

Farming and Agriculture :-: Special Features :-: Interesting Observations

NEWSY FARM NOTES

By Agricola

OUR FORTUNATE ISLAND

I have before me the pamphlet on "Prices in Canada and other countries 1928," issued by the Department of Labor, Ottawa. It is a report well worth sending for, and contains much entertaining reading, for the farmer, his wife, and the trader who supplies them. It is one of my contentions, and a sound one, that every farmer should keep account of his living costs, and (separately) his operating costs, and balance these against his profits. A little trouble, doubtless, but what business man in any other profession, would he succeed without opening books? Why it is so essential to success that he pays a non-productive "hand" to keep his accounts.

Well, to get back to my text. The pamphlet gives a family "budget" for food, fuel, lighting, and rent drawn from the averages of sixty cities in Canada. This budget is for the week, and specifies all the eatables and fuel (anthracite, bituminous, hard wood, soft wood, and coal oil) but does not include the cost of clothes which it concludes would add 50 per cent more to the cost.

The figures for a week in January in 1920, were \$15.30; 1921, \$14.48; 1922, \$11.05; 1923, \$10.52; 1924, \$10.78; 1925, \$10.77; 1926, \$11.63; 1927, \$11.37; 1928, \$11.19.

These figures show the fluctuations in the cost of living very clearly, but it is made still clearer in the form of a "graph" on page 8. Establishing the average cost of living as 100 in 1913, it rose slowly till the end of 1915, when it stood at about 107. Thence it began to travel in earnest and by the middle of 1920, it reached 200. This must have stimulated production, since the figures fell as rapidly to 150 by the middle of 1921, and despite a tendency to hold that level, fell a little more in 1922, and since then have varied rapidly between the levels of 155 and 160. At present we may call it 158.

That is of course, for all Canada. Now for the Island and I want you to compare the average Island family budget of the same goods for the same years. (See page 6 of the Report.)

1920, \$13.42; 1921, \$13.13; 1922, \$9.78; 1923, \$9.43; 1924, \$9.68; 1925, \$9.76; 1926, \$10.77; 1927, \$10.52; and 1928, \$10.32.

So we have according to Report something more to congratulate ourselves upon.

There is however no Bureau of statistics by which we could verify these statements.

THE MENACE OF MEASLES

In a 'far-flung' country like Canada it often happens that statistics on any particular subject appear to be published at a much later date than we expect them to be. It is only when we think of the trouble involved in collecting and tabulating them, the delays incurred in revising and correcting, and the further delay in printing them, that we fully realize the reason for the seeming backwardness. Such thoughts suggested themselves as I looked over the statistics of communicable diseases in Canada. I note that there were 893 deaths recorded as being caused by measles in Canada in 1928. There were reported, in 1928, 3,001 cases in eight of the Provinces, the figures for Prince Edward Island not being available. Of these, Ontario was the greatest sufferer, with 2,565 cases.

In the deaths from measles in 1926, ninety per cent occurred in children under five years. It is well known that in many cases bronchopneumonia and tuberculosis follow measles, so that if all circumstances were known, the figures given would be appreciably increased.

Perhaps the greatest factor in the spreading of this disease is the attitude of parents based on the idea that measles is a mild non-fatal illness, and that the sooner all the children have it the better. In bygone years I have known parents to expose children purposely to the infection for the purpose of hastening the process. To inform parents of the real danger of the disease, and the importance of protective measures is the first essential in reducing the number of deaths. The long "incubation period" and the high infectivity even when the signs and symptoms are slight or absent, are other factors in the rapid spreading of measles.

It has been shown if children who have been exposed to infection are put to bed before the symptoms appear and kept there until the incubation period is passed, or, if infection has occurred, until they are thoroughly well, the danger of complications (and perhaps a fatal outcome) is usually avoided.

It has been shown, too, that serum from patients who have recently recovered from an attack is of great value in preventing, or in lessening the virulence of an attack.

In any case a physician should be called in, rather than any attempt made to treat the patient by any of the old-time methods.

A Succession of Bloom For the Shaded Garden

One of the most difficult situations to contend with in planting a city garden is that area or angle between a house and its extensions. Generally, it is a small plot well surrounded with buildings, so that it does not receive a fair share of either sunshine or air. At the same time, it is viewed from the principal rooms of the house, and, therefore, should be decorative.

How to treat this forlorn space is the landscape architect's most absorbing problem. A succession of bloom—a feat even in the finest locations—is an achievement here.

While every plot calls for individual treatment, yet there are certain general principles for small shaded places. This account of the flowers that were chosen and induced to bloom in such a Montreal garden will possibly illuminate the way, for many who have found intense shade their great garden enemy.

The picture herewith shows a small area of twenty-nine feet by fifty-eight feet, treated in a semi-informal manner. It is overlooked from two important rooms and is bounded by the house wall on one side, the conservatory on another, while the other boundaries are formed by a well-designed trellis, screening off gardeners' quarters set some ten feet away on one side and three feet on the other. Naturally, in such an area there is little sun and no circulation of air. Adding to the shade problem is a large Maple tree, and its roots take most of the nourishment.

The problem of a succession of bloom, if, indeed, any bloom at all, was most difficult. A massed color effect was desired, a bold effect rather than the beauty of individual flowers, for the garden is considered from the dining room windows more than from the garden itself. As the house is closed until Darwin Tulip time, there is no one to enjoy an early Spring garden, one of those fascinating things of wild and cultivated flowers: Hepaticas, Trilliums, and Scillas; Daffodils with all their golden beauty, and the early flowering Tulips.

Our garden, therefore, commences with the Tulips. The Maple tree in its rosy bud and tiny feather leaf seemed to suggest a setting for the Darwin Tulips without shading them and marring their exquisite beauty of form and coloring. I feel that Spring coloring should be clear, tender-coloring, so I chose the lovely pink of Clara Butt. There is no one among the newer varieties to surpass it in this respect. Add to it the strong lavender of Rev. Ewbank with the sunshine color of Inglescomb's Yellow, and you have a charming trio. A few Tulip Noir scattered through this garden are strong points of contrast. Under all is a mat of Phlox Divaricata, spreading lovely mauve mistiness over and through the whole garden.

With the exception of the background which has been in existence for some years, the garden was planted last Autumn, so that Phlox "subulata lilacina," so delicately lilac-tinted, has not yet crept down over the flagged paths in the sunny spots, nor has the "Tunica Saxifraga" or Coat-flower formed to its full grass-like tufts with pretty pink flowers, which will, in time, clothe the edges in pale color from June to September. Purple and yellow Violas add low color in the shady places; "Vinca," or Periwinkle, trails its glossy rich green foliage and blue flowers over the edges of paths and under the shrubs. Woolly-leaved mountain Thyme carpets the flagged paths, crevices and the rocky edges of the pool with a spread of green brightened by the purple flowers. "Herniaria," Rupture

as themselves.

How can they live there? Always on the stream are small flies a-wing, and these are the food of the skaters that clasp them suddenly with the unskating feet. Out on the ocean are the tiny flies on which the skaters live. No one would have thought so, had not these skating hunters found them.

THE IDLE BEE

Don't let anyone point to the busy bee as an example of industry any more. Dr. Lloyd R. Watson, of Cornell University, after conducting a research lasting 15 years, has announced that bees are really work-shirkers. Dr. Watson, who has been making the bees "punch the time-clock," learning that the average bee takes from six to ten trips in quest of honey and loafs the rest of the day. In an endeavor to find a really industrious type of bee, the scientist has discovered that there are but four varieties that really do "improve each shining hour."

Wort, forms a dense green carpet between flags and about the pool's edges. In the very shady nooks the Geranium "Pratense," or Crane's bill, spreads its charming foliage and purplish blue flowers. Then Forget-me-nots, and a few fine clumps of "Dianthus spectabilis," or the old-fashioned Bleeding Heart, completes the Spring picture.

Just here, I should like to remind all those contemplating making a garden, that time and infinite patience are necessary before one can achieve the luxuriant "seed catalogue" gardens. They are not made in a day, nor yet in a year. Our Winters are severe and the growing season short, so we must wait many seasons before even the perennials attain their full size.

"Philadelphus Falconeri," a Mock Orange with slender arching branches, sweeps down to the water. It is too shady for it to bloom, but, as it was already there and thriving, I left it for the sake of its good foliage lending a pretty featheriness to the picture, and it, of course, thrives and blooms in shade in July. In the sunny spots Clematis Jackmann climbs up the trellis, and for Autumn, Clematis "Paniculata" gives a fluffy mistiness with a creamy white bloom.

The contrast in foliage and growth is very attractive. The extreme delicacy of the "Dianthus" foliage against the perpendicular growth and heavier foliage of the Lilacs and the pinkish tone in the strong lavender of Rev. Ewbank are satisfying in both contour and color. I used these plantings for this particular garden, but one can think of many charming combinations for just such a shady spot. There could be wild flowers and rare alpine for the sunny spots, to be washed and tended with loving care and interest, not usually by the busy gardener, but by owners who go out into the by-ways and gather in treasures, giving to each the corner it prefers.

When the Tulips pass, there will be tall spikes of Foxgloves and "Tradescantia," or Spiderwort, for the edge of the pool. Its blue spikes are pretty all summer. In the few sunny spots against the trellis are Delphiniums with drifts of Madonna Lilies. "Thalictrum," or Meadow Rue, give soft pretty bloom and the foliage is always ornamental.

The fragrant yellow blooms of the Day Lily adds two-fold to the garden's attractions; they do well in the shade. The dainty Columbine nods gracefully in other shady spots. The foliage of the Funks is a handsome addition to shady places, its Lily-like heads of flowers are so pretty. The Japanese Iris, a July flower, is lovely by the stream, its horizontal blooms in contrast to the fluffy spike of Meadow Sweet. These are the perennials I choose for Summer. To replace the Tulips for the real Summer mass effect, there is lovely deep-colored Heliotrope, filling the whole garden with its fragrance. It nods above little pink fibrous-rooted Begonia (B. "Prima-donna"), the favorite of our florists in the Winter time, and which forms a carpet of color. Gladiolus "Primulinus" raise their pink and yellow spikes to give a middle height. I have chosen the pink of Maiden's Blush, the lovely yellow of Souvenir and for stronger deeper tone, Alice Tiplady. The Gladiolus were planted at intervals; thus, with the Begonia and Heliotrope, carry the color harmony through till Autumn and frosts come.

With the passing of the Summer our eyes instinctively seek old golds, cloudy blues and soft lavenders colors that blend with September haze. Could anything be finer than a large clump of Golden Rod in just the right spot? For cloudy blue, I planted perennial Aster Climax, and found the pale lilac tints in Glory of Coleval. Behind these, to replace the tall spikes of the Delphinium and interspersed with them, are the stately, creamy white panicles of the perfumed "Artemisia Lactiflora."

Thus is the little spot both fragrant and colorful, from the days when the robins search noisily about for the nesting place, until the honk of the wild geese is heard trailing overhead and southward—Miss Dorothy Henderson, Landscape Architect, Toronto.

THE MARKETS

MONTREAL, Feb. 25.—Cattle receipts 380. The cattle offerings were made up of 125 milkers and about 250 cattle of other grades, making an exceptionally small offering of butcher cattle for Monday.

Good butcher steers sold for \$10 and plain to just medium kinds up to \$9.25. Good cows brought \$8 to \$9.50 up to \$8.25 or better. Choice heiferish cows sold with steers. Medium quality, big bodied cows sold for \$7. Canners and cutters were unchanged at \$3 to 4.50. Bulls brought from \$5.50 to \$8.

Quotations butcher steers good \$9.50 to \$10, medium \$9, to \$9.50, common, \$8, to \$9. Butcher heifers good \$9, to \$10, medium \$8.50 to \$9, common \$8, to \$8. Butcher cows good \$7.50 to \$8.50. Cutters \$4 to \$4.50. Butcher bulls good \$7.50 to \$8, common \$5.50 to \$7.

Calf receipts 594, veal calves sold from \$11 to \$15, with the bulk between \$13.75 and \$14.50, grassers were mostly \$8.75.

Sheep receipts 91 common to medium lambs, including bucks, brought \$10, to \$11, sheep were from \$6.75 to \$7.50, with very thin ones as low as \$5.

Quotations. Ewes \$5, to \$7.50, common lambs \$10, to \$11, hog receipts 1882. Pigs of good weights fed and watered not graded were sold for \$11, to \$11.75, with the bulk at \$11.00. Sows were from \$9 to \$9.50.

TAME DUCKS

There are three tame ducks in our back yard, Dabbling in mud and trying hard to get their share, and maybe more. Of the overflowing barnyard store, Satisfied with the task they're at, Of eating and sleeping and getting fat.

But whenever the free wild ducks go by In a long line streaming down the sky, They cock a quizzical, puzzled eye And flap their wings and try to fly.

I think my soul is a tame old duck, Dabbling around in barnyard muck, Fat and lazy, with useless wings But sometimes when the North wind sings And the wild ones hurtle overhead, It remembers something lost and dead.

And cocks a wary, bewildered eye, And makes a feeble attempt to fly. It's fairly content with the state it's in

But it isn't the duck it might have been.

Kenneth Kaufman.

Two Calves for Island Girls

Shipped By Express From Truro to Two Girls at DeSable, P. E. I.

TRURO, Feb. 19.—A couple of choice dual purpose Shorthorn calves left here this morning by the Ocean Limited, billed to Hector MacKay, DeSable, P. E. I. These calves were secured from the federal experimental station at Kentville for Mr. MacKay's two daughters, Elsie and Charlotte, who are members of the Argyle Shore Calf club. These two girls were successful in a judging competition last year and in carrying on their exhibits to a marketable age. One of the girls won first prize at the Maritime Winter Fair. The Argyle Shore is a section of P. E. I. Island that has carried on successfully for a number of years with dual purpose Shorthorns. Island producers can usually secure from one to two cents more per pound for their beef than producers on the mainland can secure.

"Pop, what's a pedigreed animal?" "Any farm critter that's run down by a tourist, son."

heads, bows and arrows, and battle-axes formed of bronze. To defend themselves they had shields, and they also covered their bodies with quilted armor. This "armor" was simply cloth padded with cotton.

Inca armies fought in places far from the capital city. An effort was made to capture the chief of the enemy tribe, as well as his sons and officers. If this effort was successful, the chief and the others were brought to Cuzco where they had the honor of meeting the king.

The Inca ruler treated the captives kindly and gave them a banquet. They were taught the religion and laws of the Incas. After they had promised to obey the king they were allowed to go home and take active charge of their part of the country.

Tomorrow—Inca Farmers and Hunters.

A motorboat designed by a New York man has submerged fins along its keel that raise it as its speed increases, reducing the friction on its hull.

Minard's Liniment for the Flu.

What would you think of a Grocer who paid you 2c bonus for every lb. of butter you bought from his competitor?

EGG LAYING CONTEST

The total number of eggs laid for the week ending Feb. 20, 1929, was 770 and to date 8495.

Mrs. J. H. MacPhalls B. R. hens pen 20 led the contest for the week with 57 eggs, 62.3 points; Mr. T. H. Foster's B. R. Hens pen 13 were second with 50 eggs, 54.7 points and Mr. S. R. Pendleton's B. R. Hens pen 19 were third with 47 eggs 53.7 points.

The Kensington Baby Chick Hatchery B. R. hen No. 9 in pen 10 still leads in individual work with 65 eggs, 80.7 points; Mrs. J. H. MacPhalls B. R. hen 8 in pen 20 is second with 76 eggs 78.4 points and Mr. T. H. Foster's B. R. hen No. 4 in pen 13, is third, with 69 eggs, 76.8 points.

The pens leading in total production are:

1st, Exp. Farm, Fredericton, N. B. B. R. pen 6, 612 eggs, 624.8 points.

2nd, Mr. T. H. Foster, Marshfield, P. E. I., pen 13, 592 eggs 554.9 points.

3rd, Mrs. J. H. MacPhall, New Haven, P. E. I. pen 20 512 eggs 523 points.

4th, S. R. Pendleton, Kensington, P. E. I. pen 19, 510 eggs 515.2 points.

Canadian Fisher Leaves for Indies

MONTCTON, N. B., Feb. 22.—Outward bound from Halifax tomorrow, Saturday will be R. M. S. Canadian Fisher Canadian National Steamship for Bermuda, the western group of the West India Islands and Belize, with the following passenger list from Halifax: Mrs. Craig Calwell, Mr. and Mrs. Faulander, Miss G. Thompson, Rev. Father Trainor and Mrs. Winston for Bermuda, D. H. Shaw for Nashau, Mrs. J. E. Hagan, H. M. Hills Mrs. D. J. MacDonald for Jamaica.

Other passengers include from Montreal, Roy Phillips for Bermuda, Graham Gatehouse, Mr. McAdams, Mr. and Mrs. Russell White for Nashau. From Toronto R. E. Jose, for Nashau. From Ottawa John Henderson and from Smith Falls, A. Wise-man both for Belize.

This will be the last voyage of this vessel in this particular trade. As soon as the Fisher swings northward again and terminates her voyage at Halifax she will end her career as passenger steamer and her future remains unsettled as yet.

The Canadian Forester in the same service, will sail from Halifax on March 16th and that will also be the last voyage of that vessel in this trade, the places of both vessels being taken by the two new Canadian National Steamships R.M.S. Lady Somers and R. M. S. Lady Rodney. The Fisher and Forester are sister ships and were built in the tidewater yard at Three Rivers, Quebec, one being launched August 14th, 1920 and the other September 20th, 1920. They were designed for the Atlantic cargo trade but it was decided to place them in the West Indies service and provided passenger accommodation for this purpose. They went to Halifax and were converted at the shipyards there in 1921 commenced operations in that service. The extent of this service will be appreciated when it is pointed out that the final voyage of the Fisher will be her seventy first.

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Some Curiosities Of Natural Science

HOW OLD IS A FISH?

Science at last has learned to tell the age of fish. When you go fishing hereafter take your microscope along, follow instructions and know whether you are pulling out yearlings, 2 year olds or grownups. It is easy enough, we are told. Each scale has a series of rings, a great deal like those of a tree and each ring represents one year. These circles are so small that they may be seen only with the aid of a microscope. Hereafter, that instrument may become part of every fisherman's equipment. With it, telling the age of a fish will be as easy as counting the rings on bossy's horns to tell how old she is.

WHITE HADDOCK WITH PURPLE TAIL CAUGHT

BOSTON, Feb. 19.—A white haddock with a purple tail and red back the first of such coloring ever seen in this district was among the fish landed at the pier here today.

INSECT SKATERS

Insects generally are creatures of warmth, those that survive the freezing nights either burrow out of danger, or fall into a deep unconsciousness of winter sleep.

From this death-like state they are easily revived by a warm hour at noon, to sleep again in the shadows, or they may stay in solid frigidity until the ground-warmth of spring. Some keep active as far into the winter as possible, for life is very desirable, even to insects; and the lingering activities are seen mostly in the streams where the water comes from ground springs. Here the temperature is constant every day, and winter creeps slowly towards the head of the waters.

Far later than on open water the skaters may be found here skimming the surface, swirling and dancing on tireless feet on the water that supports them. As winged spiders or long mosquitoes in appearance these long-leg-

ged "skaters" or "striders" dart with steps too rapid for the eye to see. Therefore are they said to "skate" over the surface of the stream. Their bodies are so light that the film of the water surface is not broken. They have microscopic hairs on their padded feet, which are somewhat oily and water resistant. They move over it as children may on lightly encrusted snow, or even as skaters on frozen lakes, and their name is very appropriate.

If the sun is shining through the shallow water shadows are noted below the skaters. Not the shadow of the insect, but the impress of the four feet, because the film of water at the feet breaking the light refracted on bottom of the water. Four impressions only, though the insect has six legs, the two front ones are held up for catching prey. Some of the water-gnats use only two legs on the water. Small fish swim under these shadowless bodies and take notice of them. Either they do not see them clearly or they know it would be useless to attempt to take them, the "skater" would be in the air before the fish touched the water surface.

While human skaters are skimming the marsh ice the insect skaters may be shooting across the spring water above, with a grace and agility not seen below. For the colder days the insect creeps under the sheltering banks among the roots and leaves. They are food for surmise on summer's day, though few will see them now. Yet the steel-shod skaters on the ice are far less wonderful than these creatures that live on the water, but never are wet; that walk on it, run on it, dance and gyrate on it without breaking the fine-skin" of its surface. More wonderful still they are seen out at sea, hundreds of miles from land, skating on the face of the Pacific. Here they live permanently, laying eggs on the cast-off feathers of seabirds that float almost as lightly

UNCLE RAY'S CORNER

WAYS OF THE OLDEN INCAS

I. CUZCO AND THE KING. Down in South America, there is a great stretch of country sometimes called Inca Land. It was the home of people who were "civilized" long before the white men came.



The Inca king receiving visit from a chief carried in a litter, as pictured by an Inca artist.

Inca Land stretches along the Pacific coast, from Colombia down into Chile. It is a region of mountains. Some of the peaks of the Andes rise to a height of more than four miles.

Amid those mountains lived the Incas or ancient Peruvians. Their chief city was called Cuzco, and lay within the borders of modern Peru, 250 miles from the coast.

At one side of Cuzco a mighty wall 1,200 feet long was built. This wall still stands, and we see that it contains enormous stones. One of the stone blocks is 38 feet long, 18 feet wide, and six feet thick.

It is a wonder how the workmen were able to bring such big stones from the quarries four or five miles away. Probably logs were used as "rollers."

The chief man of the country was "the Inca" or king. He lived in a large stone palace at Cuzco. His word was law, and no one dared dispute what he said.

The king had at his command a force of 200,000 warriors. They carried slings, warclubs with copper

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