

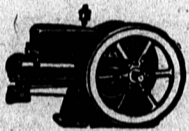
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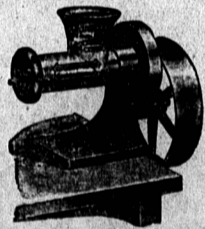
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NEWSY FARM NOTES

By Agricola

NATURE NOTES, MARCH

The month opened auspiciously, the first being a lovely day with clear sky and the thermometer at 36 degrees F. at 3 p. m. Except for two short cold spells, the temperature was high throughout the month and from the great thaw of the 9th, the snow was all gone from the fields early. The roads held out a while longer, the first wagon passing my gate on the 19th, but it was a week later before the mail was delivered in that manner. On the 17th there was a display of northern lights followed by a change of wind to the south, and a great fall of the barometer. A more vivid display took place on the 21st and 22nd. These disturbances were in all likelihood connected with the great snowstorm which prevailed on the other side of the Atlantic on the 20th.

The voice of the crow was heard in the land, in this northern district, on the 3rd. On the 9th I saw a junco, and at night caught an adult caddisfly flying among some low spruce. The immature caddis-flies are those queer creatures which appear like short pieces of twig, rolling and tumbling about in the bottom of shallow pools and rivulets. The grub clothes itself with pieces of bark, dead leaves, and other debris, cemented into a kind of tube, from which its head and fore-legs project. By the 26th, the advent of the vanguard of birds had become general; reports were brought in of the appearance of geese, robins, grackles, and chipping and vesper sparrows. On the 29th I took a ramble through the woods. The snow, which in places was still three or four feet deep, was covered with the dead leaves of the spruces, which are now shedding them; and green twigs one or two inches long littered the white surface. Thus the spruces undergo a sort of natural pruning at this season. In the garden on the same day I observed the tulips and grape hyacinths breaking through the earth after their long winter sleep.

The disposition and habits of the domestic cat (fells domestica) are pretty well known to everyone. It has been associated with mankind from very early days, but has never acquired that devotion to its owner that is so conspicuous in the case of the dog, though individual instances of feline attachment are not few. Cats become, however, much attached to particular localities, and if removed from them are capable of finding their way back to the old home under circumstances which would seem to preclude the possibility of such an event. The writer's grandfather used to relate the following anecdote with reference to this mysterious power of "orientation." At one time he resided in Cumberland, Eng. (near Cross Fell, a mountain about 3,000 feet above sea-level, but after some years was transferred to a charge on the borders of Northumberland and Durham, 80 miles nearer the sea, and lying only 1,000 feet above sea level. There was no railway then into that wild country (indeed railways were in their infancy) and his furniture was removed in farm wains or wagons, a hue, form of truck wagon with rackwork sides. The cat was secured in a basket which was tied to the tail of the last wagon. As may be imagined the journey was a slow one, and the little caravan put up for the night at whatever village was convenient. At last the new home was reached, and I personally think puss ought to have been contented. But no; after a day or two she was judged to have become habituated, and allowed out on parole; and she promptly disappeared. In a fortnight a foot-sore and bedraggled cat limped up the steps of the old home and mewed for admittance. The new incumbent, who thought poor puss had been forgotten in the bustle of removal, wrote to ask if she was to be sent on, but the matter ended by puss being allowed to stay in the spot she most favored.



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Now it certainly was not by sight that the animal found its way back, and all scent would soon be dissipated on those rough country roads; the only inference is that cats, like birds, possess some homing instinct with which we are not acquainted. This instinct for some reason is lost in towns, just as it is said that the radio waves are making "homing" or carrier pigeons lose their bearings in these days. I am inclined to believe that the scenting power of cats is not as highly developed as that of dogs, but in the senses of hearing and sight they perhaps surpass the canine tribes.

The origin of the domestic cat has not been settled by the researches of naturalists. It is evidently not descended from the native wild cat of Britain, (*Felis catus*) now very rare, larger, heavier beast, with a cylindrical tail instead of a tapered one. The fact that in the Middle Ages, the wild cat was common, while the domestic cat was scarce, and moreover very valuable, seems to point to the conclusion that they are specifically distinct. Possibly the domestic cat was produced by the natural intercrossing of several distinct species in some southern region, such as India.

It will readily be noticed that there are not as many varieties of cats as there are of dogs, notwithstanding the fact that both animals have been in close relation to man for at least 4,000 years. This is due to two causes: the cat being a smaller animal and lacking that herd instinct which leads the dog to cooperate with man in many ways, has not been improved by breeders; and again, being of nocturnal habits its intercrossing is very promiscuous. The only species (or perhaps varieties) would be a better word) which occur to me are the tail-less cats of the Isle of Man, and the short-tailed cats of the Malay States. The Angora cat with long silky hair may almost be placed in this category.

There are of course many color-phases of these animals but mere color does not entitle any animal to be called a species. At one time the Tortoise-shell, or as it was sometimes called the Spanish, was much in vogue; its color was a pleasing mixture of black, white and yellow; but this color, in Britain at least, has been superseded by black, since some humorist set it about that "it was lucky to have a black cat in the house." Consequently the blacker a kitten was, the greater its chance in the "survival of the fittest," until now it is rare to see a cat of any other color.

Cats are more sensitive than other animals to electric changes in the atmosphere, and it is not uncommon to observe them frisking about when some meteorologic change is impending. There also appears to be a remarkable (and as yet unexplained) antipathy between persons of a certain constitution and "the harmless necessary cat." The late Lord Roberts was one of these and, it is said, was conscious of the presence of a cat in the room, even if not visible, and was uncomfortable till it was ejected.

It would seem that the long, bitter, and useless controversy between science and religion on the subject of Evolution, is in a fair way to be settled by the exercise of a little of what I may call common sense. Dean Inge—the gloomy Dean as he is called sometimes—recently in a sermon at St. Paul's used these words, "I see nothing in the belief in Evolution which conflicts with the belief in Creation, though it may be that, even as St. Augustine suggests, the world was not created at any point of time, but reflects in its everlastingness the eternity of its Maker... I am in no way disturbed by the plain evidence of man's lowly origin, since we all know that every human individual began with microscopic germs much lower in the scale than any mammal... My conclusion is that Evolution is only the method by which the eternal God carries out most of His purposes in this world. Belief in gradual change is taking the place of the older belief in catastrophic Divine intervention. It is a question about God's method of working. I do not think that the existence or attributes of God are involved in it at all." The sermon is much longer but these few excerpts are well worth studying.



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Permanent Pasture Improvement

(By J. A. Clark, Superintendent Experimental Farm.)

There are many acres of "back fields" throughout Prince Edward Island that could profitably be laid down to permanent pasture. The soils of these fields are classed as "damp and cold" with a fair amount of natural grass on them. Wild aster, yarrow, golden rod and other plants unsuitable for pastures grow in abundance and crowd out the better pasture grasses.

Two methods can be adopted in improving these permanent pastures. The first is spoken of as "renovating" this is, without breaking the sod. It consists of fertilizing, reseeding and judicious grazing. Sulphate of ammonia is one of the most valuable of fertilizers for grass lands. It not only supplies nitrogen, essential for the grass, but if applied in solution with a potato spraying outfit at the rate of 200 pounds dissolved in 80 gallons of water, per acre, it is one of the best weed killers known, and should check or kill almost all of the broad leaved weeds. This should be applied in the spring, just after the grass has started. Barnyard manure should be used as a top dressing at least on the poorer parts of the pasture. When reseeding is necessary the following mixture could be sown per acre in the spring, before applying the manure and given a slight covering by harrowing with a lever spike-tooled harrow: Red top—4 pounds, Kentucky blue grass—4 pounds, alsike clover—3 pounds, white clover—1 pound.

The second method consists of breaking the sod, destroying as many weeds as possible by thorough tillage and cultivation, manuring, where possible, or fertilizing with the following mixture: Sulphate of ammonia 120 pounds, superphosphate 375 pounds, muriate of potash 60 pounds, and seedling out with grain as a nurse crop. The following mixture is recommended for cold or late soils:

- Timothy 4 pounds
- Orchard grass 4 pounds
- Kentucky grass 3 pounds
- Medow fescue 4 pounds
- Red top 3 pounds
- Alsike 3 pounds
- White Dutch 1 pound
- 22 pounds

- For dry soils:
- Timothy 6 pounds
 - Orchard grass 2 pounds
 - Kentucky blue 3 pounds
 - Canadian blue 2 pounds
 - Red top 3 pounds
 - White Dutch 2 pounds
 - Common red clover 4 pounds
 - 22 pounds

A dressing of ground limestone or slag is recommended for sour land. Stock should be kept off the pasture in the early spring until the land is firm and the plants that have been lifted by the frost have re-established themselves. Rolling the pasture as soon as it is firm enough to carry a horse will greatly assist in saving many of the pasture-plants. Do not overgraze (at critical times): In the spring when the stock may pull out or eat off the crowns of lifted plants, during a dry spell when the plants can do little more than maintain themselves. In the autumn when the grass should be allowed to grow for a few weeks for winter protection.

When a permanent pasture has been established for a few years a dressing of sulphate of ammonia occasionally as described above will help to keep the weeds in check and greatly increase the quality of pasture so that it will carry more stock profitably per acre.

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MILADY BEAUTIFUL

(Continued from Page 9)

Fat on a mild astringent or skin freshener and then use a liquid foundation base. There are a great many such lotions and creams on the market to select from. I cannot name you any particular brand, however, as it would not be fair to the manufacturers to mention one in preference to another to my numerous readers. If you select a reliable and well-known make you will find it satisfactory and suitable for your type of skin. LOIS LEEDS.

Has Bow-Legged Thighs
Dear Miss Leeds—I am very fond of swimming, but I am ashamed to go out on the beach among other people because of my thighs. They are what I call bow-legged. Isn't there something I can do to have nice-shaped legs like other girls? MARY D.

Answer—The shape of your legs may be due to thinness or to curved bony structure, which is usually caused in the early years by incorrect standing posture and in some case to a mild form of rickets in childhood caused by a lack of certain minerals, vitamins and suitable flesh-and-bone-building foods. It is almost impossible to change the bony structure at your age, but my advice to you is to keep up with your swimming by all means, even though you are ashamed to go on the beach. The chances are that your thighs do not look half as bad as you think they do. If they do—that is all the more reason for the swimming, for there is nothing better for developing shapely legs. Swim two or three times a week and practice the swimming strokes, especially the leg strokes, at home every night and morning. Become an expert swimmer and you will not worry about the bow-legged thighs so much. LOIS LEEDS.

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