

FOR FARMERS, STOCKBREEDERS AND GARDENERS

NEWSY NOTES

BY AGROLOGA

THE ANGLO-SAXON CHRONICLE (Continued)

In 975 A.D. Edgar, King of Wessex, Mercia and Northumbria died, after reigning sixteen years. Six Kings were tributary to him, and in spite of the yearly invasions of the Danes, his reign may be regarded as one of the more notable of the Saxon times. The ancient writer is inspired to write a threnody which rises to a higher level than the terse, matter-of-fact statements so usual in the Chronicle.

"Here ended his earthly dreams Edgar, of Angles King; whose him other light, serene and lovely, spurning this frail abode, a life that mortals here call lean he quitted with disdain. July the month, by all agreed in this our land, who ever were in chronic lore correctly taught; the day the eighth, when Edgar, young, rewarder of heroes, his life—his throne—resigned." The year is marked by the appearance of a comet, which is blamed for the famine that follows. Then, too, was seen, high in the heaven, the star in his station, that far and wide wise men call—lovers of truth and heavenly lore—comets by name. Widely was spread God's vengeance then throughout the land, and famine scourged the hills.

Portland, plundered, and London burnt by the Danes in 992. By 991 the terror of these sea-robbers was so great that Archbishop Birce advised the King to "pay tribute" to them. "That was first 10,000 pounds." The Danes were back next year! Cornwall, Devon and South Wales were raided in 997 "and there was much evil wrought in burning and manslaughter." The raiders burnt Lidford (Lidford) and the minister or church at Tavistock. (Lidford is thus about one thousand years old—which must interest our Devonshire friends.)

In 1013 the country had been so over-run that when King Sweyn (Sweyne) of Denmark came with his fleet to Sandwich the people submitted without a blow being struck. Sweyn's progress throughout the land was unopposed and King Ethelred fled to Normandy, a journey that was destined in the long run, to overthrow the Saxon rule. The Danish King died early in 1014, and his son Knut (the Canute of the story-books) became ruler of England. To unite the two dynasties he married the widow of King Ethelred, and excepting for the imposition of very heavy taxes, the Chronicle is loud in his praise; he seems to have been just to both Saxons and Danes.

On the death of King Knut in 1035 the nobles north of the Thames elected his son Harold as their ruler; a trace of this procedure is still to be found in our coronation ceremony. Earl Godwin opposed the resolution, as did the "eldest men" in Wessex, but without effect. Harold reigned only "four years and sixteen weeks" and on his death his brother Hardacnut was asked to rule; but his admirers soon changed their opinions, for he framed nothing royal during his whole reign. He ordered the dead Harold to be dragged up and thrown into a ditch. His reign, luckily for his people was short and his end just what might be expected. "A.D. 1062: This year died King Hardacnut at Lambeth, as he stood drinking; he fell suddenly to the earth with a tremendous struggle; but those who were night at hand took him up; and he spoke not a word afterwards but expired on the sixth day . . . and ere he was buried all people chose Edward for King in London." This was the old Anglo-Saxon line restored, and it is evident that, though preference was naturally (and appropriately) given to hereditary claims, the monarchy at that time, and long afterwards, was in principle elective. The ideas of divine and indefeasible right, or of hereditary claim, are modern innovations.

Edward had spent a long time in Normandy and liked the Norman ways. Where he could, without offending his subjects overmuch, he brought in Norman advisers and ecclesiastics, and thus opened the door to the Norman conquest of England in 1066. We have now got to a period which is treated at great length in the Chronicle, but as the narrative has been very extensively drawn upon in the construction of our modern text-books of history, it is not necessary to weary the reader by repetition.

In conclusion we may reflect, as does the collator and translator of the manuscripts, that "the Saxon Chronicle gradually expires with

the Saxon language, almost melted into modern English, in the year 1154. From this period almost to the Reformation, whatever knowledge we have of the affairs of England has been originally derived either from the semi-barbarous Latin of our countrymen, or from the French chronicles of Froissart and others."

PLANT A TREE!

In a most interesting letter, my valued correspondent, Mr. Laidlow Jenkins of Marshfield, puts forward the suggestion that we all plant a tree on the occasion of the King's Jubilee. The idea is a capital one, for it can be carried out without any great expense, and will add to the interest and beauty of our surroundings. Mr. Jenkins credits the Jack Miner League with the inception of the plan, and suggests that the tree be called the "King's Jubilee Tree." The letter goes on:

"By the way, wouldn't it be a good idea to have a small tablet put on the tree planted by King Edward VII when Prince of Wales? This tree is on the farm of the late Henry Longworth, now owned by Mr. Lincoln Wood. It is an American Linden (or lime-tree) and is now over two feet in diameter and about sixty feet in height. It is a beautiful tree and still looks young in spite of its seventy-five years. Few people of my present age are aware of its existence, much less of its location, and, if it is not marked in some way it will doubtless soon be forgotten by everyone. Campbell's history of Prince Edward Island says: 'In the afternoon His Royal Highness took another ride into the country, making a brief halt at the farm of Mr. H. Longworth which was for the purpose of planting this tree, although the history does not say so.'"

"At the same time the oak tree planted by the present Prince of Wales, when on his visit to the Island a few years ago, should also be marked. This is in the grounds of the Charlottetown-Experimental Station. The oak was procured from Mr. J. Walter Jones of Bumbury, and being planted at a very unreasonable time of the year, for quite a while it was undecided whether to live or die; but that was tended by the many punctuations of water, it decided to live and is now growing handsomely."

"I am glad to see that the bird sanctuary at Black Pond is going to be a reality at last. Our mutual friend Mr. J. Frank Sterns, of Souris, deserves part of the credit for his advocacy of the matter."

"You would notice in The Guardian of April 23rd, a letter from Mr. Neil McKenzie, of Broderick, Sask., in which he makes reference to an account of the 'Riel Rebellion' as given in The Family Herald, and to an Islander, Sergeant J. Martin, who was one of the party that made a perilous escape down the Saskatchewan river from Fort Pitt to Battledore. Mr. McKenzie says he was informed that Sergeant Martin was in reality a man named Mitchell and that after his retirement he lived for some time at New Dominion. Sergeant Martin's name was J. Martin Mcintosh, and not Mitchell, but he enlisted twelve years before the rebellion under the name of J. A. Martin."

"The Guardian of Sept. 1st, 1930, gives an account of the early trek to the North-West as told by Sergeant Martin and written by myself; he enlisted in Toronto on Oct. 8th, 1873, and started next day for Winnipeg. The Red River was reached on Halloween, but the ice was making and the ferry boat could not run that day; but next day all hands with horses and equipment crossed on the ice. After training all winter a start was made for the Rockies in the Spring. Not a living soul was seen all summer in crossing the Great Lone Land. Fleece, scarcity of water, enteric fever, and a fearful snowstorm lasting for two days and nights on Sept. 15 and 16, all had to be endured, until on Oct. 13th when they arrived at their destination. Space forbids to tell of the hardships of the first winter or the years following. The article closes with the following note: 'Staff Sergeant Martin participated in many other striking events spread over twenty years of active service; among which was the North West Rebellion. Sergeant Martin (and kept a store) near Afton Hall, New Dominion, in the years 1900 and 1901, after which he returned to Charlottetown, where he died about

Seed Treatments For The Control Of Grain Smuts

(Experimental Farms Note)
Since 1919 approximately 20 million bushels of smutty wheat have been shipped from Western Canada. This represents a loss in market value of about \$2,000,000, and a total loss from smut during this period probably in excess of \$10,000,000. In Prince Edward Island loose smut of wheat and loose smut of oats are very destructive. In 1934 wheat loose smut was widespread through the province, a trap to 55 per cent of the heads was destroyed by smut, while on the average, 10 per cent of the heads was affected. Similarly it has been found that loose smut of oats causes an annual loss of at least 5 per cent in Prince Edward Island.

How is this problem of smutty grain to be met by the farmer? There is only one answer—seed treatment—the treatment of all seed grain, even if it appears to be clean. Is it sound business to risk losing several dollars per acre by a treatment which costs only about 5 cents per acre? There are many different kinds of smuts, but in considering methods of seed treatment, it is only necessary to separate the smuts into two groups.

In the first group the spores are carried on the outside of the grain. To this group belong bunt of wheat, covered smut of barley and the loose and covered smuts of oats. During threshing, spores of these smuts are carried over the outside of the sound grain. When such seed is sown the following spring the smut spores germinate by sending out very fine threads which grow into the young seedlings. During the summer the smut continues to grow within the plant and at harvest time it produces a mass of brown spores inside the seeds. In threshing, some of the spores are again dusted over the sound grain and thus the smut is carried over from year to year.

Formalin is the most commonly used fungicide for the control of these smuts by the following method: Place the grain on the granary floor or in a wagon box, and spread it out in a thin layer about 4 inches deep. Sprinkle the formalin solution over the grain, then shovel the grain into a fresh pile and sprinkle again. Repeat this process until each kernel is moist. Thirty gallons of solution will treat about 50 bushels of grain. Heap the grain into a pile and cover it with bags moistened with the treating solution to keep in the fumes. Leave the grain covered for at least four hours before seeding. Formalin-treated grain must be sown soon after it is treated, and not allowed to dry out or some of the seed will be injured.

The other group of smuts are the dusts, copper carbonate and Ceresan. The former may be used against wheat bunt and covered smut on hullless oats, (2 ounces per bushel), while Ceresan (1-2 ounce per bushel) gives splendid control of all smuts of this group. In the other effective fungicides such as Liberty and Laurel, should not be

used for this purpose. A year and a half ago, aged 90 years. "A short time before his death the R.C.M.P. at Charlottetown obtained a great deal of data from him, regarding the early days of the name of the party that made a perilous escape down the Saskatchewan river from Fort Pitt to Battledore. Mr. McKenzie says he was informed that Sergeant Martin was in reality a man named Mitchell and that after his retirement he lived for some time at New Dominion. Sergeant Martin's name was J. Martin Mcintosh, and not Mitchell, but he enlisted twelve years before the rebellion under the name of J. A. Martin."

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Tall, Stately Larkspurs Best For Cutting

HARDNESS AND EASE OF CULTURE MAKE THIS GRACEFUL FLOWER A FAVORITE WITH FLORISTS AND AMATEURS ALIKE. PLANT SEEDS WHERE FLOWERS ARE TO GROW.

Favorite among florists and amateurs alike as a cut flower for arrangements and bouquets is the larkspur. This highly developed annual, whose delicately shaped petals and tall graceful spikes have been admired the world over for centuries, has attained a place in the garden picture which yields only to its own ever changing and improving developments.

New forms, new colors and new shapes have been the rule with larkspurs, until today it is one of the most useful garden annuals. Backgrounds are its special province as a decorative flower, and where sufficient space is available, nothing is more beautiful than a waving bed of tall spikes in a single color.

Few annuals are easier to grow. They may be sown early in the spring where they are to grow or late in the fall just before the snow falls. In either case an abundant showing will result, with little care. Seed should be sown generously where the plant is to grow, and then thinned out when the shoots begin to rise. They do not like transplanting, but in view of their adaptability to almost any condition, this is not much of a handicap. Four or five seeds to hills 1 foot apart, or 6 inches apart for

treated with formalin, as the seed will be injured and the smut poorly controlled.

The second group of smuts to which belong the loose smut of wheat and the loose smut of barley, the spores are not enclosed, but form a mass of blackish-brown powder as the smutted heads emerge from the sheath. These spores are blown away by the wind and settle within the flowers of healthy heads of wheat or barley. There they germinate by sending out fine threads which grow into the young kernel. The smut is now established in the seed, which appears to be perfectly normal. However, when one of these smutted seeds is sown the following spring the smut also becomes active and enters the young seedling, grows within the plant during the summer, and finally converts the heads on the smutted plant into black spore masses. The spores are carried away to repeat the process by infecting other healthy plants. These smuts are living as they do within the seed cannot be controlled by treating the seeds with chemicals. The only satisfactory method of controlling the loose smuts of wheat and barley is by the use of the hot water treatment.

The method of this treatment for wheat and barley is as follows: Place about half a bushel of grain in a burlap bag; soak for 4 hours in cold water; then dip for about 2 minutes in water at about 120 deg. F. so as to warm the grain; then place the bag for 30 minutes in water kept during the treatment as nearly as possible at 130 deg. F.; take the bag out and place it in cold water for a few minutes; then spread the grain out to dry. It may be seeded as soon as it will run through the drill; but if it is to be kept for some time before seeding, it should be allowed to dry out thoroughly, otherwise it will sprout.

Further information regarding seed treatments may be obtained from the Dominion Laboratory of Plant Pathology, Charlottetown, P.E.I., or the Division of Botany, Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, Canada.

half a guinea, or even, we believe, a guinea (roughly \$5.25) while smaller ones may be had for half-a-crown (60 cts.).

The usage of these cakes is evidently one of great antiquity. It appears from one of the epigrams of the poet Horace that at the beginning of the seventeenth century, it was the custom at Gloucester for young people to carry Simnel's to their mothers at Mid-Lent or Mothering Sunday. It appears from other writers of this period, that these simnels, like the modern ones, were boiled as well as baked.

Lots Of Leaf Lettuce

Next to radishes, lettuce is the earliest spring seeded vegetable crop. Cool weather and fast growth are its particular needs, and although we can grow some varieties of lettuce through most of the season, the early crop is the best, and we should plan to have an abundance of them.

Sow seeds at intervals during early spring so that new plantings will take the place of exhausted ones, and give a continuous supply.

Leaf lettuce is in ill-repute among city people for some time. This is no doubt caused by the quality of leaf sold on the market, several days old. Home-grown leaf which must necessarily be one or two days old, is as crisp and tender as the head varieties.

For a late crop, cool lettuce is good; it withstands the hot weather better than the leaf, and is much easier to grow than the heads.

Cabbages And Cauliflowers

HOME SOWING IN FLATS OR HOTBED ASSURES A BETTER CHOICE OF VARIETY AND IS ECONOMICAL.

The early thaws and lengthening days bring to mind the first seed sowing tastes of spring. Cabbages and cauliflowers comprise one of these early sowings when seedlings are grown in flats or hotbeds. Although many gardeners buy their seedlings for planting later in the season, home growing is more economical, and will provide a greater latitude in choice of varieties.

These two large vegetables demand considerable space in which to grow. For the city gardener who has but a small area, they might be ignored in favor of the smaller vegetables, but where space is no problem, cabbages and cauliflowers, especially the latter which are expensive to buy, will be welcome. Plenty of room, a rich fare and sufficient moisture are good rules to follow. Because of their weight and bulk, they need at least 2 feet of room per plant each way. This gives them a large area of soil from which to draw food. Cauliflower plant food will prove economical in the end, as they respond quickly to such treatment and are the better tasting from the fast growth.

The small gardener who wants only a few heads of cabbage for immediate use might well specialize in the Savoy type. This cabbage does not have the keeping quality of the commercial varieties, but for flavor and tenderness when grown for immediate consumption it is without a peer.

Cauliflower is almost a luxury when bought at market prices. For this reason many families lose this beautiful and delicious vegetable

for their meals. The individual attention given to them brings about their high cost, and although they need no less attention in the home garden there is no cash outlay for it.

When the little plants get to be about the size of an apple, gather up the leaves in a cylindrical form and tie them securely. This will help to make the "snowy" "curds" or flowers which form the most tender part of the plant.

Before the heads form, dust or spray them to keep off the cabbage worm. The early varieties take about 75 days to head properly, and the late about 90 days.

Cauliflower will not keep for a long period of time, but certain varieties of cabbage may be put away in a cool cellar to furnish a crisp salad or cooking vegetable for most of the winter.

enough to eat from the regular mash hopper. For the first week or ten days feed five or six times per day, leaving the mash in front of the chicks for 15 or 20 minutes at each feeding. When the chicks are larger and when out of range the mash should be available at all times.

The above mash may be used until the chicks are about 3 to 5 weeks old, when "steel cut" oatmeal or ground hullless oats may replace in the corner, further, removed from the stove. The corners of the brooder room should be out off at an angle by erecting board or chick-wire barriers so that piling in large groups may to some extent be avoided.

As soon as the chicks are placed in the brooder house they should be given skim milk to drink, and chick grit should be spread thinly on clean boards for the chicks to pick. Chicks should not receive any other food during the first 24 hours in the brooder house. Following this they should be fed a mash made up as follows:

80 lb. of white cornmeal.
20 lb. white middlings
5 lb. pearl grits
5 lb. fine bone meal
1 lb. fine table salt
1 to 2 lb. of cod liver oil
Cod liver oil is difficult to mix with the mash. The easiest method we have found for small quantities of mash is to pour the oil in the corners, then add other ingredients. Spread this mash on clean boards for the first two or three days feeding, being sure that sufficient boards are set out so that all chicks get something to eat. After the first several days the mash may be placed in shallow troughs until the birds are large

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TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH Silver Fox Farming



W. B. McArthur, Kensington, is another of the successful breeders this season. As a matter of fact Brad is always successful. Fourteen litters looked at had 64 pups.

We had a short talk the other day with Sam Tuplin (Jim's brother). It seems only like yesterday that Sam moved in from Black Banks, but he says it was 1922 and he must be right. Older foxmen will well remember the good foxes that Sam raised. After Jim sold out in the fall of 1920 to W. K. Rogers and Stanley Wedlock, Sam decided to do likewise and his fine breeding stock passed into their ownership. "What was the best price you ever received for a pair, Sam?" we asked. "\$1,350 was my high price although I often received eight and nine hundred and even a thousand for good specimens."

W. J. Wilcox, Vice-President and Sales Manager of Shredded Wheat Company, Toronto, has been spending several days in the province visiting wholesalers and fox ranchers. He is represented here by Robert Mutch, Mt. Herbert, Mr. Mutch has a big turn out this year, four litters of seven and only four misses.

H. J. Kennedy, Southport, is another breeder who has had a delightful surprise lately. Jack has a nine! Just one behind Colonel Fred Andrew, whose ten are still alive and doing well.

Friday we had a conversation with William MacLeod whose Willow Croft fox ranch succeeds Chalkers Court. He and Claude Smith, who is located a few hundred yards away just opposite the golf links, are keen students of the fox game and everything that pertains to it. They are the kind of ranchers that are willing to share their experiences with others for mutual good. Both have found the season favorable. Mr. MacLeod has an average of over three and Claude says it is the best season yet.

See him smiling! We refer to Dr. Leo Farnham who has received word from the Hudson's Bay Company, London, that his crosses averaged \$40.71. We saw them and can truthfully say they were the silkiest and in many respects the best crosses we have seen in years. They were obtained by mating Alaska males with Prince Edward Island females. We did not think the London market would show such a favorable reaction to Island bred crosses, but the attractiveness of the Doctor's pelts did the trick. This season he has mated up about 75 Alaska-P.E.I.s, so he will be O.K. whichever way the cat jumps as he has a large number of straight silver breeders.

By the way, we asked him if he was getting a new automobile and he said he did not know, the one he had now was O.K. but he had been offered a good trade for his new one. Then we reminded him of the fact that when in partnership with Colonel Farnham in the spring of 1919 we had sold him a seven passenger Oldsmobile for \$3,450. Those were the good old days when money was plentiful and the word depression was never heard!

Claude Smith brought up a good point when we were talking to him, and that is the importance of ventilation. Most of the fox houses are not equipped with ventilators and there is a tendency in cold weather for frost to form on the inside of the cover. The heat from the foxes meeting this causes dampness and perhaps fox losses.

It is Claude's belief that many of the dens are too warm and that a hole or two should be bored in the top of them to permit hot air escaping. Perhaps it is this that causes them to have their litters outside the dens. Now that the warm weather is coming it might be well to place a small piece of

stick under the covers of the den for ventilation purposes.

W. K. Rogers' ranch at Kinloch which is managed by his son, Major Tom Rogers, is having a very successful production this year, which will be good news to their many friends. Talking over old times with W. K. we asked him if he had any records of the big prices he had received for pelts. He fished in his pockets and brought out two postcards, one being an account sales from Alfred Fraser, New York, dated August 22nd, 1916, for one silver fox skin sold at \$1,300 with net proceeds of \$1,221.

Mr. Rogers the same year sold two pelts from year-old foxes at a thousand dollars apiece. "I remember very well looking at them as pups," he said. "They were so small that I told Mr. Gard I did not think they would ever be good, but he took good care of them and carried them through the winter and the next year they had improved so much that we knew they would be good pelts."

Another interesting account sales received from Lampons by Mr. Rogers had reference to the sale on the 11th of June, 1919, of 24 silver fox pelts. The two highest brought \$180 each and two others brought \$175 each, the average for the 24 being \$550.

Mr. Raoul Raymond, Honorary President of the Charlottetown Riding Club, had many complimentary references made to him at the annual meeting of that body held a few days ago. Mr. Raymond is Prince Edward Island's largest breeder of silver foxes, having over 1,000 pairs in his ranch at Southport. Last season he had an excellent production and no doubt will be equally successful this year.

It is a pleasure for us all to see Mr. Raymond doing so well, because every enterprise that makes for the public good has in him a warm friend and supporter. As our readers know he is contributing to the horse breeding industry through the purchase of a magnificent thoroughbred stallion, and has reared several good trotters and pacers and possesses some beautiful saddle horses. We hope later on to have an interview with him and get some facts which we can use in these columns.

In last night's mail we received a sample of whale meat made of the meat of the whale, from Stavanger Federabrik, Stavanger, Norway, the analysis of which looks good. The letter which accompanies it is in English and states the merchandise is very fresh, being manufactured aboard a floating whaling station in the Antarctic as soon as the whales have been captured. The price delivered at Quebec, Halifax or Saint John, packed in new bags of 80 kilos, is \$10.00 per hundred. A kilo is about equal to two pounds so that the concentrated whale meat would cost about five cents per pound.

The letter further states: "Here in Norway there is sold very much whale meat as fox fodder. You

(Continued on Page 13)

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