

Farming and Agriculture :-: Special Features :-: Interesting Observations

AFTER THE STORM

A marching wind clashed boisterously through the city in the midnight hours, bending the trees, shrieking and moaning around corners and setting loose ends in violent commotion. Half the population waked to disturbed memories other nights of storm. One's sympathies were roused for those who might be in peril on the sea, but after all, such a tempest as that which clattered through the night was perhaps no worse than a spanking breeze for an old windjammer.

The morning dawned in a vision of calm splendor, an amazing change in nature's mood. The sun rising like a ball of fire rayed out an expanding fan of crimson and gold from the horizon, tipping the

summits with very vivid points of light. The mountain masses, of a golden brown in their upper reaches were lost in obscurity below. The snow-capped lions loomed aloft like sentinels of dawn. The Sleeping Beauty reposed in a wonderfully tinted garment of faintest pink as if some fairy prince had used his magic wand not only to subdue the storm, but to call again into being those familiar features of the landscape.

There was a touch of spring in the air, bringing hope and gladness in its train. Even the bare twigs and the brown trees took on warmer hues, and the spruces and cedars seemed more vivid in their greens against the morning sky.

The sea was like a living thing. The emerald green of its waters interlaced with foamy crests over its

moving expanse presented a rare combination of colors, which to the artist's eye, held the beauty of the storm's aftermath.

Now and again a fat seal bobbed up gazing shoreward with the naive look of suspicion which fat seals have. Several white breasted divers plied their business unceasingly.

The beach stretches sinuously under the overhanging firs and alders. A ribbon of clean sand, edged with a fringe of shells and stones, sparkled in the sunshine like a field of diamonds.

What a wonderful transition from a night of storm and dread to a morning of sea charm and mountain grandeur!

Cod liver oil added to the poultry mass, impresses the hatchability of eggs. Try it.

NEWSY FARM NOTES

By Agricola

DISCOVERY OF VITAMINE

For a long time we have been acquainted with the vitamins by letter, and have even been able to anticipate their effects, but up to very recently none had been isolated. Now I note that Dr. Herbert M. Evans, chairman of the department of anatomy at the University of California, has been awarded the John Scott medal for the discovery (or isolation) of vitamin E. Vitamine E has been mentioned before in these Notes as anti-sterile import, being given to sterile foxes in the form of the addition to their rations of wheat germ meal. It forms the anti-sterile, too, in the sprouted oats ration for barren cattle. It is likely that it will now be put up in a form more convenient for administration.

The John Scott medal is an annual award by the city of Philadelphia under an endowment established almost 200 years ago, when the United States was British.

SEA GRASS KILLS NOISE

When dried, the sea-grass *Zostera marina*, has the extraordinary quality of killing sound, as well as being an effective insulator against heat and cold. On this account it is being used increasingly in house construction.

To prove its efficacy as a sound deadener, an experiment may be made with an alarm clock and a box lined, lid as well as sides, with the material. Set the alarm going, put the clock in the box, and drop the lid. The sound stops instantly. Open the box and the alarm is heard again.

This quality is said to be common to all loose, fibrous, or cellular substances. Felt, wadding, wool, tow, cork dust, sand, and so on possess it.

Tiles which absorb sound have also been developed. They are made of metal in the form of trays 16 inches square, and perforated so that sound passes through them just as it does through a screen window. The trays are packed with a felt-like, sound-absorbing material, which is said to consume seventy per cent. of the noise that reaches it through the perforation. Sea grass is being used for this purpose.

The tiles are designed primarily for factory and office ceilings.

Besides deadening sound, sea-grass does not harbor insects and is practically non-inflammable. It is extensively used in upholstery and mattress-making.

PRESERVE THE WILD FLOWERS

One of the prettiest of our Island wild flowers is the pink Lady's Slipper Orchis. It is very local, that is, it has particular haunts from which it does not stray, but it usually is abundant in those haunts, as yet. However, its beauty is its undoing. I visited a home last year where the table was adorned with a large centre-bowl filled with perhaps one hundred of these lovely flowers. I led up to the matter circumspectly and deplored the fact that our best native flowers were being exterminated. "Oh," I was assured, "they will come up again next year." Which from the constitution of the orchis root, is just what they won't do. So I dropped the subject.

This list of wild flowers and how to treat them was prepared by the Gambia Horticultural Society, and has done much to foster care of the wild flowers of that neighborhood. I trust that it will be preserved by my readers and that we may all learn to cherish the flowers we have been destroying.

Group 1. Wild flowers that should not be picked.
* All wild Orchids, Pitcher Plants, Trilliums, Columbine, Water Lilies, Lady's Slipper, Dogwood, Arctostaphylos, Dutchman's Breeches, Spotted Wintergreen, Indian Pipe, False Spikenard.

Group 2. Wild flowers that may be picked in moderation if roots are not disturbed and plenty of flowers left to make seed.

Lupine, Jack-in-the-Pulpit, Solomon's Seal, Spring Beauty, Bloodroot, Ferns, Marsh Marigold, Wild Roses, Meadowweet, Meadow Rue, All common violets, Yellow Wood Sorrel, Wintergreen, Beard-tongue.

Group 3. Native and foreign flowers (weeds) that may be picked freely:

Asters, Evening Primrose, Golden-rods, Chloory, Bouncing Bet, Butter and Eggs, Dogbane, Daisies, Morning Glory, Golden Ragwort, Mullein, Cat-tails, Everlasting, Buttercup, Jewel Weed or Touch-me-not Joe-pye-weed, Golden Aster, Wild Sunflower, Yarrow, Cinquefoil, Wild Sunflowers, Clovers, Vetches, St. Johnswort, Iris. Cut wild flowers with scissors or iris

pocket-knife; never pull them. Never strip a plant of all its flowers; leave enough to perfect seed.

Cut cleanly and sparingly branches of flowering or fruiting shrubs and trees. Never break or tear them off. Have some regard for appearances after the operation and give the wounds a chance to heal.

Do not expect to have native plants grow unless they are lifted with plenty of earth so that the root is not broken, and planted in the same kind of location and watered faithfully the first season. If the plant was taken from an acid soil, put a mulch of oak leaves or pine needles over it.

INCREASING EXPORTS CANADIAN ANIMALS

Canadian ranch-bred fur-bearing animals found their way during the past year to ten foreign countries for use as breeding stock on fur ranches according to a tabulation of shipments of fur-bearers from Canada for export by the Canadian National Express. While black and silver foxes were most numerous in the list there were also muskrats, raccoons and mink handled. Crates of animals were entrusted to the Canadian National Express for delivery to England, Germany, Scotland, France, Sweden, Finland, Holland, Switzerland, Belgium and Czechoslovakia. Shipments originated from points in Prince Edward Island, Ontario, Manitoba, Quebec and Alberta.

Of approximately one thousand fur-bearing animals so forwarded more than eight hundred were ranch-bred black and silver foxes. The export business in fur-bearers in 1928 was almost double that of 1927.

A SLIGHT MISUNDERSTANDING

A government fish-culture official going about his lawful business met a travelling man at breakfast on a lake boat. Being a family man the traveller opened the conversation with a kindly enquiry as to how the "little ones" were getting on. The mind of the other being occupied with five million white-fish eggs in his hatchery, he replied that he had hatched about a million and a half. You can't stick a travelling man. After a thoughtful mouthful of egg and a contemplative bite of crummet, he asked how many of them were pullets.

Don't try to mix chicks of different ages in one flock. The smaller chicks don't get the food.

NICHOLSON'S FOX HEALTH



Did "Good Friday ever fall on a Thursday? Sure thing. Away back in the early eighties a horse named Good Friday fell in a steeplechase race at Wolverhampton, England, and that race was run on a Thursday. As King Solomon well said: "There is no new thing under the sun." But Solomon didn't know at the time about "Nicholson's Fox Health."

If you have never used "Nicholson's Fox Health" you have never used The World's Best Fox Conditioner. The next time one of your Foxes becomes off-feed or run-down because of indigestion, kidney trouble, blood disease or in poor condition from worms, give the Fox a treatment with "Nicholson's Fox Health." It builds up run-down Foxes. As a tonic for your Dog during his season, for your Females during gestation and nursing time, or as a renovator for your Pups, "Nicholson's Fox Health" has no equal. Price, 2 lb. package, \$1.50; 6 lbs. \$2.75; 9 lbs. \$3.75. Delivered. (This Powder is put up fresh as ordered.) DR. J. M. NICHOLSON, 202 Kent Street, CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. I.

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A Bumper Potato Crop And How To Produce It.

The meeting of the Potato Growers' Association in Farmers' Week, was by far the largest of the gatherings, and betokened an intense interest in the future of the industry. Dr. Gussow's message to the gathering which has already appeared in these columns, advises intensive rather than extensive growing of potatoes and it is just this point on which this article is based. It has often been remarked that it costs 60 cents to produce a bushel of potatoes here. Let us consider the cost of production of the "Ohio 300-bushel Potato Club."

This organization considered that the average farmer in that State spent 75 cents in the production of one bushel of the tubers. Members of the "Club" who produced 400 or more bushels to the acre did so at a cost of 31 cents per bushel. Those who had yields of 350 to 400 bushels per acre, found their cost was about 42 cents per bushel. From 300 to 350 bushels per acre, the growers costs were 44 cents per bushel, and 250 to 300 bushel yields cost 52 cents per bushel. Yields less than 250 bushels per acre cost 55 cents per bushel.

The cost records of 43 farmers in the State of Pennsylvania gave similar results. It was found that the cost varied from 29 cents to \$1.57. The men who had the lowest yields had the highest costs.

It seems safe to conclude that higher yields per acre will reduce the cost of production.

How are these higher yields to be promoted? There are seven practices which will help. (1) Selection of suitable soil; (2) its proper preparation; (3) the supplying of proper plant food; (4) the generous use of good seed; (5) good tillage; (6) the proper protection of the plants from crop pests, and (7) the careful harvesting and handling of the crop.

The potato succeeds best on a sandy or gravelly loam soil, though it may be quite successfully grown on muck or peat soils. There should be good drainage, sufficient depth to allow deep plowing, a good supply of humus, and if possible, a leguminous vegetation turned under. Cold, wet or clay soils should be avoided for commercial crops.

(2) Plow as deeply as the surface

soil will permit, but never turn up more than one inch of subsoil at any one time. In the San Luis Valley, Colorado, a grower in 1927 produced 1047 bushels on a measured acre, plowing under a 5-year-old alfalfa sod to a depth of 14 inches. After plowing take care to work thoroughly. No amount of tillage after planting can remedy the troubles caused by an ill-prepared seed-bed. Fine your soil and make it friable.

(3) The best prepared seedbed will not give results if the soil has not sufficient available plant food. Barnyard manure will supply some, but must be supplemented by fertilizer containing phosphorus and potash, as it is too low in these and too high in nitrogen. The best practice is to plow under 8 to 10 tons of manure per acre and then to apply a commercial fertilizer, rich in the elements mentioned. The amount to use is governed by the fertility of the soil.

(4) The seed is perhaps the most important factor of all, since no one can get a maximum yield with poor seed. Use the best seed and use it liberally. Eighteen to 20 bushels per acre is none too much. Disinfect before planting. Close spacing of the rows and of the plants in the rows not only insures high yields, but yields with a minimum of undersized or oversized tubers. Good sized "sets" insure better stands than small "sets." Small pieces are more liable to dry out if moisture is lacking, and to rot if the soil is cold and wet, during germination period.

(5) Good cultural care includes pre-emergence harrowing to destroy weeds and break up the crust. Use a light spike tooth harrow, with the teeth sloped back to prevent serious injury to the plants. When the rows can be seen cultivate deeply close to the plants. Each succeeding cultivation should be shallower, and farther from the plants at each operation. This conserves moisture and aerates the soil, without injury to the plants through root-pruning. Most farmers cultivate too little. The operation should cease when the tubers begin to form.

(6) All injury to the foliage, whether from insects or diseases, means a definite reduction in yield, hence if production costs are to be lowered,

every effort must be made to control these pests. Leaf eating insects are controlled with arsenical poison sucking insects by contact poison, and the blights by Bordeaux mixture. Our Experimental Farm furnishes accurate and ready information if in doubt as to what to use.

(7) In digging, handling and storing the crop, there is ordinarily much room for improvement. If almost said, potatoes should be handled as carefully as apples, only do we handle apples carefully? A best it is difficult to harvest an store a crop without injuring certain proportion of the tubers. It is well known however that a great number of tubers are injured that is necessary. For instance, the slower the digger is operated the less will be the injury to the potatoes. The idea of transporting the crop from the field into storage, is to gather the potatoes into wooden slat crates in which they are transported to the storage house, packing or shipping point. Ventilated bins are desirable when bulk storage is practiced. The storage house should permit ample ventilation, and a reasonable temperature and humidity.

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