

# FOR FARMERS, STOCK BREEDERS AND GARDENERS

## NEWSY NOTES

BY AGRICOLA

### WOMEN'S INSTITUTES

These organizations have become an important feature of social life in the British Isles, and there are many villages, each with its own institute that the newspapers carry a daily column of their doings and usually there is much to interest the general reader. This "Note" is confined to the lighter side of their activities.

At Marley Hill, (not far from my native village), the W. I. held a "field day" about the middle of June. Tea was served in the Church Hall, during which there was a series of guessing competitions—guessing the number of knots on a piece of string, "cake-guessing," guessing the contents of the mystery box, and so forth. The "mystery box" seems to be a great favorite with the British Institutes. In this case nobody guessed correctly so the contents were divided: the account does not specify what they were, but they still remain "a mystery."

After tea there were the usual sports, races, etc. for the members' "sisters"; and running "concentric" were many stunts for the entertainment of the members themselves. Prizes were given for skipping (adults), Ping Pong, and football tests as "putting the greatest number of articles in a mat-box," also for the best in an "old-fashioned dress" parade. As a finish a ladies' cricket match was played in an adjoining field.

Other Institutes are preparing for "Folk Dancing Festivals" which are held in the open air, and only the traditional folk-dances are allowed: one institute is organizing a dance for education which will be held next winter; and still others are preparing handkerchief articles for the County Show. Most of these ladies are either rehearsing or playing "Sketches" which we call sketches.

Quite a number of these bodies have held their annual excursion to some point of interest. For example, forty members of a Northumbrian Institute travelled by bus to Dumfries in Scotland, calling en route, at the famous blacksmith's shop at Greens Green, and getting back home by 9.30 the same night.

The general meetings are a happy combination of humour and usefulness. The roll call at one meeting was answered by household recipes (bath salts, liquid cleansers, chutneys, etc.) while the humor was provided by a "topping and tailing of gooseberries" competition. At another the response to the roll call was a weather saying; and this was followed by "guessing old photographs." The winner guessed 33 out of 38.

Let the reader should get the impression that trivialities occupy all the time, here are a few titles, (taken at random from the newspapers) of lectures delivered at the meetings. "Possibilities of a back-

yard" for flowers and vegetables: The history and use of "Singer's sewing machine" with demonstrations. One lady gave an address on "Barbola Work"—whatever that is—on "Basketry."

### SOME INSECT PESTS

A beetle which I have not seen before appeared on the broad beans this month. It is long, soft-bodied, and of a uniform ash-grey color. I take it to be one of the blister-beetles, but am sending away specimens for identification. It is a voracious insect, feeding on the half-numerous leaves and flowers, and is numerous enough to cause apprehension.

The gladioli thrips which was so much in evidence last year, is, I am happy to note, entirely absent from my garden so far. Before planting the corns this spring, I got a bucket of hot water—120 deg. F.—and dumped both large and small corns into it. They remained in the bath for ten minutes, the temperature being maintained by the addition of hot water from the kettle. This "cooked" the insect in all its stages and did no harm except to the very smallest corns. Due care must be taken to place the corns in a fresh container, after treatment, to avoid danger of re-infestation. I burnt the old bag in which the corns had wintered.

There is a slight outbreak of some kind of spruce bud-worm in our district—which may be the precursor of a more serious invasion. The protecting scales did not fall off from the buds, as they usually do in spring, and under their shelter the worm or caterpillar fed on the young "needles."

A large black ant was found to be injuring the ornamental golden willows. The insects had bitten considerable areas of the bark, in such a fashion as would lead one to suppose that it was for the sake of the sap. Ants, I find, are more harmful to vegetation than we suspect.

Outworn were unusually abundant this year but we have had few "June bugs" as compared with a couple of seasons ago.

### ROMAN BRITAIN (1)

The Romans were not only great conquerors but they were sagacious and politic rulers. They were first to bring all the nations of the known world into unity, and they spread the blessings of order and civilization among the subject races. The only nations which have any claim to be their successors are those now comprised in the British Empire: whereby vast continents of whose existence Caesar never dreamed, have obtained the advantage of a well-ordered government; the native inhabitants induced to engage in peaceful industry, and more than all, the blessings of Christianity pressed upon their attention.

Naturally, then, we look back

with curiosity and admiration to the works of our great predecessors, and systematic excavations are still yielding material from which we may reconstruct their mode of life in Britain. At present, according to the newspapers, extensive digging is going on at the old Roman city of Verulamium, (now St. Albans) and many remarkable discoveries have been made.

The Romans first seriously undertook the subjugation of Britain in the year A.D. 43, when the Emperor Claudius himself visited the island, having previously sent over a considerable army: four legions each numbering 4,000 men, together with auxiliary troops to make a total of about 18,000 soldiers. With this force the whole of the country was over-run in a surprisingly short space of time, when the obstacles are considered. The resistance of the Britons, and their frequent rebellions, the absence of roads, the wild and extensive forests, and the innumerable swamps, together with the uncertain climate, must have rendered the work of conquest no easy "march over." Nevertheless the invaders had, by A.D. 50 passed north of London to Verulamium; by A.D. 68 had crossed the Severn into what we now call Wales, and striking north-west had reached Mona (Anglesey) by A.D. 78. Another part of the force had gone right north from London, and by the year 79 they were past the river Tees, and well on to the borders of Caledonia.

The engineers followed the field of the natives, constructed a wonderful network of roads with towns and fortified camps at the intersections. Some of these roads are in use at the present day, and after the lapse of nineteen centuries, the writer has travelled over roads formed in some cases, of huge flagstones closely laid edge to edge.

No less surprising is the size of the towns which sprang up in the wake of the field force. In the revolt of the Iceni and Trinobantes in A.D. 60, when the towns of Londinium, Verulamium and Camulodunum were stormed and burnt, 60,000 persons are said to have perished; and this was only seven years after the coming of the Romans. Verulamium, as was stated in an article in The Guardian, has been shown to have an area of 250 acres. Such towns had as a nucleus a fortified "castra" or camp: a group of buildings enclosed by a strong and high wall, at least four feet thick. Inside the camp were situated the garrison and administrative quarters, the forum, temples and baths, the treasure vault, and a number of domestic buildings and shops, often in streets. Outside of this were the suburbs where the extensive villas of the Romans mingled with the meaner huts of the Romanized Britons, and in no case were these arranged into streets. The average size of the Castra (whence our termination "castra") in the North of England is about five acres.

We derive much of our knowledge of those ancient days from inscriptions carved in stone, in these

## Empire Marketing Board Report

The change which has taken place in the buying habits of the British public and the growth of the demand for Empire goods are clearly brought out in the Annual Report of the Empire Marketing Board recently published. For twenty-five Empire products new records in quantities of imports have been established, and for more than half of these the record now surpassed was made in the previous year. There is an upward tendency at work in spite of the diminished buying power of the public.

### A New Canadian Record

Canadian tobacco set up a new record in 1931. Britain's imports reached 6,278,000 lbs., which exceeded by nearly a quarter of a million pounds the previous record set up in 1928.

Other Empire commodities which set up records include wheat and wheat flour, frozen pork, butter and eggs from Australia, frozen lamb and butter from New Zealand, eggs, sugar, wine (50 per cent increase for wine), grapes and grapefruit from South Africa, bananas from the British West Indies and Malayan canned pineapples.

Included in the list are such comparative novelties in the United Kingdom market, as Canadian tobacco, South African apples and Cyprus oranges, all of which has done better than ever before. A large number of other commodities have just failed to make a new record this year. Thus, coffee from East Africa has excelled all past years, with the single exception of 1930, and South African oranges, totalling nearly a million cwt., were 33 per cent. higher than in any previous year, except 1930.

### The Bay British Campaign

The Report contains the story of the "Bay British" campaign of November and December last, and gives the facts both about the campaign itself and about the remarkable response it met with from all sections of the community. More than four million posters were needed to meet the demand for window display, whether on public buildings or private motor cars. The generous co-operation of the press, the B. B. C., the cinema industry, the Railway Companies and many others enabled this campaign to be run at a cost to the Empire Marketing Board of no more than 12,000 pounds.

The Report describes a new side of the Boards work, that of marketing camps, and fortunately the Romans had a penchant for this class of work. So we have funerary monuments, inscriptions on temples, baths and other buildings, and grave altars, mostly to local gods and in gratitude for some deliverance or feat safely performed, and stones commemorating military triumphs.

In the next article the rebellion of the Iceni will be more fully dealt

## Crop Report

### GENERAL

All crops in the Prairie Provinces continue to make good progress. During the past week rains have again been general, and as moisture is ample, except in a few districts in Saskatchewan, warmer weather is now required. Hail has occurred in some scattered districts of Saskatchewan and there has been some damage from the wheat stem maggot and from grasshoppers in Manitoba, but the areas affected are not large. Pasturage and the hay crop generally are good. In Quebec standing crops are progressing satisfactorily. An abundance of moisture has been helpful but warm weather is now needed. In Ontario precipitation has been general, to the benefit of all grains and root crops, and prospects are good for average returns except in the Eastern sections, where the season was late. In the Maritime Provinces further rains have been of benefit and grain crops give favorable promise, while an average crop of hay is expected. In British Columbia heavy, fairly general rains have promoted rapid growth of all crops and warmer weather would now be beneficial. Details follow:

### PROVINCE OF QUEBEC

Haying has commenced but has been interrupted by rain; an under average yield is still indicated. Root crops are growing well. Apples show promise and small fruits are plentiful. Pastures are in good condition.

### PROVINCE OF ONTARIO

Fall wheat is in good condition and cutting should be general in ten days. Barley and oats give good promise. Some pest damage is in evidence but is not considered serious. Curing of a heavy hay crop has been made difficult by frequent rains. Roots, corn and tobacco are making average progress. Pastures are in very good condition. Small fruits and berries are plentiful. Warm, dry weather would be beneficial.

### MARITIME PROVINCES

Haying has started in the more advanced districts. Potato and other root crops continue to show good growth. The apple crop, though not as heavy as last year, promises to be of good quality, with very little spotting. Pastures are in good condition.

### PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Grain crops are progressing favorably. Roots and vegetables promise normal yields. Fruit trees are in good condition and a heavy crop of apples, pears and peaches is anticipated; plums and apricots are expected to yield about 85 per cent of average. Cherries have been damaged by splitting and a 75 per cent crop is now in prospect. Intermittent rains have adversely affected the general shipping quality of berries and a crop 65 per cent of average is estimated. Pasturage is plentiful and in good condition.

## Fighting Animal Diseases

The mineral contents of pastures and other aspects of animal husbandry have been the subject of continued investigation in the past year, and the Board is advancing a plan for the study of sheep diseases. Throughout South Africa, New Zealand and Great Britain, as well as throughout Australia, the larva of the green-bottle, or blow-fly, causes enormous damage to sheep. In Australia this damage is estimated at 4,000,000 pounds a year. Recent investigations have been concentrated on the digestive methods of the blow-fly larva and its digestive juices have been minutely scrutinized. In spite of the extreme difficulties of this microscopic work, great advances have been made and the relation between maggot and bacteria are more fully understood.

### The Locust Plague

To combat the grave locust menace in tropical Africa the Marketing Board have joined forces with the territories principally affected. Two locust investigators are now in Africa tracking down the breeding places of the locust swarms, and the Imperial Institute of Entomology in London has been recognized by France and Italy as the international intelligence centre from which the war against the locust in Africa is to be planned by scientists.

### Other scientific developments

recorded in the Report deal with the successful importation into Natal of grasses scientifically bred in Wales, with the export from the Fruit Research Station at East Malling in Kent of fruit-stocks to all the Dominions, and with the creation by the Australian Science and Industry Endowment Fund of a studentship to be held at East Malling.

### New Fruits

Of the new fruits experimentally shipped to the United Kingdom market in the past year, which include pineapples, grapefruit and oranges from Nigeria, oranges from Australia, tomatoes from British West Indies and Palestine, almonds from Cyprus and Avocado pears from the West Indies, perhaps the most interesting is the Indian and West Indian mango. The mango is exceedingly rich in Vitamin C, six times as rich in fact as any other fruit. The Board has been fostering the growing Empire interest in Tung Oil production and the first fruits from Kenya, Assam, the Transvaal and India of the original Tung Oil seeds sent out from Kew have now been received. Tung Oil is a highly valued ingredient in many paints and varnishes, particularly in varnish for aeroplanes.

### Oversea Transport

The Oversea Mechanical Transport Council has now built a unit consisting of an eight-wheeled tractor and two eight-wheeled trailers designed to carry a load of 15 tons over low grade roads and steep gradients. This unit was displayed in the neighborhood of the Aldershot Tattoo. It is not claimed that the experiment is yet complete, and it is intended to test the new design overseas after it has completed some 5,000 miles under exacting conditions in England.

### A Film Library

The Film Unit of the Empire Marketing Board, in addition to making a number of films itself, has been building up a library of films for schools and has been met with an eager demand from Education authorities and showed over 2,000 films in the first three months that the library was available.

### Butter

In the field of marketing intelligence the Board publish striking figures to show the success of the policy of canvassing retailers individually. For six months personal calls were made on every wholesaler and retailer of butter in the principal Lancashire towns. As a result of these visits the proportion of those selling Empire butter rose from 58 to 73 per cent.

## Scientific Research

As in previous years the bulk of the Board's income has been devoted to scientific research. Some 70 out of the 100 pages of the Report describe the immensely varied fields of research which the Board's have helped to irrigate. The Imperial Conference of 1930 urged the value of joint programs of scientific work which should be agreed upon between the various Empire countries so that effort and expense might be concentrated and economized. Acting upon this suggestion the Board has initiated an interchange of views on what problems of economic importance to the Empire most urgently need the further application of scientific research.

### It has been the Board's practice

since its foundation in 1926, to make grants for a term of years to existing institutions in conjunction with other bodies. This method has worked admirably, but it makes discontinuance difficult. To stop research that is under-way is common money already spent and work already done. In the interest of national economy the Board is making at present scarcely any fresh grants, and it has succeeded, with the co-operation of the institutions concerned, in reducing its present commitments by between 10 and 25 per cent. Similar economies in publicity and marketing work enabled the Board to meet the call made upon it by the Treasury last summer for the surrender of 110,000 pounds from its total vote of 550,000 pounds. For the present year, 1932-33, the vote of the Board is 300,000 pounds.

### The main body of the Report is

concerned with the progress made by the various scientific and agricultural institutions which the Board is supporting. The field is as wide as the Empire itself.

### Cold Storage

The Food Investigation Board of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research in co-operation with overseas workers have been at work on questions of food storage, of the right temperatures for the preservation not only of meat but of fruit and vegetables and of the best sizes in which to store them.

### Frozen Fish

Progress has been made at Aberdeen in freezing fish in such a way as to retain its qualities unimpaired. By brine freezing and cold storage, perfectly fresh fish will emerge at the end of, say, three months with all its pristine perfection of appearance, flavour and

## making good progress. Saskatchewan Northern Area—Wheat is a heavy stand, with lodging reported in some districts. Coarse grains are progressing satisfactorily. Saskatchewan Southern Area—Conditions are fair to good. With the exception of late sown and blown fields, wheat is practically all in head, with the average height 20 inches. Coarse grains are making good progress and commencing to head, although the crop is uneven. Manitoba—Wheat is about 80 per cent headed, of excellent colour and filling well, with an average height of 28 inches. Coarse grains are making good headway, with considerable barley and some early oats in head. The crop generally is good but light in a few small areas, due to the lack of early moisture. An early harvest is indicated.

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PHONE 170

**THAT THE PEOPLE MAY KNOW**

(A column of interest to all recording accepted facts and worthy opinions regarding the place of alcoholic beverages in modern life; as well as news of the progress of the campaign for a "dry" world.)

(Sponsored by the Grand Division, Sons of Temperance F. E. I.)

"A law that assumes that a thing is wrong, yet which tolerates it, which attempts only to check and regulate it without utterly prohibiting it, which aims to make revenue out of it, which makes that which is morally wrong legal, is one of those things in human affairs with which the throne of God can have no fellowship."

"Fidelity to conviction is the mainstay to human advancement."—Lord Morley.

That is an observation on the part of Lord Morley that might well be more seriously considered by many of us. Since this province

is the only one in the Dominion of Canada, and with the single exception of the United States, except one group of people in the world which has professed to have been seized of the conviction that the prohibition of the liquor traffic is the only sensible, and in the final analysis of the question, the only right way to deal with the traffic and which has thus far stuck to its conviction as a group Lord Morley's words are heartening, if true. We certainly want whatever there is for us to have by way of human advancement in this compact little province. More than that, we have a unique opportunity in our compactness, our isolation from "foreigners" and our unity at home, to make very serious experiments in the ways that lead to human advancement.

Are we, fellow citizens, acting on the truth so succinctly stated by Lord Morley?

The dreadful total of more than 34,000 deaths in the United States due to auto accidents during the year 1931 is an appalling total. But did you read that the percentage of accidents to the registration of autos in England (a wide open beer and liquor country) is nearly three times what it is in the United States?

It is quite evident that there is some connection between the fac-

**Health Services Of Canadian Medical Association**

In this country, opposition to compulsory pasteurization laws frequently came from those who had lived for some years in the British Isles. There they had used raw milk, very often dipped from a can, and they found it difficult to believe that pasteurization was necessary, since it had not been required by law in their home land.

We have learned a great deal in public health matters from the British Isles. No one who reads the story of the development of the modern public health movement could fail to be convinced of our debt to the home of public health. Nevertheless, during the past years, valuable contributions have come from this continent and we are now able to repay some of our debt.

Pasteurization of milk is one of the greatest contributions to public health and particularly to the safe-guarding of infant lives. A safe milk supply, secured through inspection and pasteurization, together with the education of mothers in the care of infants, secure for the infant, protection from disease and a better chance for good health. It is the safe milk, safe because it is pasteurized, that has largely banished the dangers of the summer for babies.

Acceptance of pasteurization as a necessary public health measure has been slow in the British Isles. At the present time it is accepted and the Manchester city council is asking Parliament for the power to compel pasteurization of practically the whole milk supply of the city.

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