

9 Pages for the Cooper Farmer



- NEWSY NOTES -

By AGRICOLA

THE CLAN MACGREGOR, (I)

A gentleman well known (and I may add, greatly respected) in his own district, has sent me, for examination, a bound copy of "Chamberlain's Edinburgh Journal" for the year 1938. It is just 102 years old (that of course does not make it venerable, but when we learn that it was published by Chambers, we expect a superior class of literature—and we get it. Much of the matter in the Journal relates to Scottish history and the item headed "The Clan MacGregor" helps us to understand how that family came to be dispossessed of their ancestral domains.

The Clan Gregor (or MacGregor) springs from Gregor or Gregorius, who was the third son of Alpin, a Scottish King of the eighth century. It seems probable that Alpin was able and willing to give his subjects a piece of land on the ground Loch Katrine and the northern end of Loch Lomond. From this same Alpin the name of MacGregor, rather than of MacGregor, is derived. The name of the Clan Gregor is still called the "Clan Gregor" and they are still called the "Clan Gregor" by some writers. In Stevenson's "David Balfour" the proscribed MacGregors are termed "Gowans" or "Gowans" or else the "Gowans." Gregorius has a Roman name about it; the Romans had carried their arms into Scotland, and the barbarians there had adopted some of their names, from a natural feeling of admiration for a people so superior in arms and accomplishments.

So long as the clan alone was the sole title to property in Scotland this numerous and powerful clan cared as well as most of their neighbors, being able and willing to make their hands seen in the courts. But in the course of time, and with the evolution of a supreme monarchy instead of local "kings," territorial possessions began to be written down, and the MacGregors, however, neglected to conform to the times and trusted to the sword, thus paving the way, for the historians to write of them as the great barons in their own right, and to get titles to their lands. The MacGregors, however, neglected to conform to the times and trusted to the sword, thus paving the way, for the historians to write of them as the great barons in their own right, and to get titles to their lands.

It is interesting to note that as each community pastures is completed, it automatically becomes a sanctuary for wild birds and animals. As a result of the establishment of these pastures, large areas are once again available as breeding grounds to thousands of migratory birds which have been threatened with extinction through lack of nesting and feeding facilities. Besides the birds have been protected and are making joyous use of the sanctuaries.

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- CONSERVATION -

A WEEKLY COLUMN OF PRACTICAL OPINIONS OF THE VITAL ISSUES AFFECTING THE USES AND ABUSES OF NATURAL RESOURCES BY MR. LUDLOW JENKINS MARSHFIELD.

In an address before the National Association of Audubon Societies on October 29, 1935, S.A. Rulmer, Assistant Chief of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, said:

"Examples of the part birds play in the control of insect pests are numerous. More than 40 species of the native wild birds prey on the true army worm, and similar numbers feed on the fall army worm or grass worm of the South. A specialist of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine working in the Southeastern States recently recorded numerous observations which indicate that woodpeckers feed so extensively on the larvae of the spruce sawfly that the population of this pest was reduced from 15 to 30 percent."

Ralph C. Hall, of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine and three assistant research entomologists made a detailed study of the locust borer in the North Central States from 1931 through 1937. They concluded that "Woodpeckers are important predators of the locust borer larvae in that region. In 1937 they were responsible for the removal of 29 percent of the spring brood population of the nine-year-old locust borer. In 1938 they removed 20 percent of the larval population of the two-year-old locust borer."

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WEEKLY LIVESTOCK MARKET REPORT

OTTAWA, CANADA, Aug. 8, 1940

SUMMARY

The cattle trade absorbed a considerably heavier supply than in the previous week or in the same week last year despite the short trading season due to the holiday observed at a number of markets on Monday. Not only was the larger offering well absorbed but the market showed considerably more strength than a week ago, with principal demand centering on the better grades which sold in many cases around 25c higher. A pleasing feature of the week's trading has been the strong demand for all suitable kinds of replacement cattle. Calves gained 50c at Toronto, were a shade higher at Montreal and steady firm elsewhere. Hogs showed little change except for one or two price adjustments at Montreal and in the west. Lamb trade a feature of the market situation regaining an appreciable part of last week's losses.

EASTERN CATTLE STEADY TO STRONGER

Good killing cattle were strong to 25c higher at Toronto and steady to 10c higher at Montreal. A half load recording the week's high of \$8.75. Butcher steers and heifers sold mostly up to \$7.75 and only a few were good enough to bring \$8 to \$8.25 and one load made \$8.40. Common to medium grades made up the bulk of the supply and were no better than \$6.50 to \$7.00. A few choice steers shared in the advance selling 25c higher at \$5 to \$5.25 and a few at \$5.50. Prices at Montreal were steady, a shade higher and although there were a few real top quality steers offered, good kinds sold from \$7.75 up to \$8.25, but the bulk of the good cows from \$5.50 to \$6.00. There is no doubt something in the scarcity of the better grades resulted in firm prices but common cattle were plentiful and easier in price. Good to choice steers were quoted at \$7.50 to \$8.

WESTERN CATTLE MARKETS ACTIVE

Western markets enjoyed a healthy demand for cattle and under an active trade prices ruled firm. Cows and heifers were the strongest grades and showed a gain of around 25c at most stock yards. Stockers and feeders were also strong sellers with a number of orders for the immediate future pointing to a fairly broad outlet for good kinds of stores. Winnipeg paid from \$5.50 to \$7 for most grades and \$6.50 to \$7 for best stockers and feeders. Calgary was active with good grass butter steers at \$6.50 to \$7, and good cow steers at \$6.50 to \$7.50. Edmonton paid \$7 for good grassers and had a load of fed steers at \$8. The best of the steer offering at Moose Jaw brought \$6 to \$6.25, Prince Albert \$6 to \$6.25, Regina \$6 to \$6.50 and Saskatoon from \$6.50 to \$7. Good butter steers at Vancouver made \$7.50 to \$8.

UNITED STATES MARKET

The only sale of Canadian stock at Buffalo was a load of bulls averaging 1518 lb. at \$6.50. At St. Paul, Canadian cows were quoted at \$5.50 to \$6.50, bulls \$5 to \$6.50 and steers from \$8 to \$8.25. The high part of Calgary was \$7.25, Edmonton, Regina and Vancouver \$7.50, Prince Albert and Moose Jaw \$6.50 and Saskatoon closed stronger up to \$6.75.

CALVES STEADY TO HIGHER

Toronto had a keen market for good veals and gained 50c good to choice selling at \$10 to \$11. Montreal was stronger with good veals at \$8 to \$8.50, while Winnipeg was also firm with top calves at \$7.50. The high part of Calgary was \$7.25, Edmonton, Regina and Vancouver \$7.50, Prince Albert and Moose Jaw \$6.50 and Saskatoon closed stronger up to \$6.75.

HOG PRICES MOSTLY UNCHANGED

Hog prices remained unchanged at Toronto with most sales on the rail grade basis at \$11 for the basic grade and some at \$8.25 for bacon off trucks. Montreal was lower with a single lot of \$11.00. Calgary was steady at \$7.50 for bacon f. w. w., while Calgary closed at \$7.20 for bacon off trucks, Edmonton at \$7.10, Prince Albert \$7.10, Moose Jaw and Regina \$7.25, and Saskatoon \$7.30 off trucks. Slaughter hogs at Vancouver made \$7.75 to \$8.

LAMB MARKET HIGHER

The Toronto lamb market strengthened on a light run and slaughter hogs and good ewes and wethers at \$10.50 off cars or \$10 off trucks. Montreal paid \$9.50 for lambs as well.

In addition to the four species of celerly-leaf birds mentioned, many others were found feeding to an important degree, on celerly insect pests. Amongst these the purple-winged grackle was the most abundant and the most valuable work on the celerly. Dayton Storer has continued the studies of birds of the celerly fields and has submitted an extensive manuscript on the subject (not yet published). In concluding, it is fitting to quote a statement by three experienced and well-known entomologists who had studied the insect pests of the Florida celerly crop for several years—E. D. Ball, B. L. Boyer, and W. E. Stone. They are only a few of many examples that could be given to show the economic value of birds and the help they render in controlling insect pests. Depredations—Florida Insect. Sta. Bull. 250, p. 11, 1932.

TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH

Silver Fox Farming



We notice large numbers of our Silver Fox farmer friends taking in the Silver Fox Week, apparently enjoying themselves to the full. Active on the list of participants in the racing was George A. Calbeck, handling the ribbons over Jack Clyde by Calumet Budlong, 2024, who finished a close third in the Two-year-old Futurity Pace.

Myron McArthur, another of our breeder friends, had had racing luck in the second heat by good driving and a good pacer; he finished third and then went on to win the third heat in one of its most exciting finishes of the week.

The Prince Edward Island Silver Fox Breeders and Exhibitors Association are not going to die inactively. That would be impossible under the leadership of President Lowell W. Hancock and the enthusiastic energy of Walter R. Shaw, the secretary. A meeting of directors will be held shortly to consider matters in connection with a live fox show, a pet show and a field day. That's the spirit, gentlemen, and you will remember that it is what Darwin's theory was—the survival of the fittest.

The New York Auction Company is expected to offer approximately 15,000 pelts from the last season's ranches at their auction Sept. 19.

Some scientists are recommending more liberal feeding of carrots to all kinds of stock including fur-bearing animals. They claim that carrots are a definite function in animal metabolism. Several food cuts are advising invalids to drink from a half to a pint of carrot juice daily. There is no doubt something in the scarcity of the better grades resulted in firm prices but common cattle were plentiful and easier in price. Good to choice steers were quoted at \$7.50 to \$8.

Dr. L. J. O'Reilly was mentioned in this column, re-elected President of the American National Fox and Fur Breeders' Association. At the meeting he gave a masterly address which must have been the result of very careful research and study. As the members of the United States fur farmer are very closely related to our own we think it would be well for our readers to know a little more about the work of Dr. O'Reilly's address, so we quote it here.

"It is my belief that the adversities met and surmounted, while seeming terrible at the time, have been advantageous to us because they brought about a closer understanding of this industry's problems beyond mere ranch problems which can affect our investment and our livelihood. As the members of the fur farmer are very closely related to our own we think it would be well for our readers to know a little more about the work of Dr. O'Reilly's address, so we quote it here.

"You, of course are aware that a small quantity of the Norwegian silver fox platinas was introduced into this country and that sale a very wonderful lesson on co-operation should be drawn. These pelts were a selected lot of the best of the Norwegian production. They were not distributed through many channels of sale, but rather concentrated in one place, the Prairie Fur Co. of Chicago. This was a very wise move, as against the sale of a few here and there, as has been the case in the past. This principle was sound and without extolling their record unduly, we may point out that in the last three months of the war we have more than 100,000 men, met and defeated 40 German divisions, totaling over 1,000,000 men, and we have an inferior complex as regards the German soldier.

Community Pastures

Speaking at Regina at the recent conference of fieldmen under the operation of the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Act, O. Freer, Superintendent of the Land Utilization Branch, said that term "land utilization" in the dry area of the north-western reduced to simple language, meant the moving of people from sub-marginal areas where they could not make living and thereby restoring such abandoned areas to the use for which nature intended such areas, namely grazing. That principle was sound and before it was reasonable to expect that definite results could be achieved, and so, under the operation of P. F. R., the work of vating an area as big as an inland

A Naturalist's Calendar

FOR Prince Edward Island

A carefully prepared series of notes of Meteorological and Botanical observations made in the period 1910-1937; and including a short list of common insects.

By BLYTHE HURST ("Agricola")
Brackley Beach

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empire went steadily forward for four years, with a very definite policy of permanency in the construction of community pasture facilities, large scale soil drift control, grass reseeding programs, and encouragement to raising the stock.

Putting it briefly, the work already done and being done meant that those people still residing in the drought areas where these community pastures had been established are located have now an opportunity to develop a farm-ranch unit that will represent the greatest instead of the least return in security and stability. It meant that they could with safety embark on a live stock production program with the full and certain knowledge that not only would they have ample grass and water for their summer grazing requirements, but that what was still more important, pasture feed reserves for the winter would be available to see them through the hardest winters.

There were now 40 completed pastures in operation. Ten other pastures were in the course of completion and would likely be in operation during the late summer months. This would bring the enclosed areas of the least particularly over 1,000,000 acres. The fencing of these pastures represented over 2,200 miles of four or five-strand barb wire fence, and over 100,000 acres of backline posts set one rod apart and posts anchored every eight rods, and wires rounded to protect stock and fencing from lightning. It placed in line fence would stretch from Calgary to beyond Montreal.

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TRAVELS CONTINENT FOR WILD FLOWERS

NEW YORK, Aug. 16—(CP)—The woman's place may be in the kitchen but it can't be proved by Mrs. Lester Rowntree of Calumet, Calif., who travels into some of the world's loneliest spots looking for wild flowers.

Mrs. Rowntree, a middle-aged woman, by taking pack burro high into the Sierra mountains, has travelled to uninhabited islands of the Pacific, to Mohave Desert and all over Mexico and the United States in search of wild plants in their native habitat.

Her "finds" are sent to the centres of horticultural research throughout the world for propagation and classification. She seeks especially for new plants that will thrive in the gardens of North America.

Sometimes she sets forth in her car with tinmed feed, her botanical equipment, a sleeping bag and shovel and axe and goes into a strange region on her search for new flowers. She has remained in an isolated canyon for as long as six weeks at a time, searching out new plants, studying them minutely for information that she gives her thorough notes and sketches. "I do not feel that I am well acquainted with a plant until I have slept beside it, have seen how it looks when the sun comes up and when the drying fog comes down," Mrs. Rowntree. "How else could I appraise its value in a garden?"