

FOR FARMERS, STOCK BREEDERS AND GARDENERS

NEWSY NOTES

BY AGRICOLA

WHY LATIN NAMES?

The use of Latin names for objects in natural history may appear pedantic to the cursory reader, but there is good reason for the custom, as the following extracts from a little book ("The Preparation of Scientific and Technical Papers," by Trelease and Yule) will show. "The scientific name, in addition to the common name, should be given when a plant is first mentioned in an article. Aim constantly to use names that will be understood by foreign readers, many of whom must translate an article before they can understand it. For example, Man'hot utilisissima is universally understood; but the common name camoteng cahoy would be unintelligible to readers in many parts of the world. The truth of this paragraph was clear to me when I immediately connected idea of either sago, or tapioca, with the term Man'hot, and on looking it up I found that this plant was the origin of the tapioca of commerce. I confess that "camoteng cahoy" would have floored me!

Our authors go on to define the use of the common name. "In papers dealing with agriculture, the scientific name of a well known plant need not be repeated; after the scientific name has been given once, the plant may be referred to in the rest of the article by its common name." Unfortunately very many plants have each received several common and scientific names. Where scientific names differ in standard or commonly used works, it is customary for writers to select one of these, and to account the others synonyms. Of the two manuals which present the botany of this region, the one prefers the scientific nomenclature agreed upon at the International Botanical Congress at Vienna in 1905, while the other follows the nomenclature adopted by the American Association for the Advancement of Science; the former being usually followed in Canada. This duplication of plant names is a little disconcerting especially in reference books.

But common names are far more confusing, since each district may have a different name for the same plant, and moreover, different plants may have the same popular name, from some real or fancied resemblance. For example, we have a pernicious weed which we call Canada Thistle; though why we should advertise Canada in such opprobrious fashion when the plant hails from Europe, it is hard to say! In Britain this plant is known as Field Thistle, and in some districts as Creeping Thistle. We know, however, that it is the same plant because of its scientific name *Cirsium arvense* (L.) Scop. Our pretty Cone Flower, showiest, to my mind, of all our island weeds, passes under all these aliases: Yellow Daisy, Orange Daisy, Nigger Head, Black-eyed Susan, and Golden Jerusalem, and has even been mistakenly called Ox-eye Daisy. But there is no doubt as to what is meant when we know that the plant is the *Rudbeckia hirta* of Linnaeus. The subject of names will be treated of in another article.

SOME GARDEN NOTES

The Sea-pinks or Thrift mentioned last week, are still in full bloom after a fortnight of very varied weather. This plant is indeed an acquisition. Most visitors come to think that it would be suitable as a cemetery plant, because of its neat and compact growth.

The Snow-in-Summer (*Cerastium tomentosum*) has many good points—and one bad one which, except in special circumstances, should be protected from flies by the use of repellents such as oil of tar.

overbalances all the good ones. It is in bloom now, a low cushion of shining white flowers, so thickly set that one cannot see the leaves. The "cushion" is just three feet in diameter, and would have been more but that I used the shears rather freely in spring. When the flowers have gone, one can still admire the foliage, covered as it is with a gray-green tomentum, of a "sea-foam" color. The fragrant honey-like odor of the flowers is very pronounced. But—and it is a large but!—this plant is so full of vigor that it would speedily spread by underground runners all over the garden: it is as bad as that pink-flowered climber, the bindweed or convolvulus as it is called. I am therefore "reluctantly compelled" to banish the Snow-in-Summer from the flower border into some corner where it cannot compete with less vigorous but better ornamentals.

I have two species of thistle here, which attract some notice. One is the Fishbone Thistle *Chamaepeuce canabone*, and the other the Milk Thistle, *Silybum Marianum* Gaertn. The Fishbone Thistle is rather an elegant plant forming, the first year, a neat star-like rosette armed with strong prickles. On one occasion only have I been able to save it over winter, and being a biennial it flowered and died. I saved some seed that time, and have had considerable demand for it. The other, the Milk Thistle, was given to me for the Scottish Thistle, which however has woolly leaves. It is sufficient to distinguish the Milk Thistle to say that it has rosy-purple flowers, and large wide leaves, with the nervures marked by broad bands of white, as if milk had been spilled over them. It is a native of the Mediterranean regions, and the stems, according to Sir J. D. Hooker, were formerly used as "greens."

There is a plant which is commonly known as the Orange Lily growing in many of the gardens round about. It has a flower of a dark orange or brownish color, and large, coarse, grass-like leaves. It is the *Hemerocallis fulva*, the Tawny Day-Lily, the popular name indicating the ephemeral character of the flowers. Not so common, is the Yellow Day-Lily, *H. flava*, which is in bloom just now. The flower is a clear buttercup yellow, and unlike the preceding species, is deliciously fragrant. The name, Orange Lily is rightly applied to a true lily, the *Lilium croceum* Chaix.

OUR NATIVE BIRDS (FINAL)

Perching birds (continued). 697, American Pipit or Titlark; No data. 704, Catbird. Reported 1888 (Macoun). 722, Winter Wren, "uncommon" (MacSwain); in my notebook I have "This bird (the Winter Wren) observed in the wagon shed Aug. 6, 1931." 726, Brown Creeper, "rare" (MacSwain). 727, White-breasted Nuthatch, "common" in 1916. 728, Red-breasted Nuthatch, the commoner Nuthatch in 1916, when this list was first published. 735, Black-capped Chickadee, "common." 740, Hudsonian Chickadee, not uncommon. 748, Golden-crowned Kinglet, no data. 749, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, "Quite rare" (MacSwain); on May 6th of this year a dead Ruby-crowned K. was brought in to me for identification: the red patch on the crown was unmistakable. The feathers of the wings and tail had a fine margin of greenish yellow. 750, Veery or Wilson's Thrush, Spring visitor (MacSwain). 758a, Olive-backed Thrush, abundant (Dwight). 759b, Hermit Thrush, more abundant (Dwight). 761, American Robin, common in 1916, and still fairly so. This ends our list of migrant and resident birds, a list comprising in round numbers, 230 species. Some

Experimental Station Leads

Report of the Prince Edward Island Egg Laying Contest for the week ending July 3, 1933. Standing Owners name Pts.

1. Exp Farm, Ch'town	1790.1
2. Harold Laird	1377.8
3. Roland Easter	1679.8
4. William Sansom	1631.0
5. Wm. R. Brown	1546.1
6. Exp Farm, Ch'town	1525.9
7. John A. Lea	1522.7
8. Mrs. J. F. Easton	1513.5
9. Exp Farm, Ch'town	1511.8
10. Mrs. A. E. Holland	1488.6
11. Mrs. J. McPhail	1458.6
12. John B. Poole	1453.6
13. S. R. Pendleton	1434.5
14. W. J. Reid	1428.5
15. T. D. Morrison	1327.8
16. Walter Gregor	1269.7
17. Everett Howatt	1263.3
18. Int. Fox & Animal Foods	1247.5
19. S. R. Pendleton	1204.4
20. Warren Dawson	1177.8
Total	29169.0

Production 238 hens, 1053 eggs, 63.2 percent.

Leading pens for week

Pen	Hens	Eggs	Points
6	68	255.6	
1	64	72.0	
3	61	70.9	
5	63	70.9	
13	61	67.7	
4	61	64.2	
15	60	63.0	
2	52	58.5	
7	50	57.1	
12	51	56.1	

Leading hens to date.

Pen	Hens	Eggs	Points
7	6	209	225.3
9	6	182	209.5
13	3	192	205.8
18	7	185	200.7
7	8	177	198.2
13	6	196	191.8
18	13	159	184.4
5	5	161	180.9
18	11	164	188.9
2	6	158	188.2

F. A. Driscoll, Manager of Contest, Dr. J. A. Cairk, Superintendent.

are probably only chance visitors, while others, once common, may now be scarce. It is also certain that others, as in the case of the grackle, once scarce, are now increasing unduly. The trouble seems to be that little attention is, at the present day, devoted to the study of ornithology and no attempt at a census—such as is now being taken in the British Isles—is possible. But we may I think look forward hopefully to the day when our younger readers will make up for the deficiencies of the past.

One of the difficulties which an amateur (like the writer) experiences in seeking to become acquainted with the birds is the circumstance that there are, as a rule, three different plumages for each species. The male has all the fine feathers that go to make him a fine bird. The female to whose duty the incubation falls, has a sober dress which will not give her away while brooding on the nest. The young birds are different from both; and continue so for the first year at least. The young of the Great Blue Heron (No. 194), our so-called "Crane," continue in their juvenile plumage for several years, before they get the crest and plumes of the adults. And to make identification a little harder, some birds have two color phases, independent of age, sex, or season; thus the Screech Owl may be either gray or brown. Lastly, there are birds which undergo seasonal changes, like the Snow-bird, which is black and white in summer, and in winter washed with brownish. These variations while they render identification more difficult, undoubtedly add greatly to the interest of bird-lore.

patrum tetrachloride which was formerly used as ink for writing on zinc labels. Thousands of labels are written yearly at the Gardens, and as the platinum tetrachloride cost about \$30 per ounce, the amount spent for labelling was no small sum. Many new formulas were tried out but none proved satisfactory till about six years ago, when the following ink was devised. It has proved as permanent as the platinum and the price is within the reach of all.

To make the ink, procure a wide-necked bottle with a glass stopper. Fill the bottle half full of new copper chips, such as may be obtained from a tinsmith. Add commercial muriatic acid to fill the bottle, and allow the mixture to stand eight weeks. The fluid will change from bright amber color to a cloudy dark emerald green and will finally become clear. Pour off the clear acid from the copper chips, the liquid being then ready for use as ink. Use a gold or glass pen for writing. If the zinc label is not thoroughly cleaned with a fine emery paper to remove grease and finger marks, the ink will not penetrate; while the cleaner the label the blacker the writing.

In a border of herbaceous perennials such labels are a necessity. Many a dormant plant has been injured because its owner in forking over the border in spring, had nothing to remind him of its presence.

The Missouri Botanic Gardens has discovered a substitute for the

Summer Care Of Calves

(Experimental Farms Note)

Calves must be kept in a thrifty growing condition if they are to develop into well grown animals capable of returning a profit to their owners. Probably at no time are calves more likely to be neglected than during their first summer. Barn work is reduced to a minimum during the busy summer season and too often the calves are given two feeds of milk a day and very little other attention.

At the Fredericton Experimental Station, calves are confined to the stable during the heat of the day and they are allowed to run in a 1428.5 grass paddock during warm nights and cool days. This provides the young calves with exercise and green feed and also protects them from flies. The calves are fed from 8 to 12 pounds of whole milk per day until four weeks of age. They are then fed 7 pounds whole milk and 7 pounds skim-milk. At six weeks of age, the whole milk is discontinued and the calves are fed 14 pounds skim-milk per day until five months of age, when the skim-milk is gradually discontinued. A fat substitute is added to the skim-milk and a small allowance of dry meal is fed at six weeks of age. The fat substitute is composed of 1 part ground flax seed and 4 parts finely ground oats. This mixture is scalded and allowed to stand for 12 to 24 hours before feeding and is fed at the rate of 1-4 to 1 pound daily. The dry meal consists of 2 parts crushed oats, 2 parts bran, 1 part oil meal and 1 part cent salt, and is fed at the rate of 1-4 to 2 pounds daily, the amount depending on the age and condition of the calf. As soon as the calves will eat hay, they are given all they will clean up.

SANDY SOIL MANAGEMENT

For drifting sands a plant known as sea-sand reed or beach grass has been used with considerable success. It is valuable because of its root-stock growth which enables it to grow up through rapidly accumulating sand. When the sand has been fairly well controlled, there are two other grasses, namely, ratal and wild rye, which have been found useful. Unfortunately the supply of the seed of these plants is scarce.

There are many areas of blow-sand which will never be fit for anything but the production of trees. It may be necessary, even, in the establishing of desirable types of trees, first to plant quick-growing kinds, establish beach grass, or use other methods to control the sand until the young permanent trees can secure a proper foothold. As to crop yields on sandy soils, there appears to be little difference in the amounts as a result of the various methods of ploughing. On this subject and other methods of the management of sandy soil, the Dominion Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, has issued a bulletin, No. 163, containing much valuable information.

She—In India, when a man dies, they bury his widow with him! That is cruel.

He—Yes, poor man!

careful investigations have shown that pollination at present is mainly effected by various small solitary bees that nest in the ground in the neighborhood of orchards, especially along roadsides, pastures, dykes and similar situations. They have been reasonably plentiful in at least most orchards during the years 1928 to 1931 inclusive. In 1932 there was an apparent decrease, and this, combined with unfavorable weather for bee activity during the blossoming period, had a noticeable effect on fruit setting. Bumble bees, while sometimes abundant locally, were of minor importance in most orchards during the course of the survey. While, therefore, under favorable conditions solitary bees may alone be able to pollinate the apple crop satisfactorily, conditions may arise when it is desirable to supplement their efforts. This can be done only by supplying hive bees for the purpose.

In close co-operation with the governments of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec and Ontario, the Dominion Entomological Branch takes an active part in the campaign of apple maggot control.

Grain Mixture For Soiling Crops

(Experimental Farms Note)

Soiling crops should be grown to maintain the flow of milk during the summer and early autumn, when pastures become dry through lack of rain and by the ripening of pasture plants. They are also very necessary to prevent a set back by similar causes in the young growing stock. It is very much easier and cheaper, by producing a succession of soiling crops for cattle to maintain the flow of milk or keep young cattle gaining, than it is to bring them back after they have had a set back from any cause.

The work done with soiling crops at the Charlottetown Experimental Station gave results very similar to the much more extensive work carried on for years at the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, Ont. Of all the grains and mixtures tested, at both places a mixture of oats and peas gave the largest yield of green crop per acre. Fodder corn and sunflowers and combinations of these with grain gave greater tonnages of green crop, but did not produce the amount of dry matter per acre that did either oats and peas or oats, peas and vetches. Seeding at ten day intervals from the middle of June to the middle of July will usually provide soiling crops during the period that they will be required. They may be sown successfully as late as the last of July, if there is plenty of moisture at that time. When peas or vetches were included, two bushels of oats or combinations of oats with barley or wheat usually prevented lodging. One of the best mixtures at Charlottetown was: Two bushels oats and fifty pounds peas. Another satisfactory mixture was two bushels of oats, thirty pounds of peas and thirty pounds of vetches per acre. A mixture that gave a very satisfactory yield contained cereals only. One bushel oats, one bushel barley and three quarters of a bushel of wheat. The barley should be a late ripening sort that would drop its awns, such as Charlottetown No. 80, or a smooth awned variety. The wheat should be a bald sort, so that the awns might not annoy the stock.

GROUND-NESTING BEES AS APPLE POLLINATORS

It is usually claimed that the hive bee is the main agent in apple pollination. In the four years survey (1928-32) of apple pollination in the Annapolis Valley, the results of which have just been issued in a voluminous publication by the Dominion Department of Agriculture, the investigators state that unfortunately their studies show that, as a result of widespread poisoning from the use of poisoned sprays and dusts, the hive bee has ceased to be a factor in apple pollination in the Annapolis Valley of Nova Scotia. The damage of poisoning hive bees, they say, may be reduced, though not entirely eliminated, by refraining from spraying and dusting during the blossoming period, and by moving the bees into the orchard only when the early apple trees have come into bloom, removing the bees before the after-blossom sprays are applied. Dusting is usually more fatal than spraying, but severe losses may follow either practice when poisons are applied to apple bloom, or to the blossoms of other plants growing in or near the orchard.

As the farrowing time approaches, the sow will stand a little more flesh to prepare her for feeding her litter and it is very important that

Care of Brood Sows

(Experimental Farms Note)

At the Dominion Experimental Station, Fredericton, N. B. it has been found that exercise in the sunshine for brood sows both in summer and winter is a great safeguard against lameness and similar troubles and this is more important with young sows even than it is with mature sows. Exercise during the summer months is an easy problem to solve on any farm. At this Station the brood sows are turned out to pasture immediately after the spring litters have been weaned. This pasture may be natural grass, but clover, oats, peas and vetches or rape is to be preferred. These sows in addition receive one scant feed of a grain mixture daily and of course have access to water. If fall litters are expected, it will be necessary to provide a more substantial grain ration as the farrowing date approaches.

Winter housing and provision for exercise is a more difficult problem. At the Fredericton Experimental Station, where a considerable number of sows are wintered, various winter housing schemes have been tested. For the sow in good condition in the fall, it is difficult to improve on the outdoor cabin located in a protected situation and with yard room for exercise. Sows down in flesh are wintered in large pens in the piggery, one end of which is partitioned off for a sleeping den, so called, and an abundance of straw supplied which seldom has to be replenished. The balance of the pen provides room for exercise and feeding.

On the farm where only one, two or three sows are wintered, a warm portable cabin facing the sun and located in a sheltered spot in the barnyard is undoubtedly the best provision that the farmer can make for his brood sows. In suitable weather the sows will spend more or less time foraging in the barnyard. Freedom from draughts and dampness is the chief requisite in a hog cabin. Banking the cabin with straw horse manure or straw is an additional precaution that should not be overlooked.

FARM WORK HORSE SUMMER TROUBLES

A type of sore on horses that is persistent is caused by flies containing the larvae of stomach worms feeding on small wounds or abrasions on the skin. The larvae escape from the mouth of the fly and live in the wound, causing irritation and itching, the lesions persisting as a chronic sore until the onset of the cold weather. The following treatments are recommended by the Dominion Department of Agriculture: One percent picro acid in glycerine, Chloroform, ether or iodoforn applied to the wound every day. Astringent powders containing quinine keep the animal from biting the sores. Good results are reported from the use of plaster of Paris, 100 parts; alum 20 parts; naphthalene, 10 parts, and quinine 10 parts. Abrasions caused by harness and other skin injuries

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should be protected from flies by the use of repellents such as oil of tar.

Spasmodic colic frequently affects horses as the result of the failure of the horseman to observe the proper details of feeding and management. The direct cause may be change of food, cold water in quantities, or exposure to draught when the animal is heated. The symptoms are sudden attack, pawing, stamping, stretching, kicking at stomach, looking round towards flank, throwing, rolling and perspiration. The painful period disappears but re-appears just as the following drench is useful: Sulphuric ether, 1 to 2 ounces; laudanum, 1 to 2 ounces; raw linseed oil, 1-2 to 1 pint, according to age or size; or 1 to 1-2 ounces ginger, or 2 to 4 dr. baking soda in 1 pint of water.

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Illustration Station Field Days

WOOD ISLANDS, (farm of Alex Matheson): Wednesday, July 5, at 2 p.m.
ST. PETER'S, (farm of Clifford McEwen): Friday, July 7, at 2 p.m.
IONA, (farm of J. E. Daly): Thursday, July 13, at 2 p.m.
1492-7-ws-31