A Page for the MODERN FARMER

- NEWSY NOTES -

By AGRICOLA

THE ENGLISH ROBIN

The Robin, or Redbreast, as the bird is very generally called in England, differs considerably from its Canadian namesake. All points of size, the redbreast is about the size of a common house sparrow, but is much "stockier" in build. The color—as we may take for granted—is much the same as that of the Canadian robin, but the red of the redbreast is inclined to crimson, while our robin tends to an orange-scarlet color.

The habits of the two birds are different, too; the redbreast from long association with mankind has become very confident, and I have known one of these trustful little birds to take a worm from the spade with which I was delving. The old legend, which claimed that the redbreast was given its crimson hue on the day of the Crucifixion, had invested the bird (especially in the minds of children) with an almost sacred character. A kind of protection was thus set up in olden times, to which the bird has learned to respond in various ways. It will come into the conservatory, or glasshouse, or may nest in the open shed, with equal nonchalance, and disregard of human occupants. Towards other birds it is inclined to be pugnacious.

The song of the redbreast is not loud, but it is continuous and sweet. Our robin has a song or phrase of about three notes, which is repeated over and over; not so the redbreast, which has a flowing song like a canary, but very weak. One habit it has which is much appreciated, it sings in the fall as readily as it does in the spring. Markwick, an English observer, notes that he heard the redbreast singing on January 6th and 31st, and again on October 6th. He names the bird "Sylvia rubecula."

There is a difference in the diet of the two "robins." The Canadian bird is an insect-eater in spring, though I have known it to eat the seed-leaves from off the germinating sunflowers; but it turns its attention to the earliest fruit available. Strawberries and cherries form part of its food and various wild berries, such as those of the rowan or mountain ash, sustain it till the cold weather forces it to migrate. The redbreast is what is termed a soft-billed bird and therefore lives on insects and not on grain or seeds; it haunts the house-door for crumbs in winter and frequents the outbuildings for the sake of picking up spiders and other insects.

In India there is another bird which has been named the "robin," since it also has a red breast; I am not able to say what specific group it belongs to.

Beliefs About Hair

Dr. D. A. Laird, formerly of Colgate University, has contributed an article of a rather unusual, but most informative character to an American magazine. It is on the subject of human hair, and debunks some of the beliefs still held by credulous individuals. Byron's "Prisoner of Chillon" complained, you may remember, that his hair grew white in a single night, from fear; but Dr. Laird points out that the hair already grown is lifeless and could not turn white no matter what happened. One is not likely to think that hair is lifeless till one reflects that a hair-cut is a painless operation! Of course, hair can and does turn white at the roots when the pigment-cells fail; and the white portion gradually works up as the colored portion is barbered off. But not in a single night!

Shakespeare's promise to make each particular hair to stand on end, like quills upon the fretful porcupine, is negatived for the good reason that humans have no machinery for hair-raising while some animals—cats, dogs and, we may include porcupines — have. The cat, for example has a small ring of involuntary muscle in the skin round the base of each hair. When the animal becomes angry, adrenalin is increased in its blood, and this adrenalin contracts the aforesaid muscles and points the hair skyward! Human beings can generate the adrenalin when they are angry or scared, but they have not got the muscles and so the hair stays put. It appears, from the article quoted, that static electricity can cause human hair "to stand on end," though the phenomenon is rare; the more common reason for the effect is the need of a good brush.

It is believed that hair will grow after death, and I've often heard and read of coffins being opened by accident or design, and the occupants found to be enveloped in hair which had grown since the bodies were interred. Sometimes, for the sake of artistic verisimilitude, we are further told that the hair fell to dust at a touch or a breath of air. Such a story is told of the wife of Dante Gabriel Rossetti. The poet himself placed some manuscript in her coffin before her interment, and was, after some years, persuaded to disinter it for publication. When the coffin was opened (says the story) it was found to be completely filled with the hair, which had grown after death. Dr. Laird thinks these stories may have originated from the fact that undertakers are sometimes obliged to shave men again, two or three days after death "so they will look right at the funeral." The hair, however has not grown again, the skin has shrunk and left the stubble sticking out. There is no truth in the Rossetti story or any like it.

Excessive hairiness of the limbs and chest are associated, in the popular view, with bodily strength, and masculine vigor. If this were exactly true the smallest monkey ought at least to be as strong as a man! But he isn't. On the other hand, I've known rustic mothers to cut their daughters' hair short, from a belief that long hair "sapped their strength," during illness or even adolescence.

Freak distributions of hair, such as a mane-like abundance on the back of the neck at birth, are "accidents of embryological development," and are not in the least due to pre-natal fright or other emotional disturbance; in fact, they are in the same class with hare lip, cleft palate, and birthmarks. Nor are such distributions hereditary. The only hereditary freak in this connection is the prominent grey streak present from birth, and subject to the Mendelian law, like eye-color, and some other features. One of my former companions had red hair and a white tuft above each ear; it was hereditary, but harmless—not a sign of any mental disturbance in his parents.

New Plant Recorded

On June 9th a plant which I had not seen before, was brought in for identification. It had been taken from a hayfield in this locality, and after some research I made it out to be the "Tumble Mustard"—Sisymbrium altissimum of Linnaeus. It was about two feet high, and sprang from a basal rosette of leaves which looked rather like those of the common dandelion, but of a paler green. The stem was smooth and rather shining, and the upper leaves were very much different from the lower ones, the midribs and leaflets being reduced to almost threadlike dimensions. The stem breaks into short branches near the top and each branch ends in a cluster of small, pale yellow, cruciate flowers. The great difference between the top and the bottom leaves, makes this plant easy to recognize.

The Tumble Mustard (says "Farm Weeds of Canada"—a Government publication) was introduced into the Prairie Provinces from Europe in 1887. From the Prairie regions it has spread eastward and "Britton" gives its range as Quebec. Now I am informed that "theres' lots" in the field whence my specimen came.

A single plant, the "Farm Weeds" tells us, may bear as many as 1-500,000 seeds. "When the seeds are ripe the whole head breaks off and is blown across the prairie, scattering the seeds far and wide." The pods are tough and don't shed the seeds easily; so that the head may blow about for weeks, dropping its seeds at intervals for miles.

Altogether the plant has a bad reputation: "enormously prolific, with great power to spread . . . . a coarse conspicuous plant and a gross feeder. The seeds give an objectionable flavor to ground grain, and farm stock, with the exception of sheep, refuse to eat it when it is present in any quantity."

The War

The war is dominating all thoughts just now, and it could scarcely be otherwise, for this is the crucial struggle between Christianity and the powers of darkness. If Germany wins, our world as we know it, will disappear in a night more profound than that of the dark ages. No dictator can be a Christian, for the two ideals are unalterably opposed. The Christian ideal is a peaceful world ruled by a God of justice and love; the dictator seizes power by force and preserves it by murder.

We have, too, often come short of our ideal, and too often have failed to recognize the mercies vouchsafed to us. There was ordered a National Day of Prayer, and almost immediately after came the miraculous delivery of 300,000 men from the death-trap in Flanders. Who had the glory? One heard of the efforts of the Navy and Air Force, but was there a National Thanksgiving? Our fathers of old carved round the walls of Ripon town hall the verse: "Except the Lord keep the city the wakeman waketh in vain." Let us not forget to give thanks, as well as to supplicate.

Tennyson once wrote: "God bless the narrow seas! I wish they were a whole Atlantic broad." The whole Atlantic broad has shrunk since then, and we are open to attack if the Allies go down. Our first line of defence is over there and Canada is wise in sending all the force she can muster to localize the conflict. I believe our friends to the south will yet come to see that it is better to fight in France than to have the desolation and misery which that unhappy country endures, brought home to us. Let us work, sacrifice, and above all, pray, till victory is ours. Lift up your hearts! "Here is the patience and faith of the saints."

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Field Corn

Every year on the majority of farms in Prince Edward Island there comes a season when the problem of providing succulent feed for the milk cows becomes a live issue. This usually occurs from the latter part of July to mid September and in some years up to the season when the animals are stabled overnight and often have to be fed roots that were grown to be stored for winter. In spring, when provision must be made to bridge the gap, there is an abundance of pasture and the shortage of the previous year is apt to be forgotten or neglected, in the rush of spring work. When pastures begin to get short, it is too late to do anything. Green oats or oates and peas may help some in the early part of the dry season, but this feed is at its best for only a short period, even if sown at different dates. Millet, soybeans and clover aftermath may be used to follow oats and peas. But, of all the crops grown to produce succulent green food, corn will produce the largest amount of feed with the least labor. This crop has not been grown to any extent in Prince Edward Island except in some districts.

In earlier years, varieties of corn suitable to the climate were not available; and many who attempted to grow corn were disappointed with the results, especially if the season was unfavorable. With the varieties obtainable at present, however, a good crop depends merely on choosing a suitable variety, providing good soil and knowing a little about the cultural requirements.

In deciding on a variety, there is a tendency to disregard maturity and to choose one that gives a very heavy green yield—a variety that requires a long season to mature—in preference to one that makes a shorter growth and will be well advanced towards maturity before killed by frost. The difference between two such varieties was shown clearly in an experiment conducted in Maine, in which Southern corn and Maine field corn were compared. The average crop of Southern corn gave a yield of approximately 17 tons per acre of which 3,250 lbs. were digestible dry matter. Maine field corn gave an average green yield of 11 tons per acre of which 3,075 lbs. were digestible matter. In other words, when growing Southern Corn in preference to Maine corn, approximately 6 tons more weight had to be handled in order to gain 175 lbs. more digestible food material per acre. Other investigators have found that a crop of corn which yielded 16 tons per acre, when cut in the stage where the kernels were glazed but not ripe, contained 302 lbs. crude protein and 3,240 lbs. of starch, sugar, etc. Had it been cut when tasselled, but with no silks showing, it would have contained 139 lbs. of crude protein and 650 lbs. starch, sugar, etc. That is, in a period of 35 or 40 days, the yield of crude protein more than doubled and starches, sugars, etc. increased to 5 times their weight at the tasselling stage. In the glazed stage every 100 lbs. of green material contained 23 lbs. of dry matter, the remainder being water, while in the tasselled stage, there were only 9 lbs. of dry matter per hundred pounds of green weight. These points serve to show the importance of choosing a variety that will be matured to the glazed stage when the largest proportion of the crop is cut for feed. It also shows the loss incurred when corn is cut and fed before it has reached even the tasselling stage. Of the standard varieties available, an early strain of Longfellow will probably give the best results; but in recent years, desirable strains of hybrid corn have been developed.

Broadly speaking hybrid corn is the seed produced when two inbred strains are crossed for the first time. As a result of this crossing, the hybrid may posses the desirable qualities of both parents. Many are not as good as the standard sorts commonly grown. For that reason, before choosing a hybrid corn in preference to a standard variety, such as Longfellow, Compton's Early, and several others, it is advisable to have some assurance that the hybrid chosen has been tested in Prince Edward Island and that the seed originates year after year from a reliable source.

In tests conducted at the Experimental Station, Charlottetown, two hybrids have proved to be superior to Longfellow and other early maturing varieties. The former appeared to best suited to Prince Edward Island conditions but as Algonquin is more suitable for Eastern Quebec, the demand for Iroquois was small and seed of Iroquois is not now produced on a commercial scale. After choosing a hybrid for the main crop, it is often advisable to try a few rows of one or more hybrids, recommended by reliable seedsmen and in this way keep up-to-date as improved crosses become available.

Corn is a heavy feeder and requires fertile land for a good crop. Heavy yields may be obtained with manure alone or with manure and commercial fertilizer, a 4-8-10 mixture being recommended for light soils and a 2-12-6 for heavy soils. Good results have also been obtained by planting in a clean sod which had been manured in fall and ploughed in spring shortly before planting the corn.

The seed should be sown 1 inch to 1 1-2 inches deep after being treated with a commercial preparation as a protection against crows and grackles. Deeper seeding may cause poor germination if followed by cold, backward weather. Fifteen pounds of seed per acre is sufficient to give a good stand of small-seeded hybrid corn. Best results follow thinning so as to have the plants standing 8 to 10 inches apart in the row with rows about 40 inches apart. This open stand favors the development of ears.

It pays to give frequent, shallow cultivation from the time the plants show in rows till cultivation is no longer possible. Deep, close stirring of the land may do more harm than good by distributing the roots of the plants.

The Superintendent of the Experimental Station, Charlottetown, will be pleased to forward on request, any further information available. Experimental Station, Charlottetown

Minard's kills pain.

Combine - Harvesters In Eastern Canada

(Experimental Farms News)

In 1939 over 400 combine-harvesters were in use in Eastern Canada. A survey conducted by the Field Husbandry Division at Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, covering 32 per cent of these harvesters, shows that over 90 per cent of those reporting are satisfied with the combine method of harvesting.

The outstanding advantages of the combine method are a reduction in labor required at harvest time and a saving in cost when the harvester is used on sufficient acreage per year. It is estimated that about 12 acres per foot of cut of the harvester are required to justify the purchase of a combine on any farm with a tractor or sufficient work for a tractor.

The chief disadvantage of the combine method is that crops must be left till ripe or sufficiently dry to keep in storage before being harvested and that during the ripening period damage may occur from lodging, weed growth, wind or hail. Three years' experience has shown that on the average the loss from weather is small, states J. M. Armstrong Field Husbandry Division. However, there have been instances in which this natural loss was excessive. On the average, losses due to the operating mechanism of the combine have not been excessive and for certain crops the loss with the combine is normally less than with ordinary methods of handling. Weedy or hilly conditions will increase machine losses.

Most combine operators are satisfied to handle straw from the combine in a manner similar to hay, with dump or side rake, loader and slings or a cutting box. The majority of operators reported no heating or difficulty in selling combined crops. A few reported heating where a crop was cut to early, too soon after a rain, or heavily infested with green weed seeds.

A few owners expressed the opinion that the combine was not satisfactory for custom work or that custom work would reduce the efficiency of the combine due to owners endeavoring to harvest too large an acreage. However, a large number of operators were most favorably inclined to custom work. A report on the combine-harvester in Eastern Canada will be available shortly from the field Husbandry Division, Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa.

Culture of Onions

(Experimental Farms News)

When the season is suitable, onions will do well on any land that has been well prepared, states J. Gallaher, Head Gardener, Dominion Experimental Station, Kentville, N. S. The ideal land is a light sandy loam, enriched by ploughing well-rotted manure into the land during the fall. Unlike most vegetables, onions will do well on the same land for several years.

As soon as the land is fit it should be disked, and cultivated until broken up and made fine. Then a dressing of 5-10-5 at the rate of 800 to 1200 pounds per acre, broadcast should be applied and the land cultivated to a depth of about four inches and level with a leveller or Cultipacker.

Just as soon as this is done, the seed may be sown thinly and lightly covered in rows 12 to 14 inches apart. When ready the plants should be thinned to about two to three inches apart, keeping the surface loose by cultivating often with a hand cultivator or Dutch hoe. As the roots are always near the surface, the cultivating should be shallow.

Early Yellow Globe, Danvers Yellow Globe and Cranston Excelsior are suitable varieties for most districts. When sown in the field early in May the crop should be ready to harvest towards the end of September. A good average yield is 20,000 to 30,000 pounds per acre.

When the bulbs have attained marketable size, whether tops are green or not, the plants should be pulled and spread between the rows to dry; later cutting off the tops and roots and storing in a cool dry place for winter. A good storage temperature is 35 degrees to 38 degrees as long as they are well dried.

For the early market in July and August, good yields can be obtained from onion sets. These should be planted at the same time as seed is sown in the field, in rows one foot apart and three inches apart in the row. The sets should be grown the previous year by sowing seed very thickly in rows and ripening the bulbs when they attain a size of about one inch in diameter. When well ripened select a bright sunny day, harvest the crop and store in a cool, dry place until the following May. Ebenezer is a good variety for this purpose.

CONSIDER AGE IN YOUR YOUTH

"The time to worry about looking old is when you're still young," says Jean Dickenson, pretty little soprano of opera.

"I believe thoroughly in that old saying about an ounce of prevention being worth a pound of cure", Miss Dickenson continues. "It certainly is easier and pleasanter to ward off lines around the eyes and the faded skin tones of middle age than to eliminate them once they have made an appearance."

Miss Dickenson thinks that the best preventive for sagging contours is exercise—facial exercise as part of a regular daily routine.

"If you didn't use your leg muscles, they would shrivel," the singer star goes on. If you never do anything to keep muscles of the face and throat firm, they, too, will shrivel and become flabby".

Here are directions for one of Jean Dickenson's favourite facial exercises: (She covers her face with cream before she begins.)

Keeping lips parted slightly in a half-smile, twist your mouth slowly upward as far to the right as possible. Repeat five times with each corner.

'Afterward," the opera singer continues, "put two sticks of gum in your mouth and chew in exaggerated fashion. Twist your mouth this way and that. Really give your jaws a workout. Chewing is particularly useful in warding off downsloping lines from nose to corners of the mouth."

HAPPIER HUNTING

OTTAWA, — (CP) —Through careful observation, the muskrat population of northern Manitoba rose from 500 to 200,000 in five years, and 126,000 were trapped this spring. The conservation was planned to give Indians better hunting.

WEEKLY LIVESTOCK MARKET REPORT

Ottawa, June 6

SUMMARY

Average cattle prices moved to substantially higher levels during the past week and reached the highest point attained in upwards of three years. The trade staged what was perhaps the best performance of this year and price advances amounted to 25c to 50c and even more in some cases, despite a falling off in shipments to the United States. The calf market was variable, and while gains were made in one or two instances, the losses at other centres more than counteracted these. With heavier supplies of spring lambs coming forward, one or two of the western markets showed declines in prices but otherwise the trade held steady. Hogs continued at the same levels which had prevailed for a number of weeks past.

Eastern Cattle Markets

A normal run of cattle was readily cleared at TORONTO at an advance of 35c to 50c under a keen demand. Weighty steers closed as high as $8.85 and butcher steers and heifers sold between $7 and $8.25, with a few light steers making as high as $8.50. Trade was active at MONTREAL with prices 25c to 50c above last week and good steers were quoted at $8.25 to $8.75, good heifers up to $7.50, and good cows from $6 to $6.50. In line with other markets trade in the MARITIMES advanced 50c and good to choice steers were rated at $7.50 to $8.

Western Cattle Markets

The trade at WINNIPEG showed real improvement and most killing classes were close to 50c higher, with some transactions uncovering a larger upturn. The improved position of Eastern markets was reflected in the trade in the west and was responsible in large part, for the higher prices as southern demand for fat cattle was practically out of the picture. Best weighty steers sold at Winnipeg on eastern account at $8 to $8.25 and other steers of mixed weights were in demand at $7 to $8. All stocker cattle were in strong demand with good steers making $6 to $6.25. CALGARY was active and 25c stronger on grain-feds, good to choice butcher steers making $7 to $7.50 and some tops $7.75. EDMONTON was also brisk with steers going up to $7.75 and an odd $8. Elsewhere in the west the trade was strong with price advances ranging from 25c to as much as 75c PRINCE ALBERT had some choice steers up to $7, while MOOSE JAW paid as high as $7.25 toward the close and REGINA up to $7. Dry fed steers at SASKATOON sold up to $7.50 and $7.85 for a few. VANCOUVER had some good steers at $7.35.

United States Market

The Buffalo market was considered from steady to 25c higher. The substantial gain made on steers at Toronto, however, made the latter market look somewhat better than Buffalo. Canadian steers sold off cars at Buffalo at $8.65 to $10.50 while fed and watered sales were at $8 to $9.75, with the bulk from $8.75 to $9.25. The only recent quotation received from St. Paul was on common to medium Canadian bulls from $5.50 to $6.50.

Exports to the United States during the past week totalled 1,718 beef cattle, 357 dairy, and 4,311 calves. Shipments from January 1st to June 6th, inclusive, were 53,706 beef, 4,545 dairy, and 32,050 calves compared with 87,918 beef, 4,945 dairy, and 38,753 calves in the same period last year. Exports of beef cattle from April 1st to June 6th, under the second quarterly quota, were 34,351, as against 50,443 in the same time last year.

Calf Prices Mostly Lower

Calf prices showed declines at most markets and the fact that fairly liberal numbers were taken for export was credited with preventing even further declines. Toronto opened steady up to $10.50 for choice veals, but closed with a general top of $9 and a few at $9.50. Montreal, on the other hand, made a gain of 25c to 50c and good veals closed at $7.50, with a top of $8.50. Winnipeg also developed a lower tendency and the bulk of the handyweight vealers sold at $7.50 and below with some choice up to $8. Top veals at Calgary, Moose Jaw, Saskatoon and Regina made $8, Edmonton $8.50 and Prince Albert and Vancouver $7.

Hog Market Continues Unchanged

Hogs remained at the same price levels which have been in effect for a number of weeks past. Toronto paid $8.25 for bacons off trucks and $11 dressed, while Montreal was firm with bacons at $8.50 to $8.60 f. & w., and $11.30 dressed. The basic price at Winniueg held at $7.75 f. & w., and $10.35 dressed. Calgary and Edmonton paid $7.25 for bacons off trucks, Prince Albert and Saskatoon $7.35 and Moose Jaw and Regina $7.50. Some slaughter hogs were sold at Vancouver at $7.90.

Lambs Steady to Lower

Eastern lamb markets were steady to firm with Toronto paying $13.50 to $13.75 for choice spring lambs and Montreal from $4 to $9 each for spring lambs. Some of the latter were sold on a weight basis at Montreal at $13 per cwt. Winnipeg however, declined about $2, good spring lambs selling down to $10. Calgary also closed lower at $9.50 to $10 for spring lambs. Edmonton quoted $11.50 down and Prince Albert had a few up to $10.50. The best of the offering at Regina sold at $10 to $10.50 and Saskatoon had some sales up to $11. Vancouver paid $11 to $12 for good spring lambs.

CATTLE MARKETS

TORONTO cleared an offering of 5,275 cattle at an advance of 35c to 50c. All grades were in keen demand and weighty steers closed at a top of $8.85 for choice with others from $8.75 down to $7.50. Butcher steers and heifers made $7 to $8.25 and a few $8.50. Butcher cows closed at $5 to $6.50 and canners and cutters mostly $3.75 to $4.75. Fed calves ranged between $7.75 and $9 according to quality. Bologna bulls sold around $5 and light butchers up to $6.50. Some western stockers in the 300 lb. to 700 lb. class sold from $6.40 to $7.35. Milkers and springers continued steady at $50 to $75, with a few tops up to $80 each.

MONTREAL had 1,311 cattle on an active market and with prices 25c to 50c higher. All grades were fairly well represented and good steers rated $8.25 to $8.75, fairly good kinds around $8 and common down to $6. Good heifers brought $7 to $7.50 and others ranged down as low as $4.50. Good cows were $6 to $6.50, mediums $5 to $5.75, common butchers $4.25 to $5, and canners and cutters $3 to $4. Bulls made $4 to $6. Milkers ranged from $60 to $90 each, a little stronger than last week.

MARITIMES —Prices advanced 50c on short receipts and good to choice steers were quoted at $7.50 to $8, medium to good $6.50 to $7.25 and common down to $5. Heifers were 25c below steer prices and butcher cows $4.50 to $5.50, with canners and cutters making $2.75 to $3.50.

Calf Markets

TORONTO calves declined to a general top of $9, with a few $9.50, while common to medium closed at $5.50 to $8. Early tops were at $10 to $10.50.

MONTREAL calves gained 25c to 50c, good veals closing at $7.50, tops up to $8.50, mediums around $7 and common down to $6. Other mixed lots made $4.75 to $5.25.

The Dominion hog run was 5,477 compared with 49,339 in the same week last year. Totals to date: this year, 2,084,722; last year, 1,426,864

TORONTO bacons steady at $8.25 of trucks and $11 dressed.

Closing prices for direct deliveries to packing plants at HAMILTON were $11 for the basic grade dressed delivered; and MONCTON $11 delivered.

MONTREAL bacons firm at $8.50 to $8.60 f. & w., $8.75 off trucks, and $11.30 dressed. Feeder hogs ranged from $8.50 to $10.

SHEEP AND LAMB MARKETS

TORONTO spring lambs made $13.50 to $13.75 for choice and $10 to $11 for culls. Sheep made $2.50 for culls, up to $5 for good lights, and a few $5.50.

MONTREAL sold spring lambs at $4 to $9 each or at $13 per cwt., with common at $10 per cwt. Sheep were $4 to $6.

EXPORTS OF BACON & HAMS TO UNITED KINGDOM

Weight of Wiltshires and cuts leaving packing plants for export, week ending May 3st, 1940, 3,815,080 lbs.

WAY CLEARED FOR FIGHT

NEW YORK, June 13—(AP)—The way was cleared today for the 12-round fight between Lew Jenkins and Henry Armstrong by the New York State Athletic Commission, which ruled Jenkins need not keep another appointment before meeting the welterweight king at the Polo Grounds July 17.

TIRED FEET

FIND INSTANT EASE WHEN YOU RUB

MINARD'S

GREAT CANADIAN RUBBING LINIMENT

MINARD'S "KING OF PAINS" LINIMENT

Took The Starch Out of Potatoes

It's okay girls—now you can eat potatoes without gaining weight. Thank George H. Chisholm, horticulturist on the estate of the late Samuel Untermeyer at Yonkers, N. Y. By grafting tomato plants onto ordinary Irish spuds, he produced a starchless potato. Above, he points to his new hybrid, which he calls "topato."

- CONSERVATION -

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

FIFTY YEARS FROM NOW

There is no need to take a gloomy view of the rapidly disappearing forests and wheat lands in Canada.

The present policy of wasteful, extravagant exploitation must cease with the scarcity of available uncut timber and raw wheat land, although we hope for a policy of sensible conservation before that extremity is reached.

Sweden solved a similar forestry condition by a policy of re-forestration and conservation which has become a standard of the other countries of the world, producing annually increasing amounts of timber together with a most valuable annual income from logging.

Land adjoining cropped-out machine farmed wheat land has by modern farming produced more wheat and of a better quality on forty acres than had been secured per square mile by the extravagant method of cropping out and abandoning the land to the weeds and dust to move elsewhere to repeat the process.

The average population per square mile in the three western wheat raising provinces is only two persons. Compare this with the mixed farming area of Prince Edward Island which supports 4,728 persons per square mile.

How long will this machine wheat farming continue when we have the only thinly settled area in the Temperate Zone suitable for settlement by the surplus population of overcrowded Europe where, in some agricultural countries, as many as 697 persons per square mile must find subsistence either directly from the land or from their income through manufacturing industries of various kinds?

The success of any large scale improvement plan of a permanent nature depends upon transportation, which has been called the foundation of civilization, and upon water, without which all life must cease.

We have in the Fort MacMurray tar sands and its numerous outcrops ample material to provide a splendid and lasting hard surface on all the highways in Canada.

Every few years we spend on the up-keep of our dirt and loose gravel highways the cost of constructing this permanent type of highway, but all we have to show for the millions of dollars which we have spent on them is the same inferior dust and gravel roads, together with the high annual expense of up-keep which will go on forever. Surely this is not a desirable condition when the better, all weather highways would provide such a saving not only of up-keep but in car mileage, durability and operating cost.

Water is a definite problem. Owing to the destruction of so much of our one time vast forest land for grain growing, the moss and undergrowth that formerly prevented a rapid run-off each spring has disappeared. The result of this is flood water in early summer and low river water with many dried-up streams and sloughs in the late summer and fall.

Fifty years ago, summer showers came to the prairies with the west and north winds which brought the moisture which was slowly evaporating from the shaded moss and underbrush of our western and northern forests. These showers are now replaced by hot, dust-laden winds.

There are, in Western Canada, numerous irrigation schemes but unfortunately a large amount of the annual flood water is allowed to escape.

It is difficult to grow wheat on irrigated land in any large quantities. The cost of irrigation water almost makes it imperative to carry on mixed farming. This mixed farming can only be profitable if a ready market is provided for all the farmer's produce. If it is necessary to ship this produce to large centres for sale in competition with produce to large centres for sale in competition with produce grown over large areas, the difficulty of profitable operation is obvious. But this situation would be, in a very large measure, solved if the farmers' market could be brought almost to his doors in the cars of the automobile tourist driving over modern hard-surfaced highways. A similar situation in the State of Minnesota to that existing in Western Canada today, has now become completely changed through a modern arterial highway system, to such an extent that American tourists from the Southern States desiring to escape the heat of their summer days and particularly the hot, murky, sleepless nights are not content to merely tour through Minnesota; they desire to spend much of their summer there. This situation has led to the erection of summer cottages on a great many of the farms in that State. The result being that the tenants of these cottages provide the farmer not only with a very desirable rent income but also form a ready cash market for the butter, eggs, poultry, fruit, vegetables and various other products of his mixed farming industry, while these splendid modern highways enable him to take his surplus cheaply and quickly to the larger centres of population.

The Prairie Provinces have delightfully diversified scenery, a magnificent climate, an invigorating atmosphere with cool restful nights and almost entire freedom from those venomous reptiles and insects which make life miserable for residents in less favoured districts in America. At the present time, our highways are far from the standard expected by the American tourists, who won more than twenty-seven million passenger automobiles, most of which are used during the summer months to take the owners on a holiday of varying distances from the owner's home.

There is always an allure in travel in some country other than one's own. What could be more desirable than an enjoyable tourist holiday in Canada, where the language spoken is the same as that in the United States, but where there is so much of interest that may be seen, to say nothing of a magnificent system of National Parks having a combined area in Western Canada of over twelve thousand square miles. In these parks the tourist or summer visitor may find any recreation which he desires, from mountain climbing and strenuous exercise in the mountain parks to fishing, canoeing, camping at Prince Albert National Park or exploring the one time canoe highways of the famous fur traders of bygone days.

We have, through this means, a ready market for everything that can be produced by mixed farming. All that is necessary is modern arterial highways and a comprehensive plan to make the water of the various crystal clear streams coming from the mountain fastnesses available to the residents of these farms. Irrigation will, of course, do much. Some areas, however, are not suitable for regular irrigation, but into these waters may be carried in permanent streams for stock watering purposes, along the shores of which deep-rooted grasses may be seeded which will rapidly extend outward from either side of these artificial streams, providing both stock feed and water so that almost all of the now very thinly populated land in Western Canada may be utilized in some useful way.

Canadians who do not live on the prairies do not realize how much the difficulties of the people of Western Canada effect them. They do not consider how many people in Canada are living in the industrial centres, and dependent for their income on the local manufacturer being able to find a profitable market for his products. In the past, the prairie provinces have provided that market. Tha condition can only continue as long as profitable stock raising, grain growing and lumbering can continue.

Visualize the future!

..Will Canada consist of a prosperous agricultural and wood producing West and an industrious manufacturing East or will we have a prairie Sahara pouring black dust into the thinly populated surrounding areas.

What has taken fifty years to destroy cannot be replaced over night, but an early and farsighted policy of conservation will make Canada a greater and better country fifty years from now.

CROP REPORT

WINNIPEG, Man., June 14 — Variable temperatures and widespread rainfall prevailed over the western Provinces during the past week. Continued improvement in crop conditions has resulted and few points now report unsufficient moisture for immediate needs. Grasshoppers are showing up in significant numbers at some points in southern Manitoba and southern Saskatchewan, chief damage occurring to stubbled-in crop according to the weekly crop report of the Department of Agriculture Canadian National Railways.

EIRE'S OLDEST 105

ERILL, Eire —(CP) — Believed to be the oldest woman in Eire, Mrs. K. Wynne of this County birthday.

GAY'S PLANTS

For more than fifty years our plants have been distributed throughout the Island and Maritimes, and we have always planted the best seeds procurable.

The following annual bedding plants at 20c per doz.

Petunias, all colors, mixture, Flaming velvet, Enchantress mixture, Rosy Morn, Blue Wonder, Dwarf Errect, etc. Asters, Phlox, Stocks, Verbenas, Portulaca, Zinnia, Giant Dahlia flowering, Snapdragon, Kochia, Cosmos, Corn Flower, Salvia Scarlet and Blue, Larkspur Argeratum, blue and white, Lupins, Marigold, African, tall and dwarf, Signet Dwarf and Sunrise Marigold, Alyssum, Chrysanthmum, Verginia Stock. For edging Lobelia white and blue, Lobelia Tenuir, Viscaria, Gamolespis and very dwarf Marigold, Alyssum, white and Lilac color. Seedling pansy and Carnation 40c doz.

Our all double Petunia seed cost at the rate of $416.00 per oz. at 50c per doz. and Ruffled and fringed Petunias cost $48.00 per oz at 25c doz. The all double petunias make grand pot plants to carry over the winter.

Perrenials and Biennials:—Pansy and English Daisy (in bloom) 10c each, $1.00 per doz. Hollyhocks and Delphinium Larkspur 20c each, $1.00 for 6, $1.75 per doz. Digitalis or Fox Glove, Sweet William, Shastas Daisy, etc. 15c each, $1.20 per doz

Vegetable Plants:—Extra early Cabbage, Cauliflower and Celery $1.40 per 100, 20c per doz. Extra early Tomato (will produce lots of ripe tomato 40c per doz. Late tomato 30c doz. Cucumber, Lettuce and Peppers 25c doz. Late Cabbage and Cauliflower not ready before 15th June. Cabbage 30c per 100 Cauliflower 20c doz. 75c per 100, if by mail add 10c per 100 for postage

Carter & Co Seedsmen have our plants for sale and we deliver plants to them daily.

We are always pleased to have our customers call at our garden and personally select their requirements. If you bring flat boxes we can give you better service, and we also make a substantial discount on large orders. All orders for mailing or express must be accompanied by cash, money order or check with bank commission. Please write very plainly full address and sign your name.

J. J. GAY & SON
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