

FOR FARMERS, STOCK BREEDERS AND GARDENERS

NEWSY NOTES

BY AGRICOLA

NEW TO OUR FLORA

By the kindness of Prof. Hurst I am in receipt of a plant which has not been previously included in our Island lists. It is the Colts-foot, Tussilago farfara L. and it has a "local habitation" near Charlottetown. It was very common in my native county but we were not at all glad to see it; in fact it would be classed now as a noxious weed.

The first appearance of the plant was the bright yellow flower, be- decking the waste places, railway cuttings, and strong clayey river- side soils in early spring, when scarce another of our wild plants dared venture forth. The leaves did not appear till the flower was gone, because the leaves of the previous year had laid up such a store of starch and other material in the starchy-like root that the flower was able to perfect its seeds with- out leaves of its own. This flower is borne singly on each flower- stalk and is about one to one and one half inches in diameter, com- posite, and enclosed by a simple one-rowed involucre of green scales.

The leaves are rather cordate in shape, angular and irregularly toothed, and from three to eight inches across. They are green and cobwebby above, and white and cottony below. The plant blooms in March and April in Britain, but the local specimens I received were in flower June 5th.

This plant shows its wide distribu- tion by its many popular names. Bull-foot, horse-foot, fool-foot, the French "mas diane" and the Anglo-Saxon "asarum" all refer to the shape of its leaf. The Latin "far- fara," like the provincial "cough- work," alludes to its powerful ex- pectorant, tonic, and demulcent properties which anciently gave it a rustic reputation as a remedy against colds. The dried leaves were the principal ingredient in the "British Herb Tobacco," which was held to be useful in asthmatic complaints; they were also said to make a kind of wine resembling

sherry. In flint-and-steel days the cottony down was dipped in salt- petre brine, dried, and used as tinder. Coles, in his "Knowledge of Plants" (1650) says: "If the down (seed) flesh off colts-foot, dan- delion, and thistles, when there is no wind, it is a sign of rain."

Even our simplest weed has an interesting history behind it if we trouble to look it up.

"FEED THE BIDS" CONTEST

The entries in this contest were few this year. This is rather sur- prising, because the competition was absolutely without the usual "notes" and other "strings of news- paper contests. The originators of the "Feed the Birds Contest" had no selfish aim; they looked to the cultural effect on the children, and the material benefit to the birds—our allies—and took as their re- ward the satisfaction derived from a worthy effort. It is regrettable that more of our school children did not compete. Some of the teach- ers (who were asked to counter- sign the papers for entry) not only signed but expressed their appre- ciation of the contest as a means of interesting the children in na- ture-study.

I hope our good Editor will re- call the story of "Bruce and the spider," and try the contest again next year. To that end I would suggest that the books presented by Mr. Tufts and Dr. Myers, be held over. As there were no entries from Prince and King's Counties, the Provincial prize (which was inter-county) is not awarded. I would further suggest that those teachers and children who are in- terested, should preserve the papers as they appear in the Guard- ian, and study them to get the notion as to what is wanted in any future contest.

Competitors were asked to in- clude the name of their county in their address: one only did this. This gave the adjudicators the trouble of finding on the map where the competitors lived, and accord- ing to the rules laid down for the contest these should have been dis- qualified. However, a lenient view was taken as it was a "first of- fence." One young lady praises the rules but breaks them—which is quite in the twentieth century style.

Following are the winners: Ivan M. Roberts, West Royalty, 1st prize \$2.50. Ruth E. Cairns, Dunstaffnage, 2nd prize \$2.00. Mabel E. Simpson, Cavendish, 3rd prize \$1.50. Dottie M. Diamond, New Wilt- shire, 4th prize \$1.00. Ruth Jenkins, Mt. Albion, 5th prize, Jack Miner's Book. Isabel Inman, Victoria, 6th prize, Jack Miner's Book. No provincial award this year owing to lack of county competi- tion.

CANARY REED GRASS A "Farm Note" in the issue of June 6th mentions Crested Wheat Grass as suitable for the Prairies, and Canary Reed Grass for Eastern Canada under certain condi- tions. In the winter of 1930-31 I procured seed of both these grasses from the University of Saskat- chewan and sowed them when

TURNIP SEED

Hazard's Improved Mill- pond and Derby selling at lowest prices to clear. WHOLESALE & RETAIL. A. Horne & Co. 3495-6-7-11-31.

spring came. The crested wheat grass, an Agropyron of Russian origin, is essentially a dry-land grass, and is notable in that it is about the first of the grasses to start in the spring, and grows again late in the fall. In the middle of summer it dries up.

The Canary Reed Grass is a most vigorous grower so long as its "feet are wet." It is really a native of Britain, and rejoices in marshy land which is the "certain condition" required. This to the botanist is Phalaris arundinacea L. Its variety P. a. picta is the striped "ribbon-grass" of old-fash- ioned gardens, and it resembles the type closely except as to color. The seed was sown in lines in the garden, and the plants remained there till this spring. Then trenches were opened in suitable places in the pasture fields and the "sods" were transplanted. They stood it well and caught hold nicely.

Eventually the cows were let into the pasture. They cropped off the "wheat grass" but the "Reed Grass" stands untouched. It is from 6 to 8 inches high (June 6th) but seems too coarse to be attractive while there are other more succulent grasses at hand. How- ever, when the pasture "burns up" in the late summer, the animals may "take another thought."

THE BIRDS

I have always taken a deep in- terest in birds, and since last year's contest closed I wish to ex- press the pleasure it has given me to become acquainted with and to feed, our native birds. During May, 1931, I built three bird-houses which were soon used by the canaries and greybirds for nesting purposes. During June I kept mud, a dish of water, straw and feathers in easy reach of the swallows to help them in building their nests. It was indeed amusing to see a swallow swoop down and take a mouthful of mud and after carefully dipping this in water fly up to the unfinished nest, next time instead of taking mud, she would take straw or feathers to help keep the mud firmly woven together.

During the summer and early fall months I sent away for the following publications; Chester A. Reed's "Bird Guide," "Lessons on Bird Protection," "Attracting Birds with Food and Water," "Bird Houses and Their Occupants." I also endeavored, in every possible way to be prepared for the winter reception of our birds by gather- ing seeds, gravel, etc.

I started to feed the birds about the first of October and continued to do so until the last of April. The following birds visited the feeding station regularly during the season: 13 Winter Robins, 15 Black Capped Chickadees, 17 Hud- sonian Chickadees, 27 Juncos, 22 Pigeons, 19 Hungarian Partridges and 7 Bluejays. Other birds which visited the feeding station were; Robins, Snowbirds, Scarlet Tan- gers, Downy Woodpeckers and Hairy Woodpeckers. I always en- deavored not to feed Crows, Grackles and Sparrows but found this rather a difficult task because they became so numerous. My "feeding station" is situated in the yard in two maple trees and consists of five birdhouses. I re- ceived a great deal of help in re- gard to building birdhouses, from the bulletin, "Bird Houses and their Occupants." The different foods I have used are as follows: Bluejays—Suet cut into junks; Chickadees and Juncos—balled fat

and seeds hardened in a dish; Pigeons—Oats and seeds. Hungar- ian Partridge—oats and seeds. One good way for the Chickadees, Juncos, Bluejays and Woodpeckers is to ball fat and seeds together and then pour this over evergreen limbs, while still another way is to fat on strings around the trunk of a tree, but the former seemed to be the more attractive.

I will close this essay with a chart of when the birds returned, and also a description of my favorite species of birds, i. e. Hungarian Partridge, Robins, Chickadees and Juncos.

The Hungarian Partridge are a little smaller than the ordinary Partridge, they are a very fat looking bird, with a red shine about the head, and they are streaked or dotted all over with a brown, red, and a slate color. I fed them with oats and seeds as I have men- tioned before and you would often see them scratching in the ash pile.

The first time I noticed the Hungarian Partridge was one day in January about sunset, when I was walking behind the barn, sud- denly I heard a flutter of wings, I looked up, and found that it was the new kind of Partridge, they were looking for feed in the re- mains of an oatstack. After that I put oats out, but they never re- turned until about a week after, since that they visit regularly.

About the last of March I no- ticed that they separated and went around in pairs, and rather than fly they would run.

The Robin is about the prettiest bird we have, they are a little smaller than a Blackbird, they have a black head and a bright reddish brown breast, these well-known birds are found most commonly about farms and dwellings in the country and also in the cities if not persecuted too severely by the English Sparrow, their song is a loud cheery carol, "cheerily—cheer- up, cheerily—cheerup," often long continued, their nests a coarse structure of mud and grass, placed on horizontal boughs or in forks at any height, or in any odd place about dwellings; the four or five eggs are bluish green.

The Chickadees is also a very pretty bird about the size of a Junco, there are two kinds of chickadees, the Black-Capped chickadee and the Hudsonian chickadee, the chickadees are the most popular birds that we have, owing to their uniform good nature even in the coldest weather, and their confi- dent disposition. They are common about farms and they will often come to feasts prepared for them on window sills. Their song is a clear "chick—dee-dee-dee and sev- eral scolding or chucking notes. They nest in hollow stumps usual- ly near the ground; eggs white speckled with reddish brown.

The Juncos are one of our most common winter birds, easily re- cognized, while perching on or around by the white or pinkish bill. They are very common about houses as well as edges of woods, they are very tame and will come to the door to feed upon crumbs. Their nest is made of grasses upon the ground usually beside a stone. The three or four eggs are white- lish sprinkled with reddish brown.

One day in January I noticed a Junco just below the kitchen win- dow, I went outside to see what was the matter with him and found he was cold. I took him into the house and put him where he would get warm, soon he was well over. Then I put some crumbs on a plate and he ate as if he was quite hungry. When he was all right again I let him go.

Following is when I first noticed the birds this spring: Robins, April 7th. Blackbirds, April 7th. Canaries, did not yet arrive. Tree Swallows, May 3rd. Barn Swallows, did not yet ar- rive. Greybirds, April 2nd. White-throated Sparrow, did not yet arrive. Signed, Ivan M. Roberts, age (12), Queen's County, West Royalty School, P. E. I. (Note: An extremely good paper.

Fox Feed Price List

Table with 2 columns: Item and Price. Items include BEEF CHEEKS, BEEF HEARTS, BEEF TRIPE, BEEF TRIMMINGS, BEEF LIVER, HORSE LIVER, PORK LIVER, TONGUE TRIMMINGS, WEASAND MEAT.

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The "canary" is, of course, the goldfinch, but I don't know what the greybird is. I have had differ- ent birds pointed out under that name, and as this leads to con- fusion, it is better, Ivan, to take a little trouble and get the correct name as given in your "Bird Guide." The "winter robin" I take to be either the grosbeak or the crossbill. The scarlet tanager has never been taken in this province; the bird you suppose to be the tan- gers is possibly the crossbill or the grosbeak. Both birds are col- ored, the one with a vinous tinge and the other more ruddy. The male junco is a very dark blue above, hence it is mistakenly called the bluebird here.—Agricola, West Royalty, P. E. I., May 6, 1932.

NATURE NOTES: MAY 1932

A very freakish month, with un- usual atmospheric conditions. While the temperature was gener- ally low, the thermometer rose to 80 deg. F. in the shade on the 16th, and 85 deg. on the 17th; a heat we do not experience normally till the "dog days." Both lunar and solar haloes were frequent; a paraselene or lunar halo on the 19th had two "mock moons" one on each side of our satellite, resembling what are known as "sun-dogs." The weather disturbances were connected with earth tremors of more or less in- tensity, the strongest of which oc- curred at Hawke's Bay, New Zea- land on the 5th (New Moon) and another at the Island of Celebes on the 15th. Floods and gales were experienced in many parts of the world, and on the 26th and 28th the mercury rose to 93 deg. F. thus breaking our record.

Comparing the bird record of 1931 with that of 1932 (both sent in by Miss Ruth Cairns of Dun- staffnage) it is noticeable that the numbers of our migratory small birds are fewer this year than last. This accords with my own obser- vation, and is a sequence from the great storms in the U. S. A. around March 21st, when many thousand birds perished. This points to a need of feeding and protecting the survivors, till the numbers in- crease. There are years, too, when the eggs are infertile and the num- bers decrease from that cause. A robin's nest, just behind our barn, had four eggs in it but only one hatched out.

The Siberian squill, Scilla siberica, unfolded its pretty blue flowers in the garden on May 3rd. By the 14th the Musk or grape hyacinths were in full bloom and the daffo- dils on the 17th. I saw the first wild bee on the 11th.

WHEN BUYING FERTILIZER BE SURE TO READ THE TAG

A timely tip to farmers when buying fertilizer is supplied by the Fertilizer Division of the Dominion Seed Branch.

Each Spring when the movement of fertilizers is active and the farmers who have bought them are anxiously awaiting their delivery, prior to seeding, there is a tendency to overlook labelling on the bags which would indicate if the fertili- zer received is of the same guaran- teed analysis in nitrogen, phos- phoric acid and potash as that purchased from the dealer or ferti- lizer manufacturer.

Since the guaranteed analysis actually represents the value of the fertilizer, both as to its actual cost and the profit which may be derived from its use on any par- ticular crop, it is important that the fertilizer is labelled properly showing the guaranteed analysis, and that the guaranteed analysis is the same as that purchased.

The labelling may be done either on the bags themselves or on tags durably attached to the bags. Should a fertilizer be delivered which is not labelled, or which is improperly labelled, the matter should promptly be brought to the attention of the nearest office of the Dominion Seed Branch which is responsible for enforcing the Fertilizers Act.

PAY FOR MILK ON GRADE

Probably there is no more impor- tant trend of development through- out agriculture at the present time than the movement becoming gen- eral in respect to many products of paying for quality on a graded basis; and of getting back to the farmer that premium for quality which is rightly his.

The current issue of the Monthly News Letter of the Dominion Dairy and Cold Storage Branch carries the following interesting item: Regulations have been enacted in New Zealand under the author- ity of the Dairy Industry Act where- by the grading of milk received at cheese factories and creameries is made compulsory. The grading will be done on the basis of curd test and at least one test of each sup- plier's milk will be made in each five day period. The system is being tried out at the present time without compulsory differentials in

Spinning and Weaving

Send me your wool to be spun into yarn and wove into Blankets. The charges are: Single yarn 23 cents, doubled 26 cents per pound. Blankets \$2.00 and if unlantered \$1.85. It takes five lbs. of wool per blanket. Wool must be well washed and all dirt and burrs picked out. The size of single yarn is medium and doubled yarn fine, medium and coarse. Put shippers name on all parcels and owners name, ad- dress and instructions inland. Send by mail or freight. Freight will be paid on 100 lb. lots.

Wm. LANDRIGAN, 65 Queen Street, Charlottetown.

IN THE STUD

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Poinset's individuality and speed inheritance qualifies him to be a great sire. A show ring champion, with perfect manners. Bred in the "Kentucky of Canada" a grandson of the Great "Dillon Axworthy" "muff said."

Poinset will stand for service Tuesdays and Fridays at Farquar- sons Stables, Charlottetown, and at my stables, Southport, until going to track. Terms \$5.00 for chance, \$10.00 for season, \$15.00 to insure Mares at Owner's risk. GEO MacDONALD, 2892-5-7-Sat-61

Potatoes Fertilizers

Have you fertilizers to finish that field of potatoes? Have you used some fertilizers on the land that you planted to potatoes with manure? To get best results you should do so. A small application of our fertilizers will bring your crop to saleable size.

We have only a small quantity of fertilizers left in stock. We can offer you: 4-7—7 ready mixed at \$28.00 per ton. 4-8-10 ready mixed at \$30.00 per ton.

delivered any station on Prince Edward Island in one ton lots or more with \$1.00 per ton discount in carload lots of 20 tons or more.

Place your order with one of our accredited agents or have your banker place your order for you or send payment with order.

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payment for milks of different grades. It is believed that in this way a good deal of experience will be obtained during the current season and that the question can then be discussed during the winter months with more intelligence than would otherwise be possible. Milk delivered to cheese factories shall be graded as first grade and second grade; the standards for the grades being milk which will be manufactured separately by approved methods, make butter of such quality as shall grade finest first or second grade respectively. After this preliminary trial and later discussion a decision will be reached regarding a continuation of milk grading with compulsory dif- ferentials in payment as between different grades.

Department of Public Works and Highway PROVINCE OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND Tenders for Bridge Construction

SEALED TENDERS will be received at this office until noon on Saturday, June 11th, 1932, from any person or persons willing to contract for the construction of any of the following concrete bridges and culverts:

- (1) Morris Bridge, Granville, Lot 21, span 200ft. I-Beams on piles. (2) Johnson's River Bridge, Lot 35, span 69 ft. I-Beams on piles. (3) ...-riand's Bridge, Montague, Lot 59, span 46 ft. I-Beams on piles. (4) Quigley's Mill Bridge, Armadale, Lot 42, span 23 ft. I-Beams on piles. (5) Power's Bridge, Peake's Station Lot 38, span 15 ft. concrete slab on piles. (6) Neil Pond Bridge, Lot 1, size 10' x 6' x 30". (7) Costain's Bridge, St. Lawrence, Lot 3, size 10' x 8' x 25". (8) Dog Creek Bridge, Hebron, Lot 9, size 10' x 6' x 25". (9) Stephen Road Bridge, West Point Lot 8, size 12' x 8' x 25". (10) Colwill's Bridge, Northam Lot 13, size 10' x 4' x 25". (11) Abram's Village Road Bridge, Egmont Bay, Lot 15, size 12' x 20". (12) McNeills Bridge, Cross Rivers, Lot 14, size 12' x 8' x 25". (13) Clark's Bridge, Summerside, Lot 17, size 6' x 6' x 25". (14) ...wless Mill Dam Bridge, Norboro, Lot 25, size 12' x 8' x 25". (15) Rayner's Creek Bridge, Traveller's Rest, Lot 19, size 10' x 25". (16) Crokan's Bridge, Middleton, Lot 26, size 12' x 8' x 25". (17) South Freeborn School Bridge, Lot 26, size 10' x 5' x 25". (18) County Line Bridge, Heatherdale, Lot 59, size 22 ft. I-Beams on concrete piers. (19) McDougall's Bridge, Rollo Bay, Lot 43, size 10' x 4' x 25". (20) Collins's Bridge, New Perth, Lot 53, size 10' x 3 1/2' x 25".

Parties tendering shall tender separately for each bridge, tenders to be marked "Tender for Concrete Bridge Construction."

Parties tendering on Bridges Nos. 1 to 5 shall submit a Lump Sum price as per specification.

For Bridges Nos. 6 to 9 the Tenderer shall submit a price per cubic yard as per specification, Section No. 7, "A" in which the Contractor finds the sand and gravel.

For Bridges Nos. 10 to 20 the Tenderer shall submit a price per cubic yard as per specification, Section No. 7, "B" in which the Department finds the sand and gravel.

Plans and Specifications for the above mentioned bridges may be seen at this office, where Tender Forms may be obtained, also at the following other places:— For Bridge No. 1, at the home of Highway Superintendent Geo. McKay, Clinton. For Bridge No. 2, at the home of Highway Superintendent Frank Trainor, Donagh. For Bridges Nos. 3, 18, and 20, at the home of Highway Superintend- ent George McIntyre, Montague. For Bridge No. 4, at the County Engineer's Office, St. Peter's. For Bridge No. 5, at the home of Highway Superintendent F. J. McDonald, Peake's Station. For Bridges Nos. 6 to 17, at the store of Winslow J. Lidstone, Summerside. For Bridge No. 19, at the home of Highway Superintendent, Preston Bryenton, Rollo Bay.

The lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted. I. B. MacMILLAN, Deputy Minister of Public Works and Highway Charlottetown, P. E. Island, May 31, 1932. 3396-6-1-10.

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