

FOR FARMERS' STOCK BREEDERS AND GARDENERS

HORSE MEMOIRS ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

More About Biju 224 1-2 (C. E. MacKenzie)

Some of our Island Champions and how they fared after leaving their Island home, and among the number was Biju that horse that made Abdallah Messenger famous as a sire in this province and in the former sketch of this horse I only gave the readers of memoirs an account of his performances during two seasons.

On looking over Wallace's Year Book for the year 1889, I find that Biju was campaigned from Maine to New York and in a series of eleven races trotted forty eight heats an average of over four heats to a race and during this whole period was never out of the money, winning three races being placed second four times, third three times and fourth position. Once out of eleven races and in the forty eight heats he romped home a heat winner no less than sixteen times and duplicating this number of seconds with one dead heat, so second place and in his sixteen winning heats he made no less than six of these heats in 2:30 or better.

In comparison with other horses that raced with him in these eleven races Biju finished ahead sixteen times. Levi Aristos, finished first five times, Molly Harris and Dutch Girl had each four heats to their credit, while J. R. Shedd and Le Roy had each three heats, and Persica and Aral's had two each, so one may have some little idea of the wonderful staying power of our earlier horses.

As stated in a former article Biju was never asked to trot until sold to Mr. Essery in his sixth year and made his record at seven years with only one year's fitting and when we find him three years later beating his competitors over three to one. As a heat winner one wonders what such a horse would accomplish under present day conditions and modern equipment.

In the same year's issue of the Year Book the writer drew out accounts of many long trotted out contests. For instance at Philadelphia on July 10th, 1889, we have an account of a race that took eleven heats to decide a winner, there being no less than ten starts.

The first heat was won by a mare named Molly G. In the second heat she finished seventh and the third then gradually came back until in the ninth heat she again won her time in the first being 2:24 1-2 and in the ninth 2:26 3-4. The second and third heats were captured in 2:25 1-2 by a bay gelding named John Ferguson. In the fourth and fifth heats she finished ninth and during the remaining six heats never got better than fourth position. The fourth heat went to a chestnut gelding named Champion in 2:26 1-4 this horse finished last in the first heat. The fifth heat was won by Belle Middleton in 2:27 1-2. This mare had not finished better than third in any of the previous heats.

The sixth and seventh heats were won by St. Elmo (no doubt the sire of Elmo imported to this province by the late Dr. Strickland) St. Elmo's time being 2:27 1-2 and 2:25.

In the eighth heat Garrison, a son of Orange Blossom, showed the others the way home in 2:25 1-2 and in the following heat finished fifth, this heat being taken by Molly G. the winner of the first heat. Molly's ninth mile being trotted in 2:26 3-4 only two one-half seconds slower than the first heat.

The tenth and eleventh heats were captured by Garrison in 2:27 3-4 and 2:30 which gave him the race. St. Elmo finished second and third and Molly G. third and second in these heats giving St. Elmo second money and Molly G. third.

The above race gives a wonderful exhibition of the staying power of these horses the whole ten racing six heats and five trotting eleven heats in the average time of 2:26 1-2 and no less than six heat winners. What a chance for fans to pick a winner and it would no

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FARM BOOKKEEPING

(Continued)

"The plan every dairy farmer should follow is to weigh the milk of each cow at each milking and have a sheet or book in the stable where he can conveniently record the result. There is no other way of absolutely determining the production of cows, or whether or not they are profitable to keep. Tests should be made for butterfat of the milk of each cow, several times during the period of her lactation. There is no getting away from this plan as the only satisfactory way of culling your herd and making it more profitable. Dairy men in every province are only too glad to assist you in securing milk sheets for keeping records and also in having tests made for butterfat content.

Your farm account book should provide a daily record for the total milk production of your dairy herd showing the number of cows and the average production. This form also can be ruled in a scribbler or note book, with very little trouble.

A breeding, a calving record should also be kept for your cows, and care should be taken to retain for cows in the herd the heifer calves for your highest-producing cows.

Daughters of all cows, producing both a high test for butterfat and a general low milk should not be sold on any account. They should be retained in the herd and developed for records of performance. If they must be sold to reduce the number kept, they will bring much larger prices after having made records.

Convenient forms for keeping monthly milk accounts can be readily had from Ottawa. From the amount of milk produced and the amount sold, either as milk or butterfat, the computation can be made as to the value of the amount used on the farm.

The keeping of farm accounts doubt being interesting to know how much money changed hand during the eleven heats.

The case was for 2.27 trotters and the purse was \$500.00. Detroit, Michigan pulled off a nice back race for pacers the same year. It was a 2.24 pace class with \$1500.00 hung out, and had no less than eleven starters. The winner, a chestnut gelding named Chapman, a son of St. Omar, could not get nearer than ninth place in the first five heats his place being two tenths two eighths and ninth. He then came along and won the sixth heat, dropped the seventh to a mare called Kitty C and came back and won the eighth and ninth and race, Kitty C's heat at 2:17 3-4 being the fastest heat of the race. Attorney J. the winner of the first heat in 2:19 only got in tenth place. The next heat went to a horse named Bayley in 2:20 1-4.

Then a horse carrying the cognomen of William M. Singery came along and captured two firsts in 2:21 and 2:21 1-4 and in the seventh heat had the colors dropped on him, an average speed of about 2:21 for the nine heats.

A study of the year book shows that in the earlier days the prominent point were large fields and long drawn out races. That same race meet from July 23 to 26th with eleven races on the card. Had one nine heat race, two six heat races, three five heat races and one four heat race, in all fifty-seven heats in eleven races at an average of over five heats to each race.

The average time for the whole fifty-seven heats was well below 2:20 This is considered slow as compared with present day racing but when we consider conditions almost half a century ago we must say well done.

No doubt when we "call back" the days of bygone years they bring to mind. Carriages and Cupids' name. Go forth with your dog carts, your buckboards and brakes, your phaetons and tally-ho coaches; Take them forth to the hillsides and oceans and lakes. As the heat of the summer approaches For the summer resort is a carnival of carts.

A chaos of coaches and carriages, wherein are related those serials. Where happy conclusions are marriages. And the serials told in these bright summer carts. Shame the tawdry devices of fiction. Cupid rider on the dashboard and scatters his darts. Without any stint or restriction. The lovers heed not that the moonlight is pale.

The misty and magical moonlight. For the eyes of the maid as she lists to the tale. Are gayer and brighter than moonlight.

Horses should be credited with from 80c to \$1.00 for each day work they perform on the land. If a careful account of the cost of keeping horses was recorded, it might lead to a reduction in the number kept on some farms. This might add to the profit of farming by the best and most effective method—reduction in costs.

If you have not been keeping farm accounts, begin the first year upon a cash basis. That is keeping a record of the cash paid out and the cash received. It might be well to undertake cost accounting on one or two lines, such as poultry and hogs or perhaps dairy cattle. Keep these cost accounts

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may be done in a very efficient way at first, but in the progress of recording some features of his business a farmer will realize how valuable these records are, and out of this experience will evolve a more complete system of accounting that will be found to be invaluable.

A simple method of computing the cost of keeping your cows should be arrived at. Cows vary a great deal, both as to their appetite and the disposition of their feed, and the only exact plan of picking out the profitable ones is by calculating the value of the feed consumed by each cow and the value of the milk she produces. A good plan is to feed all the cows an equal ration, until such time as you know them thoroughly and to compute the value of the milk of each cow, both as to quantity and richness in butterfat. This will enable you to select the profitable ones with reasonable certainty.

Computations have been made of the cost of feeding a dairy cow for a year by the Dominion Experimental Farms, but, as this authority points out, a good deal depends upon circumstances. If a farmer is feeding for winter production of milk, the cost will be much higher than if his cows are dry in winter and give most of their milk on summer pasture.

It might be well to observe here that the cheapest livestock production of any kind that a farmer can have is made upon pasture where the animals seek their own food and thus save expensive labor costs. When feed has to be harvested, threshed, ground, and fed, it is much more expensive than when it has only to be grown. Pasture costs, on the other hand, vary according to the quality of the feed the field contains. Thin pastures that are more or less unprofitable, and which lack nutritious grasses, are never profitable. This is a waste of land and will add greatly to the cost of your cattle's keep. Milk can be produced cheaper in summer than in winter, but the relative cheapness of its production will depend upon the quality of your pasture.

The average cost of keeping a cow for one year, with grain and concentrates at about \$25.00 per ton, will amount to about \$80.00. This will be when cows are fed for fairly high production. In the case of feeding for records the cost would run much higher.

Keeping accurate accounts of your cow's feed need not entail a great deal of labor. If you are having feed ground or grinding it at home, each time you have a grist done you can make a reasonable calculation of the quantity, and charge it up to the cows and credit the same amount to your crop account.

A calculation, accurate enough for your purpose, can be made of the hay, or other fodder, consumed. Ensilage can be calculated by the number of feet in depth in the silo, and the ratio at which you are feeding it to all your stock. Similar accounts for beef cattle can be kept, except that the receipts will be for cattle marketed instead of for dairy produce. The cost of breeding animals, either pure bred or grade, will be entered in the same manner for both. They can be kept as cattle accounts, whether they be of the beef or dairy breeds.

If you are milking a number of cows and marketing a reasonable amount of cream and milk, it is well to keep a separate account for dairy produce. When dairying becomes an important part of your farm income it is necessary to keep a close accounting of this phase of your farming.

There need be no material difference in keeping the accounts of hogs and sheep. A reasonable record can be kept of the feed consumed. Pasture for sheep has frequently been calculated at 2c per day per animal. Sheep are hard on pasture, as they clip it closely, which has to be taken into account.

Pasture for hogs will be easily calculated by charging against them the value each acre of pasture would have produced if used that year for the growing of grain. This could be computed from the value of other grain crops grown that year.

The cost of feed for horses will be easily calculated, as their grain ration is usually measured in gallons, and you know each month how regularly you have been feeding grain.

Horses should be credited with from 80c to \$1.00 for each day work they perform on the land. If a careful account of the cost of keeping horses was recorded, it might lead to a reduction in the number kept on some farms. This might add to the profit of farming by the best and most effective method—reduction in costs.

If you have not been keeping farm accounts, begin the first year upon a cash basis. That is keeping a record of the cash paid out and the cash received. It might be well to undertake cost accounting on one or two lines, such as poultry and hogs or perhaps dairy cattle. Keep these cost accounts

in a separate book, and in your own way, until you work out some plan of computing costs for your farm.

AGRICULTURIST

NEWSY NOTES

BY AGRICOLA

A NATURALISTS CALENDAR.

April, "the month of smiles and tears," has varied weather as the record shows. The greatest trial is the prevalence of wind from the eastward, S. E. E. to N. N. E. The latter piles the iceberg on our North Shore and makes spring a somewhat cool and backward season. The barometer, often wildly rising and falling in March, now begins to straighten out its graph, a little. Though Spring is officially proclaimed on March 21st or thereabouts, another month passes before the ground is not frozen or nights, before the cool weather and even snow-furries end. There is still during certain well-defined years, abundance of auroral displays.

The Compton Butterfly (Vanessa) flying April 4, 1928.

Wintry as ever, snow 3 and 4 feet deep on the level, April 5, 1926.

Aurora attracts attention in the press, April 7, 1918; great spots on the sun previously.

Heat wave in U. S. A. April 7, 1928; warm here 65 deg. F. at 3 P. M. Frogs piping.

Wintry gale and snowstorm; no mail; April 8, 1936.

Ground hard frozen April 9, 1919; April 24, 1932. Partly frozen April 28, 1920.

Chipping Sparrow seen April 9, 1928. Common toad observed April 9, 1921.

Heron and many other birds observed, April 10, 1934.

Cold spell, 10 deg. above zero on night of April 11, 1926.

First ship into Charlottetown in 1920, on April 12.

Mayflower (Epigea) in bloom April 14, 1915. A very hardy evergreen plant with an irregular blooming period.

Fields white with snow from the N. E., April 15, 1919.

Garden Crocus (late varieties) in flower, April 17, 1917.

Mourning Cloak (Antique) butterfly observed, April 18, 1927.

Glory of the Snow (Chionodoxa) in bloom, April 19, 1920.

Great Snowstorms, as bad as any in the past winter, April 20, 1926.

Wind reported as 40 m. p. h., sometimes rising to 60 m. p. h.

Prillitary butterflies (Argynnis) flying April 20, 1927.

Wilson's Snipe drumming April 23, 1932.

The Church at Summerfield, Lot 67, destroyed by lightning, April 27, 1925.

Winter lingers in the lap of Spring; "still snowing," April 28, 1920. "Snow on the ground" April 29, 1919.

Sunrise and sunset, Lat. 46 deg. N; local time, April 1st, 5:41 a. m., 6:28 p. m. 6th, 5:32, 6:34, 11th, 5:22, 6:41, 16th, 5:13, 6:48, 21st, 5:04, 6:54, 26th, 4:56, 7:01. To reduce to standard Time add 11 minutes for Georgetown, 12 min. for Charlottetown and 16 for Tignish.

INDIAN FOOD PLANTS (3.)

The great and useful family of the Cruciferae furnish many vegetables to the early inhabitants. Species of Lepidium (Peppergrass) were eaten raw, with or without salt, as greens or the seeds were ground and made into bread, mush, or flavoring. Shepherd's Purse, an introduced weed, was eaten as a salad; its seeds used for pinole. The powdered root of the Sea Rocket was mixed into flour in the mustards of scarcity. Both the Black Mustard and wild turnip (Brassica campestris) were eaten as greens. The seeds of the Hedge Mustard (Sisymbrium) were parched, ground, and made into soup; and those of the flaxseed were ground for bread or mush. March Cress was used in the same fashion. The species of Bitter and Winter Cress were eaten as salads. With the single exception of the Water-cress, none of the above prove acceptable to modern tastes.

Skipping several families which do not figure in the Indians' bill of fare, we come to the family Saxifragaceae, or rather to that subdivision of it which some botanists name the Grossulariaceae. This comprises the gooseberries and currants. Our single species of gooseberry was eaten fresh or dried for winter. We have four species of currant, and the fruit of all were used, either eaten fresh, mixed with other berries and boiled, or preserved by drying.

All possible members of the family Rosaceae were eaten, though here again, some of the berries would not be acceptable to us. The fruit of the Chokeberry was used by the Indians of the North-eastern States in the preparation of pemmican. The fruit of both species of Mountain Ash were eaten fresh; I cannot find that any oermented drink was made from any rosaceous fruit. The Indian Pear (Amelanchier), known to botanists as the juneberry, was a great favorite as it is sweet and pleasant tasting. The "berries" (pomes) were eaten fresh or dried, made into paste and dried for winter use; boiled and eaten with meat; or used in making pemmican. In addition a tea-like drink was prepared from the dried leaves. The Hawthorns were utilized by pressing the berries, mixed with other fruit, into cakes and drying them for winter, or otherwise the berries were eaten fresh.

The Scarlet Strawberry was generally eaten fresh, but sometimes the Indians made jam for winter use, though it must have

been difficult to keep from spoiling. A tea was made from the leaves.

CARLING SUNDAY

A book, "English Calendar Customs" was published by the Folklore Society last year. The first of a series, it deals only with the movable festivals. "The fifth Sunday in Lent is called Carling, Carline, Carlin, Carle, or Care Sunday," says the author, and it is pointed out that "care" means "sorrow," in which sense it is used in "The Clerk's Tale" by Chaucer. I do not agree with this derivation, as nothing of "care" or "sorrow" was associated with Carling Sunday in the North of England. In Northumberland "on this day the time immemorial the custom has been observed of eating peas, which, after having been steeped overnight in water to soften them, are fried in butter and then salted or peppered, these peas, so prepared, are called carlings." Not any old kind of peas would do, however; the folk required a speckled brownish pea, which the merchants imported and stocked in quantity prior to the festival. Nor does the author mention, the rum which was always poured over the carlings as they came to table. A more indigestible dish could scarcely be found, but it was almost an article of faith that it should appear on the dinner table at that season, in the two northern counties.

The tradition not "from time immemorial" either is that during a famine a shipload of carlings came to the Quay (wharf) at Newcastle, and was commandeered by the Mayor, who in gratitude to Providence, ordained that the following Sunday should be kept as a festival with carlings as the chief dish on the table in memory of the relief from famine. The custom spread, but the folk of Lancashire showed their discretion by changing to "fig pie" on Carling Sunday.

In Lincolnshire, at Grantham, the Lent held on the Fifth Monday in Lent is called "Carling Fair" without doubt a corruption of Carling Fair.

"A LETTER FROM HOME."

Sometimes I get a letter from a distant relative who lives in New-castle-upon-Tyne; and this time I am going to give you my readers some extracts. I was slightly acquainted with the writer about half-century ago, when she worked in the Telegraph Office, in the days of the "single-needle telegraph," a modification, I believe, of the wheatstone instrument. A single pointer, resembling a compass needle, swung to left or right under an electric impulse from a distant station, and spelled the words out by the Morse Code. As typewriters had not yet come into general use, the telegraph operator watched the needle, and pencilled the words on a pad. Since the position was one of great responsibility, the operators were selected on an intelligence basis. On let us see what this correspondent has to say. (All matter in brackets is my own comment.)

"We have had quite good weather here for a few weeks, with the exception of a snowstorm about a fortnight ago, the only one this winter—it did not last long but was gone in a day or two. "Flu" has been very bad in the South of England and it seems to be spreading northward. It is not a very bad form of the disease this time though there have been some fatal cases.

"I dread you could see some account of Prince George's visit to the phenologist; it was in our papers as an ordinary piece of news and no importance was attached to it here, although the gossip that's arisen amuses us.

"We are all getting ready for a good time at the Coronation; everybody, rich and poor, seem to be doing their best to make it a big celebration. I believe the very poor get as much fun out of such events as anybody. The Silver Jubilee showed us that, some of the meanest and poorest streets in Newe had the best displays, and now they are raising funds amongst themselves and intend having a rare time.

"I hope your crops turn out well

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CONSERVATION

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

(Continued)

Mr. Poole's story is typical of what is happening in many sections of the country, as a result of the unwise killing of the large soaring Hawks and the common Owls. In fruit growing regions, orchard owners are suffering losses running into thousands of dollars in a single winter as a result of the girdling of fruit trees, by meadow and pine mice. Working under the cover of snow this damage goes undetected until spring thaws reveal the scarring or trunks. Although this barking of orchard trees and forest plantings, as in Mr. Poole's account, is the most conspicuous type of winter damage done by these rodents, it is equally in seriousness by the damage done to many species of native shrubs, vines and small trees. When it is realized that these plants

this year. We have a great "to-do" here with those Marketing Schemes—a farmer cannot call his soul his own—and of course the general public believes that it makes everything so much dearer.

(There you have the British reaction to anything which savors of compulsion. The Marketing Boards, Scheme as I see it, was a genuine effort to benefit the farmers by giving them a voice in the marketing of their hard-won products. Generally speaking they did not trouble to secure fitting representation on the Boards—with the usual result.)

"We pay for bacon about 25 cts per lb. (The Canadian money is my "translation") For Dutch butter 21 cts, it was as low as 17 cts. last summer, and good butter too. English Meat, Steak, 25 to 28 cts. lamb 30 cts. (Chilled New Zealand mutton used to be 12 cts., but was only in request amongst the poorer classes; the chilling made it rather objectionable.) A lot of cheaper beef comes into Britain from Argentina. Lipton's (of Yachting memory) used to put on a sale of bacon remnants every Saturday night at 12 cents, per lb. for which there was great demand among the manual workers.) Flour, the best, 56 cts. (That bothered me till I remembered that British housewives buy flour by the "stone" of 14 lbs. That would be \$3.92 for the 98 lb. bag! Lard is 21 cts. So personally I think living is cheap.

It is the rents or rather the rates, (Taxes) that are the bugbears. A lady whom I visit, lives with her daughter in a converted flat, fashionably called a "maisonette," and not at all as nice as a small new house. There are three rooms and a kitchenette, and for rent and rates it costs about 30 shillings per week. (That is \$7.50, so the maisonette costs \$30 per year! We don't know what taxation is!) "The radis is pretty good here. We do not allow advertising, as they do in the States; I don't know what is the custom in Canada. On the Sunday a broadcast from Luxemburg (West of Belgium) has advertising and we get part of that.

We get good value for our 10 shillings (2.50 a year). As I am almost "shut-in" now I may have a time wondering what I would have done had there been no listening in. I like talks, plays, light music, variety (that is, vaudeville) and last but not least, I enjoy listening to the Schools. (An eclectic taste! Well, we do get advertising, but I make that an occasion for pulling off the switch.)

"Now—"Agricola's" you seem satisfied with Canada, but honestly I think there is no place like England. We get weather that's neither too hot nor too cold, it is a comfortable place to live in. We can grow and call everyone of our politicians anything we like and nobody takes any notice. In some places we'd be shorter by a head for a lot less than what we say. (This is evidently an allusion to Germany where the axe is the ultimate argument.) I think our grumbling is a sort of safety valve, a kind of blowing off steam, so that when anything that really matters does occur, we are better able to deal with it calmly." (The rest of this letter would scarcely be showing "how the other half of the world lives," in part at least.)

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WILLARD BROWSE, Brackley, P. E. Island.

as it may from time to time, as a result of many possible causes.

The extent to which animals move varies greatly, but birds as a group represent the maximum of mobility and because of their ability to shift rapidly over long distances, they are outstandingly effective as controls on plant eating species that tend at times to assume the proportions of a plague. Certain examples of this sort are famous. The appearance of the tremendous flocks of Franklin's Gulls that wintered in Utah from early Mormon settlements in Utah grasshoppers, is now commemorated by a monument. The appearance of great numbers of not only Hawks and Owls, but Crows, Herons, Jays and shrikes, has invariably been noted at times of mouse or vole plagues both in America and Europe.

Legs well appreciated are the effects of the large concentrations of birds that regularly occur during the spring and fall migrations. The hordes of small Warblers reaching us from the south in the spring, just as the leaves are coming out on the trees, and the leaf-eating insects are appearing, aid greatly in reducing these insects to a point where there are not enough to do any serious damage to the tree during the summer.

The movement in the fall or northern Hemisphere to their wintering grounds, means that over most of the area where the danger of winter damage by meadow mice is greatest, these mice are normally subject to a heavy drain by Redtail, Rough-legs, Red-shouldered, Broad-winged and Marsh Hawks, just before the snows of winter fall. Following this destruction in numbers, the stores of winter food that are set aside by the larger meadow mouse population of the summer, are then available to carry the entire remaining population through the winter and none are forced to resort to largely as a means of avoiding starvation.

As Mr. Poole's account has shown, these migrating Hawks will interrupt their migration and stay on an area that has an excessive mouse population to the point where the area does not afford a more readily obtainable food supply than the surrounding territory. When this point is reached, the Hawks move on further south, unless winter is over by that time, in which case they return north to breed.

Herbert Stoddard of Thomastown, Georgia, the Quail expert, has similarly found that Marsh Hawks concentrate in the winters on areas where there are cotton rats; are found in places where cotton and eat them almost exclusively, to the great benefit of the Quail, as in the spring the cotton rat is a destroyer of Quail nests, being fond of eggs.

The story of the meadow mouse and the way it presence affects all other living things, plant and animal, that occur in the same surrounding territory, is just typical example of the complicated interrelationships that exist in the world of nature. These are gradually being unraveled by men known as ecologists, whose interest is in knowing how each living thing is affected by and affects the surroundings in which it lives, and the other living things that inhabit the same surroundings with it. Gradually these ecologists are learning that every native species fits into the great pattern of life. Each occupies a vital niche in the structure that supported the varied and abundant wild life that once inhabited this Continent. Unquestionably, this wild life would be more abundant today if man would only understand nature's mechanisms and instead of needlessly upsetting them, turn them to his own uses by allowing them to continue to maintain those natural checks and balances that we are finding so necessary to the healthy adjustment of the relative abundance of all species of living things.

—RICHARD H. POUGH, National Association of Audubon Societies.

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