

FOR FARMERS, STOCK BREEDERS AND GARDENERS

NEWSY NOTES

BY AGRICOLA

PICKLED WALNUTS

The so-called English Walnut (Juglans regia), when properly treated, makes a pickle which to my mind, cannot be equaled. This species of walnut does not grow in our region, as it requires a milder climate; but the Black Walnut (Juglans nigra L.) does, and I have sometimes thought that its fruit might be utilized for pickling in the same fashion. In preparing the pickle only the green unripe walnuts were used; and the old test of their suitability was to thrust a hat pin or a darning needle through them. If the pin would not penetrate they were too old for pickling.

The next step was to make a salt brine strong enough to float an egg, well boiled and skimmed and allowed to cool. The walnuts were soaked in this for six days and it may be noted that from a pale green color they turned to a rich black-brown. The brine was renewed, and the walnuts stood six days more, and were then drained. At this stage they were handled as little as possible or they would dye the fingers a deep "nigger" hue which did not easily wear off.

Lastly a pickle was made of the best vinegar, with a good share of pepper, pimento, ginger, mace, cloves, mustard seed and horse-radish—all of which were measured, as I recollect, by "rule of thumb"—and all boiled together but allowed to cool. The walnuts were put into a jar and the cold pickle poured over them; in addition, for every hundred walnuts, two or three bulbs of garlic or shallots and six spoonful of mustard seed were placed in the pickle. The shallots were used if the stronger garlic flavor was not liked.

The jar was now made as airtight as possible, and allowed to remain so for six months, when the walnuts were fit for use. They would be quite mellow and cut like soft cheese. It is said that pickled in this fashion they would keep for several years; maybe so, but they never lasted so long!

When the walnuts were consumed, the pickle served as a good catsup. The walnut juice, after the first pickling, was supposed to be dyed employed by the gypsies to color and disguise any gorgis youngsters they might kidnap!

It would be interesting if some reader, with a taste for experimenting, would try this old recipe, and report on it. There are walnut trees growing in Charlottetown, which produce green fruit suitable for the venture; and last year I was given specimens said to have been grown at Montague. Our season is, I think, too short for walnuts to ripen thoroughly but the pickle, it will be noticed, does not require this.

The name walnut indicates that the tree is not truly British, since it means literally the "foreign (or Strangers) nut," so-called by our Anglo-Saxon forefathers.

THE BIRDHOUSE CONTEST

At the beginning of April last, there appeared in these columns an announcement of a "Birdhouse Contest." The rules were few and simple, and the prizes were to be books—and excellent books too! Briefly stated, each contestant was to put out not less than three birdhouses; and when such a house was occupied the owner was to secure the signature of the public school teacher, certifying such occupancy. Observational notes of an interesting character were to be made during the nesting period. The certificates and notes were to form the basis for judgment.

Contestants are hereby requested to mail all certificates and observational notes not later than Saturday, Sept. 2nd, 1933, to "Agricola, care of The Charlottetown Guardian, City." Be sure to enclose full address, Lot and County.

SHOOTING THE ROBINS

A correspondent says that some orchardists have been shooting the robins, as they took the cherries. Such a method of meeting the situation is crude and lacks imagination. It is possible to preserve the fruit and the robins also. There is in the Old Country a bird—the blackbird—which is as fond of fruit as the robin, and as he is a better songster, with longer phrases, he is something of a favorite and the problem was, how to protect the fruit and not injure the bird. For strawberries and the bush fruits, the solution was found in covering them with old fishing

nets, so that he could not reach the fruit. For cherries and tree fruits this method was not applicable, so "scare crows" of various kinds were brought into play. An artificial "hawk", with pieces of mirror for eyes swinging on a line something like a clothes-line, was employed with success. One orchardist made up rabbit-skins to look like cats and placed these in the trees, and another used human effigies for the same purpose. These were put up when the fruit ripened, and taken down immediately it was picked, so that the birds did not acquire that familiarity which we are told breeds contempt. And as these things were well constructed and taken care of, they lasted for several years. Some gardeners hung mirrors to the branches and the flash as they swung, seemed to frighten the birds.

Robins, to all appearance, are becoming scarcer in this neighborhood. I see no young ones about, this year. The grackles are numerous and it is interesting to observe their strategy. We are familiar with the "chack! chack!" which does not carry any particular meaning, but when, perched on a tree-top, the bird utters a wheezy call, between a buzz and a whistle, we may be sure there is mischief afoot. The black marauder has located a robin's nest and the call is for help to raid it. When aid arrives they all begin the search, and the robin gives away the exact location by noisily dashing in and defence; then while one grackle engages the poor bird's attention, the others seize the eggs or nestlings. This tragedy is so common that robins, despite their fecundity, are becoming scarcer. They need to be protected, not shot.

EAGLES, HAWKS AND VULTURES

This is the title of an article in the July number of the National Geographic Magazine (U. S. A.) All the birds of prey belonging to these races on the northern continent are treated of in a most fascinating study, which is copiously illustrated by figures in the text. Accompanying the article is a number of plates whereon each species is depicted in its natural colors. This article is part of a series dealing with our bird life. These on the Humming Birds, Swifts and Gnatcatchers; Bites, Herons and Famingoes; Crows, Magpies and Jays; and the Woodpeckers, having appeared within the past twelve months. A sixth article is promised at an early date. The magazine may be seen on application at the Public Library, City. The National Geographic Society publishes a Nature Lover's Library with volumes on Birds, Wild Animals, Wild Flowers, etc., and in accordance with the times, these are now being offered at half-price—a rare opportunity to acquire books that will prove a lasting source of delight.

SOME ODD COUNTS

Our decimal system of notation has, by its convenience, superseded a number of other methods, whose remains still float as snags on the current of our speech. "Three score and ten" is often quoted as the appointed limit of man's life; and this "score" is a reminder that toes as well as fingers were used in the count. Darwin says that among some of the South American aborigines the word for a "score" meant also "a man." We may ask "What is the score?" but the answer now has ten as a radix or root.

As more or less of a curiosity one may experiment with a duodenary notation having twelve as a base; but I do not think our reckoning by dozens has anything to do with this. It seems to have been the custom in former times for the trader (in Britain) to give his customer just a little more than the bargain called for, so when he sold ten articles he gave two extra. By-and-bye when the dozen had become a commonplace, the baker's dozen—thirteen—arose! In this connection it is said that there was a heavy fine if the baker gave short weight, and the extra loaf was given to keep within the law. A week is seven days, but two weeks make a fortnight; a fourteen night. We do not reckon by nights now, but our Anglo-Saxon progenitors, like other Germanic tribes, did. They called the week a seven-night (seven-nights), but the word survives only in the classics.

ASTRONOMICAL NOTES

Jupiter and Mars have now traversed the heavens from East to

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A MUCH BANNED WEED

There is probably no weed in the universe so long legislated against as Clover Dodder, which was introduced into Canada from Europe. It is a serious pest in France, Spain, Italy and other southern European countries; in Chili and other parts of South America; in the United States; and in fact in all countries which have long summers without frost. During the years of shortage in clover seed crops in Canada it was frequently introduced and distributed in imported seed, but its ravages on red clover have been noted only in a few instances in southern Ontario and the Pacific Coast in years following an exceptionally late fall without frost until October. The dodder is an annual parasite which slender yellowish and reddish stems which twine about the host plant and become attached to the clover stems by suckers through which it obtains nourishment. Alfalfa dodder, says the Dominion Seed Branch, has given trouble in southwestern Ontario and in the Prairie Provinces where it is known to have continued in alfalfa for three years. Badly infested fields should be ploughed under before seed forms.

West, and the former planet shines a glittering point, in the yellow glow just above sunset. Mars, who so long accompanied the giant planet has now fallen behind so far, that when Jupiter has sunk below the horizon Mars is still in a good position for observation. Each month, from the first of the year, our satellite has come into the neighborhood of these planets, and each time there has been a coincidence of terrestrial meteorological and seismic disturbances. As Mars sinks in the West, it is time to look for Saturn's rise in the South-east. Like Jupiter, to which it is next in point of size, Saturn is a brilliant star, and as a planet it is recognizable by its steady, non-twinkling light.

"A NEW PLANT"

Matters botanical have been rather neglected this summer for various reasons, and with one exception, no new "discoveries" have been made. Professor R. R. Hurst of the Experimental Station, has, however, forwarded me a specimen of the Lesser Bugloss (Lycopsis arvensis L.) which, he tells me, threatens to be a bad weed under certain conditions. This plant, though it has been found as far north as Nova Scotia, has up to now not been reported for this province. As it is an annual it has every chance to spread, and will therefore require prompt handling. The Bugloss belongs to the somewhat extensive family of the Boraginaceae, and is the fifth member of the family found in the Island.

An orchid which I found growing by the side of our brook, was almost past the flowering period, but sufficient remained to allow a provisional identification as Habenaria dilatata, var. media (Rydb.). Ames; but this plant ought to be re-examined under more favorable conditions next year, before giving it a place in our Island flora.

THE LION ON THE LAWN

The dandelion was cleverly called "the tooth of the lion" in the original French from whence comes the name. It has long, deep tapering roots, which, if broken off, have the capacity to form new leaves and plants. Once thoroughly established on a lawn, dandelions are most difficult to eradicate. To the distracted home beautifer, they are indeed like lion's teeth chawing up the beloved handiwork.

There are two effective ways of extirpating the weeds and both require considerable time and patience. The first is by trying to poison them off with sprays; the second and most efficient in the long run, is killing them with kindness, that is, by the use of fertilizer. The grass becomes so strong, crowding in under the rosette of the dandelion leaves, that the weeds are forced to give place to the persistent grass, particularly if in a sunny position.

Spraying the lawn repeatedly with sulphate of iron is recommended where the pest is prevalent, a twenty per cent strength being suggested for the sulphate, that is, about 20 pounds in 10 gallons of water. However, many of the leading horticulturists are definitely in favor of the fertilizer system and recommend the stimulation of the grass by repeated applications of sulphate of ammonia. That would be about four applications at least during the season, the first application being made very early in the spring, using about eight pounds of sulphate of ammonia on 1,000 square feet of lawn. It is well to mix the fertilizer with a certain amount of soil in order to get uniform application, and should be applied when the grass is damp. One eminent horticulturist is of opinion that the use of sulphate of iron to kill out dandelions works better with a plant like mustard that does not possess so strong a root system. It may take two or three seasons to clean the lawn by the fertilizer method.

HELPING TO PREVENT HONEY SPOILAGE

(Experimental Farms Note) Spoilage of honey by fermentation is caused by the action of yeast which are able to act in the presence of the high percentage of sugar found in honey. Considerable study has been devoted to this question at the Central Experimental Farm, and it has been found that fermentation depends almost entirely upon two factors, the moisture content and the amount of infection by yeasts. Consequently the better ripened a lot of honey is, and the greater the cleanliness exercised, the less likely will the honey be to ferment during storage. All honeys contains yeasts to some extent. Some of this infection is doubtless carried by the bees with the floral nectar, but the beekeeper, by the exercise of precautions at the time of extraction to work with well cleaned and preferably sterilized utensils in a clean extracting house, is able to control much of the contamination and help obtain a product safe from spoilage.

At the Division of Bacteriology a method has been evolved by which an examination of the freshly extracted honey will indicate whether the honey may be expected to remain safe from fermentation within one year. Honeys which are in danger of spoilage may thus be destined for quicker consumption or subjected to further treatment, such as heating, to prevent fermentation. The practical beekeeper, however, by concentrating on preparing a well ripened honey, produced in a clean way to insure for himself a product of good keeping quality.

SLUGS, BEES AND ROSES

At the annual meeting of District No. 2 of the Ontario Horticultural Association held at the Experimental Farm, Ottawa, Mr. A. G. Dugan of the Dominion Entomological Branch, in the course of an address dealing with insects of the rose, mentioned the effects of slugs and solitary bees on rose plants. The slugs hid during the day, the three principal kinds being known as:

- 1—The European Rose Slug; 2—The Bristly Rose Slug; 3—The Coiled Rose Worm.

The first skeletonized the leaves, leaving the veins and tissues intact; the Bristly Rose Slug first ate the under surface of the leaves but, as it increased in size, devoured all the leaf tissues except the largest veins; and the Coiled Rose Worm fed on the entire tissues of the leaves, and left only the largest veins untouched. Arsenate of lead, using four ounces to ten gallons of water, would control these

Sanctuary

By Jack Miner

Birds of North America migrate from one country to another. A large number nest and raise their young and spend the spring and summer in Canada, but as fall approaches they fly to the southern regions of the United States. Therefore, as the birds are natives of no one country, there exists a migratory bird treaty between the United States and Canada which arbitrates laws so that all game birds on the continent that migrate are afforded equal protection in both countries.

It is now twenty-six years since I first noticed a decrease in the various species of birds on the continent, both among the song and insectivorous birds and also among game birds. When I began my investigation of the causes of the decrease in ducks and geese I found an answer in the increased number of hunters and the use of the automatic pump gun. Man appeared to be devoting too much time to the killing of game birds and not enough to their welfare and protection. Thus, I conceived the idea of starting a sanctuary, a place where birds would find shelter, food and protection from the guns of hunters. Not possessing wealth I was unable to build large ponds, but as I was engaged in the brick manufacturing business, I turned one rather large clay pit into a lake fenced it off, and posted my invitation to the birds.

I first purchased a pair of wild geese, clipped their wings, and placed them in the pond. Then I scattered corn around and sat back to see others swoop down. This was in 1904, and I continued to scatter corn until 1908 before there was any addition to the two geese I had placed there. That is how scarce wild geese were at that time. The first visit brought eleven geese, and these remained about eight weeks before they flew away. They returned the following year with twenty-two others, remaining eight weeks. In 1910 more than 300 dropped in to see me, while in 1911 there were so many that it was impossible to make any sort of count.

To present some idea how many come each year since that time, it requires a fund of \$10,000 every year to purchase food for them. Thus the sanctuary idea, and the idea to artificially feed the waterfowl, has proved itself. After twenty six years of work with it I am convinced of its success as a measure for the protection of birds. Many people have accused me of

pests, with attention paid to spraying the ground round about. Cultivation and the destruction of prunings, dead leaves and other debris, by burning, helped to destroy the hiding places of these insects. Solitary bees occasionally cut holes in the rose cane, laid an egg with some honey, and sealed it up. The only control was to find the nest and destroy it. The raspberry weevil also cut rings in the bark of the rose cane to lay an egg. The only control was to cut the cane off below the rings.

PRAIRIE FORAGE CROPS WANTED

The farmers of the Canadian prairie provinces have during the past two decades directed their efforts chiefly towards the production and export of wheat. Economic and other circumstances until recently probably warranted wheat farming as the major agricultural interest, but conditions have changed and now wheat farming yields little profit. Farmers are therefore turning much attention to livestock production and its co-operative forage crop farming. This move has been largely forced, not only by economic conditions but also by such other conditions as extensive weed infestation, soil drifting and reduced yields. As a result of this greatly increasing interest in forage crops, the problem of seed supplies has become a matter of considerable concern. The prairie provinces, and indeed all Canada, have in the past imported large amounts of forage crop seeds, although our agronomic conditions are quite suitable for the production of most of our requirements. This situation writes Mr. G. M. Stewart, of the Dominion Seed Branch, in the July number of Scientific Agriculture, "has led me to the conviction and this is my thesis on this occasion, that forage crop seed production should be very appreciably increased in these provinces, at least to the extent of supplying their own increasing requirements in so far as this may be economically

protecting birds to die of old age." (This is far from the truth. My idea is simply to prevent extermination of ducks and geese—to provide for another generation the same enjoyment in these birds this and past generations have enjoyed. I am not in any measure opposed to a man shooting eight or ten ducks or two or three geese for food, but I am opposed to men going out and slaughtering game birds just for the sake of killing. A sanctuary does not take anything away from the hunter; rather it increases his chances.

Fifteen years ago the beautiful white whistling swans were reduced to hundreds and were in danger of becoming extinct. The proper protective measures were taken and today there are more than 20,000 whistlers on the continent. Four years ago I visited Niagara Falls and found that these birds were being caught by the hundreds in death traps. It seems that on the waters of Lake Erie, fifteen miles above the falls, the swans go for their first northern migration, and it is here that they are trapped.

I discussed this deplorable practice with William Hill, better known as "Red" Hill, a riverman. He informed me that geese and ducks undoubtedly would have fallen prey to the traps had not my sanctuary up in Canada lured them away. "I haven't seen a wild goose around here since you began drawing them to your ponds," he said.

"Then why can't I attract the swan away from the traps, Red?" I asked. "I've got several pairs of swans to serve as decoys." That was the beginning. Last summer more than 4,000 of these beautiful birds spent from a month to six weeks along the lake shore at Kingsville where the Government furnishes Royal Canadian Mounted Police to protect them both night and day.

Not only do ducks and geese find shelter on the sanctuary, but around the ponds have been planted several rows of evergreen trees which, while serving as a windbreak, shelter hundreds of song and insectivorous birds.

What pleases me most is that since my sanctuary has succeeded there have been hundreds started by the provincial and Dominion governments of Canada. Too, in the United States countless hundreds have been established.

Wherever there are birds there must be a sanctuary, especially if man continues to dwell upon the slaughter, rather than protection.

practicable. By growing our own seeds we can be assured of supplies of hardy and approved suitable varieties. Further, we can avoid sending large sums of money outside the provinces for imported seeds, and so increase the incomes of our farmers who undertake to produce these seeds for us.

It is actually the case that the prairie provinces produce, in relation to their area and suitability for grass production, a smaller amount of grassland products than any other similar area in the world. The ill effects of farming without grass—producing cereal crops interspersed with bare fallows—is patent to all observers. Weed and soil problems, together with economic conditions that need not be discussed now, render it imperative that the prairie farming system be changed and that large areas of forage crops be grown.

The stable fly is similar in appearance to the common housefly but may be distinguished by its awl-like proboscis. This species is most in evidence from July to October and commonly lives outdoors, entering houses for shelter in dull or stormy weather. Both sexes suck blood and attack domestic animals and man, inflicting a painful and irritating bite.

Apply Miner's Lintment to cuts.

Spinning and Weaving

Send me in your wool to be spun into Yarn and wove into Blankets. The charges are: single yarn 23 cents doubled 26 cents per pound. Blankets \$2.00, and if unlanded \$1.85; it takes five lbs. of wool per blanket. Wool must be well washed and all dirt and burrs picked out. The size of single yarn is medium, and doubled yarn fine, medium, coarse and hooking yarn. Put shipper's name on all parcels and owner's name, address and instructions inside. Send by mail or freight. Freight will be paid on 100 lb. lots. W.M. LANDRIGAN, 65 Queen Street, Charlottetown.

June 20-Tue-Sat-321.

Illustration Station Field Days

- Rose Valley—(Farm of Malcolm MacKenzie) Wednesday, August 9, at 2 P. M. New London—(Farm of Wm. E. Johnstone) Thursday, August 10, at 2 P. M. Rustico—(Farm of John L. Clark) Friday, August 11, at 2 P. M. De Sable—(Farm of Hector McKay) Monday, August 14, at 2 P. M. Falmer Road—(Farm of Sylvain Peters) Tuesday, August 15, at 2 P. M. West Devon—(Farm of Cephas Grigg) Wednesday, August 16, at 2 P. M. Glenwood—(Farm of Alfred Gorrill) Thursday, August 17, at 2 P. M. Richmond—(Farm of Thomas Noonan) Friday, August 18, at 2 P. M. Montague—(Farm of Fred G. MacIntyre) Saturday, August 19, at 2 P. M. Red Point—(Farm of Nelson R. Stewart) Monday, August 21, at 2 P. M.

Combined Standing Fields And Treshed Grain Competition, 1933.

CASH PRIZES FOR FIELD OF OATS, WHEAT, BARLEY AND CERTIFIED SEED POTATOES.

There will be competitions in the three counties where there are five or more entries each for Wheat, Barley, Oats and for Potatoes grown from Certified Seed. The number of Prizes in each County will be proportionate with the number of entries. Prizes will be paid according to the combined score of the standing field and the threshed grain.

RULES AND REGULATIONS.

- 1. A field of Oats shall consist of at least five acres, of Wheat and Barley three acres, of Certified Seed Potatoes two acres. 2. An entry fee of \$1.00 shall be charged for the first and fifty cents for each additional entry of Grain, and \$1.00 for each entry of Potatoes. 3. The entry fee shall accompany the application. 4. Entries should be made to the Department of Agriculture not later than August 19th, 1933. 5. REGISTERED SEED ONLY.—The field of Oats entered for inspection must be seeded with Registered Oats. Owing to the change in the regulations made by the Seed Branch, Ottawa, fields seeded with unregistered Oats will not be eligible for the competition.

J. W. BOULTER, Deputy Minister of Agriculture.

THE FALL RYE CROP

(Experimental Farms Note) The fall rye crop in Eastern Canada is not an important one from the standpoint of total production in relation to other cereal grains, but nevertheless, it is a very useful crop for certain purposes and conditions. Possibly it has its greatest value in that it can be seeded on light land of only fair fertility and can be expected to do better than any other class of cereal under these conditions. It may be used for pasture, hay and ensilage, or as a grain crop. It is useful as a cover crop and for ploughing down to enrich the humus content of the soil. And owing to its rapid growth it is particularly valuable in controlling weeds. The grain is utilized for feeding live stock, for milling into flour and in the brewing and distilling industry. As a food for livestock it is not quite as palatable or as valuable as either cereals but when ground may be used to good advantage in substantial quantities—up to 35 per cent—in combination with other grains for fattening hogs and beef cattle.

Tests conducted by the Cereal Division at the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, on a large number of winter rye varieties have indicated that Rosen along with two or three other varieties have given the best yields of grain. For grain production winter rye should be sown at the rate of 4 to 6 pecks per acre on well prepared land and preferably not later than September 15. If it is desired for pasture in the fall or for a cover crop it may be sowed at a heavier rate any time during the summer especially after a good rain. Winter rye and oats sown in the spring at the rate of one bushel of rye to one bushel of oats will provide good pasture throughout the season. The rye does not head out but produces a dense mat of foliage which comes on after the oats and may be of particular value for late summer or early fall pasture. Winter rye if pastured not too closely in the fall will winter over and either produce good early spring pasture or a grain crop. The straw of rye is usually quite coarse and not very desirable for hay. If it is used for this purpose or for ensilage it should be cut at the time of heading.

In the maple sugar industry of Canada, the application of The Maple Sugar Industry Act, administered by the Fruit Branch of the Dominion Department of Agriculture, has proved effective and of benefit both to the producer and to the manufacturer.

Advertisement for Imperial Cod Oil, Fox and Dog Biscuit, featuring an illustration of a dog and a fox, and text describing the product as a balanced ration.

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CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. I.