



NEWSY NOTES

BY AGROCOLA

AS OUR FOREFATHERS SAW IT

In the year 1060 there was a great earthquake on the Translation of St. Martin, and King Henry died in France. This is introduced to another system of chronology which the monkish historians employed to some advantage—viz. the dedication of certain days to certain saints. Thus the Translation of St. Martin, the ecclesiastical calendar, on the 4th of July. The King mentioned, was Henry I of France.

A worse omen appeared in 1066: when over all England such a token seen as no man ever saw before. Some men said that it was the comet star, which others call the long-haired star. It appeared first on the eve called Litanias major, that is, on the 15th before the calendar of May; and so shone all the week. This was among the common people freely interpreted to mean a disaster to England; and was duly noted by Matilda, wife of the Emperor Henry, who was then in the history of the Conqueror into what is called the Bayeux Tapestry. About a group of ungodly Anglo-Saxons, pointing to a comet, the king said: "I am sure that the comet star, as the words: ISTI MIRANT STELLAM, which may be translated—'These marvel at the Star.' This celestial visitor dismayed the English and encouraged the Normans. Now we know that it was Halley's comet, the most famous of all. It returns at intervals of about seventy-five years. In 1066, it was in Julius Caesar, makes Calpurnia say:

"When beggars die, there are no comets seen. The heavens themselves blaze forth the death of princes."

And it will perhaps be remembered that our beloved Sovereign, King George V, died as the comet was receding into space.

Reference is made to the ancient Chronicle, we find that twenty-one years (two sunspot cycles) later, in 1087, such a sickness came on men, that full high every other man was in bed with the disorder, that is, in the diarrhoea; and that so dreadfully, that many men died in the disorder. Afterwards came through the country, a pestilence, which is called the bubonic plague, which for some obscure reason, used to be more virulent in sunspot years. In a table of "maximum solar maculae" which I have compiled from many sources, and which goes back to A. D. 1708, I find that outbreaks of influenza and cholera, were common accompaniments of such times.

At such times, produce, bad harvests. The old writer views the visitation in more abject fashion: "Such things happen for folks' sakes, that they will not chide. I take it that the pestilence, which for some obscure reason, used to be more virulent in sunspot years. In a table of "maximum solar maculae" which I have compiled from many sources, and which goes back to A. D. 1708, I find that outbreaks of influenza and cholera, were common accompaniments of such times.

End of the War. Experts are now finding the end of the War in 1944. The British and the American people, their information, derived from measurements in the Great Pyramid, Egypt, point to March 14th, 1946, as the date when the troublous times will be over.

Social Justice. There is also, just now, quite an outburst of world planning which is to take care of the needs of the world. At first sight these plans appear to be a welcome change from the chaotic state into which we have landed ourselves; but after all, would such a comfortable, secure life, be of real benefit to the race? Should we not prefer, like the Lotos-eaters, to recline on beds of amaranth and moly, rather than labor in the deep mire ocean against wind and wave and oar? On the other hand, has not every advance that man has made in his upward progress, been prompted by his discontent with things as he found them? However, being of a somewhat pessimistic nature, I believe that these grandiose plans need not be taken too seriously.

Our weather is also very unreasonable; in consequence of that throughout all this land there are all the fruits of the earth reduced to a moderate crop. Modern science has determined that such meteoric stars are merely meteors, which are disintegrated, which ignite after entering the earth's atmosphere.

Nature Notes

On April 18th appeared the first garden flower of the year. It was the 24th the light patch was in full bloom. The botanical name of the plant is Crocus sativus; taking its name from Sissa, the ancient name of Persia. It is supposed to be the "Saffron" of Solomon's Song, 4, 14. As this has been the earliest flower of Spring

For many years it may not be out of place to give a short description. The petals are of deep golden yellow, low within, but with a dark brown feather—like mark on the outside. This flower is rather smaller than the common garden Crocus, and appears ten days or a fortnight earlier. As unlike some other bulbous plants, it tends to increase rather than die out, it is a good investment for the amateur gardener. I note that "tame" bees are strongly attracted by the flowers, whence they gather the pollen.

The bees also collected much pollen from the catkins of the Speckled Alder, Alnus incana, which is the commonest alder in our district.

By the 30th of April, the Siberian Squills, Scilla sibirica, and the late Crocuses were in bloom. The latter are larger than C. sativus, and may be white, yellow, lilac, and all shades of blue. The Dutch bulbous plants (last issued in 1933) call these C. chrysanthus, C. biflorus, etc., and further complicate the matter by introducing named varieties, like "Snowstorm" and "King of the Whites"; Nigger Bay, one of the darkest, glossy blackish-purple, and so on. There is so little specific difference, that I should be tempted to label all these large-flowered late Crocuses simply C. grandiflorus, and allow the variety names to stand as they are.

The Glory of the Snow, Chiono-doxa Lucifera, was just showing color (bright blue, white centre) on May 1st. All the bulbs or corms tend to increase under the simplest care.

Owls are very scarce in this vicinity; almost extinct I take it. It is a long time since I have heard of the weird mournful cry of the "bird of ill omen"; perhaps five years. But there was a little Acadian Owl in the woods of the N. E. of the house about the middle of April this year and I listened, with a great deal of pleasure to his "saw-whet" note. With the exception of the Great Horned Owl, which is common, the Owls generally are good friends of the farmer, since they feed on rats and mice. It is a real misfortune to an agricultural Province when its owls are scarce.

I read with great interest, and some regret, that an Otter had been shot at Lower Quebec on Friday, April 30, 1943. I had not heard of any other Otters since coming here in 1910, and supposed them extinct. Bain, in 1890, wrote: "The Otter lives much in ponds and streams, and is very abundant in the mountains. When fish fall it will attack lambs and poultry. The fur of the Otter is fine, thick, and much valued." The expression "live much" does not refer to any abundance of food, but only to its preference for fish and rivers—where its principal food is.

ODDS AND ENDS

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HEALTH LEAGUE OF CANADA

HAMILTON, Ont., May 14—(Special) It has been considered by people acquainted with the problem of venereal diseases that more general knowledge of the subject is not only desirable but necessary if a public appreciation of this menace is to be obtained.

"It is generally believed by doctors and public health authorities that it is desirable to treat the venereal diseases in the same way as regards information and publicity that other communicable diseases, such as scarlet fever and tuberculosis are treated."

The plant, tree, or whatever is being transplanted, and water well. With big trees—six or seven feet high—small things like tomatoes or cosmos a pint or so around each plant will be sufficient. Earth around the roots should be fine and of good fertility, and it should be kept well cultivated while the plant is getting established. With trees this means watering at least once a week for the first year and for about three feet all around the trunk.

Staking. Big bushy or tall plants like dahlias, tomatoes, peonies, delphiniums, as well as fruit and ornamental trees, will benefit from staking. Stakes should be driven firmly in, preventing the wind blowing them around and breaking off tiny feeding roots. Stakes are best driven in at transplanting time so as not to disturb the roots.

The stakes should be fairly stout, at least an inch square. The plants should be tied to the stakes with twine or raffia. All side shoots so staked tomatoes are pinched off as soon as they form but not of course the blooms which come from the junction of side shoots and the main stem.

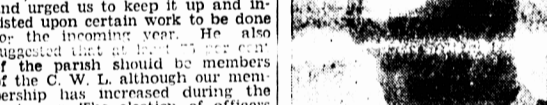
VOICE FROM THE SPRING

By F. H. MacArthur

I stir the dreaming streams of life. And wake the sleeping flowers; I clothe the earth with robes of green. And send the healing showers. I fill men's hearts with new-born hope. The children's hours with pleasure; And give impartially to each, A part of all my treasure.

HOW'S YOUR ATLAS?

The top vertebra in the human body is called the atlas, because it supports the skull as the legendary Atlas supported the earth.



Meet mammoth-mustached James Allen of the British Isles in Tunisia. Sporting a seven-inch span, he claims the long mustache title of His Majesty's army.

Attention Farmers Near Charlottetown

Contrary to the rumors and for the purpose of setting the farmers who have Fertilizer booked with us at ease, we are in a position to make complete deliveries of every pound of Fertilizer that we have sold to our customers.

Deliveries will not be in volume until the last week in May and the first week in June which is ample time on account of our season being backward.

If you have any Potatoes to market, why not have them in readiness the day your Fertilizer is delivered.

FRANK B. CLARKE

PLAYDALE (7091) GRADE A.

Race Record (4) 2.04 1-2 — weight 1290 lbs. By SCOTLAND, 1.59 1-4—Sire of two world's champions ROSELAND, 1.56 3-4 and SPENCER SCOTT, 1.57 1-4.

1st Dam ELIZABETH RIVES, 2.08 1-2 by GUY AXWORTHY 4, 2.08 3-4. — 2nd Dam MABLE TRASK, 2.01 3-4, dam of VANSANDT, 2.00 3-4, LU TRASK 4, 2.05 1-4 by PETER THE GREAT, 2.07 1-4.

KALMUCK 65076 RACE RECORD 215 By PETER THE GREAT, 2.07 1-4

Dam ESTER BELL, 2.08 1-2 by MONBELLS, 3.52.52 — 2nd dam EXPRESSIVE (3) 2.10 by ELECTIONER 125.

Owing to labor, gas and tire shortage horses will not be trucked to meet mares. Will stand at owner's stable. Service fee \$15.00, payable Nov. 1st. Mares at owner's risk.

WILLARD KELLY

TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH Silver Fox Farming

The twenty-third Annual General Meeting of the Canadian National Silver Fox Breeders Association will be held at Head Office, Summerside, commencing at 10 a.m. Tuesday, June 15.

Mr. and Mrs. Wallace W. Leonard of Puyallup, Washington, S. A. have been experimenting in the raising of muskrat in pens. The pens are small and of cheap construction. One of the most important studies in connection with this fur farming project, was to determine the diet required to produce muskrat at the highest possible reproduction level.

First they started by feeding an abundance diet, gradually cutting down until they determined on the correct amounts of food stuffs and also changes that reduced the cost.

A dry cereal mixture consisting of 21 1/2 per cent each of whole wheat, rolled barley and rye mixed with salt, and 10 per cent of dry skim milk powder, bone meal and 1/2 per cent salt seemed suitable. In addition to this mixture was fed daily to each adult muskrat, in addition to five or six ounces of fresh apples. When available, dandelions and red clover were fed. Another diet that gave good reproduction was made up of best pulp, chicken scratched grain, barley, rabbit ration pellets, dandelion, clover and other green stuffs were fed daily. Carrots were not fed during the Summer, but apples were added about the last of July.

Normally, the bulk of the muskrat diet should be made up of vegetables in the diet. The muskrats are fond of a limited amount of tender willow shoots.

Each pair of muskrat breeders is kept in a separate pen. All kits are produced in the pen and the parents until the following winter when they are separated. The muskrats may be kept separate until they are ready to be mated, but this is not considered desirable.

Those who read the above hints on Muskrat Farming will not likely be interested in taking up that line of fur farming. However, the simple things like grass cuttings, red clover, dandelions and carrots, which are so easily obtained, are a very necessary thing in the metabolism of all animals. We consider that it is well worth the farmer's while to grow a few early Summer search for the green things and add them to our foxes' diet. It is good to have the place of the fresh green grass, the clover, the dandelion and such things.

In this column, we have pointed out from time to time, and quite early we believe, a fact that this year would find worm infestation in fur farms.

Adults are kept in open pens on the ground, although even in the winter there are evidences of trouble in several ranches. The best plan for everyone is to examine the foxes at from 16 to 20 days of age and if they have any appearance of worms, they should be treated at once. A second treatment may be given ten days and a third treatment ten days after.

Hook worm treatment is not indicated usually until pups are about three months old, but it is our practice to start treating the pups at the first sign of worm infestation, and continuing the different ages until we end up with the latest born or May pups the latter part of June.

We treat again with larger capsules in July and August, and again on September 15th, and continue until the youngest pups are dosed. Adult capsules are used when the foxes are dosed, when they are taken out of the breeding pens and placed in sheds of course. This year they will receive a second dose in June and a third dosing in September and a fourth dosing in December if kept for breeding purposes. The best schedule may be considered too strenuous for the average rancher but it has proved excellent with us and we have seen no evidence of injury to our foxes through the use of this programme. On the other hand, we have derived very great benefit, and we understand that Premier Jones has a splendid herd of both foxes and mink at his large farm in Bunbury.

Our congratulations are extended to Premier-elect, J. Walter Jones, M.A., M.L.A., who assumed the important position of leader of the Government last Tuesday. Premier Jones has been a fur farmer since 1911 and the leading Holstein breeder in this Province and one of the leaders of America in that field. His activities in other directions have been numerous, including the authorship of "Fur Farming in Canada," a book that was widely read and was authoritative when published years ago, and he is still the Boyer ranch with which Mr. Jones was so intimately connected, produced some of the finest foxes bred in captivity, and we understand that Premier Jones has a splendid herd of both foxes and mink at his large farm in Bunbury.

The writer was intimately associated with the Premier in his early athletic activities as members of the Maritime Club, the Maritime Football team, and Maritime Championship Athletic Teams. J. Walter Jones was throwing the sixteen-pound hammer, and we remember distinctly his creating a new Maritime record on the Wanders' grounds, Halifax, September 1st, 1906. On that occasion, our Island team, captained by the writer, won the trophy for the most points, vanquishing the crack Wanders' team, captained by Johnny Mack of Yale University, who afterwards

Fiber Tip FOX PUPPING TIME

"IS BREADMEAT TIME"

Silver Tip Fox Breadmeat contains Meat, Amise, Copper Sulphate, Manganese Sulphate, Iron Oxide, Magnesium Sulphate, Potassium Iodide, Bone Meal, Wheat, Alfalfa, Salt, Yeast and Hard Wheat Flour. This Fox Breadmeat is toasted and will keep indefinitely if kept in suitable storage. It is packed in 50 lb. tins.

Bags under Feeds Administration permit No. 8. Freight prepaid 500 lbs. and over.

Manufactured by Silver Tip Biscuit Co., Ltd.

MONCTON, N. B.

See your Feed Dealer or write direct.

CONSERVATION

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

THE FARM WOODLOT AND THE SHELLER BELT

It is a far cry from the humble times and the rough farms of the early settlers to modern farms with their fine buildings and well-wooded lots. It is difficult to realize as we drive along smooth highways through the beautiful countryside of eastern Canada, that we are in a rural country that was once covered with dense forest. When the early settlers came, only Indian trails threaded the forest depths. In fact, many a new farmer came by a well-worn road, or really the highways of the times.

The task of making a home in such a vast wilderness seemed almost superhuman. But the settlers were courageous, determined, energetic, willing to work and work hard. They had no power for tearing out stumps, no tractors, and every tree had to be cut with an axe. The clearing of a farm was a long and tedious process.

The settlers, in those early days, found that the way to the cheapest and most effective means of clearing land. But very soon they had reason to feel the full force of the old adage "fire is a good servant, but a bad master."

Commenting on the shearer, the writer stated that regular full Silvers which selected selected rams, sold for \$50.00. New York dealers again played the leading part in the aggressive, especially for top quality pelts which sold \$100.00 or more above March figures. The sales of White Marked Silvers, a pair of two medium marked Silver-Grades, graded "A", a pair of them a fine pair, next highest price was \$18.00 which was given for two medium marked Silver-Grades, graded "B". A matched pair of large, "A" pelts, graded "A", Ontario Show pelts, graded "A", brought \$136.00 and two lots of large matching White marked, extra pale grade "A" pelts, one a pair, and one a group of four, which were sold for \$102.00 and \$100.00 respectively. Large White Marked Silvers, a pair, sold for \$50.00 for less attractive markings.

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FOR SALE

Tenders will be received by the undersigned up to and including JUNE 1st, 1943 for the sale of "INKERMAN FARM"

owned by the late Perry Robertson of Bidwell, Kings County, and containing seventy-five acres of land, 25 acres orchard.

Seventy-five acres of land adjoining Homestead Farm: One hundred and forty acres of land, a separate farm; Sixty acres of land, a separate farm;

These four farms are in the Bidwell District. Also thirty-five acres of land in the New Perth District.

The lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted. Dated at Montague, April 28th, A.D. 1943.

S. S. HESSIAN, Solicitor. Montague, P. E. I.

5-1-61.

Canadian Garden Service

By Gordon Lindsay Smith

Gardening beginners often make the mistake of asking for varieties that perhaps were popular many years ago with results that have been very poor. Improvement, and much better kinds are now available. Plant breeders have been steadily turning out better varieties, bigger, earlier, and better than many of us knew in the old days. Some have been developed that give lower cobs, thicker and juicier kernels. There are beets and carrots that grow more quickly; radishes that are fit to use in a few days from the time of sowing; spinach that will not go to seed and become coarse so quickly; peas that will be ready to put in the pot in from 50 to 60 days. All these points are most important, and especially to the beginner or the gardener in parts of Canada where early frosts are much too frequent to be mentioned in detail. The prospective gardener should secure a good seed catalogue or up-to-date government bulletin which lists varieties suitable for the various areas of Canada. Incidentally all varieties listed in Canadian seed catalogues are specially selected to thrive under Canadian conditions.

There is a lot of transplanting connected with gardening. In vegetables a great many things such as cabbage, celery, tomatoes and peppers are usually bought as started plants from seedsmen or green-houses and set out in permanent quarters, while almost any flowers, perennial as well as annual-can be purchased in this way. The same, of course, applies to all nursery stock, fruit and ornamental trees, shrubbery, roses, vines, etc.