A Page for the MODERN FARMER

- NEWSY NOTES -

By AGRICOLA

ON PROPHECY

These last three months I have heard (and read) more about prophecy than I had heard in the three decades preceding. Friends discuss Herr Hitler's astrologers, — he is supposed to have a number, and to strike an average in taking their advice for timing his coups—while other friends have a say at foretelling the fortune's of the British Empire. Two clippings were brought in the other night by a visitor, who is very much interested in this matter; one was from a Canadian magazine, and the other from a U.S. newspaper. The magazine professed to give the prophecies of one "Mother Shipton", who, I think, was a Yorkshire "wise woman", two, or perhaps three, centuries ago. The prophecies were recorded in doggrel rhyme, something in the style of Butler's "Hudibras", and were in extensive circulation, in the North at any rate, when I was a schoolboy. Here are a few excerpts:—

Carriages without horses shall go,
And accidents fill the world with woe:
Around the world men's thoughts shall fly
Quick as the twinkling of an eye:
Beneath the water men shall walk,
Shall ride, shall sleep, shall talk:
Up in the air men shall be seen,
In red, in black, in green:
In water iron then shall float
As easy as a wooden boat:
Gold shall be found in stone
In a land as yet unknown:
The world to an end will come
In eighteen hundred and eighty-one.

That was where the prophecy as I knew it, ended. We were perfectly satisfied with the railway carriage and the telegraph as part of the answer, and looked forward hopefully for the rest. As 1881 approached there was some curiosity as to what would happen, but I think, no alarm: we were either convinced of our innocence in regard to mundane affairs, or perhaps not convinced of Mother Shipton's slant on things.

But the prophecy in the magazine went further; some joker had a brain-wave and decided to bring it up to date. Wherefore he deleted the last two lines, seeing that nothing had happened, and added this postscript:—

"Then tax and blood and cruel war
Shall come to every humble door.
Three times shall lovely sunny France
Be led to play a bloody dance:
Before the people shall be free,
Three tyrant rulers shall she see,
Three rulers in succession be
Each sprung from different dynasty,
Then when the fiercest fight is done
England and France shall be as one."

That part is ben trovata, no doubt, but I imagine the original Mother Shipton would not recognize some of the words used. But the scribe is not finished:—

"In those wondrous far-off days,
The women shall adopt a craze
To dress like men and trousers wear,
And cut off all their locks of hair.
They'll ride astride with brazen brow,
As witches do on broomsticks now."

Then the scribe, feeling that he was on dangerous ground perhaps, gets back to serious business again:

"— In nineteen hundred and thirty-six
Shall mighty wars be planned
And fire and sword shall sweep the land,
But those who live the century through
In fear and trembling this shall do,
Storms shall rage and oceans roar
When Gabriel stands on sea and shore,
And as he blows his wondrous horn
Old worlds shall die and new be born."

So it seems we have another sixty-four years before the final catastrophe. I'd like to know authoritatively who Mother Shipton really was, and to have the earliest version of her prophecies, "just for curiosity."

The other clipping from the New York Evening Standard, during the last war, is much to long to quote here. It purports to be the prophecies of one "Johannes" (A German?) written in the year 1600. The combatants are prefigured as Eagles (Germany, Austria and Russia) a Cock (France) and a Leopard (the royal badge of England). The final battle will be fought in the country of the Black Eagle (Germany) and its ruler, Anti-Christ, will be defeated with immense loss, will lose his crown and will die in solitude and madness.

THE PROTESTANT ORPHANAGE

I have just received the annual report of this praiseworthy Institution, and am glad to note that despite the many extra calls on the public in these eventful times they have responded cheerfully to the need of the orphans. There is even a "surplus", a result which could only have come about through the careful management and self-sacrificing efforts of all concerned. Trustees, Treasurer, and working staff. Visitors to the Orphanage express their appreciation of the way the Matron, Miss Peers, R.N., looks after the children and guides the staff in their onerous duties. Mr. Buell, too, comes in for his share of praise for the excellent appearance of the grounds. (I am not sure whether I spell the Matron's name correctly: see report pages, 6, 7, 8, 9 11 and 12).

The Endowment Fund is now taking care of a respectable part of the annual expenditure, but with the higher cost of food and materials, there is a still greater need of public support. Remember, when you give your "mite," that you are helping to build a better Prince Edward Island!

I was gratified to find, under the heading of "Special Donations" a gift of $15 from the Irish Benevolent Society. At a time when the very existence of Christianity is threatened, how "joyful 'tis to see the brethren join in love to thee!" No more Christ-like spirit can be manifested than the help extended to the children—"for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven."

NEW TO OUR FLORA

I have just received a sprig of Broom (**cytisus scoparius**) which I am told was found by Mr. F. S. Blanchard, growing in a field at Bellevue, P.E.I. It has never been recorded for this Province before, though Gray's Manual reports it as growing in Nova Scotia and southward. It was the typical form, with yellow "butterfly-like" (papillonaceous) flowers, and small trifoliate leaves. I happen to have raised the subspecies **C. s. andreanus** from seed procured in England, and thought I had the only broom plant in the Island! **Andreanus** has yellow petals blotched and striped with rich brown, giving the flower the appearance of a species of orchid.

The broom shrub is abundant on sandy heaths in the three northern counties of England, and northward to Caithness in Scotland. It must be pretty hardy since it ascends to a height of 2,000 in the Highlands. As the twigs are long, straight, and elastic, they are bound round a central handle to make brooms (usually called besoms in the North and by the miners, "buzzoms"); but whether the plant got its name from the implement or vice versa, I'd not like to say. Unlike the gorse (its near relative) which the poet calls "unprofitably gay", the broom has diuretic qualities which led to its employment by rustic practitioners of a by-gone generation: the seeds, too, have been ground and used as coffee—probably without fear of cafeine nerves, we hear so much of.

I once tried to grow the gorse, furze, or whin, (**E Ulex europaeus**) here, but the extra heat of our summer caused it to spindle, and being sappy it winter-killed. The broom is much tougher evidently.

WORMS IN TURNIPS

Said a young farmer to me the other day, "I wish I knew how to stop the turnips getting wormy. It interferes with the sales. There's lots of butterflies over them later on, but I don't think they do the damage." "No," I said, "they are not responsible: their caterpillars harm the leaves, but not the roots. The offender is a small two-winged fly, not unlike a house-fly, which lays its eggs on or near the stems of the young plants, and when the maggots hatch out they eat their way into the turnip. Many other plants are injured in the same way by these or closely related flies: Cabbages, radishes, cauliflowers, celery, rape, onions, corn, peas, and beans, are all attacked, much in the same way.

"I've not read of any experiments against these flies lately, but in 1916, the Entomological Branch, at Ottawa, got out a valuable pamphlet giving the life-history of these pests, and the methods of dealing with them. One method that seemed logical, and certainly gave good results, was spraying with "carbolic wash", but whether this is worth the cost of the materials and labor, will depend on the price of turnips, which in some years has been rather disappointing.

"I believe it is the smell of the plants which helps the flies to locate the crops suitable to deposit their eggs on. I remember, some years ago, I planted some carrots in a garden near the house. Now there a fly whose maggots bore into the roots of the carrots, and that year all the carrots were wormy. That is, all but one. By chance a carrot seed had fallen among a bed of French Marigolds, and they, you know, have a strong and offensive smell. It apparently camouflaged the smell of the carrot, which came to maturity uninjured. Next year I tried another plan. As I thinned the carrots, they gave off quite a carroty odor, so I threw all the thinnings among the rows of young beans. As the sun acted on them they gave off their characteristic scent, and doubtless the flies laid their eggs on them, for the line of carrots were in the main unharmed. It was taking a mean advantage no doubt; but many things of that kind can be done in a garden which are not possible under field conditions.

"Last year all my radishes were wormy: this year I placed half-a-dozen moth balls on a section of the line and the radishes are all right so far—though this may be due to he weather being unfavorable to the flies. An experiment of this nature must be tried out over a course of years before one can pass judgment upon it. When I spoke of the "carbolic wash" treatment being logical, it was the odor I had in mind."

"That's all very well," said my friend," but who wants to spray?"

After he had gone I bethought me of my gardening note-book where I found the following: "On some parts of the continent" —this was written in England —"grape-growers plant tomatoes in their vineyards, between the vines to protect the fruit from wasps. They claim that wasps are driven away by the small of the tomatoes." The wasps nibble the sweet-fruit, grapes, pears, etc., and rot sets in. The point to be noted is that the smell constitutes the defence.

NOTES ON ISLAND PLANTS

The Haloragaceae

These are water plants and I must confess I don't know much about them. They are only to be found in ponds or slowly running water, and I don't care for paddling! Water plants, however, are usually interesting since growing in a different medium, they have been forced to adopt different forms and habits from plants growing in the earth. If they thrust the flowering stems above the water, as many do, the leaves may be of different shape from the submerged leaves. This is the case with the Water Milfoil, **Myriophyllum spicatum.** The underwater leaves are capillary or thread-like, and stalk and leaves are of equal diameter, pennatifid and whorled. The leaves on the spike are ovate or absent. There is, botanists tell us, an interesting point about the flower-spike. All the upper flowers are male, with stamens only, while the lower ranks are "perfect," that is, with all the apparatus for producing seed. (It won't do the reader much harm to know that such a spike is "monoecious-polygamous") The idea of this is that an insect alighting on the spike, will do so at the top, away from the water, and will scatter the pollen on the perfect flowers below, thus insuring fertilization.

The only other member of this family found here up to the present, is the Mare's tail, **Hippuris vulgaris.** Last year on a visit to Dalvey, I found this plant growing in a hollow, which had been a pond previously, but had dried out in the long hot spell. The pond was by the side of a new road in the National Park.

WEEKLY LIVESTOCK MARKET REPORT

SUMMARY:

OTTAWA, July 4—Another active and stronger trading session featured this week's cattle market. The further improvement was most noticeable on grain finished cattle but stocker and feeder material also shared in the keener demand. On the other hand, cows sold easier in some cases. Buyers continued to search the yards for selected killing material and indications pointed to a further strong demand for this class. There was little or no change in the calf, hog or lamb markets except a little easiness on lambs at one or two centres and a shade stronger feeling in the Toronto hog market.

Eastern Cattle Markets

Slaughter cattle held steady at Toronto with the exception of butcher cows which closed 50c down at $4.50 to $5.75. Weighty steers sold between $7.50 and $9.25, with a half dozen tops at $9.50 and butcher steers and heifers made up to $8.50, as a rule, and a few choice light steers reached $9. Under a good demand steers were 25c higher at Montreal with good kinds making from $8.50 to a high of $9.50. Good cows mostly $6 to $6.25. Receipts in the Maritimes continue much below normal requirements and the market showed a further advance of 25c on the better grades. Good to choice grain-fed steers rated $8 to $8.50.

Western Cattle Markets

The Winnipeg cattle market exhibited exceptionally good strength for finished material and prices showed a further upward tendency following the previous week's sharp advance. The outlet to the east lent a good measure of support to the stocker and feeder end of the trade but unfortunately shippers appear to be unloading the plainer classes of cattle too freely. Most present orders call for the better grades. There was a scarcity of fed steers eligible to make above $8.50. The top of the market was $9.25 and a good share of the killing steers moved out between $7 and $8. Suitable yearling stockers were taken at $6 to $6.25. Calgary had fair action at generally steady rates and odd good to choice dry-fed steers moved between $7.50 and $8. The top of the Edmonton market was $8 but the bulk of the choice steers and heifers sold from $7.75 down on an active market. Prince Albert was brisk and 50c or more stronger on dry-feds, good steers making $6.50 to $7. Moose Jaw was about steady up to a top of $7.25 and Regina paid up to $7.50 for choice grain-fed steers. Saskatoon sold best dry-fed steers at $8 and others $7.75 down. Vancouver had a fair trade and sold good butcher steers at $7.25 to $7.50.

United States Market

United States markets were generally strong but offerings of Canadian stock were at a minimum. There were no Canadian cattle offered at Buffalo and the only shipments from Toronto to the States were a few carloads of bulls on order for United States packers. St. Paul quoted medium to good Canadian bulls at $6 to $7.

Exports to the United States for the week consisted of only 833 beef cattle, 221 dairy and 1,889 calves. Totals to date this year are 58,169 beef, 5,990 dairy and 41,058 calves, compared with 94,258 beef, 6,005 dairy and 49,395 calves in the same period last year. The 833 beef cattle exported this week enter under the third quarterly quota. In the same week last year exports were 5,901 beef cattle.

Calves Generally Steady

There was very little change in the calf market situation. Toronto continued to pay $9 to $9.50 for choice veals and Montreal topped at $9, with good calves going mostly at $8 to $8.50. Winnipeg held around $7.50 for good handyweight veals and tops at Calgary, Edmonton, Moose Jaw and Regina were $7.50, Prince Albert $6.50, and Saskatoon and Vancouver $7.

Hog Market Steady to Firm

Hogs were just a shade stronger at Toronto, bacons selling mostly at $8.40 off trucks and $11.10 with a few $11.15 dressed. Montreal continued on a basis of $8.60 f. & w., with an odd sale up to $8.65. Western markets were unchanged, Winnipeg paying $7.75 for bacons f. & w., Calgary and Edmonton $7.25, Prince Albert and Saskatoon $7.35 and Moose Jaw and Regina $7.50 off trucks. Slaughter hogs made $8 at Vancouver.

Lambs Generally Steady

The Toronto lamb market continued steady with good ewes and wethers at $11.50 to $12. Buck lambs were discounted $1 per cwt. Montreal paid $11 for good ewes and wethers and $10 for bucks. Winnipeg looked a little easier with good lambs from $8.50 to $9. The high at Calgary was $9 but most tops $8.50, while Edmonton paid up to $8.50, Prince Albert, Moose Jaw and Regina $8, Saskatoon $7.50 and Vancouver had some good spring lambs at $10.50.

CATTLE MARKET

TORONTO sent 5,269 cattle over the scales with butcher cows dropping 50c and other slaughter cattle holding steady. A few hundred plain stockers remainded unsold. After the Monday holiday, Tuesday's run looked fairly heavy and about 1,600 head were unsold that day. Supplies, however, were cleared by the close with the exception of common stockers. Weighty steers sold between $7.50 and $9.25, with a few tops at $9.50 and butcher steers and heifers made $7 to $8.50, and as high as $9 for a few choice light steers. Some plain stockers were taken by packers for boning purposes at $6 to $6.75. Butcher cows closed down 50c at $4.50 to $5.75 and canners and cutters closed at $3 to $4.25. Bulls ranged from $4.75 to $5.40 for bolognas and up to $6.50 for good light butchers. Fed calves were strong at $8.50 to $9.50 and some at $9.75. Good light stockers were picked out at $7.50 to $7.80 and others sold down to $6.50. Milkers and springers were slow sellers at $40 to $75 each.

MONTREAL had a good demand for all classes of cattle and sold 1,173 head with steers 25c higher. Good steers ranged from $3.50 up to a high of $9.50, mediums from $7.25 to $8 and others down to $5.25. Heifers were mostly $6 to $7.70 and cows $4.25 to $6.25, with canners and cutters holding a range of $3 to $4. Good bulls brought $5.50 to $6 and bolognas $4 to $5.25. Milkers were $50 to $85 each.

TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH Silver Fox Farming

The first Provincial Fox Field Day of the Prince Edward Island Silver Fox Breeders' and Exhibitors' Association was held at Summerside last Monday and was completely successful. Over seventy ranchers were present from all parts of the Province. They thoroughly enjoyed themselves and it is a sure bet they will be present at the next Field Day.

Mr. P. J. Williams of the Canadian National Silver Fox Breeders' Association has very kindly written up the Field Day in detail for us. It contains so much valuable information that we feel every fox rancher will want to read it so without further comment we will introduce Mr. Williams' article.

PROVINCIAL FOX FIELD DAY

Under Chairman L. W. Hancock the Committee of four including W. F. Burke, Provincial Fox Fieldman, Ray Lockerby and Andrew Jardine planned the Field Day of July 8th. It was held at the ranch of George A. Callbeck, that of Lowell Hancock and at the Dominion Experimental Fox Ranch.

The attendance of about 70 ranchers was good showing the people are really taking more interest in preserving the industry, than they have, of recent years, been displaying.

All were welcome as the sign over the Callbeck entrance driveway, "Everyone Welcome" plainly stated. On the reverse side of the sign to catch one's eye on departing was the invitation "Come Again."

After the visitors had examined the ranch, the pens, the sheds, and the foxes in their compartments, numbers of the pups of various litters were more particularly examined, weighed and measured for length of body and of tail —the age of each being furnished as so examined.

Mr. Callbeck on request of Chairman Hancock, gave an outline of his ranch management in the following address:

Pups Pilled For Round Worms.

When pups are four weeks old we treat them with (2 Burroughs and Wellcome) worm capsules. Following this treatment they are put, along with their mothers, in shed pens. If the pens have wire bottoms then dens are placed in them to guard against the effects of unfavourable weather. At from 6 to 8 weeks of age they are again pilled with MacKinnon or Ffrench capsules.

Pups Marked

In the month of June when they are about two months old the pups are tattoo marked for identification. When they are marked they are given quarters in 6' by 8' wire bottom pens — usually away from their mothers — where they remain until the Fall. Two to four pups are kept in each pen.

All Foxes Pilled In August

In the month of August both pups and adults are treated with MacKinnon worm capsules, but no further pilling is done unless it seems that it is really necessary. The matter of keeping one's herd free from the ravages of parasites must be regarded as a very important one. The effect on foxes of both internal and external parasites is so great that in pronounced cases it is readily noticeable by the watchful rancher. In many foxes that do not so readily show themselves as being infested destructive parasites of different kinds are at work undermining their general condition. To have a fox harbor different kinds of worms means extra feed for their nourishment and this means extra cost to the rancher. Here it may again be remarked that the work conducted by Provincial Fieldman Burke in the Summer of 1938 is considered to have been a worthwhile endeavour, —bringing about, as it did, in a very effective way, the greater interest of the rancher in the care of his foxes. It was direct information re what pens were infested, what kinds of worms the foxes had and hence, what treatment was required.

It is not known that worm capsules have any beneficial effect when administered to foxes that do not have worms; in fact it is rather understood that they have a somewhat injurious effect but unless a microscopic examination of the foxes be made under suitable conditions as a test to find out what foxes harbor worms, it is safer —in the absence of such test — to treat all foxes with capsules for round worms and hook worms —and this we do as mentioned above in the month of August.

Fuel Oil Preventative For Fleas

Fuel oil is used to spray wood floors and other adjoining parts that are made of wood and also the ground under or near the pens. This oil thus used serves as a preventative to both fleas and earmites. We use Buhac or Purina flea powder with which to dust the animals for fleas. For earmites we treat at least twice a year with the ordinary earmite lotion. To assist in a sanitary way we occasionally sprinkle under the pens with lime.

Once- A Day Feeding

Once-a-day-feeding is the general rule. Exception to this rule is in the case of females after whelping and until they are separated from their pups, which is usually around the time the pups are from 8 to 10 weeks old; and continuing in the case of the pups until approximately August 1st, following which time all foxes are fed once a day.

Polygamous Males

Polygamous males are kept in pens by themselves, and a female when in heat is brought to the male's pen. Occasionally we change a male to another pen and such change usually has a good effect on him.

It is not our policy to carry over for another year vixens that have failed to raise a litter unless they be exceptionally good foxes.

In such cases we have the females taken into the watch tower just previous to their whelping. Here we keep them under observation in a room of regulated temperature, with the light turned on throughout the night. In no case have we so far failed to have a litter born under such observation.

Feeding The Pup

At this date, July 8th, the mixed damp morning meal of 100 lbs., is made up of:

Horsemeat	11.6 lbs.
Beef	11.6 lbs.
Tripe	11.6 lbs.
Canned Chicken	4.7 lbs.
Ground Green Bone	3.9 lbs.
Commercial cereals	21.1 lbs.
Greens	3.9 lbs.
Water	31.6 lbs.

The mixed or damp evening meal of 100 lbs., is made up of:

Horsemeat	6.8 lbs.
Beef	5.1 "
Tripe	5.9 "
Canned chicken	3.4 "
Ground Gr. Bone	2.7 "
Commercial Cereal	20.9 "
Fish (Hake)	20.3 "
Greens	3.4 "
Water	31.5 "

The whole for each feeding is put in a power mixer a sprinkling of iodized salt about 1 oz. to 20 foxes is added, and enough water or milk, or water and milk are added to make the mixture of a fair consistency, or about 1 1-2 lbs. of water to each lb., of cereal in the mixture.

The amount of mixed dampened feed given each morning to a pup whelped around March 21st, is on an average 12 ounces; to one whelped around April 10th, the average is 10 ozs. and to a pup whelped around April 25th, the average is also 10 ozs.

The amount of mixed feed given each evening to a pup whelped around March 21st, is on an average 18 ozs. To one whelped around April 10th, the average is 16 ozs., and to a pup whelped around April 25th, the average is also 16 ozs.

Feeding Adult Foxes

Adult foxes intended as pelters are fed 12 to 15 ozs., per day of the same mixture, as the pups at their evening meal. Those intended as breeders receive a larger percentage of horsemeat. We discontinue feeding fish to all foxes around September 1st.

We endeavour to keep fresh water available to the foxes at all times

Sanitation

It is our ambition to have the pens, the feed and the water dishes always clean. We wash the grinder, mixing machine and feed pails after each feeding —and also flush the floor of the feed room.

W. R. Shaw, Deputy Minister of Agriculture next addressed the meeting; Mr. Shaw is Secretary of the Association. As in the matter of other Live Stock on which he is a fine authority, he gives us to understand what our Industry needs, and this he did in a straight-forward and effective way. It was plain to see that he was pleased with the nice attendance and with the interest taken by ranchers who are striving to better their condition, but it was, he said, as with breeders of other branches of live stock, "those who most need the education that field days afford are the ones who fail to attend." This the ranchers present took as a compliment to their status as intelligent fox ranchers.

It is up to ranchers especially in these critical times, he said, to avail themselves of the services of such institutions as the Dominion Exp. Fox Ranch under Dr. Smith, of the Provincial Field Service under Fieldman W. F. Burke, and of the Illustration Stations under Dr. Jack, and thus strive to make a better job of Fox Ranching.

He referred to Mr. Callbeck's reference to examination of fox feces to determine whether or not any internal parasites were preying on one's foxes and said that Mr. Dennis, the Minister of the Dept. of Agriculture, had already made a move towards getting a "third-year" student from Guelph to coordinate with Mr. Burke in making a determined try to banish internal parasites from our ranches. The Department, he said, was anxious to do what is reasonably possible to help the rancher, as Silver Fox ranching was one of the very important Canadian industries.

Mr. Shaw waxed eloquent in concluding his remarks in an appropriately patriotic strain which embodied the idea that whether or not one be fighting in the front lines or caring for his foxes one can serve his Empire by doing his best in his particular sphere. It is all very well, he said, to be here to listen to advisory talks, but the important thing is when you are at home to put into practice what you have learned of the methods that have been proved to be good. Sorry we haven't a fuller report of Mr. Shaw's talk.

We regret that our space does not permit the publication of the whole of Mr. Williams' account of the Field Day. More of it will appear in next Saturday's Timely Notes on Fox Farming.

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Tobacco Research In Canada

Among the most important research work carried out at the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, is that of the Tobacco Division. As a result of this work during the past few years practically all of the varieties of tobacco now being grown in Canada are those which have been found by the Division most suitable to the soil and climatic conditions of the Dominion, both from the point of view of production and quality. In 1930, tobacco production was 36,716,400 lb. In 1939, the estimate was 108,770,100 lb. This rapid expansion is due in great part to the work of the Canadian scientists who have specialized on tobacco.

The first official estimate of the 1939-40 maize or corn crop of the Argentine is 434,152,500 bushels.

SCORES TECHNICAL K. O.

NEW YORK, July 9.—(AP)—Ken Overlin of Washington, D.C., recognized in New York and California as middleweight champion, scored a technical knockout over Harry Ba'samo of New York in 2:38 of the ninth round of the 10-round main bout on the Milk Fund Benefit card at the Queensboro Arena tonight.

Use Minard's for aches.

CONSERVATION

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

"VERMIN" ARE OUR SAVIOURS

Among the most valuable insect destroyers are the Skunk and Raccoon, which dig down and get the harmful grubs the birds cannot reach, before these grubs can come up and breed and multiply, and which also eat great numbers of the perfected insects after they emerge. But the skunk and raccoon too often regarded as "vermin", are being trapped and killed out of existence. The smaller garden and grass snakes, which also eat many insects, are generally hated and killed on sight.

Returning to the Rodents and their Destroyers, we find the latter to be the smaller burbearers, the mousing hawks, owls and snakes. The first extensive research into the food habits of the smaller furbears was made recently by biologists of the University of Michigan, large numbers of stomachs and feces being examined over a period of two years. The results were surprising. The weasel was found to be the largest consumer of rodents, his record being, in round numbers, rodents, 83%; birds, 9%; insects, 7%. That of the mink was, rodents, 37%; birds, 3%; insects, none; fish and crawfish, 48%; frogs, 8%. That of the red fox was, rodents, 65%; birds, 6% insects, 10%; wild fruits, 17%. That of the opossum, rodents, 23%; birds, 24%; insects, 16%; fruits, 30%. That of the raccoon, rodents, none; birds, 43%; insects, 5%; grain, 20%; fruits, 12%; crawfish and crustaceans, 59%.

It will be seen from this how unfounded some of our notions have been. That the coon destroys less than one-half of one per cent of birds and fowls; that these make up only 6% of the red fox's diet. That even the depredations of weasels and minks upon henhouses must be rarer than we thought, though it must be remembered that when they do raid a chicken-house they may kill as many as twenty just to suck the blood and brains, which would make little showing in stomach or feces.

Beneficial Hawks and Owls

The other rodent destroyers are the mousing hawks, owls, and snakes, all nearly exterminated now through ignorance. The only two hawks that harm poultry are the Cooper's and the Sharp-shinned, both small, long-tailed, short-winged, no larger than a pigeon, while the mousing hawks are considerably larger, with short tails and longer wings. The pole-traps set for chicken-hawks never catch the right ones, for the reason that Cooper's and the Sharp-shinned never alight in the open, but always under cover; while such valuable mousers as the Red-shoulder and the Red-tail, 90% of whose food is Rodents, and the rest Reptiles, do not seek to hide, but alight in the open, to be caught in the cruel pole-trap. The same is true of the valuable little Sparrow-hawk, which catches English sparrows. The barn Owl, the barred Owl, the hoot Owl, the screech-Owl and others, are fine ratters and mousers, and do not disturb poultry. Every farmer knows the value of a black snake under the barn, as a ratter. Unfortunately he has a bad habit, which he shares with the domestic cat, of climbing the trees and eating young birds in the nests. But there are other harmless snakes which do not climb.

Now, as to Insect Destroyers, Foremost are the Birds. "These," says Dr. Funkhouser, "have such rapid digestion that they can eat almost continuously. The stomach of a rain-crow has been found to contain at one time over 200 caterpillars; of a nighthawk or bull-bat, 60 grasshoppers; of a flicker, 1,600 chinch-burgs; of a chickadee, 500 plant-lice. One scarlet tanager was seen to eat 630 gypsy-moth caterpillars in 18 minutes ... The breakfast of even a tiny wren is an amazing collection of caterpillars, bugs, beetles, flies, and grasshoppers. The army-worm has 43 different bird enemies; the chinch-bug, 24; bull-bugs, 67; coddling-moth, 98; potato beetle, 98; white grub, 67; wireworms, 189", and so on. Every common bird — robin, catbird, brown thrasher, mocker, redbird, bluebird, phoebe, swallow, quail, meadow-lark, dove —is an invaluable friend on the farm.

SAILOR IN KHAKI

LONDON — (CP) — Battle dress was the temporary uniform of a British sailor from the cruiser Effingham, lost in Norwegian waters. Only the letters "H.M.S." sewn on his cap identified him with the senior service.

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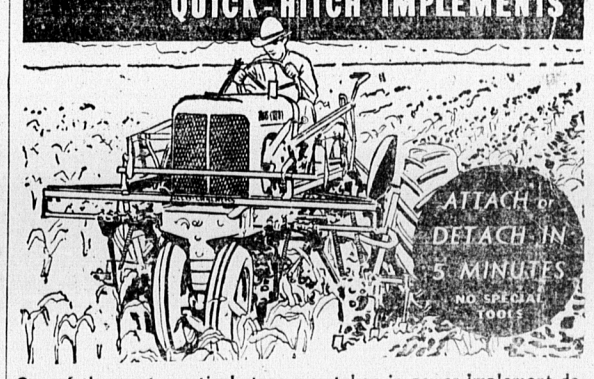

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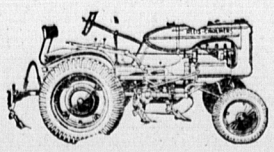

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