

FOR FARMERS, STOCK BREEDERS AND GARDNERS

NEWSY NOTES

BY AGRICOLA

EQUATION OF TIME

On February 12th the difference between the apparent solar day and the mean solar day is 14 minutes, 24 seconds. This statement requires some explanation, and it will make the explanation easier, and suit our purpose better if we adopt the ideas of the ancients (of which our censures afford an apparent proof) and consider the earth as fixed. So the sun seems to rise, travels higher and higher into the sky, "souths" (that is, reaches its highest altitude), sinks, and sets. The interval of time between two consecutive "southings" is known as the apparent solar day. For reasons which we need not consider here, the apparent solar day is sometimes longer, sometimes shorter, if measured by clock-seconds; and as it varies from day to day it is not regarded as a convenient unit of time.

If, however, the lengths of all the apparent solar days in the year be added together we obtain an interval of time which is always the same. Or we may take it another way, thus: the length of the year as measured by the sun, divided by the number of days in the year, will give an interval of time which is always the same. Such an average interval is called the mean solar day.

A clock is a machine so constructed as to mark uniform time in such a fashion that the length of the clock-day must be the average of all the solar days in the year. Clock time then is the same as mean time.

As the sun-dial depends on the apparent progress of the sun across the heavens, its time will partake of the irregularities of the "apparent solar day." On Feb. 12th, then, when the clock strikes 12 noon, the sun-dial will read 11 hours, 45 minutes, 34 seconds. The sun is slow.

This is not the greatest difference in the course of the year. On November 4th the sun is fast 16 minutes, 22 seconds. It must be borne in mind that these differences are gradual accumulations, and that four times in the year (April 16, June 15, Sept. 1 and Dec. 25) the clock and the sundial agree. All these figures vary—though very slightly—from year to year.

There is another kind of time, sidereal (or star) time. Very little observation will show that the fixed stars also rise, "south," and set. It will be found that the time which elapses between two successive southings of any star at any time of the year is always the same. This invariable interval constitutes the sidereal day.

CANDLEMAS DAY

The amount of weather wisdom which has gathered round Candlemas Day (Feb. 2nd) is surprising; there being more proverbs (in the Old Country) relating to this festival than to any other day in the whole year. Owing to the alteration of the style (that is, the reformation of the calendar), the interpretation of some of this wisdom is uncertain. The old "County Almanack" of 1676 says: "Foul weather is no news; Hall, rain and snow, Are now expected, and Esteemed no woe. Nay, 'tis an omen bad, The second day." If Phoebus shows his face The second day.

Which is to say that if the sun shines on the second day of February, old style, (our present 14th), it is a bad sign. The stormier the day the better for the farmer. We must always bear in mind, when considering old weather lore, that the British Parliament enacted that the day following the 2nd of September, 1752, should be accounted

the 14th of that month, and all subsequent dates put forward in accordance.

Here are a few sayings not bound up to any date: "All the months in the year Course a fair Februer."

"If February gives much snow A fine summer it doth foreshadow." And one of my earliest recollections is:

"February fill dyke, be it black or be it white; But if it be white it's better to like."

Meaning that it is better to see the ditches (dykes) filled with snow than with rain. But weather prophets often disagree, as we see by the following rhyme:

"Well, Duncombe, how will be the weather? Sir, it looks cloudy altogether, And coming across Houghton Green I stopped and talked with old Bill Swaine:

Whilst we stood there, sir, old Jan Went by and said he knew 'twould rain;

The next that came was gaffer Tunt, And he declared he knew it wouldn't;

And then I met with Farmer Blow, He plainly said he didn't know; So, sir, when doctors disagree, Who's to decide it—you or me?"

FARM NAMES

It is an evidence of growing taste (to use that word in the intellectual sense) when we find that the farms of Canada are acquiring individual names, usually indicating elegance and character. The writer once lived in a farmhouse known as Maple Vale, which was a very picturesque place, and it is said that there are a few other farms in the province which are distinguished by names, though not as many as there should be. In the Old Country the custom is universal, but the names are not always in good taste. This might happen if the farm had been named in Old English or even in Anglo-Saxon times, when the language was uncouth; or in more recent times if the proprietor had no appropriate sense of artistic elegance. The writer's ancestors had lived for several generations on a farm called Stab House, so called in early English times from some stumps which must have been a prominent feature where the house was built. Not far away was Carmyers, which does not sound so objectionable, though it might be translated as Muddy-swamp farm! One might suppose that Unthank Farm was not all that it should have been, but the name in mediaeval times only meant that the tenant, for some reason, took the land without paying rent or giving service.

Newbigen and Botel were common farm-names, the former meaning "new building" and the latter coming from Botel, Anglo-Saxon for a house. "Shields" or "Shield" is also common and might be rendered cabin or shack, not altogether an attractive name for a farm. But the farmer's imagination was not working well when he named his farm Sebastopol! Other curiosities—monstrosities if you like it better—are to be found in the names Glororum, Whagot, Dinety, Thunderrod, Sproats, Yont-the-Cleugh, Dyrah, Selah, Clickem-in Spartyles and Noah's Ark! These all have a meaning and doubtless sounded all right in the good old times, but they are now considered "horrible examples" of what to avoid. A pretty, descriptive name is now looked upon as a sort of intangible asset to a farm, and is of some importance when advertising its products.

ODDS AND ENDS

Degenerated organs—Mankind is as it were, in part, a museum of degenerated organs which have outlived their usefulness. The vermiform appendix is one which will spring to mind first; it has for long been a source of trouble. Some other relics of our remote ancestors have a more amusing side. One of my schoolmates used to excite the envy of his associates by "wagging" his ears; it is possible that the power to do this is commoner than we suppose. We all, I think, possess the muscles underlying the ears but generally they are atrophied from ages of disuse. Another classmate had a singular ability of drawing down his scalp till the edge of his hair almost touched his eyebrows. It gave him a fiendish kind of look. I have seen a monkey contort its face in the same fashion when teased. I had almost forgotten to mention that many persons have a decided point or projection on the upper rim of the ear, which naturalists call the "Darwinian tubercle," and which is supposed to have come down from the time when primitive man was more or less "prick-eared." Two or three of my school mates were able to "dislocate" their thumbs; the digits in question were made to take on an angular, broken-backed form. This feat, as far as one could judge, had nothing to do with any vestigial remains.

Crescoted fence-posts—A neighbor in talking over last week's "Note" on preserving fence posts, asked for details of the crescote system. I was able to give him some information derived from experiments conducted in the U. S. A. It was found that posts of any kind of wood treated with crescote at a cost of 5 cents per post, lasted 20 years. The cost of cutting and setting posts is the same no matter whether they are cedar, "jump-er" (larch) or spruce, so after all their real cost will depend on their durability when set in the ground.

Protecting The Fruit Trees

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(Experimental Farms Note)

Although the advice to protect fruit trees from mice and rabbits during the winter months has often been given by the Experimental Farm, Ottawa, to those having young trees, the warning cannot be given too often that if trees are left unprotected one may find his trees girdled in the spring and injured beyond recovery, or else so much injured that they have received a severe setback. One should consider protection from mice and rabbits as an insurance, and not neglect taking the proper precaution to prevent injury which may occur any winter.

The mice usually work along the surface of the soil, under the snow, if there is any, and attack the bark of the tree close to the ground. The rabbits on the other hand, work on top of the snow and it can be readily seen that, if the snow is two feet or more deep, there should be enough of the tree protected above the snow that the rabbits cannot reach the unprotected parts. Little or no injury has been experienced at Ottawa where the trees are protected regularly.

The trees may be protected with newspapers, white building paper or with wire protectors. The advantage of the first is that it is the cheapest, but it is good for only one winter. The advantage of the wire protector is that it will last for several years if it is painted or galvanized, but it is the most expensive method at first. Whatever protection is used, it should be brought close to the ground with, preferably, a little soil thrown up around the base to prevent mice getting under. If rabbits are not troublesome the paper or wire need not be more than eighteen inches in height, but where there are rabbits, three feet is none too high. If one fails to put the protectors around, the next best plan is to tramp snow around the base of the tree after the first good snowstorm, which will do much to keep the mice away from the tree. Some cow manure put around the base just before winter will, when frozen, help to keep them away, but it is best to give protection shortly before winter.

Many preparations to be put on the trees to keep off rabbits have been tried, but most of these are not sufficiently durable to last the winter. The most promising one that is known is the following:

Repellant for rabbits: Take one quart of linned oil (either boiled or raw) and heat it to 470 degrees F. outdoors where no fires will be started by accident, because the oil may foam over. Use a container five times as large as the volume of oil. Use a thermometer to determine temperature. When 470 degrees is reached set the container away from the fire and immediately add flowers of sulphur while the oil is very hot. Add the sulphur a teaspoonful at a time and stir the oil thoroughly after each teaspoonful. Add three ounces of the sulphur to each quart of oil. After the sulphur has all been added the liquid should be black and thick. Avoid getting it on the clothing because of the smell, which is persistent. It can be washed off the hands with soap and water or dissolved by gasoline.

This thick sulfonated oil is about the right consistency to paint on tree trunks. Paint the trunk liberally to about two feet above the snow line. The trunks should be dry when the oil is applied. This should stay on all winter, but a second painting towards spring may be desirable.

On the other hand a British farm paper points out a remarkable deflux from the city to the country in the United States. In a new pioneering movement families are getting out on to the land again, where every member can help to extract a living from the kindly old earth; they will have to "scratch" and scratch hard, for a year or two but there should always be plenty to eat, and that is no small thing these times. Individual farming brings the greatest good to the greatest number, and so paradoxically enough, is in line with the socialistic trend of the age.

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Horse Memoirs

(C. E. MacKenzie)

CLYDES CONTINUED

C. E. MacKenzie

From about 1885 down the importations of Clydesdales was general in 1888. Mr. J. J. Findley imported Heppburn Clyde, this horse was used in Southern Kings and not a few of our earlier horses trace back to Heppburn Clyde. I am not able to give you his breeding but remember of seeing this horse and if memory serves me rightly he was a nicely turned bay of medium size well suited to the districts which he served.

About the same time the late A. N. Large, Charlottetown, imported Canada A 1, a very low set horse that was an asset to the draft breed in Queens County.

General Burnet, a horse imported to Prince Edward Island in the nineties was a good stock horse whose colts sold well. He too was a bay of medium size being a grandson of the noted "Darnley" whom he resembled very much. His sire was one of the best known horses of his time in Scotland.

Trojan, a splendid specimen of the breed was imported by Mr. W. B. Robertson of Charlottetown and proved a good stock horse but unfortunately for his owner and the province, he perished in a fire on the south side of Kent Street where the Massey Harris building now stands. Trojans best known son was MacGill, whose dam was a daughter of MacGregor, imported, if I mistake not, by the late Franklin Boyver of Bunbury. MacGill left many typical upstanding colts. "Victor of Goodwood," a son of Victor Chief, weighing over twenty one hundred pounds was imported by my good friend David Reid, Victoria Cross, and was later owned by the late M. A. White, Grahams Road. Victor produced many splendid colts that were characteristic Clydes upstanding with that splendid clean flat bone that makes a real cart horse. Mr. Reid, who is still an enthusiastic horseman has done much to improve the draft horse industry in Kings County, also imported Casper, a grand son of Prince of Wales, and "Casper Again," both splendid specimens of the breed. Both these horses left many nicely turned colts that netted their owners good money. Among other horses brought to the Province were Woodend Chief and others I am unable to name, but Mr. Reid is keeping up the good work, and I am told that his latest importation is a coal black French Canadian colt that looks like a real horse. Wighton Hero, a son of Topknot. Craigmore or Craigmore Darnley, a son of old Darnley and "Charming Lad" a son of Lord Charming, who traces on both mother and sire's side to Prince of Wales were imported to the Province by the Department of Agriculture and sold, the former going to Mr. Charles Quigley, St. Peters for the St. Peters Horse So-

ciety. Craigmores remaining in Queens County and Charming Lad going to the late Archibald Ferguson, Summerfield. All three of these horses were good stock horses that improved the industry in their respective districts.

"Burgie Royal" a son of Royal Gallant, was imported by the late John Richards, and was on a par with the best Clydes coming to Canada. His best known son was Royal Darnley, owned by Mr. Robert MacKinley, North River, whose daughter, owned by Mr. George Owen, Warren Grove, was so many times a winner in her class at our provincial show.

MacQueen, a son of Queens Own, imported by Messrs Stanley and Horne was as the Scotsman would say a "grand horse" that proved a success as a breeding horse. Honesty was a splendid type of the Clydesdale breed that was imported by Bedeque parties and did many years of good service in Prince and Northern Queens Counties. He was a son of Prince of Cowal who in turn was sired by His Royal Highness Crown Rights, another importation of the department of Agriculture, was bred by Her Majesty Queen Victoria, being a son of Montgrave Kenneth, and whose dam was a daughter of the famed MacGregor, proved a valuable asset to the Clydesdale industry here, this horse together with his many sons sired many splendid drafters.

Lord Dalmany imported and owned by the late P. S. Brown, Charlottetown, was another horse typical of the breed. Donald, by Searchlight, was, if I mistake not owned at Eldon. I do not know much about his breeding or his success as a breeding horse.

Goldfinder or Seritus was brought out from Scotland by Messrs Stockman and MacMillan and proved a useful horse.

Hercules, a roan sired by Sir Angus and breeding directly to Prince of Wales was a splendid horse who although was not long in the stud proved a success. Royal Stevenson was another nicely turned horse, a son of Hugo, who did service for a short time in this Province, and left a number of good colts. Reformer was imported by Hon. Frank Heartz together with a number of females whose descendants were good stock horses. Reformer was a son of Montcliffe Marquis' a grand son of Prince of Wales.

Thorndale, a son of High Honor, by Hiawatha was imported by Mr. James Roper and did successful stud service here for a number of years.

Agressor was a horse brought here by Mr. John Tweedy, Emscliffe, Baron Kelvin, a son of that grand horse Barons Pride was imported to Prince Edward Island by the late John Richards and was a worthy son of a worthy sire, being many times a prize winner. This horse proved a success as a stock horse, his colts being consistent winners at many of our shows, his daughters proving themselves splendid brood mares.

With the high prices of potatoes and dairy products a few years ago the breeding of horses was, I regret to say, neglected here, and it is only since these prices have fallen that the real worth of our horse industry is apparent to our farmers and I am pleased to state that we are now having a revival of this real sound farm industry. Keep it up, as there is none so good as the home grown product.

The New Issue of the ISLAND TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

Is Now Being Prepared

A new issue of the Island Telephone Directory is scheduled for publication on the 15th of April. Listings will be closed on March 8th.

Persons who intend to become Telephone subscribers at this time, and subscribers who wish changes to be made in their listings, are urged to send their requests to the nearest Business Office at once, and in any event, not later than March 8th.

The Telephone Directory... because of the extensive field which it covers and the frequency of its use by the public... has long been recognized as an ideal medium for advertising. Limited space in the new Directory is now available for this purpose.

Please note carefully the closing date.

ISLAND TELEPHONE COMPANY LIMITED

Strong Empire Appeal

Because of a strong appeal and interest to Canadian producers of food products the Dominion Department of Agriculture takes the liberty of calling attention to the following article recently issued by the Overseas News Service of the Publicity Branch of the Department of Trade and Commerce:

"There is perhaps nothing which recently has appealed more strongly to the people of the United Kingdom than the phrase 'Buy British.' Not only has it appealed to their imagination but the sentiment has been translated into definite action. From the large purchasing bodies, such as the London County Council and local authorities' down to the individual housewife, this slogan is carried into effect." This statement, incorporated in a report received by the Department of Trade and Commerce from the Canadian Government Exhibition Commission in London, explains the extensive operations of the Commission in recent months to benefit by this recently created sentiment and to place Canada and Canadian goods to the forefront.

The report further states that Empire Shopping Weeks, Empire Bazaars and Empire Pageants are being organized continually throughout the United Kingdom and the Commission has been repeatedly

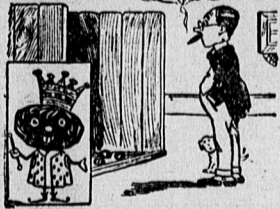
asked to co-operate. In every instance, where possible, active co-operation has been given, even if only to the extent of loaning distinctive Canadian decorative material. The most outstanding of the recent Empire exhibitions was the Empire and Charter Week organized to celebrate the incorporation by charter of the two urban districts of Brentford and Chiswick on the outskirts of London, and a series of Empire Exhibitions organized by the Overseas League, Scottish Division and held in Edinburgh.

Dogfish Comes Into His Own

(Special to The Guardian)

HALIFAX, N. S., Feb. 17.—At last the dogfish heretofore considered a general nuisance is to come into his own. A process is now being developed at the Dominion Fisheries Experimental Station in Halifax whereby his flesh can be used in the manufacture of electric insulators, umbrella handles, knitting needles, brush handles, buttons, and a host of other articles in everyday use, according to the Natural Resources Department of the Canadian National Railways. The product is known as hardened plastic and along with the flesh of dogfish can be made from other fish waste.

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BRINGING UP FATHER



By George McManis

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