

# NEWSY NOTES

By Agricola

## The Kingfisher

The correct name of this bird is the Belted Kingfisher, which distinguishes it from the many kinds of Kingfishers in the world! Even Australia has an aberrant form known as the Laughing Jackass, and more poetically as the Kookaburra.

Kingfishers belong to the sub-order Alcyonidae and the family Alcedinidae. These names are patently derived from "Alcyon" or "Alcyon", the classical and traditional name of the bird. The old belief was that Kingfishers built a raft-nest on the water and that when the birds were sitting the sea always remained calm. Hence serene weather was called the "halcyon days."

Actually Kingfishers choose the steep bank of a stream for a nesting place, boring a tunnel five or six feet in, and laying up to eight eggs in a chamber at the end of it. It has long been a matter of dispute as to whether the Kingfisher is an economic offender or not. The misnomer taken from rivers, lakes or ponds, do not count for much, but if the bird frequents trout and salmon streams, it "cannot" be looked upon with friendly eyes, as Dr. Thayer says. However, in our Province the birds are too few to make much difference.

On one or two occasions I have watched a Kingfisher "fishing." It gave out a peculiar rattling whistle as it hovered above the small stream, then plunged down like a flash and rose again, presumably with a fish. I was rather too far off to see. (The last occasion was near Milton, May 6, 1936).

**Belted Kingfisher, A.O.U. 390. Fairly common—1916. Plumage, Male:** Bill large, strong, head dark grayish blue, with a bushy, ragged crest that makes it appear larger. Back, wings, tail, and a band across the breast ashy-blue. Chin, neck, and rest of underparts white. Feet and plumage much the same, but sides are of a rich chestnut, with a "belt" of the same color crossing the breast below the blue band. Legs, (both sexes) short. Length of adults, about 13 inches.

## The Sky for May

On Monday, May 2nd, the Moon and the planet Uranus will be in conjunction shortly after 3:30 in the morning. On the 4th there is a shower of meteors due—the Eta-Aquarids, so-called: however, this E.A. shower is not in the first rank.

Moon in the First Quarter May 5th and in conjunction with Saturn on the 6th (15 hrs. 20 min.). Moon in Perigee May 10; distant from the Earth 224,900 miles. Full Moon on the 12th (Astronomer Perrey believed this situation—Perigee + Full—led to earthquakes.)

May 17th, Moon in conjunction with Jupiter: nearly always brings bad weather. Moon in Last Quarter, on the 19th.

Moon in Apogee, Sunday 22nd. Distance from the Earth 251,600 miles. On the 26th the Moon is in conjunction with Mars: usually a pretty sight it is spoiled this time by daylight.

New Moon May 27. Conjunction of the Moon and Venus on 28th, the prettiest of all conjunctions, spoiled because of daylight.

**News of the Sunspot Cycle.** Astronomers agree that 1944 was the minimum year of solar activity as indicated by an entire absence of sunspots, and consider April 1944 to be the central month. The sunspots had become larger and more numerous at the end of March 1945.

**THROAT SORE?**

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## OUT OUR WAY



WHY MOTHERS GET GRAY! © 1949 BY NEA SERVICE, INC. 5-2

with the last 100 years, tells us that the crofter counties cover 47 per cent of Scotland's land area but contain only 300,000 people—less than six per cent of Scotland's population and 96,000 fewer than they supported in 1841. Since 1871 the Highland population has fallen by 76,764, whereas that of Scotland as a whole has increased by 1,856,000. (Part of the increase is due to an influx of Irish laborers to the industrial areas—an influx little appreciated by the original Scots!)

The immediate object, in attempting to solve the problem, is to increase the national food supply, but the task is no easy one due to the crofting system "which perpetuates in legal form a highly involved version of peasant tenure which has no counterpart anywhere else in the Commonwealth."

The Crofters' Act of 1886 and the Small Landholders Act of 1911 gave great security of tenure to the crofter. The crofters are passionately attached to the land and have won by the political (and other) struggles of their ancestors, and regard them as inalienable property in a way that astonishes the borderer or Englishman. In consequence economic planning in the Highlands is not a simple affair of blue-prints and statutory orders: it must rest on the understanding and consent of the local inhabitants. This temper of local independence has caused the Scottish Department of Agriculture, as well as other official bodies, to move with a caution and delicacy that puzzles those used to the rougher rule of Whitehall.—(Continued next week.)

## W.C.T.U. NOTES

### THE L.T.L. SECRETARY

To the L.T.L. Leaders:

Our year is drawing to a close. I hope we will find it has been a very successful year. Please make a special effort to pay your dues to the Provincial Treasurer, before the end of April. Your reports must be in to me by the 15th of May, as our Convention is to be held at Kingston, May 31st, June 1st and 2nd, 1949. Will all the new groups take notice that only paid up Legions are eligible to compete for the trophy. I hope I will have the pleasure of meeting a number of our leaders at Kingston this year.

Sincerely,  
(Mrs. J.) Florence Nelson.

### WHAT IS THE ALCOHOL PROBLEM AS SEEN BY SOCIETY?

Does society grow excited about the man who takes an occasional glass. He doesn't act in a way to cause fear, or embarrassment to his friends. You see 16 cases of empties on the sidewalk in front of your neighbor's house, waiting for the panel truck to pick them up. You see a swarm of little boys not over ten years calling at all the doors to bring out your empties and you are annoyed. It is a shame to employ little boys in this way. Your neighbors are drinking too much. But they are nice quiet people, they never annoy anyone. They are never rowdy and they own a lovely car which they often park in front of your house. But oh, all those empties. A shame. Now what is the problem? They never drink to excess, never have a car accident, don't appear to be a menace in any way. Society says they are no danger. Society says the man who drinks to excess is the problem. He might endanger your life. He might commit an indecent act. He is unpredictable and irresponsible. And this is the thing that upsets society and its sense of security. Society is not easily stirred until some tragedy occurs and then its concern is short-lived. Society says you must get down to the underlying causes of excessive drinking and correct these causes instead of fighting the alcohol as such. So society says the solution is to remove the cause that makes men drink. How can you legislate against nature? So long as nature causes sugar fruits to ferment under certain conditions, how are you going to prohibit making alcohol?

One group will say, take all the profits out of the manufacture and

—By J. R. Williams

## IN MEMORIAM

### MRS. GEORGE LESLIE

On January 30th, one day before her 61st wedding anniversary, Mrs. George Leslie passed to her eternal rest from her home in Morell. Widow of the late Captain George Leslie who predeceased her eight years ago, and daughter of the late Joseph Fairchild, shipbuilder at Georgetown where she was born October 7, 1866. Josephine Fairchild Leslie attended the early Church of England schools in that town and won, at an early age, the Governor General's bronze medal awarded to pupils with the highest standing in Grade X or Public School leaving Her son Walter who is four years old in her school.

Mrs. Leslie retained all through life the quick wit and ready replies for which she was noted as a girl at day school and Sunday School and had a keen knowledge of English and of the Bible.

Like her husband she was known and highly respected for her fair dealing and readily sympathetic understanding in all things with neighbors and friends and people in general regardless of race, class or creed.

She was confirmed by the Bishop of Nova Scotia in August, 1879 in a Trinity Church of England, Georgetown, and though a loyal member all her life she believed in the wider membership of Christ's Church that includes all who do His works.

An old-fashioned mother and homemaker she preferred her own sale of alcoholic beverages and you will solve the problem.

Another school of thought advocates starting with the inebriate and rehabilitating him and then working back through the moderate drinker to complete abstinence. At the same time you must begin at the other end, before drinking begins, and by the very slow process of education prevent people becoming drinkers. This process must begin in the home and be carried on in the church and school.

Ladies! Could you spare a moment to write your thoughts on these matters, with or without permission for me to pass them on in this column?

—Elsie Wright

### NATIONAL GRANGE PLANS TO FIGHT CRIME

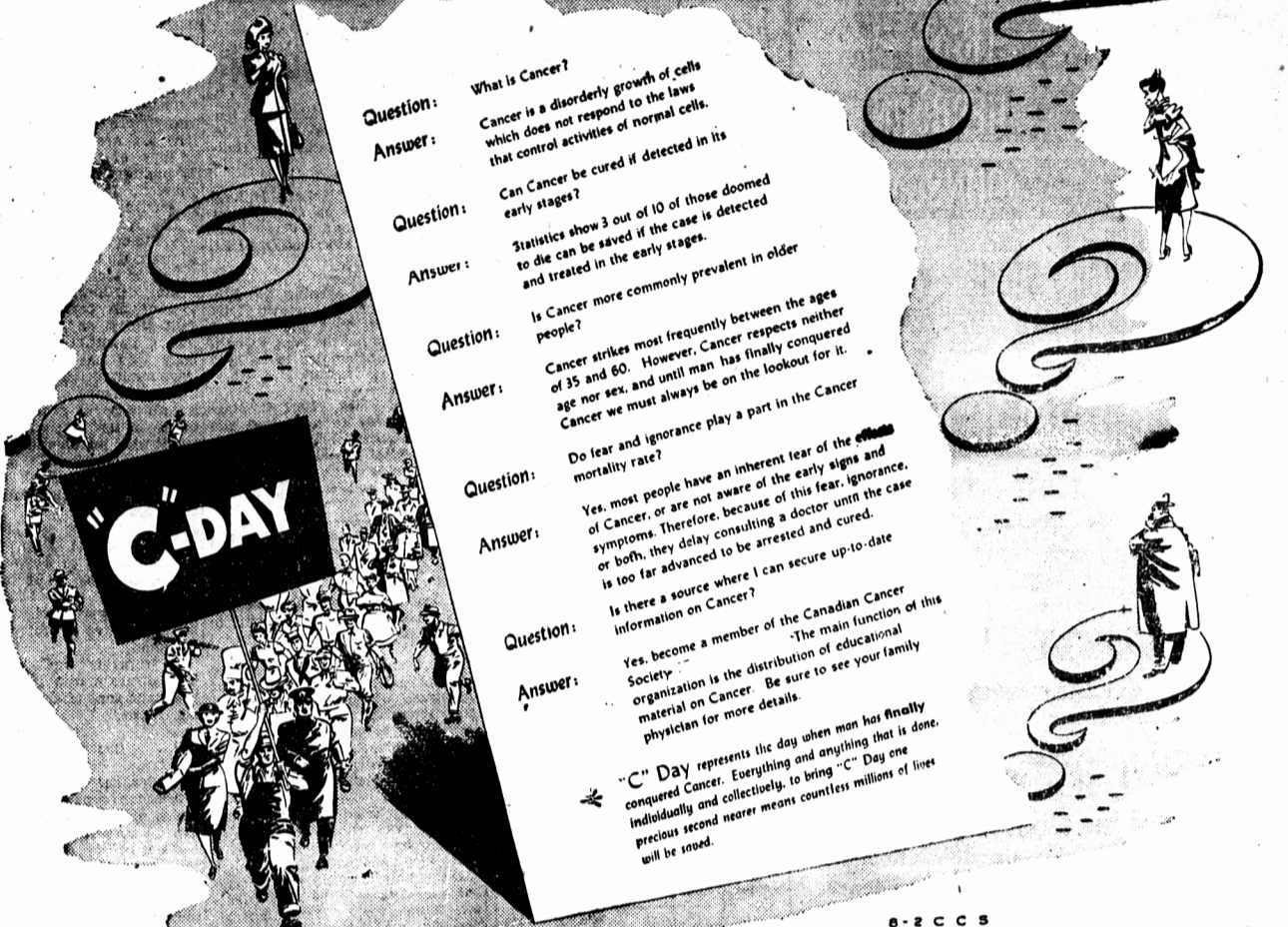
Recommends Temperance Education in Schools

According to an Associated Press dispatch of Nov. 10 from Portland, Maine, where the National Grange is in session, that organization is planning a vigorous fight against crime, indecency and lawlessness in the nation, and to that end recommends employment of a full-time youth director. The Master of the National Grange, Albert S. Goss, in his annual report, recommended adoption of the following:

1. Urge school studies of "temperance and the abuses of drinking, smoking, and other practices leading to vice."
2. Seek cooperation of "character-building groups in making clean movies available."
3. Get local authorities to ban those "movies" which violate the common standards of decency and feature crime and lawlessness.

Goss stated that the past 15 years since the repeal of prohibition have been marked by "an enormous increase in liquor consumption and a tremendous increase in crime."

# Do YOU know the Answers?



Question: What is Cancer?

Answer: Cancer is a disorderly growth of cells which does not respond to the laws that control activities of normal cells.

Question: Can Cancer be cured if detected in its early stages?

Answer: Statistics show 3 out of 10 of those doomed to die can be saved if the case is detected and treated in the early stages.

Question: Is Cancer more commonly prevalent in older people?

Answer: Cancer strikes most frequently between the ages of 35 and 60. However, Cancer respects neither age nor sex, and until man has finally conquered Cancer we must always be on the lookout for it.

Question: Do fear and ignorance play a part in the Cancer mortality rate?

Answer: Yes, most people have an inherent fear of Cancer, or are not aware of the early signs and symptoms. Therefore, because of this fear, ignorance, or both, they delay consulting a doctor until the case is too far advanced to be arrested and cured.

Question: Is there a source where I can secure up-to-date information on Cancer?

Answer: Yes, become a member of the Canadian Cancer Society. The main function of this organization is the distribution of educational material on Cancer. Be sure to see your family physician for more details.

\* "C" Day represents the day when man has finally conquered Cancer. Everything and anything that is done, individually and collectively, to bring "C" Day one previous second nearer means countless millions of lives will be saved.

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family circle and books and loyal friends to any reward the outside world had to offer. The plaudits of the crowd held no interest for her.

Three of her sons predeceased her: Howard died of measles in May, 1916; John, killed at the battle of Vimy Ridge in April, 1918; Walter died of "flu" in the 1918 epidemic, in October.

Left to mourn the loss of a devoted mother, but also to cherish her shining example and high idealism, are four sons and four daughters: Percy and Joe of Calgary, Alberta; Andrew, James and Elsie (Mrs. Gerald C. Reyan) all of Toronto, Ontario; Isobel (Mrs. Ralph E. Dingwell) of Banora; Anne (Mrs. C. B. McEwen) and Mary of Morell; Mary, twin of John, and Public Health nurse of King's County, suffered a severe illness last June, a serious relapse on Christmas eve, and is still confined to her bed at her home. The funeral services for this reason were held from the home of Mrs. R. Dingwell.

A short Church of England service was read from the 100 year old prayer book of Mrs. Leslie's father, a hymn sung by a very dear friend, Mrs. J. R. Compton of Charlottetown, followed by the regular service in Marie United Church, and interment in Midgell Cemetery beside her husband and two sons. The services were conducted by the Rev. W. McPherson, pastor of Marie United Church.

Floral offerings from all members of the family and from close friends, as well as letters and cards of sympathy too numerous to record, were mute testimony to the esteem of this kind friend and good neighbor gone to her just reward.

Of the eleven grandchildren three served with distinction in World War 2. There are eight great grandchildren.

May God bestow His richest blessing on her and hers!

### MEADOW BANK W. I.

The Meadow Bank Women's Institute convened with Mrs. Robert Jewell for the April meeting when the vice-president, Mrs. Elmer Clow presided. Eleven members and three visitors were present and the Institute was very pleased to greet Mrs. Richard MacKinnon as a new member. The secretary reported \$28.17 net proceeds from the pantry sale held at Rogers Hardware, and Miss Laura Crosby reported \$30.85 passed to the treasurer of the rink from the concert and candy sale held recently in Cornwall Hall.

After discussion it was decided to have the school committee purchase six new blinds for the school. The sick committee reported sick members. The secretary was asked to write inviting Pownall Y. P. U. to present their play in Cornwall Hall early in May.

A request from the Junior Farmers asking for a donation for prizes for the oratorical contest to be held in Cornwall Hall was received and \$2 was voted. Miss Laura Crosby and the president were appointed as a committee to help about the prizes.

Correspondence consisted of a letter from the Red Cross asking for the support of the members in the campaign being conducted, also a beautiful card of appreciation from Mrs. Fred Hyde for fruit sent her when ill.

The Institute News was distributed and nine members paid their subscription to this month.

Mrs. Stanley Hyde read the April questionnaire on Social Welfare and some health pamphlets were distributed.

The May meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. L. H. and Mrs. Stuart Drake when Mrs. W. W. Crosby will assist the hostess and the roll will be answered with a donation of one dollar. On motion of adjournment the meeting closed with The King. Lunch was served and a social hour spent.

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