

FOR FARMERS, STOCK BREEDERS AND GARDNERS

NEWSY NOTES

BY AGRICOLA

IS THIS A LAW?

Once I was seized with the desire to have a fine border of nasturtiums, and accordingly planted the seed in rather rich soil. The gorgeous display on which I had set my mind never materialized. The plants grew well enough, and with such a luxuriant growth of leaves as I had not before seen, but the flowers were few and hidden beneath the foliage. A gardener told me: "Next time you plant nasturtiums, put the seed in poorer ground and, if you have courage enough, tread the soil hard afterwards." Since those days I have found that many other kinds of plants can be "ruined" by too rich soil in the early stages.

It would seem that something akin to this takes place with manure. It is no uncommon thing for piles of nobility to become extinct for want of horse manure, while workers of the laboring class are blessed with numerous progeny. Living, like rich soil, is in some way against the perpetuation of the race.

We call these "trying times," without perhaps rightly comprehending the words. They surely try us out—test us to see what metal we are of. They are steady times—bracing times. And they are something more. Do you recollect—if you are old enough—the glorious company of notables who were the crown of the Victorian times? There were giants in their land in those days and they were all born in the stark, poverty stricken era round the close of the Napoleonic wars. Our own dark days are but the prelude to a more excellent generation! Genius is off the child of penury.

STAKES AND FENCE POSTS

This is a remarkable winter for getting into the woods, one of the best that I can remember. Besides fuel and lumber, stakes and fence posts must be provided against spring. Our posts are principally spruce and they take a lot of renewing. In our soil their life is short, owing to a fungus which makes the wood near the surface of the soil and speedily destroys the cells.

There are three methods of treating posts to prevent decay that are recommended by farm journals. The first is to thoroughly char the base of the post in a fire before placing it in the ground. We did not find this very effective, for the wood checked into long cracks from the heat, and the fungus and the water necessary for its development found entrance at the bottom of the cracks, with the result that the post decayed.

C. M. Lampson & Co. Ltd.

64 Queen St. London, E.C. 4, England

Public Auction Sales of RAW FURS

Dates of Silver Fox Sales to be held in London

- 12 December 1932
23 January 1933
6 March 1933
22 May 1933
27 September 1933

Shipping bags may be obtained free of charge upon application to R. T. Holman, Ltd., Summerside.

For full particulars in regard to packing, shipping, insurance and conditions of sale, apply to Alfred Fraser, Inc. 212 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y.

port towns and villages suffered immense property loss, but happily no reports of loss of life are current. As I write on the 30th the storm is blowing itself out, after having done considerable damage to electric wiring in our province. The barometer is again rising, and that with a velocity which is usually the precursor of another fall. Personally I never like to see the instrument go up with a rush.

ROMAN BRITAIN 138-192 A. D.

The last instalment of this history concluded with the defeat of the Caledonians by Lollius Urbicus in 138 A. D. These turbulent barbarians soon re-appeared in arms and seem almost always to have risen on the death of the emperor, a circumstance which shows that they had confederates or spies among their enemies who supplied information. At such a moment, they doubtless calculated, they might make an extensive raid with less danger of interruption. The Roman province was thus invaded on the occasion of Marcus Aurelius in 161, but the invaders were driven out. A much more formidable invasion followed the accession of Commodus in 166. A Roman commander who attempted to arrest the progress of the Caledonians, was killed and his army cut to pieces; and the emperor was obliged to send his most capable general, a man of extraordinary vigor called Ulpius Marcellus, to re-establish his authority in the distant province. From this man the Caledonians met with terrible reverses and the "Pax Romana" again prevailed over all the island. But to a tyrant like Commodus merit itself was a crime. He recalled Marcellus, and an imperial favorite called Perennis was put in command. Perennis straightway displaced all the older and more experienced officers, and filled their commands with younger men who in their turn were favorites of his own. The officers met, consulted, and finally sent a deputation of fifteen hundred armed men to lay their grievances before the emperor. When they arrived before the gates of Rome, Commodus went out to meet them, and seeing signs of disaffection among his other troops, he gave way and abandoned his minister to his accusers. Perennis was put to death by the mutiny continued and one Pertinax, a commander of great military talent was sent to appease the troops; but they disclaimed the authority of Commodus and invited their new commander to be emperor. One of the legionaries, angry at his refusal, struck him down and left him for dead, but he recovered and in the end restored order in the province. Commodus was murdered in 192 A. D., and his death was the signal for disorders all over the empire, which, interesting as they are in detail, must yet be sacrificed to exigencies of space.

ODDS AND ENDS

Planets visible. Stargazers are advised to keep a lookout eastward on fine nights just now. About 9.30 the planet Jupiter will have just cleared the horizon, with the planet Mars only a few degrees above. Jupiter is an extremely bright star of a yellowish cast, while Mars has a distinctly reddish tinge. The planet Neptune is not so far away, in the neighborhood of Regulus in Leo, where it has been for at least a year; but it is so far from the earth that in the most favorable circumstances it appears only as a star of the seventh magnitude. The notable constellation Leo the Lion, is just above Mars and is in the heraldic position called rampant; the lion's head, shoulders and forelegs making a magnificent sickle-shaped figure easily recognizable. Snack. The other day I requested a friend to be sure and sneek the outer door. "To what?" said he. Then I thought that I'd been using a provincialism and explained that in the North of England a sneek was a latch. However on looking it up in the dictionary I find it is a regularly ordained word in good standing. I cannot recollect to have heard it here.

Ivy outside.

It seems to be the consensus of opinion that "English" Ivy cannot be grown outside in P. E. Island on account of the severity of the climate in winter. Against this it must be observed that Shirley Hibbard, a noted horticulturist, and author of a monograph on "The Ivy," once wrote: "The Ivy, like the Holly, is a scarce plant on the American continent. In the northern United States and British America the winters are not more severe than the Ivy can endure, but the summers are too hot and dry, and the requirements of the plant have not often obtained attention. In districts where native ferns abound the Ivy will be found to thrive, and the varieties of Hedera helix should have the preference. But in the drier districts Ivies might often be planted on the north side of buildings, and if encouraged with water and careful training for three or four years, would then grow rapidly and train themselves. A strong light is detrimental to the growth of Ivy, but this enhances its value, for we have no hardy plants that may be compared with it for variety and beauty, that will endure shade with equal patience." This would indicate experiments of growing Ivy on a north wall, and also in the shelter of woods where ferns grow; and I hope some of my readers have curiosity enough to carry such trials out.

The Ivies known in gardens number about sixty varieties, according to the above writer; I have seen only the commonest variety here, grown as a house plant. However, the writer is now in possession of half a dozen of the best varieties from the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, a gift from the Director (Sir Arthur Hill) and which it is hoped will in time be available for distribution.

The N. E. Storm. Jan'y 25th was new moon, and the barometer, which had been rising for two or three days, began to drop that night and fell slowly but steadily till about 9 a. m. on the 29th, when it again took an upward turn. The total fall was one inch and three-tenths. Previously the winter had been mild and open, though an electric storm about 11 a. m. on the 23rd had given promise of unsettled weather. On the day following new moon, a storm roared up the Atlantic coast, beginning in the Carolinas and culminating in a 70 m. p. h. gale on the Nova Scotian seaboard. The intermediate sea-

Brown Top Meeting

A special meeting of the members of the Grass Seed Growers Association will be held in St. Mary's Hall, Souris, on Tuesday, February 7th at 1 o'clock, for the purpose of receiving the report of the Manager as to the disposal of 1931 seed. And the financial standing of the Association, also to provide for the grading and sale of the 1932 crop. And for the consideration of any other matters that may be brought before the meeting. Persons who have at any time paid a membership fee in the Association are members in good standing and may vote at the meeting personally or by proxy. If weather and roads are unfavorable, meeting will be held on Thursday, February 9th at the same hour.

JOHN J. CAMPBELL, President.

READ THE TAG ON THE BAG

The Fertilizers Act administered by the Seed Branch of the Federal Department of Agriculture, requires that each package containing fertilizer, or a tag or label attached thereto, be printed with information including the brand, name and guaranteed analysis of the fertilizer.

Each year there are a few cases in which the fertilizer delivered to farmers is of a different analysis or brand from the one purchased. Whether these errors be due to accident or design, the farmer may easily protect himself against accepting the wrong thing by simply consulting the labelling on the fertilizer bags or tags. If the analysis as shown on the containers is not the same as the one ordered there is good ground for refusing to accept the fertilizer or to pay for same.

As a matter of self protection, fertilizer purchasers would do well to see that the agent who sells the fertilizer states clearly, on the copy of the bill of sale left with the purchaser, the analysis of the fertilizer ordered.

OLD DOBBIN COMES BACK

A paragraph of special interest to Canadian farmers appearing in the annual report of the Horse Division of the Live Stock Branch is quoted as follows:

"In certain sections there is a demand for lighter clear-legged horses, big enough to do some work on the farm and also suitable for a certain amount of road work. The demand for hunters and saddlers compared with some previous years is by no means keen, nevertheless the outstanding animal still finds a market at a good price. The interest in the hunter and saddle horse, however, is apparently as keen as ever, judging by the fact that hunt and riding clubs are increasing rather than decreasing even under present conditions. This goes to show that as conditions improve the demand for this type of horse will steadily increase. As it takes at least five years to develop a hunter and there is a scarcity of them in the country today, the horseman that continues to breed will be the fortunate one four or five years hence. The same holds true in the breeding of draught horses. The demand for horses for draught work is growing and will undoubtedly continue for some time owing to economic conditions. It is further safe to assume that to many it has been demonstrated that the horse is helping to keep down the overhead under economic pressure and he will also help to lessen operating costs in better times."

APPLES FOR THE PRAIRIES

One of the principal studies being carried out at the Dominion Experimental Station, Morden, Manitoba, is the testing of varieties of apples suited for production in the prairie provinces. A recent report shows that among apple varieties giving substantial crops were: Anis, Anis Rose, Antonovka, Blushed Calville, Crusoe, Duchesse, Haralson, Jethro, Kurzak, Anis, Melba, Melvin, Patten, Perkin, Red Wing and Wealthy. In crabapples, Bedford, Columbia, Dolgo, Elkhorn, Florence, Gertrude, Olga, Osman, Rosida and Trail were profitable. In the apple seedling test 156 trees bore fruit for the first time. Of these 9 gave fruit of good prospect. During the ten years preceding 7,787 seedling apple trees gave fruits which were described. A total of 658 or 7.49 per cent of these were considered as new varieties of value.

partment of Agriculture, Toronto, are conducting a study of the management problems in 250 cheese factories in Quebec and Ontario. The collection of data is now complete. The purpose of this study is to provide information on operating costs, methods of management, and organization which will be of value to farmers and factory owners.

Bent Grass

The growing of Bent Grasses for export originated in 1925, when the Canadian Seed Dealers appealed to the Dominion Seed Branch, Ottawa to make some move to encourage the growing of this commodity in Canada. Before this time we were importing all our seed from foreign countries the United States and New Zealand were the chief exporters. When their officials started out they discovered a grass known as "Brown Top" in the Eastern part of our Island that comprises of about half of King's County. This plant grows natural in heavy clay soil where once grew a heavy growth of birch and maple and can be found in the heart of the forest at the present time. It was first cleaned and graded and known as Rhode Island Bent, but was later discovered to be far superior in purity and germination and the name was changed, it has since been known to the trade as "Prince Edward Island Bent" and is well living up to its high reputation.

Like many of the Island products it has found its way all over Canada and the greater part of the United States; then the United States farmers finding Prince Edward Island was about to capture this market appealed to the Congress with the result that they placed a duty of 40c per pound or \$800. per ton which is almost prohibitive; yet on account of its superior quality it is being shipped to the United States trade.

CARRIES OUT IMPORTANT WORK

The Entomological Branch of the Dominion Department of Agriculture conducts investigations from coast to coast on insects in relation to agriculture and forests; encourages the use of methods of prevention and control; develops and tests out new insecticides and fungicides; administers the Destructive Insect and Pest Act, so far as insect pests are concerned; makes studies of greenhouse insects, household insects and insects which affect man, etc. At the Branch headquarters at Ottawa there are five separate divisions. Outside of Ottawa sixteen permanent field laboratories as well as several temporary laboratories are maintained, and in addition ten plant inspection stations for examination of nursery stock and plant products entering Canada from foreign countries. The National Collection of insects, which is housed within the Branch, receives considerable attention.

WEIGHT INDICATES QUALITY

As is pointed out by the Dominion Seed Branch the probable quality of low grade grains used for feeding purposes may usually be inferred from the weight per bushel. One exception is that of rusted wheat, which is low in weight but high in protein. There are many variations from the basic or straight grades of wheat, oats and barley, such as mixtures of Common, Durum, Red Winter and White wheats; mixtures with other grains; mixtures containing defects such as smut, sprouts, heated, excess moisture, etc., either alone or in any combination. Although these mixtures should be graded, they are usually sold on sample, since the grade alone cannot convey a true picture of the percentages they contain.

Horticulture

Being a born hesitator, I asked a weather-beaten cultivator When to paint roses — sooner or later? "First soak 'em in muck," he said. "Plant 'em when frost disappears. They'll bloom in two years. If you prune 'em," he said. "It's always that way with posies. And most especially so with roses. And wear thick gloves—most folk suppose The thorn's the worst part—They're best made of buckskin." I thought of John Ruskin Discouraging on art. "If the leaves become grayish and faded, It's mildew, or maybe the ground's too shaded, Don't be afraid of the knife," he added. "And watch out for green fly! In winter, best to cover 'em So they won't die." His callousness made me shudder, I felt like a vessel without a rudder, Or a lost lamb, bleating for the udder. Don't be afraid of the knife! Must I—thus hardening—Learn gardening, Learn life? —Mabelle Irene Rossell (The Village).

Horse Memoirs (C. E. MacKenzie)

SUFFOLK PUNCH AND PERCHERONS

C. E. MacKenzie

As the article on last Saturday gave an all too brief history of earlier Clydesdale importations it is my purpose this week to give a brief account of the Suffolk Punch and Percherons brought out to Prince Edward Island in earlier days.

As to the Suffolk Punch they were a breed of horses developed by the people of Suffolk County England. They are a well developed cross between the older shires and the thoroughbred and today they are recognized as an almost ideal agricultural horse having sufficient weight to make real farm and draft horses with enough of thoroughbred in them to give them pep and ambition. A short description of a Punch would be a trim blocky horse weighing any where from twelve to sixteen hundred pounds with clean flat limbs free from the superfluous hair common in the shire breed.

Our first account of Suffolk Punch importations here was in 1824 when a man named Llewellyn brought out the horse "True Briton" a splendid specimen of the breed that did much for the farm horse industry in King's County where he was owned and used. We are told that "True Briton's" stock were excellent farm horses, while not carrying as much weight as their sires, on account of being mostly from blood mothers but this latter cross made them good road as well as good farm horses.

About the year 1834 Mr. R. C. Woolner and family came to Prince Edward Island from England bringing with him a pair of pure bred Suffolk Punch horses a stallion and a mare; the horse commonly known as the "Woolner horse" did real good service in and around Rustico where Mr. Woolner located and in the minutes of the Royal Agricultural Society may be found many instances where colts from this horse or his daughters carried off many prizes indeed.

The only other importation of Suffolk Punch horses was the horse Challenger owned at our time by Mr. Lewis Huestis. Challenger was a typical Punch that left some fine farm stock. If I mistake not he was a beautiful chestnut with light mane and tail with plenty of style and action.

While our importations of Suffolk Punches was limited we had enough of them to show their worth as at home they are considered about the best farm horse obtainable.

We now come to our earlier importation of Percheron horses. As far as the writer knows any horses left on Prince Edward Island or Isle St. Jean as it was then known when the French inhabitants left would possibly be of Percheron and pony extraction but under British rule the first Percheron coming here would be the horse Samson, which I am informed came here from St. Pierre, a trading vessel from New London having taken a cargo of produce from Prince Edward Island to St. Pierre returned with this horse and two others. Samson being sold to a Mr. Benj. MacEwen who the story tells "went aboard the schooner going into the hold driving this horse into a corner with a puncheon stave putting a bridle and slings on him and having him hoisted over the side of the vessel and when he reached the water got into his back and guided him ashore on New London sand hills where he rode him until he was completely tamed. "Samson" was a dark iron grey with a mane that reached the ground, a horse of grand conformation. This was about the year 1833 and Mr. MacEwen travelled this horse for many years through northern Queens where he left many splendid horses one of which was owned by the writer's father that could trot a mile well within three minutes and many races on saddle were run off between the dam of old Fairy Queen and Grey Jack. Sometimes one and sometimes the other winning. When this horse was about twelve years old his owner was offered a sum equal to five hundred dollars for him from New York parties but owing to the then difficult transportation no sale was made.

From "Samson's" time until about the year 1880 we had no more importations of Percherons, although a horse named Havre owned in Pictou stood for one or more seasons at Charlottetown. In the year above mentioned, Mr. Alexander Smith of Clinton Mills, imported "Victor Hugo" a pure white horse that although up in years left a number of well turned trappy horses his best known son was "Senator" from a daughter of "Old Clyde", bred and owned by the late William A. MacNeill, Cavendish. "Victor Hugo" had been owned by the Snowballs of Mirimichi, New Brunswick and when imported from France was considered one of the best horses that had been brought to America. Mr. Smith made another importation in "Prince Imperial", although I am informed he was not registered, he sired a class of nicely turned farm and road horses when bred from blood mares. Norman Chief if my memory carries me back rightly was owned by the late George Simms, Kensington he was a large black horse more of the Norman type than the real Percheron. In the year 1883 the late Benjamin Heartz of Charlottetown imported a horse called Romulus and two pure bred mares direct from France. Romulus was a black horse of good percheron type and his best known sons were Royal Frank and Darlington Boy both these horses proved good stock animals. Mr. Heartz's second importation "Duroc" was considered the "top notch" of percheron importations to the province. Duroc was a large well built horse weighing over a ton that could step along like a blood in fact it is stated that on Souris beach he outfooted a well known standard bred horse. "Rollo" from a Havre mother was the most noted son of Duroc, he was bred on St. Dunstan's College Farm and afterwards owned by Mr. Thomas Doyle Rustico. "St. Laurant" owned and used in Prince County left many good general purpose horses. Jacko who was owned by Mr. W. E. Robertson, Summerside was a large horse whose stock made splendid farm horses. Domino imported by parties in Bedouque and Gallair owned at Grand River were both noted sires in Prince County, both were handsome horses with plenty of that characteristic percheron style and action that made their stock much in demand. Two horses that have made a name for percherons in Kings County were "Georges", imported and owned by the veteran horseman of Montague Mr. David Reid, and his son bred on the parochial farm at St. Margarets from a mare purchased from A. R. MacKay Lawndale Farm, Charlottetown. Both Georges and his noted son have done much to improve the draft horse industry of Kings County. Julius and another good grey percheron were imported by the Department of Agriculture both being used in King's County. Julius at Souris and the other horse at Cardigan. Jessop together with two mares were brought here from Ontario by Mr. A. R. MacKay of Charlottetown. Later importations of females

Experimental Farm Leads

REPORT OF THE PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND EGG LAYING CONTEST FOR THE WEEK ENDING JANUARY 30, 1933.

Table with columns: Stand-Pen, No. Owner, Total. Lists various farms and their egg production totals.

Production 250 802 eggs. Per cent production 44.7 per cent. Leading Pens For Week

Table with columns: Pen, Eggs, Points. Lists top performing pens and their egg counts and points.

Leading Hens To Date

Table with columns: Pen, Hens, Eggs, Points. Lists top performing hens and their egg counts and points.

F. A. Driscoll, Manager of Contest. J. A. Clark, Superintendent.

were made by the Department of Agriculture and Hon. W. M. Lea Victoria which brings us up to the present and as your readers are familiar with present percheron activities as the writer he can bring this article to a close and as I have had to rely on memory and meagre reports gleaned from old papers this article may not give a full or complete history of Suffolk Punch and Percheron breeding in the province in the past and any corrections or suggestions will be thank fully received.

"Animals do not know what it is to be superstitious," declares a clergyman. But we have yet to hear of a mouse that will pass a white cat on the stairs on a Friday.—Humorist (London.)

A banquet is an affair where you eat a lot of food you don't want before talking about something you don't understand to a crowd of people who don't want to hear you.

Advertisement for Imperial Fox Food. Includes logo with a fox and text: 'IMPERIAL FOX FOOD Regularly fed throughout the winter season is The BEST Guarantee of Assured Results in Reproduction. The largest litters born last season and also the highest average of pups raised to maturity were in fox ranches where IMPERIAL FOX BISCUITS comprised a most important part of the foxes' daily winter diet. Line up with the world's successful ranchers and insist on having "IMPERIALS," the best fox food obtainable. Imperial Biscuit Company Ltd. Charlottetown, P. E. I.