

FOR FARMERS, STOCKBREEDERS AND GARDENERS

NEWSY NOTES

BY AGRICOLA

THE WHITE BRYONY

A gentleman who lives in the South of England, and who has a private botanical garden into which he has collected most of the rarer plants, is kind enough to send me any seeds that I require for experiments in acclimatizing. Late in 1932, he sent me some seeds of Bryonia divica, the White Bryony, which, as I stated last week, the only British representative of the cucumber family but presents some marked differences from the other.

herbal, in which astrology and botany were mingled in strange confusion, and whose book was to be found in all household libraries of any pretension in old times. An Old Country friend informs me that the root was much esteemed as an aphrodisiac for horses.

BIRDS OF P. E. ISLAND

- 672 a—Yellow Palm Warbler. S.R. Tignish 1892—Dwight (1916). 674—Oven Bird. S.R. (1916) Nest found, Marshfield in 1914—L.J. 675—Water Thrush. S.R. Tignish—Dwight (1916). Smet Creek 1931.—B.H. 679—Mourning Warbler. S.R. Reported by Dwight (1916). 681—Northern Yellowthroat. S.R. Reported by Dwight (1916). 682—American Redstart. S.R. Common (1916). Not rare.—J.F.S. 697—American Pipit or Titlark. M. (1916). No later particulars. 704—Catbird. S.R. Reported 1888—Macoun (1916). Not rare.—L.J. 722—Winter Wren. S.R. Uncommon (1916). Observed Aug. 6, 1931.—B.H. 726—Brown Creeper. R. Rare, 1916. Rare, 1933.—L.J. 727—White-breasted Nuthatch. R. Common.—L.J. 728—Red-breasted Nuthatch. R. Common. Nuthatch (1916). Rare now.—L.J. 735—Black-capped Chickadee. R. Common.—L.J. 740—Acadian Chickadee (Hudson in Chickadee of 1916 list). Not uncommon (1916). Rare now.—L.J. 748—Gold-crowned Kinglet. R. (1916). Not uncommon.—L.J. 749—Ruby-crowned Kinglet. S.R.? Quite rare (1916). Several at Souris, May 7, 1932.—J.F.S. One found dead on a doorstep, Kinross, Feb. 1934. Mrs. J. D. Ross. One found dead at Smet Creek May 6, 1933.—B.H. 756—Wilson Thrush or Veery. Spring visitor.—Macoun (1916). Rare summer resident in N.E.—B.W.T. 758a—Olive-backed Thrush. S.R. Abundant (1916). Increasing 1933.—L.J. 759b—Hermite Thrush. S.R. Not uncommon here, 1934.—L.J. 761—American Robin. S.R. Common (1916). Increasing at Lot 48.—L.J. Decreasing at Brackley Beach.—B.H. Decreasing in the vicinity of Souris; come earlier than formerly; a flock of 20 observed today, March 28, 1934. Also more stray birds winter here, probably due to more general planting of berry-bearing trees, as Mountain Ash, Thorn, etc.—J.F.S. This ends the authentic list of birds which have been recorded in the vicinity of Souris; some earlier than formerly; a flock of 20 observed today, March 28, 1934. Also more stray birds winter here, probably due to more general planting of berry-bearing trees, as Mountain Ash, Thorn, etc.—J.F.S.

White Bryony interests me greatly as I am so familiar with the trailing vines of shining leaves and thick clusters of green, yellow, then red berries which cling to the ridges of England at this time of the year, and which are perhaps the very first plant life to feel the slightest touch of frost.

There has been a lot written about the plant by ancient and modern herbalists. I will, therefore, quote from one or two authorities, none of which state that the berries are poisonous.

Gerarde says "The roote is very greene, long and thicke, growing deepe in the earth, of a whitish yellow colour, extreme bitter and astringent, and an unlessefull taste. The Queenes chiefe Surgeon Mr. William Goddours, a very curious and learned gentleman, showed me a roote hereof, that waled halfe a pound weight, and of the bignesse of a child of a yeere old."

Culpeper says "Bryony is under Mars. They are furious martial plants. The roote of bryony pursues with great violence, troubling the stomach and burning the liver, and therefore not rashly to be taken; but being corrected, is very profitable for diseases of the head... and is therefore good for palsies, convulsions, cramps, and stiches in the side, and the dropsy, etc. etc."

Mr. Hart, to whom my readers and myself are indebted for this interesting and courteous letter is a member of the botanical staff at the C.E.F. Gerard's well-known "Herbal" (which he calls "the first fruits of these mine own labours") was published in 1897. My books of reference give no mention of Culpeper, who also published an early

Lamb Feeding Project

Approved by Federal Government for the Feeding and Fattening of 10,000 Range Feeder Lambs in Eastern Provinces of Canada.

A policy whereby western range feeder lambs will again be fattened in Eastern Canada has been approved by Hon. Robert Weir, Federal Minister of Agriculture, and already members of the Southern Saskatchewan Sheep Breeders' Association have signed up seven thousand head of feeder lambs for shipment to Eastern feeding points. Officials of the Dominion Live Stock Branch are charged with the responsibility of locating suitable feeding farms and supervising the feeding, fattening and marketing operations. Members of the Ranchers' Association at a recent meeting in Maple Creek have agreed to consign lambs for fattening under the terms of a rancher-feeder agreement whereby a valuation of three cents a pound is placed on the lambs at the Moose Jaw stock yards where official weights are to be established. Freight from shipping point to feed-lot will be added to the initial price charged into the feed-lot.

Under the above project, farmers who apply for feeder lambs will not be required to lay out any cash. The freight charges to feed-lot will be prepaid by the Dominion Department of Agriculture, reimbursement being made to the Department for freight so paid from the proceeds of sale when lambs are fat. Feeders are required to have suitable equipment in the form of feeding sheds, plenty of feed and good water. They are also required to feed and market in accordance with the procedure prescribed by the Dominion Live Stock Branch officials. Ranchers retain ownership of the lambs until marketed so that under the agreement the rancher and the feeder receive their respective share of the net proceeds after the lambs are marketed.

The rancher-feeder agreement for 1934 is based on a three-cent price for official weights at Moose Jaw. The feeder gets the value of all the gain in weight plus sixty per cent of the spread after freight and marketing charges have been deducted. The rancher receives the value at three cents per pound, Moose Jaw weights, plus forty per cent of the spread.

In 1933 about three thousand head of feeder lambs were fattened in Ontario under a similar agreement. The best feeders were able to make gains above twenty-five pounds per lamb. Selling price for feed-lot lambs when sold as fat lambs in Toronto ranged from seven to nine and a half cents a pound. Lambs of the range usually weigh between 50 to 60 pounds. The feeding period is from 100 to 150 days depending on feeds, management, etc.

Saskatchewan lambs will be shipped by rail to the Dominion Live Stock Branch and will be shipped in double-deck cars containing 200 heads. Care must be exercised during the first month in getting the lambs on grain feed. Whole oats is considered to be the safest grain to feed at this time. When lambs have become accustomed to eating a pound of grain daily they may be fed a more fattening grain feed by gradually adding barley, wheat screenings or other home-grown grains. Clover or alfalfa hay are almost essential for best results. The amount of hay required may be greatly reduced if corn ensilage is available. Turnips or roots of any kind are also excellent.

Those desiring to fatten range feeder lambs should communicate with A. A. MacMillan, Associate Chief, Field Services, Live Stock Branch, Ottawa. Some indication should be given of the accommodation available, the amount of feed on hand, and the experience in fattening stock.

WALL PAINTINGS (2)

We can with some difficulty project ourselves into the mentality of the English people for whom the wall-paintings were made. They could neither read nor write; they lived all their lives in their own villages, except on the rare occasions when they visited the nearest market town, or the rarer occasions when the men were levied for service in war. They loved their church and visited it not only on Sundays but on weekdays too. It was the centre of the village life, and its bells rang a merry peal over happy events, and tolled mournfully when death claimed one of their number. The service might be in a tongue that they did not understand, or the sermon might be good sometimes and sometimes dull, but they never tired of looking at the pictures on the walls, and their interest was the greater because these had been painted by one of themselves.

Problems Connected With Raising Silver Foxes In Captivity

(By G. Ennis Smith, Superintendent Experimental Fox Ranch, Summerside, P. E. I.)

The development of silver fox ranching will be an outstanding feature in the history of the creation of world-wide commercial enterprises, an enterprise that Canada has given to the world, too freely many contend. However that may be, Canada in sending from her shores high class silver foxes as breeding stock, has placed this basic industry on a sure foundation throughout the entire world.

While the success of the pioneers in their initial attempts to raise these wild animals in captivity on a commercial basis has been lauded throughout the press of the entire world, it is very questionable if they will ever be given full recognition for their success in spite of apparently insurmountable barriers, and the romance associated with the dauntless and untiring efforts of Sir Charles Dalton and Mr. R. T. Oulton, in a truly typical Canadian spirit and in keeping with the efforts of their forefathers in building up the country, will always give an added lure to Canadian life and enterprise.

Like every new industry fox breeders had to contend with most vexatious set-backs which appeared to harass the very existence of their enterprise. They recognized that scientific investigation of their problems was imperative and made in a persistent and persistent effort to induce the Canadian Government to undertake experimental work. While the Dominion Department of Agriculture was cognizant of the difficulties that fox breeders had to contend with, also considered that it was a bounden duty to attempt to alleviate the difficulties and that as silver fox ranching was a Canadian creation national pride would demand that a proper effort should be made to place it upon a sound basis, yet the chief difficulty that faced the Department was the fact of the scarcity of scientific men to undertake the work and in the face of continued appeals for money the Department was reticent of undertaking the investigation work. However, the fox breeders would not be denied and came forward with request after request and offer after offer to share the burden of scientific investigation that they considered was absolutely necessary for their industry.

In 1925 the Experimental Fox Ranch at Summerside was established and became an integral part of the Dominion Experimental Farms System as the result of an agreement between the Department of Agriculture and the Canadian Fox Breeders, the latter agreeing to purchase the land, to construct buildings and necessary buildings and to donate twenty-five pairs of registered silver foxes as foundation breeding stock.

The problems that fox breeders had to contend with were multi-

Controlling Potato Tuber Diseases

(Experimental Farms Note)

Diseased potato tubers are undesirable for marketing purposes because diseased stock may rot in storage or in transit, necessitating sales at discount prices or possible disqualification. As a consequence consumers' costs are increased while the growers' profits are lowered accordingly. Surpassing these difficulties met in the marketing phase of this industry in Canada, however, is the more serious problem arising from the use of diseased potatoes for seed, a practice leading to seed-piece rot, weak germination, poor stands and low yields.

Moreover, the use of diseased seed tubers results in contamination of the soil, thus making it most difficult, if not impossible, to produce disease-free potatoes on the same location for several years. The importance of this principle is better appreciated when it is known that new land is relatively free from disease organisms and should be safeguarded against contamination. In seeking to control potato tuber diseases it is well to know that a number of them attack both tubers and tops, so that they must be dealt with in the seed stock supply and in the field. Those diseases confined to the tubers alone necessitate such measures as seed treatment, soil treatment and seed-selection, all of which are being investigated by the Division of Botany of the Dominion Experimental Farm through its Branch Laboratories. Although such practices are subject to limitations, when carefully conducted they provide a means of bettering crop production, and of reducing, very materially, the otherwise appreciable losses. It must be clearly understood that seed treatment will not prevent diseases originating in the soil. Under these circumstances a scheme of soil treatment or soil management is a distinct advantage. Seed treatment, of course, can only be effective against diseases occurring on the surface of the potato tubers, whereas the more deeply seated infections, notably late blight rot, black leg, and Fusarium rot cannot be reached by seed treatment. In these instances the correct preventive measure is to avoid using the diseased tubers.

Certain diseases such as leaf roll, mosaic and spindle tuber cannot be detected in the seed-tubers, although they give rise to definite symptoms in the growing tops. The eradication of these disorders can be accomplished only by a system of thorough roguing combined with the operation of a tuber-unit seed-piece.

Detailed information on the subject under consideration may be secured from the nearest Dominion Laboratory of Plant Pathology.

Fruit Export Board

The Fruit Export Marketing Scheme presented by the fruit industry has been approved by Hon. Robert Weir, Dominion Minister of Agriculture, and the Government in Council upon the recommendations of the Dominion Marketing Board. The purpose of this scheme is to regulate the marketing for export from Canada of fresh apples and fresh pears. The provinces of Nova Scotia, Ontario and British Columbia are particularly concerned with this scheme as from these provinces practically all the fruit of this class is exported from Canada. During the past five years the average annual amount of fruit exported has been more than two million tons.

The situation with respect to the marketing of fruits in the United Kingdom is such that the regulation of the marketing of fruit from Canada is imperative. By regulating the export it is anticipated that over-supplies and shortages of Canadian fruit on the markets of the United Kingdom will be prevented and better prices will be obtained. It is also anticipated that the general standard of Canadian apples sold in the United Kingdom will be raised.

The Export Control Scheme is to be administered by a Local Board to be known as the Fruit Export Board of Canada which will consist of two persons appointed by the fruit growers of Nova Scotia, one appointed by the fruit growers in Ontario and one by the fruit growers in British Columbia. There will be an additional member on the Board who will be chairman appointed by the members. The members of the first Export Local Board are: Leslie F. Burrows, Canadian Horticultural Council, Ottawa, Canada, who will be the chairman; Manning Ellis, Port Williams, N.S.; Vernon B. Leonard, Clarence, N.S.; Percy W. Hodgett, Toronto, Ont.; and Oris W. Hembling, Oyma, B.C.

The powers of the Export Local Board will include the regulation of the movement of apples and pears exported from Canada and may prohibit during any period the exportation from Canada of any quantity, size or quality of fruit. All producers of fruit may be registered by the Export Local Board and all exporters or shippers of fruit from Canada will be required to obtain a license. Licenses may be obtained upon application to the local offices of the Fruit Export Board at Charlottetown, Nova Scotia, Toronto, Ontario, (Parliament Buildings), and Kelowna, British Columbia. Assessment will be made and collected on fruit exported, such assessment to be used to pay the necessary expenses of the Board.

No person shall export from Canada any fruit in contravention of any order, rule or regulation of the Export Local Board nor until the exporter has obtained a license. The head office of the Local Board will be in Ottawa.

Timely Notes On Topics Connected With Silver Fox Farming

By an Experienced Silver Fox Rancher

On Tuesday morning we visited Claude Smith's ranch on the lower St. Peters road and received a very genial greeting from Claude, who was busy directing the cleaning up of his ranch. In a small space Claude has a fox population of about 500 pups and about 300 adults. Claude has made a distinct success of Silver Fox Farming, uniting brains with energy and will to work. His pups look good, also his adults.

I noticed he was using sulphur very liberally sprinkled over the floors of his sheds where the foxes were housed, which by the way were 6 by 12, and were also used as breeding dens. He said he liked sulphur very much and when he cleaned out the houses always sprinkled it on the floors. Never covered them with straw. Never had any trouble with fleas, which bears out our statement of last week. Sulphur in quantities is cheap and within the means of anyone.

I did not notice any pups with bit tips, so said to Claude, "How do you keep them from biting their tips?" "About two years ago I noticed some of my foxes were biting their tips so I commenced feeding lettuce and we have fed it pretty liberally ever since."

That is the solution of the tip biting question which has been worrying so many of the fox farmers who raise their pups in sheds. At the Vimy Ranch near Charlottetown they use a lot of greens and nearly all the pups have their tips intact, although they are heavy meat feeders.

Discussing the question with George Calbeck he said he was very partial to the liberal use of greens and quoted a Western rancher who had some rather extraordinary pelts and was a feeder of Swiss Chard, one-half ounce to each fox daily. George said that although this man was also a big meat feeder his tips were O. K.

In an article which appeared in the Black Fox Magazine some months ago, Drs. Ronald G. Law and Arnold Kennedy of the Ontario Government Experimental Farm wrote very informatively regarding the effects of fleas on foxes. They state that "fleas are responsible for severe anemia in foxes and it is doubtful if the majority of ranchers fully realize the actual harm which these pests can do. Fleas irritate the foxes and by the scratching which ensues the pelt is injured to some extent. Furthermore the flea on account of its blood-sucking habits can produce a non-thrifty condition in the fox."

Their treatment is by powdering with one of the satisfactory preparations on the market, treatment to be repeated at ten day intervals until the last flea is killed.

When dusting foxes the entire body should be thoroughly powdered and special attention paid to the head, base of the neck and shoulders, being careful to thoroughly dust the neck and mane where it is held by the tongues and any other parts which are so held that they escape dusting.

It is most essential that the immature stages be destroyed, that is to say the dirt, grass, bedding materials, kennels and in fact any environment which will provide suitable conditions for their development.

Valuable Research Results

(To Be Continued.)

(1) Normal reproduction was one of the most perplexing problems. While some females came in heat regularly each year, others failed to come in heat and many others only occasionally. Many males, apparently vigorous, were incompetent from a mating standpoint and an alarming number of matings were absolutely sterile.

(2) Fatalities among new born pups gave rise to innumerable fallacies and myths regarding the natural instincts of the mother fox. While evidence shows that the fox has a pronounced mother's instinct, yet this was interpreted as a vicious trait of devouring her young on the least provocation which led to an alarming number of unsound ranching methods.

(3) Lack of normal growth of the growing pups with serious numbers of fatalities blasted the hopes of many fox breeders who had started the year with a good crop of fox pups.

(4) Internal parasites had to be contended with. Hook worms, round worms, lung worms, bladder worms and other internal parasites would turn to a real menace, and the fox breeders were bewildered and perplexed in finding that while in some years their foxes would have an immunity against these parasites that in other years one or other of the parasites would become a real menace to the whole ranch. The same vexatious problem had to be contended with with regard to fleas, lice, earmites and external parasites. To make matters worse the spurious preventatives imposed upon the fox breeders very often occasioned more serious losses than the parasites themselves.

(5) Losses from epidemics of a varying nature occurred to a degree that was alarming in certain localities and fox breeders realized that some knowledge must be obtained regarding the infective agents and the control of same or else such epidemics if not controlled might ruin the silver fox industry.

(6) The revenue of the industry was dependent upon the production of fur of a high class quality and this was the main problem that fox breeders had to contend with as it was the economic basis of the industry.

Pelts in order to demand a high price must show the following characteristics: (a) A clear black colour without any sign of brown or rust. (b) The silver banding must show a clear metallic brightness. (c) Good volume of underfur of a favourable colour and texture. (d) Good development of long guard hairs to give a wadded appearance to the fur as a whole. (e) Length and strength and lustre of the guard hair. (f) Development of a good brush with a white tip which from time immemorial has been an outstanding characteristic of foxes and fox furs.

Butter Grading For Export

Butter graders are the only persons allowed to mark or brand the packages with the grade marks specified by the regulations for use on packages containing butter for export from Canada. Manufacturers of butter, or persons packing butter in prints, may apply for the terms First Grade, Second Grade, Third Grade and No Grade, provided the quality of the butter is in accordance with the grade indicated. The words applied to designate the grade must be in type at least one-quarter of an inch square and appear on the main panel of the wrapper.

Live Stock Regulations

The summary for the month of August of live stock pedigree certificates registered by the Canadian National Records, approved by Hon. Robert Weir, Dominion Minister of Agriculture, shows that the total registrations to date for 1934 are 47,426 as against 42,831 during the corresponding period of last year. For the month of August alone there were 6,274 registrations, including 295 horses; 3,070 cattle, 1,328 sheep; 908 swine; 3 foxes; 646 dogs; 2 poultry, and 22 goats. In the preliminary cattle registrations 949 were Arshire; 803 Jersey; 600 Shorthorn; 389 Guernsey; 297 Hereford; 109 Aberdeen-Angus; 72 Canadian (French); 26 Red Poll; 21 Galloway, and 5 Brown Swiss. Among the 908 registrations of Swine, 663 were Yorkshire.

critical: they did not mind the picture being out of proportion if only it was expressive and told its story well. They liked expressive faces and wanted to see what the people depicted with their hands and feet. The rustics, wall-painter, like his confreres knew nothing about art, but he knew all the Bible stories about the Apostles, the Saints, and the Holy Family and could make pictures of them. He was often a humorist too, and when he had a bit of wit to spare would ornament it with some school-boy joke, like the reindeer standing on its head, to be seen in the Chapter House at Westminster. Indeed all the craftsmen indulged their comic vein, for we find ludicrous wood-carvings of such subjects as a pig playing the bagpipes, the devil wheeling away an old woman in a barrow, and geese dressed in feminine garments; while in St. Mary's Abbey, York, is a stone carving of a man dying, while demons pull his soul, in the shape of a smaller man, out of his mouth.

(Continued on Page 12)

THE PATON PAVILION IN WHICH THE SILVER FOX EXHIBITION WILL BE HELD NOVEMBER 5TH TO 9TH, HAS BEEN THOROUGHLY REPAIRED. THE SLIGHTLY HAVE ALL BEEN REPAIRED AND NEW LIGHT WEIGHT SHUTTERS MADE FOR THEM. SUPPORTING POSTS HAVE BEEN MADE OF IRON BY BRUCE STEWART COMPANY AND THESE HAVE BEEN PUT IN TO TAKE THE WEIGHT OF THE SKYLIGHTS. THE FLOOR HAS BEEN STAINED AND THE INTERIOR MADE CLEAN AND ATTRACTIVE.

THE UNION VALE RANCH OF THE McLAURE & MacKINNON SILVER FOX FARMS, LTD., IS BEING PARTIALLY DEMOLISHED, THE WIRE BEING REMOVED FROM SOME THIRTY OF THE PENS AND USED FOR NEW PENS BEING CONSTRUCTED AT VIMY RANCH AND AS NEW ground wire for others.

UNION VALE RANCH WAS BUILT IN 1914 AND WAS THEN KNOWN AS THE CANADA ATLANTIC SILVER FOX COMPANY, CAPITALIZATION \$1,000,000. MR. J. STANLEY WEDLOCK WAS THE SCHEMATIC, BUT ALL THE STOCK WAS LOST. AT FIRST FORTY PENS WERE BUILT AND WE UNDERSTAND THE WIRE FOR THESE COST SOME \$20,000. IT IS THESE PENS THAT ARE NOW BEING TAKEN DOWN AND THE WIRE ABOVE GROUND SEEMS AS GOOD AS THE DAY IT WAS PUT UP. ON MR. WEDLOCK'S REMOVAL TO THE U.S.A. THE RANCH WAS SOLD AND PURCHASED BY McLAURE & MacKINNON, WHO USED IT FOR BREEDING FOXES UNTIL A FEW YEARS AGO WHEN FOXES WERE DISCONTINUED, REMOVING THE FOXES TO THE VIMY RANCH. THE FARM OF SOME 140 ACRES IS USED TO PRODUCE MILK FOR THE FOXES AT VIMY.

Mr. Claude Smith, Charlottetown, leaves next week for the Western part of the Island where he has been engaged by a number of fox ranchers to tattoo their foxes. These gentlemen are not members of the Canadian National but realize the benefit of marking.

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