



NEWSY NOTES



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By AGRICOLA

"Bee Plants"
The earliest plant to bloom this spring, in my garden was the "Cloth of Gold" (Crocus), C. susianus, on April 5th. Not long after that date I was interested to see that this was attracted stray bees, apparently by its pollen; and I resolved to get down the names on plants to which the bees frequented. Later the bees frequented the "Cloth of Gold" (Crocus) of the eastern and western countries. "He sometimes takes a sheep or lamb from the new settlers' flock, but prefers to subsist on berries and wild fruit. He is fond of oats, coming into an oat field, the Bear makes great damage to the crop. The Bear rarely attacks human beings unless enraged. He enters a den and remains there for a long time, and a circumstantial account leads one to believe that bears were fairly common in Bain's time. I recollect a middle-aged visitor who came to my home in Harrington and said, "When I was a little boy, my father took me to see three dead bears lying in this very kitchen." I visualized them as three adult black bears, but it is more likely that they were females and two cubs. Bears hibernating in food or other cause, a bear is not fat enough to go into winter quarters. The animal seems to know it and becomes very vicious. It will attack any animal, and may himself, with a view to a "feen". An American magazine gives the surprising information that the female bears her cubs while hibernating and wakens to find them a couple of months old!

Various bulletins mention the following bee plants. Many of them do not grow in sufficient quantities to make much difference to the honey crop; but Alsike, White Clover, Alfalfa, and Buckwheat are valuable farm crops and excellent for honey production as well as for the bees. It is recommended if the clover is grown, for as it does not secrete much nectar, the bees waste time when they are working on it. Sweet Clover is not so much grown in this Province at present, as it was a few years ago. The Golden Rods (or Yellow-weeds) are great honey producers and a great many species of wild bees are seen to frequent the flowers; in fact one might form a little respectable collection of these insects from this source alone. The Pheasant (Eupatorium) rears tall spikes of purple flowers that furnish a clear mild honey, but the plant is not so abundant here as the Golden Rod. There are several other wild plants that bees will visit, but their comparative scarcity makes them unimportant. Of these are the best some particular species, namely, Baseweed or Linden, Apple, Plum and Cherry. Raspberries and Raspberries are honey-producers, and the Fall Dewcloser closes the year in this respect.

Extinct Animals
The other day I was asked if the Porcupine had ever inhabited P.E.I., and my answer was that there was no record of it having been here in historic times. The porcupine is the largest mammal of the continent, and it is generally supposed that it was introduced from sea-level up to the timberline. Nor is its absence caused by want of some particular food; for it is omnivorous as far as vegetable matter is concerned, and will enjoy everything from apples or turnips to a winter diet of spruce bark. As the porcupine is found on Cape Breton Island and on other islands off the Nova Scotia coast, one is forced to conclude either that its migrations were restricted to these areas; or else that it was trapped and exterminated by the Indians long before the white men arrived; an easy matter in such circumstances. The porcupine is a very common animal in the mountains, and is therefore purely academic, and need not be carried farther. The Moose is not found here, nor is there any account of it by our early writers; but authors of these animals were sometimes picked up in the peat barrens almost within memory, so it "probably once ranged here as it now does on the adjacent continent", as Francis Bain says.

Extinct Animals
Fifty years ago the same writer writes to the Oiler as if it existed in considerable numbers on the island. These mammals frequented our lakes and streams, to feed on the fish. When fish got scarce they attacked the settlers' lambs and poultry. This, and the fact that they possessed a thick, soft and valuable fur, led to their extermination. Twenty-five years ago my neighbor, who talked as "our Oiler might still be found in the remoter parts of the Province but I never heard of one being taken. The Black Bear is another "has-been". Bain, in 1890, refers to the bear as "our only dangerous wild animal". At the time it was found in the large wooded tracts of the eastern and western countries. "He sometimes takes a sheep or lamb from the new settlers' flock, but prefers to subsist on berries and wild fruit. He is fond of oats, coming into an oat field, the Bear makes great damage to the crop. The Bear rarely attacks human beings unless enraged. He enters a den and remains there for a long time, and a circumstantial account leads one to believe that bears were fairly common in Bain's time. I recollect a middle-aged visitor who came to my home in Harrington and said, "When I was a little boy, my father took me to see three dead bears lying in this very kitchen." I visualized them as three adult black bears, but it is more likely that they were females and two cubs. Bears hibernating in food or other cause, a bear is not fat enough to go into winter quarters. The animal seems to know it and becomes very vicious. It will attack any animal, and may himself, with a view to a "feen". An American magazine gives the surprising information that the female bears her cubs while hibernating and wakens to find them a couple of months old!

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Weekly Live Stock Market Report

OTTAWA, Canada—May 21, 1942.

SUMMARY
Cattle prices on Canadian stock yards advanced to new high levels in the past week in fact to the highest point reached in a number of years. Price upticks ranged all the way from 25 cents to 1 dollar or even more in spots. Exports of cattle to the United States dropped sharply with the near fulfillment of the second quarterly quota but domestic demand was sufficiently strong to force prices to the higher rates paid in the week under review. Prices were also strong sellers and recorded advances of as much as 50 cents notably at Toronto. Hogs and sheep and lambs were little changed from the previous week.

Eastern Cattle Markets
TORONTO marked up a gain of 25 cents to 50 cents on a moderate cull run with Montreal buyers taking about 700 head off the market. Trade was active with new arrivals in all grades and heavy steers selling from \$12 to \$12.25 and butcher steers \$10.50 to \$11.75 and \$12. Prices also advanced 25 cents or more at MONTREAL where choice steers sold for \$12 and good kinds mostly \$11 to \$11.75. Good cows were generally \$9 to \$9.50 with an odd \$10 paid. The situation in the MARISSA was unchanged with good to choice steers quoted at \$9.50 to \$10.

Western Cattle Markets
A strong demand and moderate offerings served to boost prices sharply in the west. WINNIPEG was up 50 cents to \$1 on top of the recent advances reported from that centre and some sales showed even more of an advance. Good steers and those grading above that were in demand from \$11 to \$12 with ordinary kinds \$10.50 down. Any reasonably good light cattle of the stocker and feeder variety were in strong demand up to \$9.50 and above. CALGARY was active under light deliveries at 25 cents to 50 cents higher, with the best of the stocker steers \$10.50 to \$11 and EDMONTON also was stronger and sold heavy steers up to \$11. PRINCE ALBERT sold choice steers at \$10.50, while MOOSE JAW quoted at \$10 to \$11 for best killing steers. REGINA \$11.50, SASKATOON \$10 to \$11, and VANCOUVER did not have sufficient cattle to establish a market.

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CONSERVATION

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

HAWKS OVER CANADA

I was looking for birds, although what particular kind I had no idea. For it was the end of September; the Warblers seemed to have gone through, hard in the wake of millions with a flock objective and only the advance guard of Sparrows was present. Then, during a casual glance to the tree-tops for a titmouse or a chickadee, my eyes picked up the form of a Hawk, a little Sharp-shin, cutting through the air some thirty feet above me, in typical Accliptine flight. My eyes pursued it with interest, but my interest in the particular Hawk waned as quickly as it grew up in the azure of a perfectly cloudless September sky, far beyond the questing form of the little Sharp-shin, were the drifting, wheeling forms of dozens of Hawks. Forgotten were Warblers, Sparrows, and any other form of feathered creature as I focussed my powerful glasses on their almost motionless forms. The loosely packed flock of Hawks were, of course, Buteos, and a study of their tails and proportions revealed Red-tails, Red-shoulders, Broad-wings, and even Rough-legs, as they slowly drifted southward. More than one hundred Hawks in the space of five minutes! This was birding unheard of, so far as I was concerned, in my Toronto ramblings.

Hawks at Point Pelee

Canada, too is not without a Hawk station. Point Pelee, on Lake Erie, in Ontario, offers the bird student hundreds of Hawks each fall, at the time when the small birds are paying a last visit to Canadian undergrowth. Here Sharp-shin, Cooper's Pigeon, and Duck Hawks gather for the purpose of dining well on small birds incapable of escaping their clutches. Buteos, the Red-tail, and more intelligent individuals to carry on their race. Waging incessant war on the mice and snakes in fields and marshes will be found the Red-tails, Red-shoulders, Broad-wings, and Rough-legs, as well as the beneficial little Sparrow Hawk, Eagles and Ospreys will be found following the shoreline for fish. Each has its place in nature, and each should be allowed to keep that place.

Complete Battle Force

With each fleet of heavy cruisers, which so effectively wage war against the insect and mammal foe, were wandering consort destroyers of bird-life, the Accipiters, in the shape of Cooper's and Sharp-shinned Hawks, even the lag-slip of the Cooper's Hawk, Goshawk, being present. The latter three species seemed to be on the fringe of Buteo society only, being an evident part of the flight, yet keeping far below it, even seeming to shun the society of their more particular kind. Popularly termed cruel and sav-

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There was an odd price change in the hog market but always in the upward direction. Toronto sold grade B-1 hogs at \$15.25 dressed, but Montreal market for hogs was at \$15.40 to \$15.50. Winnipeg was unchanged at \$14 to \$14.10, while Calgary closed slightly higher with the basic grade at \$13.85. Edmonton paid \$17.75 to \$18.25, Prince Albert \$13.70 to \$14, Moose Jaw \$13.75, Regina \$13.75, Saskatoon \$13.60, and Vancouver \$14.75. The price at Moncton was \$15.25.

Calf Market Stronger

Calves were strong sellers and Toronto reported an advance of 50 cents with choice veals at \$14 to \$15 while Montreal was strong up to \$13. Winnipeg was also more plentiful and good to choice veals \$11 to \$12.50. Best veals at Calgary sold up to \$12.80, Edmonton \$12 and good veals topped at \$10.50 at Prince Albert. Moose Jaw was steady at \$10 to \$11, while Regina paid as high as \$12 and Saskatoon \$11.50, with an odd \$11.75.

United States Market

With the sharp drop in exports to the United States, no quotations were obtainable on Canadian cattle at either Buffalo or St. Paul. The general market at these points was slow but around steady with the previous week. Most of last week's exports found their way to Seattle. Montreal market for hogs was at \$15.40 to \$15.50. Winnipeg was unchanged at \$14 to \$14.10, while Calgary closed slightly higher with the basic grade at \$13.85. Edmonton paid \$17.75 to \$18.25, Prince Albert \$13.70 to \$14, Moose Jaw \$13.75, Regina \$13.75, Saskatoon \$13.60, and Vancouver \$14.75. The price at Moncton was \$15.25.

Lamb Market Stronger

Deliveries of sheep and lambs have been extremely light and prices were about on a par with the previous week. Some feedlot lambs of only common to medium quality were sold at Toronto at \$11 to \$13 but \$13 Winnipeg was also more plentiful and rated \$9 to \$10 per head. At Montreal, spring lambs sold up to \$9 each. A few of last year's lambs were sold at \$10.50 at Winnipeg, and at Edmonton had a few spring lambs at \$12 to \$13. A few good lambs sold at Regina and Saskatoon at \$12 and Saskatoon \$11.50, with an odd \$11.75.

Hog Market Steady to Stronger

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Calf Market Stronger

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