

Be Your Own Weather Prophet

(Condensed from Popular Science Monthly (June '25) An interview with Prof. W. J. Humphreys, U. S. Weather Bureau

Be your own weather prophet. The Weather Bureau cannot always make forecasts for definite hours or for particular places. But any intelligent person ought to be able to do that.

Such local predictions are based upon atmospheric conditions, as revealed by the color of the sky and the appearance of the sun, moon, and stars. This is no new discovery. When the Pharisees and Sadducees asked Jesus to show them a sign from heaven, he said: "When it is evening, ye say, It will be fair weather; for the sky is red. And in the morning, it will be foul weather today, for the sky is red and lowering."

At evening the sky along the western horizon is yellowish or greenish, it means that there is little moisture in the air, and that the next day will be fair. But if at evening the sky is overcast with a uniform gray, the atmosphere aloft is saturated with moisture and the next day is likely to be rainy.

The air is always heavily laden with dust, upon which moisture condenses. If there is enough moisture in the atmosphere, droplets are formed and fall as rain. Rain dries the air by taking water out of it and at the same time cleans it of dust. It is on this fact that the old saying "Rain before, clear after" is based; for early morning rain often clears the atmosphere of water.

Much dust or smoke in the atmosphere makes the sun look red, and the color is deepened by the presence of moisture. When the air is heavily charged with dust particles that have become laden with moisture, you see the sun as a fiery red ball. Thus a very red sun obviously suggests a damp atmosphere, promising rain. There is truth in the old saying, "A red sun has water in his eye."

Notwithstanding a very common

impression to the contrary, the moon has no influence worth mentioning upon weather, but its appearance depends upon conditions of the atmosphere, and hence affords useful indications.

The pale moon doth rain, The red moon doth blow, The white moon doth neither rain nor snow.

Much wisdom is wrapped up in these lines. For a pale moon implies thin clouds, such as run ahead of a general rainstorm. A red moon suggests a damp atmosphere, warning of a storm, and a white moon indicates dry air and absence of clouds.

A clear, or white, moon is commonly understood to give warning of frost. Nor is that without good reason, inasmuch as the earth's surface heat radiates rapidly into a cloudless sky. Clouds interfere with this rapid loss of heat, acting as a blanket, and so, by conserving it, tend to prevent frost.

"The higher the clouds the finer the weather," is another old saying in which there is truth. It is not to be accepted, however, without modification. Small, high "woolpack" clouds do not contain enough moisture to produce any considerable rain or snow. But a large woolpack often develops a thunderstorm. If formed during the morning, it is likely to increase in size in the afternoon and yield a downpour.

The cirrus clouds, highest of all, composed of ice needles and floating nine or 10 miles above the earth, are forerunners of storms, being carried far ahead of the rains. Hence the saying "Mackerel scales and mares' tails make lofty ships carry low sails."

Often the base of a rain cloud envelops mountain peaks and ridges. When you see clouds resting on a mountain top, it may be accepted as an obvious warning of coming rain—usually not more than a few hours away. The breaking up of mist on a mountain top may be accepted as a sign of clearing.

Would you forecast the next day's weather from observation of the stars? It is often easy to do. If they look dim, these must be much moisture in the atmosphere, promising rain.

Noah when he saw the rainbow, accepted it as a sign that the great storm was at an end. Presumably it was in the evening, for a rainbow in the morning would have offered no such favorable indication.

Everywhere in the temperate zones the prevailing winds move from west to east and hence rain, if all storms do the same. Considering the fact that the rainbow (a purely optical phenomenon) is seen on the side of the observer opposite to the sun, the rainbow that gives an evening rain is moving farther away from the place of observation, and therefore promises a clearing of the sky. In other words, an evening rainbow, being seen in the east, foretells fair weather for the morning. On the other hand, a morning rainbow, seen always in the west, indicates an approaching shower.

The rainbow can appear only when the rain is falling and the sun shining simultaneously. If seen to windward, rain may be expected for the shower is approaching. If to leeward, no rain can come from that shower, for already it is receding.

Smoke from a chimney will afford you an indication of coming weather. If it rises high, disperses and soon disappears, the inference is that the air is dry and therefore that there is no near prospect of rain. If, on the other hand, it floats slowly away in a rather compact body and gradually descends, the obvious conclusion is that the particles composing it are laden heavily with moisture, condensed from the atmosphere; and accordingly, rain may be expected.

The amateur weather prophet often may obtain some advance information from the way in which the clouds behave, if they gather rapidly, a weather disturbance of quick action is indicated—a thunderstorm or a squall of small extent and short duration. A bright light seen in a fog at night is encircled by a colored ring, red on the outside. On a misty night the moon has such an appearance. In either case the phenomenon is due to the bending of light rays as they pass through suspended droplets of moisture. The larger the droplets, the smaller the ring that encircles the moon.

Hence, if you see the ring shrink in diameter you may safely infer that the rain is probable. If, on the other hand, it enlarges, evaporation is indicated and you may confidently predict clearing skies. Test this prophecy the next time you see a halo around the moon.

Fruit Growing In P. E. Island Strongly Supported

Historicus.

In the year 1900 Mr. Henry C. Stewart, of Hamilton, Lot 15, occupied the Presidency of the Fruit Growers' Association, and spoke in a most interesting and convincing manner of the feasibility of pushing the fruit growing industry in this Province.

Mr. Stewart was an enthusiastic and successful orchardist himself, and staked his reputation in behalf of the industry. Others of equal high standing did the same. The list of those men, now we regret to say, nearly all passed away, which shows the strength and high standard of men who were then speaking to those who have taken their places as well as those who were then listening to them.

The list of members which was largely augmented later, reads as follows: (The membership was one dollar and comprehends the Canadian Horticulturist (regular subscription \$1) the Annual Reports of Ont., N. S. and P. E. I.) Hon. George W. Howland; John Robertson, Inkerman; Alfred E. Dewar, Southport; David P. Irving, Vernon River Bridge; D. A. Sharp, Summerside; D. J. Stewart, Aitken's Ferry; Rev. Alfred E. Burke, Alberton; Joseph W. Wills, M.L.A., Milton; Dr. John T. Jenkins, Charlottetown; Robert Carruthers, Cape Traverse; Theodore Ross, Belvedere; James Ramsay, Malpeque; Archibald Ramsay, Malpeque; C. R. Dieker, Muddy Creek; H. A. Stewart, Hamilton; John Johnstone, Long River; Hon. Senator Ferguson, Tullock Ave.; John C. Clark, Bayview; George Vessey, Little York; John McDonald, East Point; John M. Ross, Wheatley River; Stewart Burns, Free town; John T. Weeks, Alberton; E. W. Taylor, Charlottetown; J. A. McLeod, Alberton; F. G. Boyer, Georgetown; J. H. Gill, Little York; John A. Ferguson, Marshfield; Walter Simpson, Bayview; Alfred Small, Summerside; Rev. J. J. McDonald, Kinkora; J. Margate; A. McDonald, Charlottetown; Rev. Dr. Chasson, St. Louis; Rev. F. X. Gallant, St. Anthony's; John Dennis, Montrose; J. C. Irving, Vernon River; Donald Ross, New London; Jas. E. McDonald, M.L.A., Cardigan Bridge; A. K. Henry, New London; Fredk. Pigot, Savanah Harbour; Oswald Gordon, Brudenell; J. W. Stierns, Morley; Rev. Mr. Gills, Indian River; Henry Howard, Little York; Fred Vessey, Little York; George E. Hughes, Charlottetown; Thos. Hogan, Fortune Cove; F. H. Beer, Charlottetown; Rt. Rev. Bishop McDonald, Charlottetown; Lieutenant Governor McLeary, Charlottetown; William Wells, Alberton; Horace Haszard, Charlottetown; T. McLean, Charlottetown; Geo. Crater, Charlottetown; F. B. McKee, Pownall; Richard Burke, Charlottetown Royalty; L. B. Miller, Charlottetown; Edward Bayfield, Charlottetown; Col. F. Dougherty, Charlottetown; Charles Gardner, Charlottetown; Geo. E. Goff, Woodville.

It can be said with truth that this list comprised a lot of men who were not dreamers, or who made statements without carefully weighing them. We wish to emphasize this phase of the subject, as they will prove useful to those who intend to become orchardists.

It may be taken for granted that those in the Province who now own orchards to any extent are students and applied such teachings and remedies as are necessary to attain a success. But there are a few things such as marketing and obtaining information at meetings should give attention and assist others in obtaining.

As regards the adaptability of the soil to apple-growing, the chief thing the writer of these articles undertook to establish beyond doubt is that our soil has been fully tested and leaves no room whatever for doubt on the subject.

The next was to prove that the British and other markets are quite as far more accessible to our fruit as rates much lower than in the States 25 years ago. Furthermore, the shipping accommodation is vastly better than it was then. The writer remembers very clearly of having stood on the deck of the S. S. Winthrop at this port until 2 a.m. watching to see that her hatches were not closed until she sailed, and obtained a solemn promise from the captain that they would be kept open all the way across the Atlantic when weather permitted.

To close, we invite careful perusal of President Stewart's address relative to the adaptability of our soil to Fruit Growing, as follows: Gentlemen:—The swift wings of time bring us together at the fourth annual meeting of our association. We have met to take counsel upon the present condition and future prospects of the fruit-growing industry of our Province.

When I parted with you at the close of the annual meeting, held last March, I did not expect to stand here today to fulfill a duty imposed upon the president by the constitution—to deliver an address. The Hon. Senator Ferguson, who was unanimously elected president, owing to the stress of other public his duties, declined to act, causing me to think that a retrospective view of the progress made in horticulture during the four years of the existence of this society gives encouragement for the future. Greater interest is taken in the growing of fruit, not only for the home, but for the foreign market. It is true we have met with difficulties, but these are only such as are incident to a new undertaking. Even in our disappointments and difficulties, let our purpose of achieving success remain firm. Let us have strong faith in ourselves and in the possibilities of our Island as a fruit-growing country. Mistakes and failures we have made, but it is often through our mistakes and failures that we learn lessons that lead to ultimate success.

The past season has been one of short fruit crops. But this should not cause discouragement. I think there were many more apples grown than two years ago. As we plant larger areas, the effects of the year will be less and less marked. Suitable varieties, good cultivation and proper attention given to pruning, spraying, etc., will reward the Prince Edward Island grower with fruit that will compare favorably with that grown by the sister provinces.

What varieties to plant is still a vexed question. At our last meeting, with the light we then had, a number were recommended as suitable for cultivation; and with the light we now have, this list may be somewhat changed. An opportunity will be given at this meeting to ask questions on this or any other matter relating to fruit-growing.

I am pleased to inform you that we have with us a practical horticulturist from Nova Scotia. He has come to give information we need; and I would here say: don't be afraid to make known to him your difficulties and discouragements, for he may have the panacea you need.

Last Autumn, after consulting with several members of the Association, it was decided to make an exhibit of fruit at the Halifax Exhibition. The Hon. Senator Ferguson kindly consented to arrange and take charge of the exhibit, which consisted of some 26 varieties of plums, apples and several varieties in the form of a pyramid, which was creditable to the Association, and the Island growers, and attracted considerable attention. Mr. Bigelow, the Superintendent of the Horticultural Department of Nova Scotia, in speaking of the exhibit, called attention to the opinion of Professor Craig by whom it was specially commended, and who was satisfied that the Island should be a most successful producer of fruit for export. Professor Craig, in his address, "Impressed the fact that each locality in Canada should ascertain the fruit specially adapted to it and encourage only the production of such varieties, especially in apples."

The fruit sent was furnished by the following growers:—Hon. Senator Ferguson, Messrs. Miller, Gill, John A. Ferguson, Wm. Miller, Augustin Mason and F. A. Pigot, in Queen's County; and Messrs. Archibald Ramsay, Norman Ramsay, J. Pickering and myself, in Prince County.

When speaking of exhibitions I think it will not be out of place to bring to your notice the work undertaken by our Local Government, at the suggestion of Dr. Saunders, Ottawa, last autumn. Mr. Jeremiah S. Clarke was instructed to collect and prepare an exhibition for the Paris Exposition. Mr. Clarke in his report says: "The complete exhibit, when arranged in Paris, will display forty varieties of apples and two of cranberries. As fruit growers we should feel greatly pleased that our fruit shall be exhibited at so important an Exhibition."

Before I close, I wish to call to your attention another matter—the observance of Arbor Day. The honor of organizing this day belongs to ex-Governor L. Sterling Morton, of Nebraska, U.S.A. It is said that twelve millions of trees were planted the day it was first observed. The example of Nebraska was soon followed by other States and by parts of the Dominion. If the school children of our Island, as parents, only commence the planting and care of trees, shrubs, and flowers, what a change would in a few years take place in many of our school grounds! From being a thing of desolation they would become a thing of beauty. Let the beginning be made in our rural districts; one example will make many others. Washington Irving says, "There is something nobly simple and pure in a taste for trees. There is a grandeur of thought connected with this heroic line of husbandry worthy of liberal, free-born and aspiring men." I trust that the time is not far distant when every school child will be interested in a work whose influence will go broadening and extending through all time. I leave the subject with these few thoughts; it would take a "paper" to exhaust it.

Place Names of Prince Edward Island

Kildare: cape, lot 3, river and island, lot 4. Holland, 1765, where however, Kildare river is designated Kildare creek. After James, 20th Earl of Kildare (1722-23); married Emilia Mary, daughter of Charles, 2nd Duke of Richmond and Lennox. The cape is "capd-Oriens" of Jacques Cartier, 1534. Meacham atlas, 1880, applies the name Montrose to the north branch of Kildare river, but this is the main branch. The 1821 map calls the basin of Kildare river lake Tranquil, and applies the name Rivington to the passage between the island and the mainland.

Kildare: creek, lots 3 and 4. Unknown after an estate of the MacDonnells after an estate of the MacDonnells on the island of Skye. This estate generally spelled Kinsborough, was the hiding place for a night after the battle of Cullodn of Prince Charles Edward and was visited in 1773 by Dr. Samuel Johnson when his hostess was the celebrated Laura Macdonald, wife of Allan Macdonald. Kinsborough is the school district name.

Kilmuir: settlement, lot 59. Adopted in school district name, 1911 in memory of pioneer settlers from Kilmuir parish, Isle of Skye, Scotland. Formerly Whitin Road Cross.

Kingsborough: settlement, lot 47. Named by Robert Bruce Stewart, proprietor of the lot, whose tenant was a James MacDonnald after an estate of the MacDonnells on the island of Skye. This estate generally spelled Kinsborough, was the hiding place for a night after the battle of Cullodn of Prince Charles Edward and was visited in 1773 by Dr. Samuel Johnson when his hostess was the celebrated Laura Macdonald, wife of Allan Macdonald. Kingsborough is the school district name.

Kingston: settlement, lot 31. Meacham, 1880. Hereabouts 1775 map shows Marlborough Town.

Kinkora: settlement with post office, lot 27. An Irish-Catholic settlement. Doubtless after Kincora, near Killoan, county Clara, Ireland. Earlier known as Somerset; earlier still as Southwest. First settlers here 1835.

Kinkock: settlement lot 54. A post office July 1, 1897, to December 31, 1914. Probably after Kincloch, Isle of Skye, Scotland.

Kross: settlement, with post office, lot 47. Meacham, 1880. After Kloross, town, Scotland.

Knutsford: settlement, lot 8. Named January, 1869.

Lady Fane: school district, lot 28. After O'elly Jane Georgina, fifth daughter of John Fane, 10th Earl of Westmorland. Lady Cecily built a hall and probably the school, and a voted a route to the improvement of conditions in the lot. She never resided on the island, but often expressed a desire to do so in letters to her agent, Mr. Palmer. Refer to Crapaud roadstead.

Lake Verd: settlement, lot 49. Verd or Veris is French for green. Meacham, 1880. Earlier known as Monaghan Road. Lake Verd is here.

Lakeville: settlement, lot 47. Near Surveyors inlet, locally known as North lake.

Ladowne Hotel: settlement, lot 28.

Lauching: pond, lot 55. Also Lauching Place settlement with post office, which latter on chart of Cardigan bay, 1839.

Lauretta: settlement, lot 3. A post office April, 1897, to October 15, 1913.

Leech: pond, lot 64. The reference is evidently to the animal, Plan. 1850. Meacham, 1880, spells Leach.

Lennox: island and channel between island and mainland, Malpeque bay. Lennox on Holland, 1765. After Lord George Lennox, colonel, February 20, 1762; major general May 25, 1772, and lieutenant general August 29, 1777, or his brother Charles, Duke of Richmond and Lennox. The island was a favorite camping place of the Micmac Indians. Refer to Richmond. Also Lennox Island post office, Kikchiseboogwek, mean "passage close in shore" or "small passage," is the Micmac Indian name.

La Belle Alliance: settlement, lot 17. See Miscochu.

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To Improve Ontario Mine Regulations

TORONTO, Dec. 4.—T. E. Sutherland, chief inspector of mines for Ontario, who was commissioned by the Government to visit the South African mining fields for the purpose of obtaining information on how to develop the mining industry in this province, has returned home with a number of suggestions for amending the mining regulations, by which it is hoped to better protect the life and health of the workmen.

Mr. Sutherland stated today that control of the general accident hazard was attempted by the licensing system in South Africa, where employers were responsible for the lives of their men, and by a system of education carried on by the Government in co-operation with the Chamber of Mines at Johannesburg. Gold mining was by far the largest industry in South Africa, and the Chamber of Mines, said Mr. Sutherland, was a powerful organization set up by the mining companies for their mutual benefit. It took a keen interest in matters of health and protection, and all such questions were under constant study by a committee of experts.

The mines on the Rand and the production of gold were much greater than in Ontario. The Rand produced between six and seven ounces of gold for every one in Ontario. Comparisons were hardly warranted, but the Helling mine ranked with the greatest of the South African gold mines.

"The chief menace to white labor on the Rand," said Mr. Sutherland, "is silicosis. The ore is siliceous, and drilling and blasting operations produce much fine, sharp dust, which, on being inhaled by the miners, eventually produces head" as applied to a Dutchman. Little Pierre Jacques; river and settlement, lot 8. Little Pond; settlement, lot 58. After a nearby small pond. Little Sands; creek and settlement, lot 62. Plan, 1829. Refer to High Bank.

