FOR FARMERS, STOCK BREEDERS AND GARDENERS

Livestock and Meat Trade Review

SUMMARY

There were approximately 1200 cattle and 86 horses exported to the United Kingdom, and 1666 cattle, 227 dairy cattle, and 1404 calves exported to the United States during the week. In Ontario there were somewhat too many heavyweight steers on the market for the useful but comparatively moderate export demand. Receipts of cattle at most stock yards showed increases over the previous week and this gave buyers an opportunity to check advances, and in the case of weighty steers, to buy at easier rates. Other classes also had a somewhat easier tendency and, lacking recent strength, were subjected in some cases to small prices cuts. More liberal receipts at United States market centres have been responsible for some price reduction, noticeably at Chicago, although apparently Buffalo and St. Paul, to which markets Canadian cattle have been shipped, have been reasonably firm, Chicago improved by mid-week.

Prices at Stock Yards

At Toronto, weighty steers lost 25c but other grades were steady and well cleaned up. Top steers made $6.75 and one load $6.80. About 450 head of steers were shipped to the seaboard for export. Montreal, under a substantial increase in offerings, had a top of $7.10 for top steers. Steers were a little easier but cows were firm. Winnipeg was slightly under last week's top at $6.25. The market looked a little spotty and easier, conforming to the lower trend of outside markets. Calgary lost from 25c to 50c, she stock suffering the heavier discount, with top steers marking $6. Edmonton had a draggy market and prices lost about 50c, with top steers at $5.50, Prince Albert had a top of $5.50, Moose Jaw $5.75, Regina $6.25, and Saskatoon $6.

The United States Market

Buffalo paid steady to strong prices. A top load of native steers, 1040 lb. average, made $9.50, and a top load of Canadians, 1150 lb. average, $8.60, with other Canadians from $7.50; to $8.35. A recent quotation from St. Paul reports Canadian steers from $7.75 to $8.75. The Chicago market was 25c to 50c lower on Monday, but showed improvement on Tuesday and handled a liberal run at mid-week without further change. The closing market was uncertain, however. The bulk of the beef steers sold from $7.75 to $9.65 as compared with $9 to $12.25 a year ago.

Exports to the United States during the week consisted of 1,666 beef cattle, 227 dairy ,and 1,404 calves, bringing the total to date this year to 18,601 beef cattle, 2,859 dairy, and 18,680 calves, as compared with 62,529 beef, 3,148 dairy, and 26.524 calves for the correspoding period of 1937. Exports of hogs to the United State to date are 19 head as compared with 20,604 for the corresponding 17 weeks of 1937.

The British Market

Cable advices are that the Canadian cattle on the S. S. Manchester Division arrived in good condition and were of splendid quality and should sell well. The market at Birkenhead is firm. Quotations on Irish cattle show best smalls 17c and other steers 15 1-2 to 16c per lb. in sink. Glasgow estimates useful Canadian feeders at 9 1-2c.

Exports to Great Britain

The S. S. , Manchester City, Montreal to Birkenhead, carried 667 cattle, and the S. S. Dakotian, Montreal to Cardiff, 513 cattle and 86 horses. The Manchester City sailed on the 28th and the Dakotian on the 29th.

Exports to date this year, 12,844 head; same period last year, 903 head.

Calf Markets Lower

Toronto opened with an odd $9.50 and a geneari top of $9 on calves, but closed 50c lower. Montreal showed further weakness and lost another 25c with top veal at $7. Winnipeg broke sharply on a heavy load, with the the week's top $7.50. Calgary had a top of $8, steady. Edmonton's top was $6.50, decidedly lower. The Moose Jaw top was $6, easier. Regina, an odd $8. Saskatoon, $7.

Hog Market Quite Steady

At Toronto, bacons made $9.85 to $10 and at the close a few $10.10. off trucks. Montreal was steady at $10.50 f. & w. and $10.75 off trucks, with rail grades $14.40 to $14.50 dressed weight. Winnipeg was steady, with bacons holding at $9.75, f. & w. alive, and rail grades $9.75 to $10. Calgary steady, closing at $9.25 for bacons alive and $12.40 dressed. Edmonton was steady at $9.25 alive and $12.40 dressed. Prince Albert steady at $9.50 alive and $12.84 dressed. Moose Jaw and Regina steady at $9.60 alive. Saskatoon steady at $9.50. All selects made $1 per head premium.

Lamb Market Conditions

Toronto paid $10 on top feed-lot lambs, with others $6 to $9.75. The market was steady. Montreal spring lambs were mostly $5 to $7 each. Winnipeg was barely steady with only a few plain lambs offered, and these made $5 to $7. Calgary lambs looked easier, with good from $7.50 to $7.75. Prince Albert sold medium lambs at $6.25. Moose Jaw topped at $8. Saskatoon had a top of $7.50.

CATTLE MARKETS

TORONTO sold 6,059 cattle. Most killers were steady and fully cleared, but $5.75 to $6.25. About 450 steers were shipped on export. Butcher steers and heifers were mostly $4.50 to $6.25, with one load at $6.50 on Monday. Butcher cows were firm from $3.50 to an odd $5.25, and canners and cutters from $2.25 to $3.25. Butcher bulls were steady at $4.25 to $4.50, with two light ones at $5. Bolognas were from $3.85 to $4.15. Fed calves were from $5.50 to $7.50. Some stores sold from $4 to an odd $5.50. Milkers and springers were dull, with tops $65 to $70. Shipments to the United States consisted of a few bulls.

MONTREAL, had 2,006 cattle, and handled 1180 cattle and 86 horses on export. Steers looked a little easier, and sold from $4 for the commonest up to $7.10 for choice. Good steers were mostly $6.25 to $6.85. Some small cattle made $6.50 to $8. Heifers ranged from $3.50 to an odd $6.25, with some of canner quality from $2.25 to $3 25. Butcher cows had a range of $3 to an odd $5.50, with good ones mostly $4.75 to $5.25. Canners and cutters made $2.25 to $3, bulls $3 to an odd $5, with the bulk of the good butchers from $4.50 to $4.75.

WINNIPEG sold 2,311 cattle, billed through 675 head and shipped 13 cars south and 5 cars overseas, the latter mostly through billed. The increase in country loadings was not heavy but it gave buyers an opportunity to adjust bids from the price turnup of last week, to, as was stated, conform prices to lower outside trends. Big steers were rather unpopular and were lower, these getting little outside support. None of these sold above $6 and fairly good weighty steers to fill eastern orders made about $5.75. Buyers were more interested in stock selling from $5.50 down. The general market was easier, and some were 25c off. Few sales of butcher steers were made above $6, most of the good handyweight killers being cleared from $5 to $5.75. Good heifers lacked somewhat in strength, with most sales from $5 to $5.50, and others $4.50 down. Fed yearlings lost ground, making from $4.50 to $6 50. Butcher cows made $2.75 to $4.50, canners and cutters $2 to $2.50, and bulls $3 to $3.85. A small offering of stores ranged from $3.50 to $4.75.

CALGARY sold 795 cattle, bulled through 645 head; and B. C. shipments were 566 head. The market was slow and prices were 35c lower on cows and heifers and 50c lower on steers. The best end of the steers made $5.25 to $5.75, common to medium $4 to $5, butcher heifers $3.50 to $5 50 fed calves $4.50 to $6, butcher cows $2.50 to $4, and bulls $2 to $3.25. Some good stocker steers and heifers made $3 to $4.

EDMONTON found a bearish market, with buyers grading colsely and values about 50c off. Good steers made $4.75 to $5.25, others $4.50 down, most of the fed calves $5 to $5.50, good choice heifers $4.50 to $5, others $4.25 down, butcher cows $2.25 to $4, canners and cutters $1.75 to $2.25, bulls $2.75 to $3.25, and stockers firmer with the best at $4 25.

PRINCE ALBERT sold 50 cattle, steady. Choice fed calves $6, choice steers $5.50, good $5 to $5.15, good heifers $4.50, good cows $3.75 to $4.15, one good bull $3 and plain stock heifers $2.50.

MOOSE JAW sold 100 cattle and billed through 458 head. Cattle sold mostly steady. Odd steers made $5.75, good to choice $5 to $5.50, best heifers $5 to $5.50, top fed calves a full $6, good cows $4, other good $3.25 to $3.75, and stockers $3.25.

REGINA had 119 cattle. Odd steers $6.25, most of the good to choice $5.25 to $5 50, top heifers $5 to $6, top fed calves $6 to $7, good cows $3.75 to 4.25.

SASKATOON had 173 cattle. Steers sold from 2.50 to $6, heifers $3 to $6.25, cows from $1.30 to $4.15 ,and a common bull $3.

CALF MARKETS

TORONTO tops were $9 to an odd $9.50. The market closed 50c lower, with best mostly $8 to $8.50, and common downward to $4. Eastern calves were mostly $4.50 to $7.50.

MONTREAL sold 5,674 calves. The market was easier. Veal calves made $4.25 to $6, with a few good ones $6.50 to $7. Most sales were in mixed lots from $4.25 to $5 medium to medium-good made $5.50 to $6. A few grassers were weighed in at $2.50.

WINNIPEG sold 2,670 calves. The market was badly overloaded and prices broke with good to choice veal making $6.50 to $7.50, and common to medium plentiful, $3-$6.

CALGARY had 246 calves, selling from $3 to $7.50 and odd $8. Lower.

(Continued on page 9, Col. 3)

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Creep Feeding The Suckling Pig

(Experimental Farm Notes)

Compilation of litter data at the Dominion Experimental Station, Rosthern, Sask., revealed that creep feeding the suckling pigs gave heavier pigs at weaning, greater uniformity within the litter, lessened mortality and less drain on the system of the sow. Moreover, acquaintance with feed prior to weaning resulted in no setback in gains, and the total feed consumed by the sow was less. Creep feeding is looked upon with much favour by farmers who consider hogs one of their main enterprises, as it eliminates sudden changes in feeding practices and rations and results in more constant and consistent daily gains in weight.

The average weaning weight per pig in numerous litters having access to the creep was 36.4 pounds, many pigs averaging 45 pounds and one entire litter of seven averaging 50 pounds, while in the case of the litters having no access to creep feeding during the suckling period, the average weight per individual was only 24.2 pounds; a difference of over 12 pounds in favour of the creep-fed suckling pig. The weaning date was 56 days in all comparison made.

Since a critical stage of a pig's life is from weaning to 90 days, the gains made in weight during this period more or less regulate the subsequent rate of gain of the litter. The importance of having the young suckling pig well acquainted and accustomed to skim-milk and meal prior to weaning is therefore apparent. Findings indicate that the heavier pig at weaning is not so subject to scouring and digestive troubles. In large litters the young pigs started to take milk and meal at two to three weeks, whereas litters of four to six pigs hesitate to take feed in the creep for the first four or five weeks. The meal ration fed in the creep should be low in fibre content, the following being used with very good success at this station:

100 pounds sifted, or hulless oat chop
50 pounds middlings
50 pounds shorts
2 pounds fine bonemeal

Care should be taken to see that the feeding utensils and troughs are kept sanitary and clean for suckling pigs.

Botanical Notes For May

(Experimental Farm Notes)

The enchanting scent of apple blossom defies description; as does the evanescent loveliness of May. There is beauty everywhere and in everything. There is rhapsody and romance in this season of growth, fertility, religious rites and folklore. The very dew of May Morn is said to beautify the face which is bathed in it. Even the austere Milton was moved to sing

'Hail bounteous May, thou dost inspire
Mirth and youth and warm desire!'

Unhappily, however, there is a kill-joy which rules that May marriages are unlucky. But why? Who knows from whence arose the snag to all this gladness?

When the city air drags the last essence of sweetness out of golden daffodil trumpets and tulips' glowing cups ;one must not forget the well-being of the winter-garden — those plucky little pot-plants that have cheered the home through the sterner months; they, like you, are longing to get out and join in the fun of May; they, too, pine for a frolic and a gambol in the fresh air, the sunshine and the rain.

Meanwhile the wild flowers are scrambling, with breathless haste, to burst into a galaxy of bloom. Trillium, iris, phlox, forget-me-not, pentstemon, orchis, milkwort, anemone and a host of others smile in the pride of their fresh, floral beauty and, so it seems, in the knowledge that they afford pleasure and even joy to so many people.

It is earnestly hoped that this will always be; but alas! there are ominous signs that, in the not very far future, this happiness will be denied if the present unrestricted picking and uprooting is to continue.

The floral emblem of Ontario—the large-flowered trillium — one of the most chastely beautiful of our native wild flower will, it is feared, be one of the first to disappear. Hugh bunches offered for sale in the markets and to passing motorists may be unsold and flung away to wilt and die; those picked ostensibly to adorn the home have met with a similar fate. It seems that some wild flowers need protection.

On the other hand there are those condemned as pestiferous weeds which can be freely gathered, and with profit. One is the common dandelion, whose usefulness is extolled by authoritative writers.

'Dear common flower that grow'st beside the way,
Fringing the dusty road with harmless gold.

'Tis the spring's largess, which scatters now
To rich and poor alike, with lavish hand;
Though most hearts never understand
To take it at God's value, but pass by
The offered wealth with unrewarded eye?'

Yes! even the despicable dandelion is useful, and every part of it—flowers, leaves and roots —just imagine how gourmets and dietitians will smile! — Nevertheless this humble plant is ready and willing to provide a meal which will, at all events, delight the heart of a vegetarian and should appeal to the votaress of fashionable "reducing" or "slimming."

The blanched leaves and sliced roots province a bitter salad. The reducer can, with impunity, stuff herself to repletion with the young leaves boiled in two waters to remove the bitterness, then served as spinach. A glass of excellent wine, made from the flower-heads, may be allowed; if not, the feast can be washed down with mock-coffee: about which Mrs. Traill gives the following directions: "The root should be washed thoroughly, but the brown skin not scrapped off, as much tonic virtue is contained in this brown covering of the root. This must be cut up into small pieces and dried by degree in the oven until it becomes dry and crisp enough to grind in the coffee mill; it is then used in the same way as the coffee-berry, with the addition of milk and sugar."

Thus wine, greens, salad and coffee are provided by this pest of the lawns. Bravo, gallant little dandelion!

It is this merrie, merrie month of peerless rapture that birds, beasts, flowers, earth and sky express with restless urgency the essence of the beauty that is in them. From the fruit trees' foaming blossom the robins' liquid notes are trilled with tireless joy; from the life-teeming swamps cool-fluting frogs send forth their antiphonal love-call to the droning diapason of numberless tiny wings; the woods shiver with spring delight; the very earth seems to pulse and throb underfoot; and above is "sky so blue it makes you wonder if it's heaven shining through."

Indeed everywhere the secret of the season is told with breathless lavishness. The whole countryside is drenched with a haze of new life, the wonder of coming days, and the great promise that till the end of time the harvest shall never fail.—

E. W. Hart, Division of Bontany, Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, Canada.

START PERENNIALS EARLY IN MAY AND JUNE

THEY WILL GET STARTED DURING COOL WEATHER AND BE FARTHER ADVANCED WHEN TRANSPLANTING TIME COMES IN THE FALL

A few perennials can be started early indoors and will bloom the first year, but most of them need a year's growth before they flower. They may be started in mid-summer, but will do better if started earlier in May or June. This gives them a chance to develop through the tender stage in weather that is not too dry and hot, and they are thus better able to carry through the season to transplanting time in the fall, and the mortality is lessened.

Take a secluded and protected spot in the vegetable garden for a seedbed. Be as careful about preparing the soil as if it were to be put in a flat. Plant perennials in rows, like vegetables, labelling each row. Thin out carefully to the proper distance apart in the row.

No perennial border can be without the tall delphiniums and hollyhocks. They form the mainstay of tall colorful subjects in the garden.

Pyrethrums are one of the finest of cutting materials, the long-stemmed daisies, sometimes growing 3 feet tall keeping for days when cut. They range in color from pure white to palest pinks, rose, scarlet, maroon and crimson. The dark shades are the rarest and a packet of seed will give a prevailing number of light tones. To get a good strain of pyrethrums it is necessary, first of all, to buy a good strain of seed from a reliable seedsman.

It is usually necessary to grow a larger number of plants than you really need and select the best. But a packet of seeds will produce scores of plants, so this is no great item of expense. Select carefully; there will usually be a large number of plants with washed-out coloring. Select those of clear color

These Tall Beauties, Delphiniums and Hollyhoks, Can Be Grown From Seed.

and throw away the inferior ones.

Columbines do not need the selection, as they show a wide diversity of color, but not much diversity in size or form if the seed is from a good strain. There are fine named types that come fairly true from seed. You may select the color you like in columbines, but it is one perennial which because of its soft coloring, is as effective in mixed coloring as grown in separate colors. It is best in shade but will grow well in full sun. Set plants a foot apart for mass of bloom.

Early morning is the best time to sprinkle the lawn. A thorough wetting is best; ;it promotes deep, healthy roots in contrast to the shallow root system of grass lightly sprinkled.

Quick-grown young vegetables are the best, and only the home garden, where they may be harvested as needed, can provide them.

Select a few flowers for fragrance. Stocks, nasturtums, sweet alyssum, mignonette and the balcony petunias will bring new charm to your summer picture.

Annual vines, such as morning glories, will cover up an ugly spot in your landscape in rapid-fire time. They climb up to 20 feet in a single summer.

Radishes, carrots and lettuce should be sown at ten-day intervals throughout the spring season in order to have a continuous supply of crisp, tender roots and leaves.

Make your garden habit a hobby by specializing in a few flowers and vegetables.

Don't let spring get too far advanced before reseeding the bare spots in the lawn, and applying plant food.

Follow the farmer's practice of rotating crops in the vegetable patch.

Most plant experts consider manure more harmful than good for lawns. Large quantities of noxious weed seeds are broadcast in this way, and the lawn is an unsightly mess for months after the first application. Use a complete plant food instead.

Plan for a full season of radishes this year. They are one of the earliest crops, and if you choose your varieties carefully, are one of the latest as well. Spring, summer, fall and winter radishes may be grown.

If your perennial border was straggly and barren in spots last year. Plan ahead of time for annuals to fill in the dull places.

A little plant food will work wonders with a poor soil.

Entomology

PARSNIP WEBWORN

This insect is a great enemy of the parsnip where this plant is grown for seed and also attacks the cow parsnip and the wild carrot. The eggs from which the "worms" develop are laid by the parent moth wth a wing expanse of a little less than one and one-half inches, and are deposited singly in large numbers on leaves, stems and particularly on the sheath surrounding the flower heads. The time spent in the egg stage averages about seven days and the period of oviposition extends over a considerable period, as newly hatched larvae were found late in July. On hatching, the young larvae bore through the sheath and penetrate to the young flower buds inside. Here it commences to feed and to tie the unfolding flowers together with silken threads, forming a slight silken tunnel within which it feeds. When the head at length bursts open, it may therefore, be nothing but a mass of web with the caterillars inside. The larva feeds thus for about four weeks upon the seeds and leaves of the plants and then having become nearly mature, it crawls down the stem, usually to the axil of a leaf, when it eats its way through the hollow stem, and feeds for a few days until it reaches maturity. When mature, the larva builds a light cocoon of silk and excrement within which it changes to the pupal stage. The total length of the larval life averages just under five weeks there being in all five larval instars. The pupal instar continues for three weeks, most of the adults emerging during the latter half of August, though a few belated individuals may not appear until as late as the middle of September. The adults pass the winter beneath the bark of trees, or in similar shelters, coming out in June of the following year to deposit eggs for another generation. One individual was even found in the late winter hidden under a rafter in a disused building.

Pinching and destroying the caterpillars in the infested heads is effective on a small scale. Control by spraying or dusting is difficult and not entirely satisfactory owing to the long period over which the eggs are laid and the habit of the insect of tying up the heads with silken threads, but frequent dusting with arsenate of lime, 2 lbs.—8 of hydrated lime is of considerable benefit. The cow parsnip is such a common weed in some places that the destruction of such plants or the growing of the parsnip seed in places remote from this weed, as is often recommended, cannot be followed in most places.

THE PEA MOTH

This is the commonest and most destructive pest of the pea in the Maritime Provinces and is the common "worm" found in the peas when they are being prepared for the table. It probably prevents, n many cases, much larger plantings of this vegetable, since it annually destroys from 10 to 75 per cent of the crop, making it almost impossible to market the crop unshelled in many cases and then often at a financial loss. The worms arise from tiny scale-like eggs deposited by small brownish moths during the last three weeks of July and the first week of August. These eggs are laid upon the sepals (the small leaves at the base of the pod) of a partially developed pod. They are also said to be laid upon the leaves. The eggs hatch in two or three days into a tiny, light colored, black headed caterpillar, which bores directly through the pod into the seed beneath, excavating the interior or making irregular holes in the side, sometimes attacking every pea in the pod and webbing them together to a certain extent with a fine silken web. About seventeen to twenty days are then spent in the pod following which the larva bores a hole in the side, descends to the ground, enters it for an inch or two and spins a small silken cocoon in which it passes the winter. Occasionally the cocoon is found attached to a stone or other object on the ground. In spring the larva charges to a pupa inside the cocoon and three to four weeks later assumes the adult condition, depositing its eggs four to seven days after emergence.

The problem of control is most difficult in the home garden where conditions do not permit of proper rotation and where the proximity of neighboring gardens is likely to nullify any measure taken. Deep plowing may have some effect in burying the larvae and preventing the emergence of the moth. Where peas are grown on a large scale the consistent pulling up and destruction of the vines by all neighboring growers when the first peas begin to get hard and ripe, will materially reduce the infestation and probably prevent it from becoming serious, since the larvae reach maturity as the peas ripen and do not develop in hard ripe pease. The method may sacrifice a certain amount of the crop, but it is well worth while, especially as it is the earlier peas that return the greatest profit. In the case of peas used for canning, a variety is usually chosen that ripens rather uniformly and harvesting is done before the larvae have left the fruit, so that this method is quite practical and easy of application. Another method of reducing their injury is the sowing of very early and of very late varieties.

AGRICULTURIST

Getting Ready For The Lamb Crop

(Experimental Farms Note)

Lambing time is the shepherd's harvest. It is also the time requiring the most exacting care. Everything must be in readiness for the coming of the new crop. Three or four weeks before lambing the pregnant ewe should receive better f s in order to insure a good flow of milk for the young lambs. Alfalfa, red clover and other legumes make the best hays for breeding ewes; they are almost essential at lambing time. If they are not available, mixed hay which contains a fair amount of legume should be fed. Succulent feeds such as turnips or corn silage make a welcome addition to the ration, but not more than one pound a day should be given as larger amounts are known to produce big, soft, flabby lambs which generally die soon after birth. At this time the feeding of grain is essential. The amount necessary will vary according to the size and condition of the ewe. Half to three-quarters of a pound per day of a grain mixture made up of 2 parts oats and 1 part bran is generally sufficient. If mixed or non-legume hays are fed, the addition of half a part of oil meal will prove beneficial.

As lambing time approaches, and the ewes become heavy in lamb, they will require more pen and feeding space. The ewes which are expected to lamb early should be seperated from the main flock. This is easily done if the ram was marked at breeding time and records kept. The warmest and most comfortable pen, one receiving plenty of sunshine and free from draughts should be selected. The floor should be dry, level, and well bedded with clean straw. This lambing pen should be so equipped that individual pens can be easily made. For this purpose light, two-sided, folding hurdles four feet to the side and three feet high are very useful. By starting in the warmest corner and placing the hurdle at right angles a complete pen is constructed with each hurdle. In this way the ewe is kept quite and is less likely to disown her lambs. There is no danger of one lamb going astray and getting trampled on by other sheep, and special attention can be given to the ewe without disturbing the whole flock.

Two or three days before lambing light feed, such as succulents and bran, should be given in order to keep the bowels in condition. With heavy milkers it will help to prevent milk fever .In order to prevent wool ball and unneccessary soiling and infection, loose wool and dung locks should be clipped from around the udder and rear parts of the body. Let the ewe stand on her feet and handle her gently so as to avoid any possibility of causing abortion. A sure sign of approaching delivery is when the ewe is beginning to make her udder or when she remains away from the flock. It is at this time that the flock should be visited often both during the day and the night. Always be quite, however, and do not disturb th ewes.

Thin Out Vegetables

It Will Improve Yield Like No Other Thing

Pick Every Other Beet Early for Greens.

Most vegetable crops must be thinned out in the early stages of growth. If left until they attain some size it is impossible to thin them without checking the growth of those that remain. This does not apply to carrots and beets, which may be thinned when some are large enough to use. It is the half-grown carrots that are most delicious, and the growth is so much more in length than in the diameter of the root that the thinning process does not disturb the others so much.

Turnips must be thinned before they begin to form. The early turnips are round and flat. They do not grow well if crowded. If thinning is postponed until the roots begin to form the growth of all is checked and the ravages of worms, which are always ready to feed on turnips, are likely to be fatal. If the young plants are pulled up so they stand 4 inches apart in the row in a remarkably quick time they will be large enough to use.

Beets are more eaisly handled that turnips when they are a little larger, and one should not fail to try a dish of beet tops with the tiny roots just beginning to form. It is a delicious introduction to the garden menu. The beets which are left in the ground should be spaced 2 inches apart. In harvesting this crop as maturity progresses, choose alternate plants so those remaining in the row have always more room in which to develop.

Salsify, parsnips and witloff chicory, which are to remain in the ground all season, should be thinned early to 3 or 4 inches apart in the row. If your soil is rich the smaller interval will do, but if it is not, then give more room.

Bush lima beans will never develop properly if crowded. A foot and a half to 2 feet should be given to each plant for best results. Bush beans, green pod and wax, should have 3 or 4 inches, depending on the richness of the soil. Peas are not thinned but should be planted with plenty of room to grow.

- NEWSY NOTES -

By AGRICOLA

PREHISTORIC AVEBURY

There must be few persons in the British Empire who have not read of the prehistoric stone circle which the Anglo-Saxons called Stanhenges (Stonehenge) and the Britons the "Dance Maine" or Giant's Dance. Not so many are aware that, about twenty miles to the northward ,on the picturesque Marlborough Downs, there is an older and larger megalithic circle, surrounded by numerous tumuli and other historicals remains. This relic of od time is not easily observed by reason of the extent of ground it covers, and its subdivision by hedges and other enclosures; by reason too of the village of Avebury, which like a pretty parasite, as an archaeologist once said, has grown up inside the circle, and utilized many of the stones in its construction. But sufficient has survived to give the curious antiquary a fair estimate of what the circle must have looked like when its builders drew back to view their finished work.

Like Stonehange there was a deep encircling ditch and an earthen rampart, forming a circle the diameter of which is given as 1,400 feet. Inside this was the first circle of 100 stones, (from 15 to 17 feet high, and having a diameter of 1,000 feet. Unlike Stonehenge, however, all the stones of Avebury were set up "in the rough" and bear no signs of any tool work. A considerable number have been broken and reduced to a height of five feet or so, and the fragments used for building. Inside this area were two double circles of stones, which the older antiquaries supposed to be temples: in diameter they were 350 feet and 325 feet respectively. The one had, in its centre, a dolmen of which the three sides still remain and the other a single stone pillar (menhir) about 20 feet high.

The area of the great circle is now quartered by roads crossing at its centre, but the road leading to the South-east is noteworthy because it skirts Woden Hill and winds through a number of large stones disposed in double rows. (There is a similar arrangement (of double rows) at Carnak in Brittany, which I venture to suppose is a memorial of a great battle, translating the name as Cairn-ak," stone men or people.")

Due South from Avebury is Silbury Hill an artificial mound, the largest and loftiest of its kind in Europe, covering an area of about five acres and rising to a height of 130 feet. The ancient Keltic races often raised these mounds; in Scotland where boulders were plentiful, they took the form of "cairns," but in Britain the mounds are supposed to have been made of aprons ful of earth, laboriously carried by all the tribe!

A little to the Eastward of Avebury is Hackpen Hill (the pen or ben of Haka), crowned with an oval of double stones, and measuring 138 by 155 feet. From the oval stretched an avenue 45 feet in width, running to Silbury Hill.

From the number of tumuli, barrows, monoliths, and other antiquities we judge that the district was regarded with much reverence by the early inhabitants. The celebrated antiquary Ferguson, whose book on the "Stone Circles of Great Britain" is now a classic, was of opinion that the large circle at Avebury proper, and Silbury hill itself, are memorials of the great battle of Badon Hill, (A. D. 520) in which the Britons gained such a victory over the Saxons that their advance was checked for thirty years. Ferguson identifies Badon Hill with Waden Hill, which is not unlikely; because anciently, as we know, B, V, and W, were interchangeable in most languages.

The artificial hills like Silsbury were often used as outdoor "parliaments," the audience crowding the lower slopes, while the "head men" debated the various policies, standing on the summit. There are many such hills in Northumberland, the most notable of which are called "Moot Hills," a name given by the Anglo-Saxons, who used the word "mote" to indicate a meeting place, especially one where causes were argued.

NATURE NOTES

"Diffugere nives," says ancient Horace, "Away have fled the snows, and back at last is coming grass to the fields and foliage to the trees."

"Melts Winter in the zephyro:
Summer treads
On heels of Spring; in turn
To die, when Autumn forth her fruitage sheds;
Last Winter dull and stern."

The rest of the Ode is in rather melancholy strain for a welcome to Spring: which with us is always a season of rejoicing.

A friend who as something of a philosopher, once asked me what were the benefits of a garden, apart from its use in providing a supply of vegetables? (We were both town-dwellers.) This took some thinking over, but I came to the conclusion the first and greatest benefit was the sensation of physical tiredness that comes from the delving, sowing the seed, and cultivating the ground. The gardener is not likely to be troubled with insomnia! We can tire, in modern life, from nerves, worry, and bewilderment, but sleep flies us in that case.

The gardener, in the second place, has the urge to create a beauty spot out of a bare plot of ground: he has a satisfaction in the opening rose, the spike of gladiolus, and the unfolding of the iris. These things minister to his spirit, as the former ministered to his body.

Another spiritual benefit of gardening is the sense of adventure! A town-dweller, as a rule, works year in and year out in the same old groove. But if he gardens, he undertakes an adventure every time he plants a seed previously unknown to him. —Hold, said my friend, you overwhelm me. Who'd have thought a gardener had so many aces up his sleeve? —I had one more benefit to dilate upon, said, I, but for your ribaldry I'll keep it to myself.

As I write (April 28) the weather is cool, but the Scilla Silberica, the late Crocuses, and the Glory of the Snow (Chionadoxa) hold their blossoms up bravely before the easterly b asts. The "cloth of gold" crocuser have already faded. Every garden should have an assortment of these early spring flowers, which may be had at small cost. The tulips and daffodils (Narcissus) will be three weeks or a month later: I always give them a little tonic in the shape of a chemical fertilizer as soon as the leaves are well above ground.

The little Japanese Heartnut trees (Juglans cordiformis) and the European Filbert shrubs have come through their first winter in good shape. These are the only two "nut trees" that Mr. Geo. Corsan recommends for P. E. Island. Mr. Corsan has a nut orchard at Islington, Ontario, and is an outstanding authority on the subject.

There are, I believe, both butternut and black walnut trees on the Island, which bear fruit but do not ripen it: I shall be glad to have s .e correspondent send in the names of places where such fruit may be procured.

On April 17th, a flock of robins —at least a score —were hunting worms in the field near the house for breakfast: this was the l gest flock I had seen for some years. They passed on northward. On April 24th the first tree-swallow appeared! We immediately hung out the nesting-box, but after cruising about all day the swallows disappeared again. It was a little too previous! The swallows left us early last year it will be remembered.

April 20th was a lovely Spring day with the thermometer at a maximum (official) of 64 degrees. My Tycos registered 68 degrees For the first time this year I heard the frogs croaking: they commenced their choir practice in the evening, and I am told they did not let up till about 1.30 a. m on the 21st!

Talking of thermometers, I daresay my readers have noticed how often readings of instruments in the same locality differ. Your thermometer may record 10 above zero, and your neighbor says his is 8 above, and so on. Both thermometers should be checked against a standard, if exposed to sunlight day after day, are sure to go wrong from the fluid drying out.

There are however some variations in temperature that require investigation. For instance on March 3rd, the lowest at Charlottetown (official) was 10 degrees, below while at Tyne Valley and at Kensington it was reported to be 30 deg. below zero. I have a record of 40 below for Tyne Valley, (Jan. 18, 1925) and 42 below for Wellington: But I have always had some doubts as to its accuracy.

Sunspots were plentiful during the month of March.

Nature makes a dead set at hybrids, and usually they are sterile so preserving the purity of the species. There is an article, well worth the attention of the naturalist, in the Family Herald of April 27th: "Buffalo Hybrids at Wainwright Park." The writer tells of the troublesome experiences in hybridizing different species of cattle.

ODDS AND ENDS

An Indians's Opinion. An Indian was recently reported as saying: "This country was all right till the white men came, but see what a mess they have made of it!" There is a good deal of truth in the latter clause. Thirty years ago or thereabouts, when I first came to Canada I thought "Here is the destined head of the British Empire, if the people remain true to the traditions handed down by their industrious and far-sighted ancestors." The country had boundless natural resouces; the wealth of mine, forest, stream and sea: our poets compared our lot with starveling Europe, and our schoolbooks re-echoed the note. It seemed at that time, that anybody willing to work, and with a modicum of good health not fail to earn a competence and live a happy and contented life.

The picture is different today: we have lost a good deal of our complacency and are beginning to face up to the hard facts. Much of Canada's natural wealth has been used up recklessly, and its profit has gone to strangers. Sometimes men of vision have warned us,—men like the late Mr. Barnjum—but prophets are seldom popular, and not often are their warnings regarded.

As to Prince Edward Island. At the meeting of the unemployed, one speaker said that out of the city population of 15,00 there would always be a percentage of unemployed men. If one takes the population of the other Island towns into consideration as well there must be an urban population of close to 20,000 against a rural population of about 70,000. As — with one exception —there are no outstanding industrial concerns too great a percentage of the urban residents depend on the farming community for a livelihood, and when agriculture is depressed, they are the first to feel it.

Old Times. In common with many other readers of The Guardian I am greatly interested in the history of the good old times on the Island. Some informative articles, like the History of Milton Parish by our good friend Mr. C E. MacKenzie, and Old Times South of the Hillsboro by Mr. Ludlow Jenkins, another friend of the present writer have already appeared in these columns. In Britain it is part of the work of the Women's Institutes to re-issue such local histories either as separate bulletins or as part of the annual report of their activities. May I suggest that a like course be followed here? As the older generations pass there is less and less chance of recovering much of these records.

C. S. replies. Last week I broadcast an enquiry as to where six plants previously unknown to me were to be found. Mr. Sterling Campbell of Campbell's Mills, New Glasgow, writes: "Dear Sir: On reading last Saturday's Guardian (April 23) I noticed that you referred to a list of plants I had sent to the Family Herald and Weekly Star for identification. It gives me great pleasure to think that I have helped in some measure, to complete the Island Flora." Mr. Campbell then extends a cordial invitation to "Agricola" to visit him," as there are more plants where those came from." I hope, if all goes well, to take advantage of his kindness during the coming summer.