

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

NEWSY FARM NOTES

By Agricola

A HINT FOR STRAWBERRY GROWERS

The Horticultural Division at Ottawa has found very decided changes in the color of strawberry leaves when grown in soil lacking in one of the three essential fertilizing elements.

Experiments

An examination of the results, according to the investigation, reveals (1) that where either nitrogen, phosphorus or potash was lacking throughout the experiment the yield was significantly lower than that of the full nutrient series.

Company indicates that those engaged in the eelgrass industry had a better year in 1928 than previously: the number of tons shipped from West Pubnico, was 240, which sold for \$15 dollars per ton.

COKE AS A FUEL

Coke is a fuel much used on the other side of the Atlantic. It is one of the products of coal when strongly heated till the volatile elements are driven off.

There is comparatively little ash produced during combustion, but (and this is a disadvantage) a vitreous mass called "clinker" is sure to form over the fire-bars or grate.

Gas coke, produced rapidly and at a low heat, in retorts, is of a dull black color and has a loose spongy texture. It ignites almost as well as does bituminous coal, and where it can be obtained, is often burned in open fireplaces, where its extraordinary lasting qualities and great heat make it very valuable.

The commonest form now is produced in the "bee-hive oven," in which the coal is burned for 2 to 3 days; the longer period producing a denser coke but of course in less quantity.

In new installations the "retort-oven" is replacing the old "bee-hive" but does not produce quite as a good coke. It however saves all the by-products, which were lost by the older method—by-products so valuable that it was commonly said that the company manufacturing could give the coke away and still make a fortune.

It is one of the disadvantages of coke as a domestic fuel that, from its great heat, it warps the iron parts of the stove, hence it is unsuitable for the ordinary closed range. With the advent of the many "Cabinet Heaters," which are thickly lined with fire-brick this disadvantage is entirely overcome and a form of heating obtained which is clean, safe, lasting and capable of the most perfect regulation.

BERRIES FOR THE NORTH

The Federal Bureau of Education, Alaska Division, U. S. A., has in hand some projects to improve the islands off the Alaskan coast, as far as their fruit is concerned. Large cranberries grown in Western Washington will be sent to Esboro Island (in North Sound) to hybridize the smaller native berries and produce a larger berry with the native hardiness.

As many of the Aleutian Islands have a mild climate suitable for blackberries, a variety from the Himalaya is being introduced on a small island off South Eastern Alaska. There is also to be an attempt to grow certain trees—particularly Birches and willows of the Ketchikan district—on some of the Islands of the Aleutian chain.

REPORTS MONTHLY MEETINGS WOMEN'S INSTITUTES

POPLAR GROVE. A committee was appointed to clean the school, and \$5.00 was given the Sick committee to buy fruit for sick. Bills were paid for putting down pump. No new work was undertaken. A sheet of zinc has also been purchased and put under school stove.

LIVE HOGS

We are taking live hogs daily, excepting Saturday, paying highest market prices.

Davis & Fraser

NOTES OF A NATURALIST

Specially Contributed to the Guardian

It may be news to my readers that there are many different crustaceans known as "lobsters" found in various parts of the world. The true lobsters, however—the Homaridae—have the first three pairs of legs ending in "pinners," the first pair being very large.

Our lobster, Homarus americanus, is probably nothing more than a variety of the H. gammarus (or vulgaris) of the European coasts, but it is notable that scientists on this side of the water often magnify slight variations, in their efforts to be "different." In Europe lobsters are generally sent to market in the fresh state, and this is because of their comparative scarcity. With us, their catching is an important industry. The effects of over-fishing is becoming apparent rather in the reduced size of the individuals caught, than in the general total of the yield.

BIRDS OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Limicolae or Shore Birds (continued) Willet (258) Catophorus semipalmatus. 16 in. Feet with small web at base of toes; bill long and stout. Brownish gray sprinkled black; most of secondaries and base of primaries white and very conspicuous in flight. Playful, with grotesque actions. Summer resident, not common. (Bain.)

Bartramian Sandpiper, Upland or Field Plover, (261) Bartramia longicauda. 12 in. A bird of striking appearance; above blackish with greenish brown edgings, tail brownish with black bar and white tips. Under white, with large black arrow head markings on breast and sides. Migrant, plentiful in Fall. (Bain.)

Spotted Sandpiper (263). Actitis macularia, 8 in. A pretty bird, olive brown above and faintly barred; below white with round dusky spots, heavy on breast and sides. A narrow black line from bill through eye. "Teeters" persistently when standing or feeding—Summer resident, common.

Long-billed Curlew, (264) Numenius americanus, 23 in. Bill very long (4 to 8 in.) and decurved, hence "Sickle-bill." Plumage variegated, rufous and blackish above. Lighter (buffy) below and streaked. Largest of shore birds. Migrant, uncommon. (Bain.)

Hudsonian Curlew (265) Numenius hudsonicus, 17 in. Bill long, decurved. Crown with broad stripes, black and buff. Dusky brown above, under gray, streaked on breast, and barred on sides with blackish. Easily decoyed to whistle or wooden birds, and so becoming scarce. Not uncommon, summer visitor.

Eskimo Curlew (266) Numenius borealis, 13.5 in. Bill short about 2 in. slightly curved. Plumage like (265) but white below, often thickly sprinkled with blackish "arrow heads." Link says reported commonest of the curlews, but it is now said that they are practically exterminated. These should be spared when seen.

Nasal Discharge Means You Have Catarrh

Dangerous at this Season

Neglected Catarrh soon attacks the bronchial tubes and lungs. It may then be too late. Why not use Catarrhose tonight, and be all well tomorrow? Under the healing influence of Catarrhose you get rid of sore crusts in the nose. Nasal drippings of mucus into the stomach. Acrid, bad tasting phlegm is loosened in the throat. That irritable tickling sensation in the throat that makes you cough is quickly corrected by Catarrhose. You are bound to get satisfactory results from Catarrhose. Many years in use by hospitals, physicians and clinics. Get the One Dollar outfit from your druggist today. Smaller size, 50c. Catarrhose is a guaranteed remedy—refuse a substitute.



THE EXPERIMENTAL FOX RANCH REPORT FOR 1927

There is to hand this morning a report of the Summerside Experimental Fox Ranch, under the Superintendence of Mr. G. Ennis Smith. In 1920 the Research Council of Canada, and the Health of Animals Branch, undertook a joint investigation into the problems confronting the fox-rancher. After some experiments carried out in Hull, P. Q., the Superintendent recommended that work be undertaken on a larger scale on Prince Edward Island, and eventually a ranch was opened at Summerside, the natural centre of the fox industry, in October, 1925.

VEGETABLES FOR HEALTH

Old ideas that have persisted for generations find modern scientific explanation that proves their truth in many cases. One of these is the so-called "tonic" effect of green vegetables—the oft-repeated remark that "they are good for you." They are, but nobody knew exactly why, despite the tonic theory, until very recent years when that mysterious factor, the vitamin, was discovered.

People talk glibly about vitamins and their necessity without knowing much what they are talking about further than that food deficient in certain vitamins and a most important one—the vitamin connected with the actual growth of animal life known as vitamin A, is attached in the common conception with the green coloring of vegetables. It is found in the leafy portions of plants in full growth and it suffers in quantity from the exclusion of the sun. The blanched inner leaves of a head lettuce do not contain the vitamins qualities that the green lettuce possesses. Neither is blanched asparagus as valuable for vitamins as the green sort grown in full sun.

This Vitamin A is the reason that green vegetables are good for us. Its value has been proved by experiments on rats and guinea pigs. The lack of it killed them. The greatest vitamin value is found in fresh vegetables, the fresher they are the better. The one way to have absolutely fresh vegetables is to grow them in your own garden no matter if it be only a tiny patch that will accommodate only a row of lettuce. The gardener who grows his own vegetables is much more likely to get the full value of the life-promoting vitamin for himself and his family because the supply is always at hand in its season to be used lavishly, more lavishly, too, than if it were necessary to go to the grocery or huckster and lay out cash for all the green vegetables needed for family use.

Green vegetables freshly gathered justify the little home garden thoroughly even if it seems more bother than it is worth with a market handy. The health factor makes the smallest home patch an excellent investment.

MONTHLY REPORT OF WOMEN'S INSTITUTES

NORTHAM Eleven members and three visitors met at home of Mrs. Reuben Ellis for the January meeting. The Ode was followed by the reading of minutes after which correspondence was read and discussed. School necessities were talked over. Place of next meeting is home of Mrs. D. McArthur.

CENTRAL ROYALTY A very interesting letter was read from a member visiting in Vancouver. Secretary reported that \$15.75 was realized from sale of candy and door receipts at the concert held in school. The school children are to be given a treat of candy at annual examination the last of January.

Why The City Must

Pay More For Milk

(Condensed from the Vancouver Journal)

The report of the Milk Commission states that Vancouver, B. C., and London, Ont., tie for the lowest milk price, viz., 11 cts. per qt. of 40 oz. Fort William is highest with 14 and one quarter cents, and the average of 17 Canadian cities is 12 and three-quarter cents. In the U. S. A., with a 32 oz. quart, the price ranges from 11 cents to 20 cents.

Now from many causes milk production costs are higher in the Fraser Valley than in other parts of Canada. Distribution costs are about average. Yet the price is lower. Somebody must pay, so the farmer has been paying.

The city man expects his business to pay wages, interest on his investment and a profit. The farmer thinks himself lucky if he feeds and clothes himself and his children, pays his taxes and interest on his investment. The question of wages and profit never enters his mind—unless he is one of the few fortunate and astute ones.

Under the circumstances the farmer is discouraged and such a psychological condition is not productive of the best quality of milk; that is, clean milk with a low bacterial count. Bacterial counts as high as 8 to 16 millions of bacteria per cubic centimetre have been found in milk delivered at the distributing stations.

The commission recommend a count of not more than 500,000 per c.c. for milk delivered and this requirement is to be attained in three years. The present maximum allowed is 1,500,000 per c.c. Under the pressure of these stringent conditions and low prices the farmer will not continue to produce. In the fall of 1927 there was almost a shortage; by the fall of 1928 the shortage had become definite. It is not worth the farmer's while to breed his cattle, he would rather grow cabbages. To make up the shortage a considerable quantity of milk had to be imported from

Farm Management

BY C. E. MacKENZIE

Farmers are often little more than day laborers. They work so hard for little time or inclination to plan a better system of labor on their farms. They do too much work and not enough thinking. True it is that labor costs good clean money and work must be done but it is possible on most farms to limit the work done by planning it better. The greater number of Prince Edward Island farms are one man farms and the farmer must keep "plugging away from early morning till dewy eve in order to keep the place running the chores done the sheep hatched and to prepare for next year's crop.

It takes considerable country spirit and pride in the ownership of land with good stock to live down the lure of the town or city with its shorter hours and more leisure. It will take much talk on the part of city people to convince farmers that there is not too much work on the farm.

Farming properly carried on, is a business, and it requires ability and energy to make it. The success which every ambitious farmer desires to make it.

No manager of a city enterprise is called upon to work with his hands all the time. The man at the helm of a big business does his most valuable work with his head. In no uncertain measure should the same be true of the farmer. I do not mean by this that the farmer should not work with his hands, because under present conditions it is necessary that a farmer should work as well as think. But he should have enough leisure time to lay and carry out his plans.

There should not be so much work, work, work in the business of owning and operating a farm to tie the owner up for sixteen hours every day in the year with the exception of Sundays, and for five or six hours on these. The most successful farmers are not always those who slave and serve all their lives but are very often among those who exercise to a certain degree of actual business buying at the proper time and selling to the best advantage and using some of their valuable time planning future work.

No one can blame a farmer and his wife growing older on the farm, if they both yearn for a less strenuous and yet one often sees so many leave the farm and move to town and ever after be dissatisfied wishing themselves back on the land.

After all there is a certain something in farming that seems to always give greater pleasure than one can find elsewhere.

Yes the average farmer has altogether too much work to do himself to be the manager which his business calls upon him to be but there seems to be no remedy other than for him to work with his head at the same time that he is working with his hands.

DETERMINE THE MASH YOU FEED YOUR HENS

Cheap Mashess Usually are Expensive Did it ever occur to you that a cheap mash may be expensive? This very thing was proved in a recent test. One of the well-known reliable commercial mashess was tested against a home mixture of bran, middlings, cornmeal, ground oats, and most scraps. Four pens of

the U. S. A.

The report adds: "The metropolitan area must be assured of a plentiful supply, of good quantity, at all times. In order to be assured of this, a large potential supply must be within call for delivery if required. This supply can be assured only by proper and adequate encouragement, and the allaying of dissatisfactions that are now a cancer in the field of production." This paragraph is in italics in the report.

"It is felt that even a few cents' increase in the price (to the farmer) of milk-fat will have a marked influence on farming methods, possibly at first more psychologically than economically, though a small increase will in many instances make the difference between profit and loss."

But where is this increase to come from? Greater efficiency and consequent reduction of cost in distribution; more efficient operation by the companies in the process of handling, pasteurizing, cooling, and bottling the milk &c., and an increased winter price to the consumer are among the points stressed, and the report makes specific recommendations as to how this is to be done.

The commission however does not leave it at that. The price should go up but so should the quality and this is perfectly fair to all concerned.

Let us look over the propositions. The milk is to be divided into two grades, according to its butterfat content. Milk running between 3.6 and 4.25 per cent butterfat is to sell at 8 quarts in summer and 7 quarts in winter for \$1.00. A richer milk stabilized between 4.25 and 5 per cent butterfat would sell at 7 quarts for \$1.00 in summer, and 6 quarts in winter.

Besides the probable improvement in butterfat content, the report advocates very strongly that bacterial count be lowered thus increasing the quality of the milk from the point of view of healthfulness, palatability, and keeping qualities.

Increased Production

The birds on the commercial mash laid 11-2 more eggs per bird per month, or a dozen and a half more eggs in a year. The better hens did not increase their production as much as the poor ones. Some hens are so good that they will lay well on most any ration, but the average hen has to be fed well if she is to give maximum production.

The pens fed the cheap home mixture did not lay uniformly. Their production jumped up and down with each cold snap during the winter. The birds on the commercial mash went ahead laying steadily and better each month. Hens that are properly nourished are not easily disturbed by any sudden changes of environment.

When it came hatching time, the birds on the higher priced mash produced more hatchable eggs and stronger, livelier chicks. Some feeds are capable of giving good production but not good hatching eggs.

Therefore, the most severe test of a feed is high production and high hatchability at the same time.

The eggs for both lots were weighed, and it was found that the commercial mash fed birds, as an average, laid a slightly larger egg with a better shell. The market price for small eggs is generally enough lower to almost equal the difference in the cost of a cheap mash and a good mash.

The mortality for the commercial mash pens was lower, and the birds kept in better flesh. They were not only heavier, but of better quality, as they had more meat on the breast. Sold for meat, they would have brought a premium on a quality market.

Lower Mash Consumption In spite of the heavier egg production and larger eggs, heavier hens, etc., the birds on the good mash ate 7 per cent less mash than the cheap mash hens. The perfect mineral, protein, vitamin, and carbohydrate balance of the good mash was largely responsible for the lower mash consumption. The hens got more good out of each mouthful.

While the commercial mash increased the cost of the feed 27c per bird, it produced an additional profit of 56c per bird for the year. With even only a few hundred hens, a poultryman cannot afford to feed a mash that is cheap in price unless it is capable of producing the best results.

Almost all of the better commercial mashess are worth every cent you pay for them. They are being care-

Sunbeam Laying Mash

This famous, scientific feed, has been proved to possess remarkable qualities for which there is no substitute. It gives hens power to make maximum egg production, insures health of the birds and gives fertile eggs a high degree of hatchability.



These claims are attested by the experience of L. R. Guild and Sons, the famous poultrymen, whose letter is here reproduced.

Standard Milling Company, Toronto.

Dear Sirs:

In regard to the Laying Mash we feel that we cannot praise it too highly. Last Spring we did considerable experimental work along this line using a number of different mashess, some containing animal proteins from one source only. We tested the hatchability from these pens taking the eggs in which the chick died the eighteenth and nineteenth day to Professor Graham of the Ontario Agricultural College. Upon opening these eggs Prof. Graham was able to tell us most exactly what we had fed in the different pens by the appearance of the unhatched chicks and we are glad to report that it was not necessary for us to take any eggs into the College from the pens in which we fed Sunbeam Laying Mash, as we found the hatchability to be excellent.

Yours truly, L. R. GUILD & SONS.

Ask your dealer or inquire direct from us

STANDARD MILLING CO. OF CANADA, LTD.

Toronto, Montreal, Quebec, Saint John, Halifax

FOR SALE BY

Prince Edward Island Co-Operative Egg and Poultry Association

C. E. Pratt & Son, St. Peters

J. J. Hughes & Son, Souris

McLeod and McGregor, Montague

SUNBEAM LAYING MASH, 100 LBS. \$3.50

25 LBS. \$1.10

RAINBOW SCRATCH FEED, 100 LBS. \$3.15

DE GROS MARSH

Following is the honour roll of De Gros Marsh School for the month of January:

Grade X-1, Helen McLean; 2, Eliza Beth Steele.

Grade IX-1, Mary Fitzpatrick.

Grade VIII-1, Herman McDonald.

Grade VII-1, Hugh Steele and Josephine McLean, equal; 2, Genevieve Sigsworth.

Grade VI-1, Anna McLean.

Grade V-Joseph MacPhee; 2, Mary Steele; 3, Rose Delorie.

Grade IV-1, Marion Steele; 2, Mary McDonald; 3, Alfred McDonald.

Grade III-1, George McDonald.

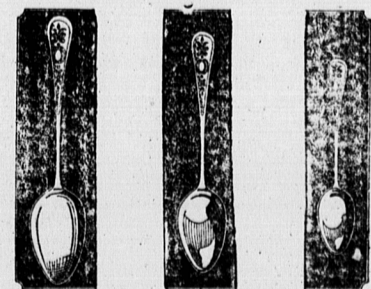
Grade II-1, Michael McDonald; 2, Rose McDonald; 3, Ralph Fitzpatrick; 4, Billie McLean.

Grade I (a)-Norbert Steele; 2, Joe Fitzpatrick; (b)-1, J. D. Fitzpatrick.

A live elephant and a live camel took part in the grand march at a ball at Chelsea, England, recently.

Lady Bailey recently flew alone from England to Capetown, South Africa, and return.

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