of Economics in the Federal Department of Agriculture should form a splendid nucleus for this work.

There is a need for the study of means by which increased consumption of milk, cheese, lamb, beef, etc. especially of Canadian origin, might be affected within Canada.

Whether increased production in Canada comes now or later, livestock farmers must be prepared for the same. There never was a better time to liquidate all cull livestock than at the present favorable prices. This in itself raises the average standard and production capabilities of our livestock to a degree which not only lowers production costs but places us in a better position to face whatever market conditions we may have to meet.

ART FORGERIES CAUSE STIR IN FRENCH CIRCLES

PARIS, June 25—Mass production of "old masters" and other forms of fraud have upset art circles in France. The resulting agitation has led Pierre Ramel, former minister of fine arts, to urge creation of an official bureau whose staff findings would supplant present reukabee upon "expert opinion."

He believes that with the proper kind of laboratory tests such a bureau could guarantee the genuineness of disputed works of art and eventually curb the faking which, some critics say, is of factory proportions. The Louvre maintains a laboratory in charge of J. Fernand Cellerier, a scientist of note, where chemistry and X-rays are used to determine the genuineness of pictures acquired for the government. But this service is not available for private buyers.

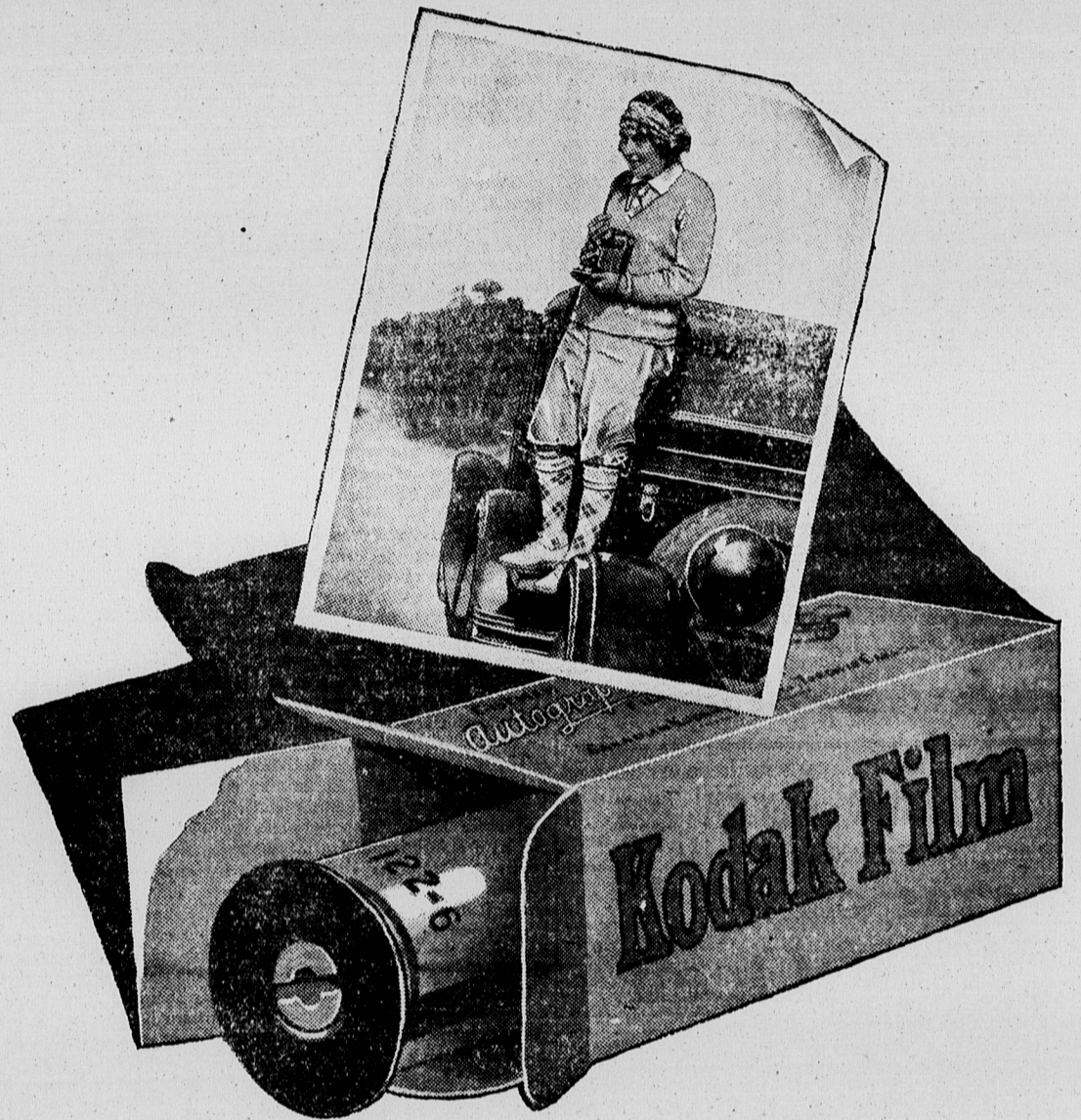
The case of Jean Charles Millet and Charles Gazet has focused attention on the subject. They are charged with operating a factory which turned out paintings bearing the signature of the former's grandfather, the world famous painter of "The Gleaners," "The Angelus," and other noted pictures. Whatever action the courts may take on this couple, there is frank admission by art authorities that galleries and markets harbor thousands of bogus masterpieces.

Even the Louvre has been victimized. Two "Watteaus," bought three years ago for \$60,000 have been declared to be by a far less important painter, Quillard. The Louvre now is trying to get its money back under a French law which compels dealers to refund the price when a guaranteed work turns out to be spurious.

Corot, great painter of landscapes, is credited with the paternity of about 30,000 canvasses, thousands of which he never saw. He himself was responsible for the signatures on some of them. He was widely copied and knew it and sometimes when owners asked if their paintings were genuine, he would touch up a fake, sign it and say, "Now it is a Corot."

Modern painters, however, are less charitable toward imitations. Many of them have demanded removal from art stores of certain pictures credited to them and one last year

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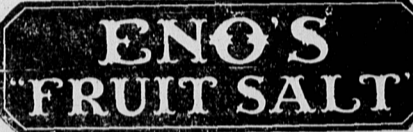


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Changes in Train Schedules

Effective—June 29th

Train No. 39	Leave Charlottetown	7.00 A. M.
	Leave Borden	6.45 A. M.
	Leave Sackville	9.15 A. M.
	Arrive Sackville	11.50 A. M.
	Arrive Moncton	12.15 P. M.
	Arrive Moncton	1.45 P. M.
Train No. 41	Leave Charlottetown	2.30 P. M.
	Leave Borden	1.30 P. M.
	Arrive Sackville	5.35 P. M.
	Arrive Sackville (Maritime Express)	8.40 P. M.
	Arrive Moncton	8.55 P. M.
	Arrive Moncton	10.15 P. M.
Train No. 40	Leave Moncton	4.10 P. M.
	Leave Sackville	5.30 P. M.
	Leave Borden	8.45 P. M.
	Arrive Charlottetown	10.45 P. M.
CHARLOTTETOWN — SUMMERSIDE — TIGNISH		
Train No. 54	Leave Tignish	3.35 A. M.
	Leave Sackville	3.20 A. M.
	Arrive Charlottetown	10.30 A. M.
Motor Train No. 205	Leave Summerside	8.15 P. M.
	Leave Charlottetown	2.40 P. M.
	Arrive Charlottetown	5.15 P. M.
(No change between Tignish and Summerside)		
Train No. 208	Leave Borden	7.05 A. M.
	Leave Sackville	6.50 A. M.
	Arrive Summerside	9.50 A. M.

ABOVE SERVICES DAILY EXCEPT SUNDAY

SULPHUR AND CURRANTS

It was at Kentville, N. S. I believe, that the control of blister rust on currants, by the application of sulphur dust, originated, and from personal experience I find the control most effective. I added a slight proportion of the old Paris green and flour mixture to the dry sulphur and applied the lot with a hand "cyclone" blower. The bushes had two applications ten days apart, and the foliage which in previous years would drop in early summer, is now healthy and unharmed by fungus "worm." The chief difficulty which I see, is to catch a calm day when the leaves are damp with dew or rain; for in this district there is an almost constant breeze. Perhaps, under such circumstances, the "duster of sulphur" (potassium sulphide) spray might be tried. It is a good fungicide and is colorless, which is an advantage in certain cases; I have used it against tomato-leaf rust when I grew tomatoes in a glass-house, against Rose-mildew, and Chrysanthemum Rust. The formula I followed was to dissolve one ounce of potassium sulphide in a quart of hot water, and then make up to two and one-half gallons with cold water. Being a clear liquid it will not clog the spray nozzle; it should however be used immediately on making as it loses strength by standing.

A SULPHATE EXPERIENCE

On two occasions The Guardian has printed an article from the pen of Prof. J. A. Clark, advising the application of a sulphate of ammonia spray to the pastures, for the double



went about slashing canvasses which he declared to be forgeries. When experts disagree now there is none to decide the question. Hence visits to museums reveal many paintings "attributed" to certain artists, revealing the doubt that exists as to "the authorship of even some acknowledged historic works."

Such a disagreement in 1920 caused a ten year debate that has not yet been ended although a suit in New York for \$500,000 against Sir Joseph Duveen, noted British critic, was settled out of court May 20 of this year. That action was brought by Mme. Andree Hahn of Paris, owner of "La Belle Ferroniere" which some experts had attributed to Leonardo da Vinci. She based the action upon Sir Joseph's opinion that the painting was put on the canvass about 300 years after the death of the Italian master, alleging that this conclusion had stopped negotiations with the Kansas City Art Museum which was ready to pay her \$250,000 for the painting.

The settlement was an inconclusive one on the merits of the work as the debate which accompanied the controversy, Mme. Hahn was announced as "very well satisfied" from a monetary standpoint but Sir Joseph stuck to his opinion. So did proponents of Mme. Hahn.

TO PAY HONOR TO LIBERATORS OF LATIN AMERICA

WASHINGTON, June 21—Twenty-one free American republics will render fitting homage to General Simon Bolivar, liberator of South America, and his marshal, Antonio Jose de Sucre, on the centenaries of their deaths this year. The celebration was provided for in a resolution offered in the governing board of the Pan American Union by Eduardo Diez de Medina, Bolivian minister to the United States.

Venezuela, and his marshal at Quito, Ecuador. The programme for Bolivar's centenary also provides the laying of wreaths on his statue in New York City by special representatives of the governing board.

Bolivar was born in Caracas in 1783. He traveled extensively and also studied in this country before assuming leadership in Venezuela's revolt against Spanish dominion in 1810.

General Sucre also was born in Cumana, Venezuela, in 1785. Joining General Bolivar's organized effort to drive the Spaniards out of all South America he led a victorious Colombian army through Ecuador and Peru. Outstanding victories credited to his military genius were those of Pichincha in 1822, and Ayacucho in 1824, the latter decisively marking the independence of Bolivia. He was assassinated in 1830 in Colombia.

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