NEWSY NOTES

BY AGRICOLA

GERALD THE WELSHMAN (3)

As we have seen, Gerald was the first Welshman to volunteer for the Crusade, at the initial meeting at Radnor; but nowhere can I find that he actually saw service in Palestine. Archbishop Baldwin did go, and there died, a victim of "hunger and want; and distempered by the inclemency of the air". This, however, is ahead of the story.

The Bishop of St. David's, was the next to sign on for in those days the clergy were great fighters and avoided the injunction against the shedding of blood by using an iron mace (club) instead of a sword or spear. Many others signed up, among them Rhys ap Gruffydd, the Prince of Demetia (South Wales) but, says our historian, his wife, by female artifices, diverted him wholly from his noble purpose.

The canons of St. David's now approached Rhys, in whose territory that Bishopric was, with every possible suggestion to prohibit the Archbishop from visiting that part of Wales. Rhys would not listen to these plans but he might appear uncivil to his august visitor, and the Archbiscopal party went forward early next morning.

One may summarize by saying that similar scenes were enacted at all the stopping places of this tour, and that three thousand men were marked with the "sign of the Cross." The route followed led from Radnor southward to Cardiff (Caerdyf) then eastward by way of Swansea to St. David's (the Roman Menapia) once the seat of an Archbishop of Wales, but at the time of Baldwin's visit reduced to a Bishopric. Turning north up the coast the party visited Cardigan, Lampeter, Harlech, Carnarvon and Bangor. They crossed to Mona or Anglesey; and returning passed eastward through Conway and St. Asaph's (another see), to Chester on the Dee. The road now led south through Shrewsbury, Dudlow and Leominster, to Hereford. Referring to the map, the route will be found to follow the Welsh coast closely, excepting on the border near England.

It is not the accounts of the recruiting efforts that are entertaining; the interest of every chapter lies in the anecdotes and odd happenings of the districts through which the party passed. Sometimes we might suppose that the inhabitants of a town or village were "pulling Gerald's leg" when telling him of strange events; till we remember that in those dark ages superstitions of all kinds flourished. Demon and incubus still conversed with mankind in Wales, and sometimes worked at menial tasks. "In our time, lived a Welshman named," says Gerald "who...acquired the knowledge of future and occult events. He had extraordinary familiarity with unclean spirits," who used to assist him in foretelling coming events: he knew when anybody spoke falsely for he could see the devil leaping and exulting on his tongue: if evil spirits oppressed him too much, the Gospel of St. John being placed on his bosom, like birds, they immediately vanished. But that book being removed, and the "History of the Kings of Britain" by Geoffrey Arthur (of Monmouth) substituted, they instantly returned in greater numbers and remained longer than usual on his body and on the book. Quite evidently the demons were aware that Geoffrey's history was not as authentic as it should have been, and the matter is the more mysterious because Melerius was totally illiterate. A number of other demonical and ghostly visitations gives rise to the question: "In all these singular events it appears to me most wonderful that he (Melerius) saw those spirits so plainly with his carnal eyes, because spirits cannot be discerned by the eyes of mortals, unless they assume a corporeal substance; but if in order to be seen they had assumed such a substance, how could they remain unperceived by other persons who were present"? Gerald admits that this "stumped him" and closes the chapter.

THE DAY LILIES

There is in some of our gardens, a plant which is locally called an "Orange Lily", though it is nothing of the sort. It has sturdy leaves, grass-like but much wider and longer, which all spring from the rootstock; and amongst them rise sturdy round stalks bearing a small cluster of flower-buds, two or three, usually. In a normally dry summer these buds open and fade successively, one at a time, and each lasting but one day. The flowers are of a dark rusty orange color in the species usually grown here hence the name "Orange Lily." The correct name is the "Day Lily", and if you wish to be still more correct you may prefix the adjective "Tuwny"; or to the botanist—who likes to have things correct!—the plant is Hemerocallis fulva. In cool or wet weather the flowers do not wither so quickly and may last two or even three days.

The Yellow Day Lify (H. flava), a neater, more artistic-looking plant, with buttercup-yellow flowers and a delightful perfume. It is not such a rampant grower as H. Fulva, which is an advantage unless one has a large perennial border. The requirements of the Day Lilies are simple, merely a mulch of decayed manure in Spring.

ODDS AND ENDS

Drying Rhubarb: Now is the time for laying in a stock of dried rhubarb for next winter's use. For curiosity—that is a foible of the writer's!—I weighed out a pound and a half of stalks and dried them; when the dehydration was complete they weighed just over two ounces! They had lost approximately 92 per cent of their weight.

Another Plant Recorded: On the side of the lane through a hayfield, I found a plant the like of which I had not seen for forty years. It was the Yellow Sweet Clover, (Melilotus officinalis (L.) Lamarck), often called Yellow Melilot in Britain. A visitor to whom I showed it, told me that he'd seen it on the Island previously, but as it is not mentioned in our local flora, I take this opportunity of putting it on record.

Farmers or Peasants? A letter in the Farmer's Advocate should cause all the men of that occupation "furiously to think." The text is in the words: "In recent years the growing disparity between farm prices and the price of industrial products has reduced the rural community almost to peasantry." Government statistics show taxes and industrial prices higher than before the war, while the price of farm products is not as high. That is a matter about which there will be no controversy.

The writer of the letter confines his attention to farm machinery. It is, he avers, 50 per cent. higher in price than it was in 1913. Farm products are little, if any, higher. The price of machinery has not fallen because the managers of this quasi-monopoly have restricted the output. The production figures of the four big companies show that output is now only 20 per cent. of the 1928 figures. Prices were thus maintained but employees were dismissed. At one time 7,000 out of 10,000 employees were on the relief rolls. It was noticed that not so many executives were dismissed which leads to the sardonic remark that "apparently a factory can work better without laborers than without executives." Also he finds that there are no excessive executive salaries. Maybe so; but there used to be a system of annual bonuses to the chief executives of some industrial concerns, that greatly increased their salaries without directly advertising the fact.

The high cost of implements cannot be laid to the workers, for the average yearly earnings of factory workers in 1929 were $1200, whereas in 1933, this had sunk to $840. Rates of wages in one plant in 1934, he says, were 71 cents per hour for foremen to 29 cts for youths—the last a mere pittance as times go in towns.

The writer of the letter sees the only remedy in the nationalizing of the factories. Our previous experiments with nationalization do not seem to warrant the success of his plan: still it is a healthy sign when farmers are sufficiently alive to the need of a change, and can give statistics for it.

"Hymns to Other Words." In a well-known magazine the other week, appeared a set of verses — well enough written and applicable to the times—but under the heading were the words "To be sung to Melita or St. Catherines". Now "Melita" was composed by the famous Dr. John Bacchus Dykes, Rector of St. Oswalds, Durham, and he composed it especially for the words "Eternal Father, strong to save"; and so firmly wedded has it become to that magnificent prayer (if I be allowed the expression) that both words and tune are known to those who go down to the sea in ships and are as familiar to the French navy as to our own. To use tunes for any other words but those that inspired them, is to cheapen the tunes; to set at naught the inspiration. Imagine Dykes's Lux benigna (Lead Kindly Light) sung to other words; or W. N. Monk's Eventide (Abide with me, fast falls the eventide) sung to verses with which they have no emotional link! My theory is that if the new words are inspiring enough, a musician will arise to give them an immortal tune!

Dr. Dykes composed the tune St. Agnes for the beautiful verses of Bernard of Clainvaux beginning "Jesu, the very though of Thee with sweetness fills the breast". All my life the tune suggested the words or the words the tune, because these were no alternatives. One got the words off to sing to the tune. Now I notice that in our "Book of Common Praise" that lovely tune is used for no less than five different sets of words, of various moods, and in my opinion not all suitable.

And by the way, I recall that the late President Wilson, some years ago, stirred up quite a breeze by criticizing what he called "religious rag time." Publishers of that day were putting out volumes of popular Sunday School songs and anthems, which were meaningless, trivial, and unworthy the exalted theme of religion. "Contrast the banality of "Beautiful Isle of Somewhere," he said, "with the dignity and exaltation of

Jesu, the very thought of Thee
With sweetness fills the breast;
But sweeter far Thy face to see,
And in Thy presence rest."

On the Radio. By far the most amusing "broadcast" on the radio comes from New Carlisle at 9.15 a.m. each day. It narrates the adventures of the Honorable Archibald Chiselbury a good fellow, with an Oxford accent, and an excitable nature; and his Japanese houseboy, whose English is at times marvellous. But 9.15 a.m. is not the best hour for the general public.

I like to look over what the B.B.C. are doing sometimes, and I noticed that at 10.15 every morning the regional stations switch on to the National for what is briefly termed "Service." That being rather vague I followed the programmes up with the result that one morning I found the qualifying word "Thanksgiving Service." Then I understood: the B.B.C. was providing family prayers when the bustle and hurry of the morning had subsided. This is as it should be, and is worthy of more general imitation.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

SOME INJURIOUS INSECTS

(Continued)

In addition to the common bud-moth, there are several other species of bud-moths that attack our apple crop. All, however, pass the winter in silken cases in similiar situations to that of the bud-moth previously described. All come out at approximately the same time in the spring and feed on the buds. In June and July they pupate, coming out in about two weeks and depositing their eggs, from which emerge larvae that pass the winter in a partly grown condition on the twigs.

The Oblique Banded Leaf-Roller

Though resembling the common bud-moth in general feature of its life history and habits, this insect differs from it in not always been found concealed in its leafy nest. Occasionally they may be found wandering freely over the leaf and when not feeding they have a habit of rolling over and tying down the edges of the leaf with silk. If distrubed they will suddenly wriggle backward and spin down on the fine threads. The newly hatched caterpillars found emerging during the latter part of July are often seen spinning down on their silk threads to the lower limbs. When they finally settle down they feed by preference on the under surface of the leaf, beneath loosely woven silken shelters, partially skeletonizing it, but leaving the upper skin intact. They go into winter quarters about the end of August. The fore wings of the moths of this species are a light cinnamon-brown color, crossed with many lines and provided with three brood, oblique, bands of dark brown, their characteristic form being quite noticeable. It has a wing expanse of about an inch. The eggs of this species are laid on the upper surface of the leaf in thin, flattened, overlapping masses appearing to be covered with a thin film of wax. The larvae are given with shiny black head and "neck", lighter beneath.

The Green Bud Worm

This insect resembles the leaf-roller in being less dependent on its nest and also in its habit of dropping on a silken thread if disturbed. Upon emerging from the egg, it, however, like the common bud worm, feeds as a semi-leaf miner in its tube next a rib, and injures the fruit in a similar manner. Larvae mature in the second and third weeks of June, pupate and emerge during the latter part of June and first part of July, the first adults being seen about a week before those of the common species occur. Their eggs resemble those of the common bud moth in appearance and manner of deposition. The insect gets its name from a general gray, but with outer half of fore wings much lighter in color than the basal portion.

The Lesser Bud Moth

This insect, unlike the preceding, feeds as a leaf-miner on emerging from the egg. These eggs are laid on the upper side of the leaves, placed in a row next to the midrib. Its manner of boring into the buds and its general habits are similar to those of the common bud moth. The larva is about 3-8 of an inch long when fully grown and is brownish green or greenish-brown in color, when young it is a general russet brown with darker head. The moths have a wing expanse of slightly less than 1-2 inch. The fore wings being white, thickly sprinkled with darker markings.

Control of Orchard Bud Moths

Since most species may be controlled in a similar manner, this aspect of the question may be treated under a common heading, noting those cases that require special treatment. Two sprayings or dustings are usually recommended for these insects, the first applied when the young leaf is about 1-4 of an inch in diameter and the second just before the blossoms open. In the case of the oblique banded leaf-roller special attention should be given to the after blossom or calyx application, as at this period the insect feeds more in the open and are more susceptible to treatment. Experiments indicate that the largest number of eye-spotted bud moth larvae are destroyed by this or the previous application. Lead arsenate (powder) 1 lb. to 40 gals. of Bordeau mixture or lime sulphur spray, applied thoroughly and at a good pressure are the materials commonly used. Thoroughness and high pressure are as important as the material used, though, where this pest is troublesome it may be well to increase the arsenical content of the spray or dust by one half or even double it. The operator should endeavor to secure a good pressure and to drench the trees thoroughly, covering every part, when attempting to reduce a bad infestation of these injurious insects. In dusting the same applications are made. Commercial Bordeau or copper-lime-arsenic dust containing 8% of arsenate of lime, or 90-10 or 85-15 sulphur-lead arsenate dust are commonly employed. The latter gives better results where bad infestations occur and may be substituted for the former under- such conditions, or special Bordeau dust with a higher arsenic content may be employed. It has been noticed that too thickly planted or too thinly headed trees often suffer worse than well-spaced reasonably thinned trees and windswept orchards less than shaded orchards.

AGRICULTURIST

TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH *Silver Fox Farming*

What is described by Fur of Canada as an outstanding convention was staged by Western Canada fur breeders at Winnipeg, June 10th and 11th. Editorially, that Journal says:—"The Canadian silver fox was definitely on trial. The sum of evidence led clearly to an unanimous indictment. There are too many rusty foxes produced in this country. Something will have to be done about it.

On the other hand ranch mink received high words of praise from men of knowledge and authority. When such a leader as Elwyn Ingrams, fur sales manager of the Hudson's Bay Company at London, assured breeders that mink breeding is a "best bet," it can be taken for granted that this is so. At the same time Mr. Ingrams gave timely warning about the need for producing the exact type demanded by the trade. His words should be studied and heeded.

The Convention brought to the assembled breeders a wide view of the ramifications of their industry, a vision of the inherent greatness of its future. Apart from the specific and practical features of the event, this outlook, on the whole encouraging, was a needed tonic. From the dark picture of silver fox quality even there emerged a broad ray of hope. Silver fox breeding in Canada still is and will be a fine and profitable industry. There is ample evidence that breeder opinion all over the Dominion has been aroused about the silver fox situation. In one or two seasons from now material results should begin to be evident because the industry is too valuable to neglect. The double pressure of higher food costs and more competitive markets may, in the final analysis, be a good thing for the industry. For one thing it has already led to a less provincial attitude on the part of breeders, a keynote thought at the Convention. We cannot sink or swim as localities. Our destiny is national.

Diversification received well merited attention in the addresses and discussions. The fur trade was definite in declaring that wild furs are forthcoming in seriously diminished quantities, and in urging the ranchers to be prepared to benefit by the opening of new fields of production. The ranchers cannot hope to endure forever on the production of only two items. He must explore and perfect the production of further varieties."

Reference has been made to the address of Elwyn Ingrams, fur sales manager of the Hudson's Bay Company, London, England. Mr. Ingrams recently visited this Province and was very much struck with its beauty, productiveness and hospitality of its people. Our readers will, I am sure, be glad to get his impressions of fur farming in Canada, and so we are publishing them in brief.

"Mr .Chairman and Gentlemen:—I believe we have the advantage in London of being able to compare the silver fox production of Canada with Scandinavian countries, and the particular point I wish to bring out in regard to Canadian production is that although Canada produces a stronger fox than Scandinavian countries I am afraid that you are falling behind in color. Comparing foxes from the two countries showed that up. I do not want you to understand that each and every skin from Scandinavia is perfect and that Canada cannot produce fine foxes. We do get some fine foxes from Canada and some pretty poor stuff from Scandinavia, but on the whole I am afraid Canada takes second place. It is pretty obvious that the man who produces poor color and poor quality foxes is going to be the first to feel the pinch. It is evident that so many of these poor foxes will not be worth while producing.

Other speakers will no doubt be able to give you very helpful advice on how to eliminate such quantities of this rusty fur as are exported from Canada every year. I can only suggest that every effort should be made to meet together and discuss the various problems that confront you in this industry. It is very important that you have sufficient information on breeding. One hears too little of color and quality. The production of better breeding stock is certainly essential for the future of this industry.

I have just returned from a trip to the West Coast and had the good fortune of meeting a number of fur breeders in Edmonton and Calgary, and the question which I was asked most was, "Is the popularity of the full-silver fox come to stay? Is it likely to become permanent?" This is a question that I am afraid no one can answer with any degree of certainty. I think the full silver is the finest type of skin for the manufacture of capes. But we must not forget that fashion depends so much on the whim of smart women and with all due respect I am sure that this is not the most stable foundation on which to predict the trend.

I am sure that the black fox has not very much of a future when it is such a simple matter today to imitate it and the imitation sometimes looks better than the one it is imitatingg. If I were in your end of the business I would avoid entering into the full silver type of skin. I am mentioning that fickle lady Dame Fashion. I think it is a very good thing to spread one's risk, if you have not already done so. In addition to running three or four phases of silver fox I would suggest entering into the breeding of other furs. Mink breeding has a big future. As you know, there are other furs that are well worth while experimenting with. Supplies of wild marten are diminishing at an alarming rate and I would urge that every effort should be made to try and breed that animal. The present price today, and even if it dropped 50 per cent., would show very satisfactory returns on the investment, and less wild furs are coming out of the areas from which we obtained our supplies of raw fur and the fur trade of the world will look more and more to the breeder of ranch furs for supplies.

As to mink, it has been most satisfactory to note the considerable improvement that has taken place in the last two or three years, particularly in regard to color. The response that mink breeders have made to the demand for the dark skins of good color has been such that today there is a tendency for these mink to be uniformly dark in color. In order to attain color that the consumer wants we must preserve the dark centre line down the back. This gives rich character. The extra dark, almost black all over, tends to give a monotonous appearance and I would urge that you try and get that graduation of color and with the dark centre line.

As the production of silver fox in the various countries grew, the selling brokers in London organized special silver fox sales. Until recent years we have held these annually. Autumn sales have been organized in Canada and in Norway and Sweden. As the production has risen my company and other selling brokers have trained additional men to grade and sort increasing quantities. Excellent work on similar lines is also being carried on by fox breeders' associations which has lessened the strain on the selling outlets. The majority market their skins as soon as they have pelted. There is a vast amount of work piled on the auction houses during a short period of the year. I feel confident some change will have to be made in the cataloging of silver fox. There is an aspect in regard to the marketing which is not fully appreciated by all of you here today and that is, time must be taken to sort your collections. Last January, taking all countries, 110,000 skins were offered in London for sale by auction in addition to silver fox sales in Canada, Norway and Sweden, to say nothing of New York. During the last few years a large number of brokers have endeavored to increase the average lot content to 10 skins. You cannot do justice, in our opinion, to better than average skins if you have more than 10 or 12 in a lot. You can't see them properly.

The January sale takes weeks to dispose of. This year, at the present rate of production, it is not unlikely that the auction will run over a month. Although dealing in other furs, silver fox auctions take most of the time. Silver foxes are sold by auction in London, Montreal and other centres. All these auctions require the attention of your buyers. We expect these buyers to be regular customers and we must give them time to arrange their collections, see the skins they buy and, with the present time that it takes to sell skins, there is a tendency to lower the maximum amount of competition as they have not time to look over the goods and sit down week after week and buy them.

A number of suggestions have been made from time to time as to how this difficulty can be overcome. A number of people suggested the intensification of private treaty sales service. Steps are being taken to improve private treaty sales service which will be an additional outlet to the auction sale. What I do find is that those who advocate so strongly these private treaty sales are those that fail to attract competition to their auctions.

Another suggestion is to offer large lots in bulk. I am against this. If you offer a buyer a mixed lot he goes through it and knocks off 10 per cent. for what escaped his notice. I am sure we must continue orderly marketing so that buyers can see easily what they want.

A more valuable suggestion is the one of string lotting—taking 50 or 100 or 200 skins which you have sorted over as being similar in color and value. Take these skins and split them up into equal lots containing 10 skins and place a single lot on show. This is nothing new, something which has been done for years and years past with other general furs. This suggestion does not apply to those skins of fine texture and color which would merit being lotted separately or in smaller quantities. By this means your customer, instead of having to look at 10 bundles which he has to do now to get 100 skins, would only have to look at one.

This suggestion brings with it difficulties which can only be solved by the whole-hearted co-operation of breeder, national associations and selling companies.

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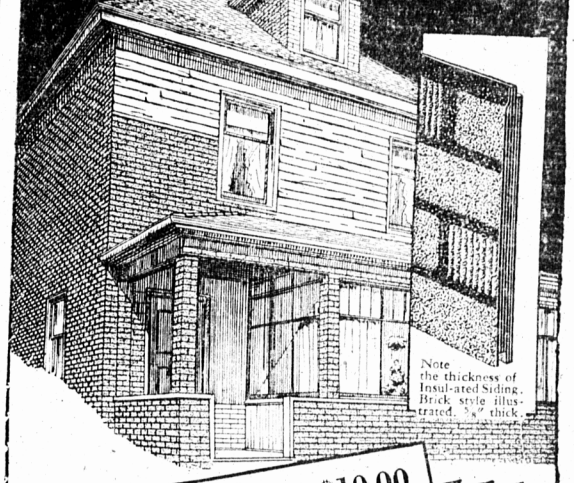

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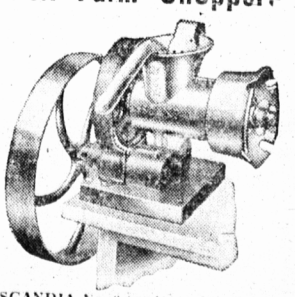

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