

NEWSY NOTES

BY AGRICOLA

BLOSSOM-END ROT OF TOMATOES

The following abstract of an article in the quarterly magazine "Farm Research" will provide my readers with further light on this distressing physiological trouble. According to the author Mr. Chas. B. Sayre, blossom-end rot occurs when tomato plants "fail to receive an adequate or uniform supply of moisture." When this happens, transpiration still goes on but moisture is taken from the developing fruits to meet it; with the result that the cells at the blossom-end of the fruit collapse, and a dark brown or black area, often, aggravated by fungus parasites.

If the first part of the growing season has been unusually wet, a sappy growth is made, and the tissue of the fruit is soft and succulent. Under such conditions the fruit is very susceptible to the rot, and if a dry period sets in, there is almost certain to be heavy losses. In 1936 (in New York State) the rainfall for April, May, June and July was below the average, the total being 6.26 inches. During April, May and June, 1937, the rainfall was above the average, being more than twice the rainfall for the four-month's period of the previous year. Then followed a dry period in July and August, and as a result the "rot" was very severe in 1937 as compared with 1936.

Now comes a paragraph with which I am quite in accord. "Pruning and tying up tomato plants on stalks or trellises tends to increase the amount of blossom-end rot." There is a greater transpiration from stalked plants, which also have a smaller root-system to support it. The unpruned, untrained plants, lying flat, shade the soil and reduce the rate of evaporation, so conserving the moisture. Anything which will help the moisture-holding capacity of the soil, such as the inclusion of organic matter, will, Mr. Sayre thinks, tend to reduce the rot. Heavy fertilization, by producing the largest plant-growth, resulted in the greatest loss. A further control is by irrigating during dry spells.

This seems to agree with my own observations, but a relative who sometimes discusses these matters, suggests that I have "grown tomatoes too long in one place," and that if I try new soil next year I may have better luck. I wonder? It will be worth while making a trial planting any how. Have insects any relation to the trouble? There is much to be learned up before the last word on the subject is said.

"LONG PURPLES"

The Nature Magazine for September has a splendid article on the Purple Loosestrife, Lythrum salicaria. It is understood to be the "long purples" of Shakespeare's "Hamlet," though I have frequently heard the Purple Orchid (O. mascula) mentioned in this connection. The Loosestrife is an island plant, having been found at an unnamed locality by Prof. Orob in 1926, and later by Prof. B. R. Furst at West Point. It is comparatively new to this continent: "less than sixty years ago Asa Gray described it as still 'sparingly wild' in New England where it first appeared." Twenty years ago it was unknown in Michigan, the roadside flowers being goldenrod (our "yellow-weed"), milkweed, and an umbellifer called Queen Anne's lace. Now "every marsh and pondbank from Muskegon to Detroit glows with a mid-summer show of rosy-purple spikes that in places cover thirty or forty acres. The dominant color of the season has changed from yellow to warm magenta."

With the plant has grown a host of popular names, amongst which I note "spiked loosestrife," "dead man's fingers," "soldiers," "willow-herbs," "rainbow-weed" and "red Sally" the last being the favorite in Michigan. This loosestrife makes a very desirable cut flower, and in the "Flower Show School," an extension project of Michigan State College, bearing some resemblance to our Central School Fair, it was found that more than half the competitors had employed "red Sally" in their arrangements—"the only wilding among fifty cultivated flowers."

Red Sally has another and a greater claim to notice. This plant led Charles Darwin, the great naturalist, to one of his most brilliant discoveries. He wrote to Asa Gray "I am almost stark, staring

mad over Lythrum; I believe it is a grand case of trimorphism! I have every case of the eighteen pollinators possible. For the love of Heaven, examine your species and if you can get me some seed, do!" The trimorphism alluded to means "three forms" and they include flowers with long, medium, or short stamens; long, medium, or short styles; long, medium, or short stamens; and large green, medium yellow, or small yellow pollen grains. Sir Joseph D. Hooker, however, says that these admit of nine modes of cross-fertilization, which I imagine to be a better estimate than Darwin's.

"There are today only two known examples of such exquisitely adjusted functioning as 'trimorphism!'" says the article. It does not tell us the name of the other plant.

REMINISCENCES OF LONDON

London has clearly defined areas which are devoted to (1) national administration or government; (2) entertainment, and (3) legal matters. From the Houses of Parliament to Charing Cross the visitor notes the Home Office with its vis-a-vis the famous "Scotland Yard"; Horse Guards, Admiralty, War Office, and many other government departments. North of Trafalgar Square, there is a region of theatres extending to Drury Lane. The clustering of these places of entertainment has this advantage: when, as often happens if a good play is presented, the "house is full," the disappointed late-comers are within easy distance of another playhouse. So well is this appreciated that the Cinemas, I notice have mostly opened up in this area. The third area which I have specified, follows close on to the second; and from Somerset House (where are stored all the national documents connected with "Births, Marriages and Deaths"—and the Temple, there is a district extending north to Gray's Inn, which is sacred to the Lord Chancellor and his subordinates!

Now I had often promised myself a visit to the Savoy Theatre if I ever got to London again, and it was not hard to persuade my companion to visit the "home of the Gilbert and Sullivan Operas". Here we made our first acquaintance with the cue (or properly queue) system. On going to the play at the Newcastle Theatres that day, the first comers stood near the door, and formed a little crowd, which grew and grew with later accessions. When the doors were opened the first-comers were literally carried by the rush from behind, and had enough to do to keep their footing. In London we found the play-goers lined up in single file quietly awaiting their turn to enter. Even in the queue the folk had some entertainment, for an "impersonator" stood in the roadway and gave an outdoor performance. His apparatus was only a small square of felt with a round hole cut in it, but he made the most of it. He twisted it into a cocked hat, put it on, altered his features to a lowering gloom, "folded his arms and announced "Napoleon!" He was a Spanish bandit, an English parrot, and a dozen other characters. At last he passed the hat—the real one—for the pence, and then went off to some other queue. We found at every theatre itinerant entertainers of all kinds, conjurers, acrobats, etc. The queue system was adopted in Newcastle two or three years later.

Inside the theatre the first thing we noticed was its smallness compared with the theatres in Newcastle, but the lavish style of its decoration was such as we had never seen. It was the expense of this furniture that finally broke up the partnership of the famous librettist and the not less famous musician—William Schwanke Gilbert, and Sir Arthur Seymour Sullivan. Doyley Carte was proprietor of the Savoy Theatre, and probably was of foreign descent; at any rate he believed in a rather Oriental display which made good advertising at that date. He won Sullivan's consent to putting carpet in the corridors, it is said, at the cost of £100. Gilbert when he heard of this, flew into a towering rage, because it was taking away part of his profits. At the close of a stormy interview with his two partners he told them they were "Sanguinary Jews" and threw up the partnership. There was the more sting in this because Sir Arthur's mother or grandmother (I forget which) was an Italian of a very poor family.

BEEF CATTLE TO ESTABLISH NEW RECORD

Market Classes to Provide the Best Competition.

FEEDEE CATTLE

Western Cattle Purchased in Maritimes to be Shown.

There will be a record display of beef cattle in the market classes to be shown at the Maritime Winter Fair this year, according to W. R. Trueman of Annapolis, who stated that nearly one hundred market cattle would be entered from the Annapolis and Westmoreland Point district alone. Harold Carter, Ed Anderson, George Hicks, Wells Bros., Harold Etter and others—all well known exhibitors in other years, would have big entries in the market classes in addition to their usual display of prize stock in Shorthorn, Hereford and Grade classes.

Feeder cattle brought here from Western Canada will be on display, and the general public will take an active interest in these animals. Only recently Messrs. Harold Carter and George Hicks, purchased six carloads in Western Canada—each taking two cars, while one car will be consigned to Goldie Bros., of Albert County. The sixth car is on order, and the animals will be purchased by farmers in the march districts.

While these recent shipments will not be fitted in time for display at the Maritime Winter Fair, opening on November 5th, pure bred cattle that were purchased last year have been held over and will be included in the entered herds. These will comprise Shorthorns and Herefords.

Actually the beef entry will be one of the largest in the history of the Fall shows—and aside from the Royal Winter Fair at Toronto, will be the largest beef class ever displayed in Canada.

The dairy classes are filling rapidly as well, while the number of horses to be shown this year will be larger than usual.

"But never either found another," as the poet says, to captivate the fancy of Englishmen as these two did.

On that visit, I remember, the theatre was lighted by gas, which was not the best illuminant on a warm summer's night. Doyley Carte afterwards put in the electric light, but it was not dependable at the outset, and he left the gas-fittings in for a year or two, "just in case." After the lapse of so many years I am not just sure whether the opera was "Trial by Jury" or the ever-popular "Mikado" but I recollect that the scenery and the orchestra were much superior to those of Doyley Carte's travelling company that toured the provinces (or counties); while the actors and actresses performed and sang in a sort of blase fashion that would have utterly damned them in Newcastle. The touring company was "all alive, oh!" from start to finish.

London theatres went in later, and came out later, than those in the North. When we emerged it was to find the streets as crowded as at midday, and almost as bright. The public-houses (saloons) were open till midnight as against 11 p.m. in Newcastle, and 10 p.m. in rural Northumberland. Matrons never quietened down till about 2 a.m., and by 5 a.m. the early civic employees "took up the running." London very nearly turned night into day, but paid for its strenuous efforts by the loss of its people's stamina; so that families rarely lasted beyond three generations. London grew, and is still growing, because of its attracting the best of the population from the "shires."

This was not the only visit to the Savoy; in subsequent trips to London I heard the "Pirates of Penzance", the "Gondoliers" and the semi-classical "Yeomen of the Guard"; my favorite a comic opera with a tragic conclusion! The "Pirates of Penzance" was once presented here, by local talent: how many Charlottetowners remember that?

I have touched upon the public-houses of London in the above notes, and am now in possession of authentic information regarding those of the present day, sent me by a correspondent in that city. This, though not a reminiscence, will doubtless interest my readers—but it must keep till next week.

CONSERVATION

A WEEKLY COLUMN OF PRACTICAL OPINIONS ON THE VITAL ISSUES AFFECTING THE USES AND ABUSES OF NATURAL RESOURCES BY MR. LUDLOW JENKINS, MARSHFIELD.

SPORT CONTRD

Love of Nature is an evidence of civilization; it is hardly found among savages or primitive people at all. It is the most modern of all virtues and refinements. Its morality is unimpeachable for it is concerned with truth in opposition to sentiment and emotion. While there were among the ancients individuals who were attracted to the study of the creatures and plants around them, they were always an inconsiderable minority. The ancient world at its best was little concerned with animals, their lives, loves or sufferings. Christianity has not much to say about our duty towards animals and we wonder why, for surely the dogs and donkeys of Jerusalem were no better treated two thousand years ago than they are today. For two thousands years the simple supposition that animals were created solely for our use has gone almost unchallenged. Natural History hardly became a matter of serious study until the Victorian era. The earliest printed natural history books reveal how little was known of the animal creation. Until Gilbert White wrote his Natural History of Selborne and the Reverend J. G. Wood dilated upon the Common Objects of the Country and Seasons, natural history books, with few exceptions, were more like moral hand-books, which told how the cow was given us to provide breakfast for good children, and the lion a sad example of how the babe should not behave—before company at least. And how times have changed since William Blake wrote his sympathetic poem, "To a Fly," and good children were exhorted not to kill the pretty things which danced their little hour in God's sun light! "swat ha p p i l y Now we organize "swat the fly" campaigns for we know, but only since Pasteur's time, that the fly walks in unclean places and does not wipe its feet enough before it settles on baby's milk bottle. And, even now, we provide these unclean places.

It took us many, many centuries to develop a Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, and even now kindness to animals is considered by many an unimportant by-product of civilized education. What is our duty towards our neighbor on four feet? How should we regard our little brother in fur or feathers? There still exist human beings who are amused by the antic struggles of a tortured animal—they're only animals; what does it matter? There are still men who feel much the same way about savages. At the same time there is hardly an educated man in this country who would not vigorously oppose the maltreatment of any animal he saw being mistreated, although the same man will cheerfully take his gun when the season opens for sport. It is right to kill one thing and wrong to kill another? And yet, is it quite a healthy state of mind to melt with sympathy for a wounded deer or dog and yet send our sons to the shambles of a modern battlefield?

The ethics of sport are still somewhat undefined. A great hunter once told me that he would feel ashamed to shoot rabbits and partridges because the animal had no chance when he was shot, only because, as he said, "if I miss the animal gets his chance." He never took more than one native with him, to carry an extra gun, and often enough he went entirely alone into the bush of Somaliland. It is noteworthy that most great hunters give up sport as they grow older; it is an evidence of a civilized soul one that has become civil through experience.

Man is a hunter born. In ancient times he killed for food and thought little about sport or its ethics. His preoccupation was to bring home the dinner or go hungry, and, as in Africa today, animals were "nyama"—meat and nothing more. Sport is the result of applying his restrictions to the science of killing animals. It creates right and wrong and should bestow some sense of dignity upon what otherwise is only the indulgence of a primitive lust. Sport is the morality of slaughter, a quality which men almost succeeded in introducing to warfare until the desire for efficiency

made results the sole criterion of right. It may be that Time will slowly eliminate sport as it is understood today, but however much we may wish for the conservation of wildlife, hating cruelty as men once hated heresy, we must face the fact that sport is held to be right and legitimate in our time. Our ambition must therefore be to increase the civilized sentiment that there must be some quarter given to the quarry; that because some of us have invented instruments of wholesale death, it is no reason why they should be used for sport or even profit. True sport keeps alive and regulates, at the same time, the hunting spirit without which the average man seems unable to exist. There is something wrong about the person whose tender-heartedness becomes maudlin; perhaps it is in exact ratio to the mear man who is utterly indifferent to animal suffering.

The rules of sport must be dictated by good sense. At least we should not kill more than we can use, and it should be remembered that when the Government regulates the "bag" of a day, it concedes the maximum to the greed-iest of its citizens. The game of golf was defined by somebody as "the art of putting a very small ball into a very small hole with instruments totally unfit for the purpose." But therein consists the sport, which is a contest with difficulty. Bushes, clothing and the back of his neck are what are easiest for a beginner to catch with a fly rod, but a real angler would rather lure a trout with a bunch of feathers on a hook than snare him with an angle-worm, which is far better bait. Skill with a gun comes from being called upon suddenly to use it by the unexpected appearance of game. To kill half-tame, hand-fed birds, accustomed to food in a farmer's yard, or when they are terrified and driven before the guns, is little more sport than to kill canaries with a hammer. What is difficult is to be desired; the skill emphasized, and even something risked, to make killing respectable by a civilized mind. Let us admit the savage in ourselves by cultivating his skill, for the man who can shoot a bird or a fish with a bow and arrow is still doing something which it is difficult altogether to despise. It is too much to hope that sport will ever degenerate to be useful. If the sportsman must kill without control, it would be well if he would kill the enemies of the human race against whom we have never been entirely successful. The rat and the wolf will tax his ingenuity to the limit and there are other dangerous things to which he might profitably direct his slaughterous instincts, in some places, English sparrows in others—but there is no hope of that. The sportsman prefers something easier.

Entomology

THE EUROPEAN APPLE SUCKER

The European apple sucker as the name indicates, is an European insect recently discovered in the Maritime Provinces, and spreading rapidly. It is not as serious as many native pests and only causes marked damage when extremely numerous. It damages the trees, chiefly by sucking the juice from the blossoms, thus injuring the "set" of the fruit. It may also reduce the vitality of the trees by feeding at the axils of the leaves, dwarfing them and even causing a premature drop in severe cases. The application of Bordeaux spray or dust to trees heavily infested causes severe injury, including dwarfing and burning of the leaves and blossoms. Under ordinary circumstances, however, the insect cannot be regarded as a pest of first rank and good crops are obtained in orchards that are properly cared for even when it is abundant. The damage is most noticeable in over-shaded orchards or in those insufficiently cultivated or fertilized.

The eggs are laid by the adult insects upon twigs and fruit spurs especially on bearing trees, beginning about the last week in August, continuing through September and up to the time of severe frosts. The eggs hatch in the spring when the buds where they are laid have burst and the young insects penetrate the buds where they cannot be reached by contact sprays or dusts. The nymphs require about twenty-four days to reach maturity. During this period they excrete large quantities of clear, translucent, sticky "honey dew" and this is often the first sign that indicates their presence to the fruit grower. It is apparently the chemical reaction that occurs between the honey dew and the Bordeaux, that is the cause of the injury already described. Careful spraying with nicotine

Winning Holstein Breeder's Herd



This group shown by M. L. McCarthy, Lonsdale Herd Award at the Canadian National Exhibition, Farm, Sussex, N. B., won the Premier Breeder's Toronto, 1937. Compliments of Holstein Frierian Association of Canada.

Timely Notes

(Continued from page 1), riving there at noon or shortly after, place their foxes in crates and have them classified and be in plenty of time for the judging on Monday.

A ridiculous provision which the committee of the Amherst Winter Fair have placed in their rules is that foxes must be in the building on Thursday. This would mean that a man would have to leave Charlottetown on Thursday morning, spend Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday in Amherst in order to have his foxes judged on Monday, and remain there until the 11th. I believe that strong protests have been made to those conducting the Winter Fair, so there is a probability that these

suphate 3-4 of a pint to 100 gals of spray just before the blossoms open and after the flower stalks have spread apart is effective. Contact dusts containing 5% of nicotine sulphate will also destroy the insect under favorable conditions, when applied at the same stage or at least reduce it below the danger point. Either dusting or spraying will destroy the adults, and if carried out late in August, this is a possible point of attack, but earlier treatments result in reinfestation from neighbouring untreated orchards, and if done latterly before attempting to grow some eggs will have been laid. Growers should be certain that the damage done by the insect will warrant the cost of spraying and dusting before attempting to do so. Beginning with the "Blossom Pink" application Bordeaux should not be used on infested trees until the adult apple suckers appear, unless used in conjunction with nicotine to destroy the nymphs.

THE EUROPEAN RED MITE

Sometimes during the summer months it may sometimes be noticed that the leaves of apple and of an even greater extent of the plum trees, have lost most of their normal deep color and have become paler in appearance. Examined closely the leaf will be seen to be covered with innumerable fine whitish blotches, most noticeable on the upper surface. As the trouble develops further the leaves become brown or bronzed and, from a distance, may appear to be covered with fine road dust. In its severest form there may even be an extensive drop of the leaves, a dwarfing, paling and consequent reduction in yield of fruit and a further reduction of the next years "set."

If the leaf from an infested tree be examined beneath a magnifying glass, there will be found a tiny 8-legged, dark red or blackish, hairy mite, the mouth parts being usually paler in color and white dots on the back at the base of the long hairs. In addition to the mites themselves, the cast skins of the mites and the tiny particles of voided excrement, will be seen adhering to the leaf. The small red eggs may be found adhering to the twigs and smaller branches about bud scars and in crevices. As the blossoms buds show pink in spring they emerge and feed upon the leaves. There are several generations each year which overlap, the entire life being accomplished in about three weeks during the warmest weather. The duration of the egg period is from one to two weeks while the mites require about the same length of time to reach the adult stage. The active egg laying period of the adult also extends over two weeks or more. The eggs are laid on the leaf, being fastened to by a few silken strands. Dry seasons seem to favor their development. The pest did some serious damage in the dry season of 1921-24-26.

Where the pest is sufficiently serious to warrant the application of special sprays, the application of the regular summer sprays of lime sulphur applied when the blossoms are showing pink, when the petals fall, and two weeks later, will keep it in check. Where danger of burning exists from the use of this material, wettable sulphur 30 lbs. to 100 gals. seems to have a very good effect and may be substituted for the last application the last two or for all of them. A combination of these two materials has been recommended viz. lime sulphur 1 gal. wettable sulphur 15 lbs., water 100 gals. Sulphur dust has some slight effect, but it is not a satisfactory control. The only other effective remedy is a dormant, spray of miscible oil or oil emulsion. In severe cases the application of such oil spray appears to be the most satisfactory remedy.

unnecessarily hard restrictions may be changed and those exhibiting at Charlottetown will not be barred from showing at Amherst.

Just another word of warning. Only a few weeks remain before pelting time and it is of the most importance that fox sheds and coops be kept thoroughly cleaned and fresh bedding be placed in very frequently. The great amounts of meat which are fed to foxes at this season of the year causes the formation of a large amount of ammonia in the urine. As you know, meat is largely composed of nitrogen and in the process of digestion a certain amount of the nitrogen is excreted by means of urine. After having attached to itself three atoms of hydrogen it becomes NH₃ or ammonia. This pungent chemical compound will cause browning of the fur very quickly if it comes in contact with the bellies or sides of the fox in a concentrated form.

The shed problem solved the difficulties of exposure to the elements, but brought us the one referred to above. The Norwegians get clear of the trouble by using small mesh wire floors, but they have to do a lot of work in keeping the ground surface beneath the wire clean, and I understand use considerable lime as a neutralizer to the ammonia. There is also considerable chafing from the wire, particularly around the hips when wire bottoms are used exclusively. Our ranchers who use wire bottoms generally use a thin

covering of straw over them and they claim that the straw does not have to be changed nearly so often as when board floors are used.

In our own ranch we have been using shavings largely since the first of September. We get them by the carload, pressed into bundles of about sixty pounds. They are very dry and free from balsam and run very even, usually about the size of a twenty-five cent piece. When we use them in the coops we sometimes put a thin layer of straw over them to prevent the foxes scratching them out. Last year we did not have the shavings early enough to give them a thorough try-out, but this year we will know for sure whether they are satisfactory or not. At the present time we think they are going to be splendid, as a recent checkup of our pups and adults showed the belly fur to be of good color.

WELL DRILLING

Communicate with H. W. Douglas, 33 Orlebar Street, Charlottetown or D. R. Jay, Winsloe.

L-756-10-19-33-30.

Five Day Short Courses Health and Handicrafts

Under the provisions of a grant to assist employment for unemployed young people between the ages of 18 and 30 years, the following Short Courses have been arranged by the Department of Agriculture:

- Tryon, October 25th—29th—Health & Handicraft.
- Mt. Stewart, October 25th—29th—Handicrafts, Rug making.
- Cardigan, November 2nd—6th—Handicrafts & Rug making.
- Morel, November 8th—12th—Handicrafts, Rug making.
- Kensington, November 15th—19th—Health & Handicrafts.
- Souris (Date announced later)—Health & Handicrafts.
- Tignish (Date announced later)—Health & Handicrafts.

Courses on Health will involve care in sick rooms, feeding sick, signs of disease, medicines and treatment, nursing, personal hygiene, prenatal care, infant feeding, first aid, etc. Handicrafts include glove making, rug making—color and designs, wool in the home, etc.

Transportation charges will be paid; also board to the extent of \$3.50 per week for those attending from outside centres. These amounts should cover full cost of students attendance. The Courses offer a rare opportunity for unemployed young people to train themselves for better living conditions and gainful employment.

Applicants for attendance at each course should apply promptly to the Women's Institute Branch, Charlottetown DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, Charlottetown, P.E.I.

DOG TAX ARREARS

This Department has been very lenient with delinquents, but we find our leniency has been imposed upon. In a few days, we will place the amounts in the hands of lawyers for collection. Better save expense and trouble, and pay up now, as this is the last notice from our Department.

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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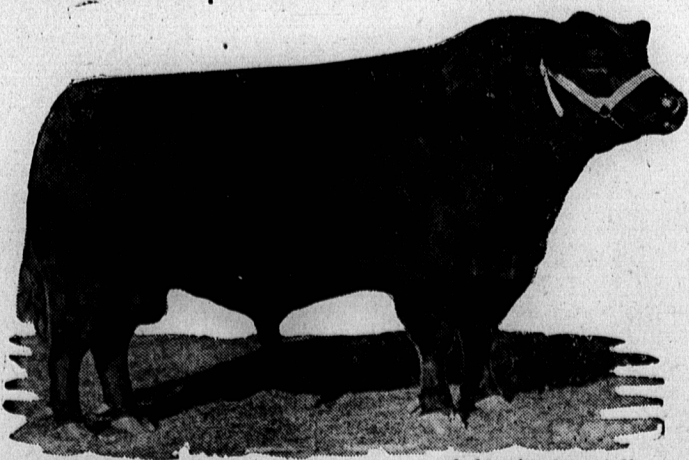
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