

FARMERS, STOCK BREEDERS AND GARDENERS

NEWSY NOTES

BY AGRICOLA

MR. TUFTS' LECTURES

Requests for Mr. Tufts' lectures are still coming in occasionally, and it would appear that the writers are under the impression that Mr. Tufts is still on the Island. That is not so; and if my correspondents will again refer to my former notes, they will see that his next lectures will be given in May 1934. Applications will of course be kept and dealt with then.

In making arrangements for the previous lectures applicants were asked to give the number of the Lot where they resided, to save trouble in locating the school when its locality happened to be unknown. Only one applicant thought it necessary to do this. And in the Birdhouse contest, where the same rule applied, the results were the same; one contestant included the Lot in her address and the others didn't. Inattention to details of this kind is a blemish on our national character.

Since writing the above, the mail brought a letter from Mr. Tufts, who evidently enjoyed his visit as much as our folk enjoyed his lectures. He writes, in part: "I wish to take this opportunity of expressing my deep appreciation for your interest in my work as manifested by the trouble you went to in so satisfactorily arranging my itinerary while on the Island. At each place I was favored with packed halls and the audiences seemed most appreciative. The first night, at Brackley, I was delighted to find four boys in the audience who were able to name every bird that I showed and on enquiry I found that their general knowledge of the birds of Prince Edward Island had been largely gained through the contests which you had held in 'The Guardian,' and I might say that their ability to name these birds was outstanding."

"It was most gratifying to learn that other districts wished to see my slides and films and I hope to come back next spring for further educational work on similar lines."

ODDS AND ENDS

That Fishbone Thistle.—A correspondent who is growing specimens of this thistle (whose scientific name is *Chamaepeuce cassabonae* if you must know) asks if they will stand the winter. The plant is a biennial and will therefore flower, seed, and die next year, in the natural course of things; but being a little tender it must be protected during the winter. I have had these thistles winter well when covered by two feet of snow, at a time when specimens in the open perished. A covering of leaves, held in place by an open framework of twigs might be tried. I notice that the frost which caught the cucumbers, has also burnt the tips of my thistles.

I have some seed of this plant still on hand, and would forward a little to any reader on request. It is a highly ornamental plant and always attracts attention.

When the freeze-up comes I make a practice of covering tender plants, like primroses, etc., with green spruce boughs; this protects them and at the same time keeps the weight of snow from squeezing them flat.

Feline longevity.—Traditionally a cat is said to have nine lives, and "Dolly Newton," who belonged to J. S. McGroarty, play-wright, of California, made the most of them.

for she has just died at the patriarchal (or should I say matriarchal?) age of twenty years. She was thought to be one of the oldest cats, if not the oldest, in America. According to Frank H. Cross, who wrote her obituary, Dolly Newton was a remarkable cat. "She received letters from all over the world, took pleasure in automobile rides, and performed many tricks. Her famous owner maintained that the line between her and human intelligence was very thin and vague."

A work of reference gives the duration of the average cat's life as ten years, but I imagine this to be too low an estimate: twelve years would be nearer the mark. My own "harmless necessary cat" would doubtless be proud of his fifteen years, if he were gifted with speech, for he is a well-preserved animal and shows little of the ravages of time, which, as the Latin poet says, is the "edax rerum." But even he would fall silent in the presence of a neighbor's cat who was a kitten when the age I moved here eighteen years ago! Is there any feline in the province whose age exceeds this?

Starling Trap for Orchards. In the Sept. 14th issue of the "Farmers' Advocate" is figured a simple trap designed and set up by two orchardists in Ontario, whereby they caught some hundreds of starlings which had been robbing their orchards. A similar trap was used by Jack Miner against crows, but was baited rather differently. In using traps of this kind, it must be emphasized, that the captives should be killed and removed only after nightfall. If this is done in daylight the "free" birds will see the massacre, and will soon fight shy of the trap. The starling is a cute bird!

Hungarian Partridge: a complaint. A western farmer's voice a complaint through the press thus: "We have had an extraordinarily dry summer. . . . Although it is yet August, trees, fields, and many gardens, look like the end of October. Not only are grasshoppers bad, but rabbits and Hungarian partridge have done much damage." This is the first intimation (that I have seen) of this bird becoming a menace to a culture. I have, however, seen them feeding in my buckwheat patch, but I suppose they are too few yet to do much harm.

A friend who called on me last Sunday, told of finding the nest of one of these birds: it contained thirty eggs piled two deep! If our poultry would lay like that!

A tribute. The September number of the "Canadian Horticulturist" contains an editorial tribute to the memory of the late Dr. W. T. Macoun, Dominion Horticulturist. "Taken ill during the course of his annual trip through western Canada, he returned home, and falling to recover, passed away on August 13th. . . . He was a kindly man ever ready to help others with their gardening problems. His passing leaves a gap which will be difficult to fill."

It was my privilege to have Dr. Macoun visit me on one occasion and I was struck with his friendly personality and with the wide range of his knowledge. We often corresponded after that, and his letters always conveyed the information requested in a kindly humorous way. With us his name had become a household word, and I mourn him as a personal friend.

Roman Britain, (A. D. 360)

In concluding our last study of the Roman occupation of Britain we observed that six or seven of the Emperors had visited the Island in person, that some had made a prolonged stay; and that all had attached the greatest importance to the safety of the southern part of the Roman province. And we asked, what was the reason of all this oversight and effort?

In the first place, the British Isles had a much milder climate than the near-by continental regions. This, of course, we now know to be caused by the warm waters of the Gulf Stream, which circulate round the islands. In the second place there was, even in pre-Roman times, a fringe of cultivated lands round the coast, which gave token of a fertile soil. These two factors drew wave after wave of invaders to the desirable shores of Britain.

In travelling over the north of England, even in the most "out of the way" places, one cannot fail to notice the evidence of an immense population in those early times. Scarcely a hill-top and displays the

Wood Ashes For Light Soil

From 25 to 50 bushels of wood ashes per acre will furnish from 60 to 120 pounds of potash, the latter an ample dressing for even very light soils. They are not needed on heavy clay loams, indeed their use on such may destroy good tilth and do more harm than good. For clover, corn, and mangels, the ashes will be found very valuable, especially are they beneficial for orchards and for grapes on sandy loams. For turnips, mixed with one third to one half their weight of bone meal, they have similarly proved advantageous. There are few crops on light and gravelly soils, as also on vegetable loams inclined to be sour, for which wood ashes cannot be employed with profit.—Dominion Chemist.

circle of mouldering earthworks that formerly protected their towns; and this in places where one would now go many miles before seeing a human habitation. Rome was the first great civilized power to be brought into contact with Britain, and her rulers immediately perceived its importance as a source of an almost unending supply of warriors who were so valiant as to stand up bravely against their own well armed, well-trained men.

We find, then, three powerful reasons for the interest displayed in the distant province: a comparatively mild climate, a fertile (if as yet uncultivated) soil, and a brave and warlike people to draft into the army. To the two latter Rome applied that unequalled genius for organization which had raised her to the proud position of mistress of the known world. Kingsley, in the introduction to "Hypatia," says that this genius and the uniform system of external law and order "was generally a boon to the conquered nations, because it constituted a fixed and regular spoliation for the fortuitous and arbitrary miseries of savage warfare," and so it was in this case, since history, tradition, and ethnology point to the pre-Roman era as that of numerous bitter and internecine wars.

Under this relatively enlightened policy, Britain quickly became known throughout the Roman Empire for its agricultural and other products. At the period now under notice (about the year 360), the Emperor Julianus II. in one of his orations, states that when he commanded in Gaul agriculture had been so entirely interrupted in the countries lying along the Rhine, by the ravages of war, that the whole of the population was about to perish of famine. Julianus promptly ordered 600 corn-ships to be built on the Rhine, with timber from the forest of the Ardennes; and these made several voyages to the coast of Britain, and returned up the Rhine laden with British corn—which was probably oats and barley. The grain was distributed among the fortresses and towns on the river, and was in sufficient quantity to avert the threatened calamity. The historian Gibbon has supposed that each of Julian's corn-ships carried at least seventy tons, but as we are not told of the number of voyages each made, we cannot compute the total quantity; it would seem, however, that the country was very extensively, and, perhaps, for the age, very well cultivated.

With a large population, great riches (as evinced by the numerous splendid villas whose foundations and ornaments are still coming to light) and an advanced stage of agriculture, manufactures and trade must have been carried on in Britain to a very considerable extent. One of the most important was the manufacture of pottery, not only of the directly useful sort, but also of such objects as statuettes, ornamental beads, and other objects of vertu. A little distance of the Medway (a tributary of the Thames) there is a stratum of broken pottery often a foot thick, which is found at a depth of three feet below the surface of the soil. This immense layer of broken pottery, mixed with plenty of vessels in a perfect or

nearly perfect state, has been traced at intervals, to a distance of six or seven miles in length and two or three in width! The prevailing color of this "Upchurch pottery" is a blue-black, which was produced by baking it in the smoke of vegetable substances. At Castor (note the word) in North Hants, the site of the old Roman town of Drobrivae, was another pottery, equally extensive, where work of a much superior character was turned out. The Castor pottery was generally of a bluish color, but the ornaments and figures are in relief and are sometimes white. The kilns have followed the clay beds for twenty miles!

The Romans made more use of the mineral productions of Britain than we are inclined to suppose. Coal was mined when it lay near the surface and the mineral was probably burnt chiefly in the district in which it was found. When the Northumbrian station of Burocovius, on the Roman wall was excavated, nearly a cartload of coals was found in the guard house at the principal gate. Solinus, who wrote a "Polyhistory," says that the perpetual fire on the altar in the temple of Minerva at Bath, did not fall into white ashes but as the fire wasted away, "verit in globos saeoles,"—turned into stony globules; a neater name than clinkers!

The greater proportion of British exports during the Roman occupation consisted of the metals iron, lead, tin, and copper. A mass of ancient iron scoriae, at Oaklands in Surrey, when cut into for materials for roadmaking, was found to be twenty feet deep! Its date was settled by the discovery of Roman pottery and coins intermixed with the cinders. The writer saw a similar heap at Lanchester in north-west Durham. Very many traces of Roman iron-work are met with all over the country. Tin was found long before this era and procured the islands the name of Cassiterides or Tin Islands. Pliny, in the 35th Book of his Natural History, states that tin was so plentiful in "Britannia," and so near the surface of the ground, that a law was made restricting the quantity produced each year. Pigs of lead stamped with the names of the earlier emperors have been found near Stockbridge in Hampshire, and at Matlock in Derbyshire, and silver has been found in conjunction with them. Copper, in the form of bronze, was however the metal most in favor for the manufacture of both useful and ornamental articles, and formed the great part of the mineral exports. Small wonder is it that the Romans devoted so much care to the protection of their island province!

The Sensational Dairy Cow

CANADIAN JERSEY MAKES WORLD RECORD

The Jersey cow Brampton Basilia imported from Jersey Island, and owned and tested by B. H. Bull & Son, Brampton, Ontario, has recently completed a phenomenal butterfat record on September 25th.

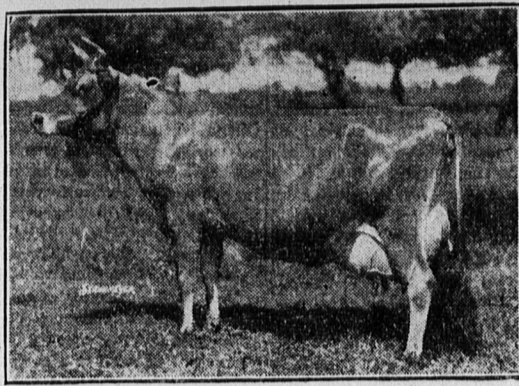
This wonder cow went on test at 5 years of age and has produced 190123 lbs. of milk, 13128 lbs. of fat.

This is the highest record ever made by a Jersey cow. It is also

duced 11,751 lbs. of milk, 668 lbs. of fat, winning a silver medal certificate.

By the end of 1933 there will have been completed by Jersey cows on the farm of B. H. Bull & Son over 500 records and probably no other privately owned herd in the world has accomplished so much along this line. The Brampton herd is the largest Jersey herd in the British Empire, where there are kept over 800 head of registered Jerseys.

To date in Canada there have been five Jersey cows that have



completed records in excess of 1000 lbs. of fat, including Basilia. Two of these were bred at Brampton, and one was brought in from the States by them.

Three world's records have been made by Jersey cows in the last twelve months and the sire of one of these was bred at Brampton.

Basilia has given the richest milk of any world's record cow to date. She is also the smallest cow to ever make over 1,250 lbs. of fat and her fat production exceeds her own weight by more than that of any other high producing cow of any breed.

Apple Tree Blights

The Department of Agriculture Entomological Branch at Annapolis Royal, N.S., replying to Mr. J. A. Ready, Kensington, regarding an enquiry in reference to the leaves dying on certain of his trees writes: Mr. J. A. Ready,

Dear Sir,—Your sample of damaged leaves which were forwarded originally to the Experimental Farm, Ottawa, was submitted here.

The insect responsible for this damage is the apple and thorn leaf skeletonizer. This insect is a comparatively new arrival in the Maritime Provinces, being first observed in Nova Scotia about eight years ago. Since that time we have heard many records of it from practically all parts of the Maritime Provinces, and in many cases it has been responsible for extreme defoliation of trees, both apple and occasionally thorn.

The adult of this insect is a small dark colored moth. On warm days at this time of the year, and in fact on warm days any time between now and Christmas, these moths may be observed, flying or walking about in warm sheltered places. They may frequently be observed in large numbers at the present time in clusters of hydrangea blossoms. The adult winters under trash such as dead leaves, remaining as the adult, all winter.

In late spring the insect deposits eggs on apple foliage, which hatch and the caterpillars may be observed through the early part of the summer. Some times this first generation of caterpillars are readily noticeable, but more frequently they are not very numerous. These caterpillars pupate in a folded leaf and adult moths emerge about midsummer. These in their turn lay eggs, from which there is produced a second generation of caterpillars. The work of this second generation is generally more conspicuous than with the first, and the damaged leaves which you submitted are undoubtedly the work of the second generation. When very numerous leaves may be attacked on all parts of the tree, but as a rule when not very numerous they seem to have a decided preference for terminal growth.

The insect is readily controlled, and while on many occasions it has frequently defoliated neglected orchards in this vicinity, there are never any but a few stray leaves attacked in our commercial orchards. This has applied even where neglected orchards were in the same vicinity as commercial orchards.

I am enclosing copy of spray calendar, (can be had for the asking) which may be of interest to you apart altogether from the standpoint of this insect. Where sprays are applied in late May or June, the first generation of this insect is destroyed so that there are none, or practically none, left to produce a second generation. Persons not very familiar with the spraying of apple trees are apt to miss the tip ends of branches. It

Fox Farming Now an Established Industry

(Canadian Trade Abroad)
Furs are one of the oldest, if not the oldest, of Canadian products. From the days of Jacques Cartier and John Cabot, the fine pelts of Canadian animals have been eagerly sought by other nations and the early fur trade laid the foundation for the Canada of today.

The name of Prince Edward Island is indelibly linked with the pioneer efforts and with the experiments which have led to the production of a type of animal that has given Canada dominance in the field. This province still maintains its leadership in the Dominion.

Canadian fox furs are sold throughout Europe and in increasing quantities in the United States. Equipment of a fox farm may range from a few improvised pens to many of the latest type, covering hundreds of acres. The pens on the average farm are specially constructed to give the best care and protection for the animals. The foxes are fed on the same type of food as the fine breeds of dogs, and special biscuits have now made their appearance on the market.

Canadian fur exporters were affected to a considerable degree in past years by the establishment of many fox and other animal farms in Europe. In Germany, 803 farms for silver foxes, zobel and nutria, have been established during the past eight years and the price brought by the fur was the same as that paid for Canadian and Alaskan furs.

This situation is now changing, however. Apparently the foxes in the second generation, and even more in the third, lose the dense long hair, as the climate of Europe is not favorable to the growing of a strong fur. Therefore, prices of imported fur, particularly Canadian, are better than those for the home German product. In 1932 the price difference was approximately 10 per cent, but the auctions at Leipzig this year have seen the difference grow to 25 per cent, and it is considered probable that this will be still greater in the immediate future.

The Dominion Department of Agriculture maintains at Summerside, P.E.I., a fully equipped and modern experimental fox station. From it the breeders obtain important information of the latest results of research and experiments. It is hoped eventually to extend it to include mink and other furbearing animals.

Italy And Wool

Italy, almost alone among the principal wool-consuming countries of Europe, says the Empire Marketing Board, has been able during the present economic depression to consolidate the enormous expansion of its wool textile industry that occurred in the war and post-war periods. This expansion has been built up with the aid of an effective protective system, which has enabled the industry to capture almost the whole of the domestic market and, at the same time, to penetrate into foreign markets. About two-thirds of Italy's imported wool supplies in recent years were derived from British Empire countries. Italy's exports of all wool tissues (non-printed) to Canada from January to May of this year amounted to 33,000 lbs.

A Tip To Lawn Growers

All forms of nitrogenous manure increase the growth of grass at the expense of clover. On the other hand, phosphatic fertilizers increase the proportion of clover. This is sometimes overlooked by owners of lawns who, rightly deprecating the spread of clover upon them, do the very thing to increase the clover by top dressing with a phosphatic fertilizer, such as superphosphate or basic slag, instead of relatively stimulating the growth of grass by applying nitrogen in the form, say, of sulphate of ammonia. Increased growth is obtained chiefly in the spring by nitrogenous fertilizers, but the increase through phosphatic fertilizer is maintained throughout the growing season.

It is important in combating this insect that the tips of all the limbs should be covered with spray owing to the fact that this insect has a decided preference for that location. If, for some reason, it is not desired to use a fungicide, lead arsenate 3 lbs. per 100 gallons is a sufficient dosage, assuming the trees are thoroughly covered.

Yours truly,
A. Kelsall in charge of Insecticide Investigations.

Jack Miner And The Birds

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

CHAPTER VI
Raising English or Ring-necked Pheasants in Canada.

Having often heard father speak of the English pheasant as a beautiful game bird, and as I was overly anxious to pay Canada back some of the birds I had murdered in my younger days, I decided to try these pheasants.

In 1895 I sent to Pleasant Ridge, Ohio, for two or three settings of English pheasants' eggs. I felt sure this climate would agree with them as they were exactly the same breed as I was, English buck-eyes! However, I was smart enough not to ignore my mother's kind offer, and I let her have one setting to hatch for me. I paid particular attention to the two hens I set, scarcely allowing them to get off the nest; and here is where I now believe I made the mistake. Not one egg hatched. But dear mother signalled me to come over and I was right there. Her old hen had hatched eleven. Mother smiled and gave them to me, then and all, but told me to leave them with her until the next day. Then I moved them, and raised nine to the size of quail, when a dog killed four, leaving the old hen and me with only five. Four of these proved to be males and a cat owl killed the hen. March, 1896, found me with four beautiful male birds only.

I had now learned that a gentleman in London, Ontario, had English pheasants for sale, and my experience had proved that an English buck-eye hatched up to a Canadian was a joyous, satisfactory cross, with the human race. I wrote this man and secured two hens which were undoubtedly English-Canadian. I liberated three of the four male birds and put the two hens in with the one male; and from this trio we hatched sixty-two pheasants. Then I enclosed four acres with a wire fence seven feet high. Along one side I made several brood pens about two rods square, each. I put one male bird with every five hens, putting plenty of gravel and grit in each pen so as to secure good digesting powers. I also gave the birds plenty of shade.

Our pheasant hens laid from thirty-five to fifty eggs each between April 15th and June the 15th. By giving the old birds lots of grit, the egg shells were very hard. I used Wyandotte hens for mothers, putting from twenty to twenty-five eggs under each hen and setting them on the damp ground as much as possible. The eggs, like quail eggs, hatch in twenty-four days. I pursued the same course, all through, as I have described for raising quail, only the nest and coop are one-quarter larger. I used the insect powder by the pound. I usually set four or five hens at a time; keeping a record of the same. I knew when to prepare for a hatch. I penned them in front of her for two or three days, the same as with the quail.

When raising pheasants, I never let hens out of the coops. When birds are from six to eight weeks old I take the hen away but leave the coop there. Coops may be set around like bee-hives, two or three rods apart. I painted my coops, some white and some red; the little fellows will know their own coops and will not forget them. Remember, I have experimented

with a great variety of pheasant foods, I have raised flies by the tens of thousands to feed to them. To do this I would take a piece of meat, say of beef's liver, allow the flies to blow it, and a few hours later throw the meat in a barrel; the barrel would be partly filled with rotten sawdust and the top of it would be covered with a screen, with a hole left about an inch in diameter. In a few days the maggots would have the meat all eaten up, and would have disappeared into the sawdust below. In about two weeks the barrel would be simply full of flies. I would now put a small flytrap over the hole, darkening the rest of the screen; the flies would come to the light, get into the trap, and when in the small trap could be either scalded or drowned. I have also fed the pheasants the maggots. But to raise either flies or maggots is not as desirable for the nose as it might look from the eye and both are unnecessary. Feed a little custard and when about two weeks old, add corn-meal to it. Keep them hungry and let them hunt for insects. Exercise is what they need and what they must have. When birds are three months old, they should be caught and shipped.

The high fence for young is unnecessary, for your birds will know you and will be just as tame as chickens. In this way I made my pleasure self-sustaining, and I would often let an old hen and fifteen or twenty go. The finest brood I ever saw was out of two poor hatches. I put twenty-five with one hen in about a week I let her and all out. They roamed all over the premises, but of course, like spiteful deeds and chickens, they came home to roost. I fed them just enough to give them a sweet taste in their mouths, and the hen raised twenty-three of them. How they did grow! Finally she left them and they went to the woods about one-half mile away.

In this way I stocked this township so I could have shot a two-bushel bag full in half a day. Two miles north of my place there were twenty-eight seen dusting in the road at one time. But to-day I doubt if there is one left in the township. Men came for miles and miles around. Yes, I have seen them come twenty-five miles to hunt rabbits in this neighborhood! Now I don't want to insinuate that all rabbit hunters were hunting pheasants, but what I really want to say is that all pheasant hunters were hunting rabbits!

CHAPTER VII
The Natural Enemies of Our Bird.

Now we come to the most serious question that the bird-lovers of America are up against; and until this great question is settled, we shall continue to pull against each other.

At a sportsman's show in Michigan I once saw one-half dozen mounted hawks in a glass case, and there were thousands of school children looking at them. The label read: "These are all valuable hawks." Another man will say, "Protect the cat-owl, or great horned owl," and possibly this same man will advocate the destruction of the wild house-cat when the positive fact is that this owl is nothing but a wild house-cat with the advantage of wings!

(Continued on Page 5)

Bulbs Bulbs

We have just received our fall stock of BULBS direct from HOLLAND for fall planting and early Spring Bloom. All first size Bulbs.

HYACINTS (Double and Single).

TULIPS (Double and Single) CHOICE FALL DARIUM TULIPS, NARCISSUS, DAF-FODILS, CROCUS, SNOW-DROPS, FREESIAS all at lowest prices. Now open in our BOOKSTORE.

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