

FOR FARMERS' STOCK BREEDERS AND GARDENERS

NEWSY NOTES

BY AGRICOLA

BAEDA'S HISTORY

Some years ago the present writer contributed to this column a short history of an eminent Northumbrian, Baeda, by name. Baeda who is perhaps better known to us as Bede, St. Bede, or the Venerable Bede, was born in the year 673, and after a very busy life, as historian in the Monastery at Jarrow on the Tyne, died in the year 735.

Baeda was buried in the monastery, and his bones were undisturbed till A. D. 1022, when they were removed to the church of Durham. Their removal was effected by one Aelfred, a relic-hunter of the most unscrupulous type, who was a monk in the community at Durham. This cleric had a "vision" whereby he heard a voice commanding him to go to the ancient monasteries of Northumbria and to raise from the ground the bones of such of the saints as he met there and to leave them above ground, that they might be exhibited to the people and venerated. According to the bones of King Oswin, and those of the venerable abbesses Toba and Aethelgitha, those of Aea and Alchmund, Bishops of Hexham, and many other, were raised in this manner. But Aelfred did not return to Durham empty handed; he took care to remove a portion of all these relics which he deposited near the body of St. Cuthbert.

Aelfred did not find it so easy to get at the bones of Baeda. It was his custom as Symeon of Durham tells us, to visit the monastery of Jarrow annually, there to devote himself to prayers and watchings. The brethren may have had some suspicion of him, since several years elapsed before he accomplished his purpose. At last he went thither as usual and after having spent some days in the church in solitude, praying and watching, very early in the morning he returned alone to Durham as though he had never done before, while the monks of Jarrow were ignorant of his departure. He seemed like one who did not choose to have any witness of his secret, says Symeon, naively. Aelfred lived many years after this but never again visited Jarrow; he conducted himself like a person who had secured the object of his desires. His intimate friends asking him he knew where was the resting place of the bones of the venerable Baeda, his answer was: "No one knows better about this than I do. Dearly beloved—the same shrine which contains the most holy body of the father Cuthbert contains the bones of the father and monk Baeda." Then he cautioned them to keep the matter secret lest any should try to recover the relics. Many years afterwards the bones were discovered, wrapped in a linen bag, near to the uncorrupted body of Father Cuthbert, in the church or cathedral of Durham.

Why was Baeda the object of so much attention? When we read the catalogue of his works (as given in his autobiography) we recognize the greatness of that learning which drew homage even from his ecclesiastical superiors. Aelfred had therefore decided that the obscure little church of Jarrow was unworthy to hold the relics of so great a teacher, and so carried them to the stately cathedral lately built by the side of the War.

It is time to say something about the Ecclesiastical History itself. I have already given my readers a general idea of the "Anglo-Saxon Chronicle," that storehouse whence modern historians draw materials for the early story of the British race. Baeda collected all the legends which had any bearing on the "Chronicle," and especially those which told of the introduction of Christianity. In this task he was assisted by the different Bishops and Abbots throughout England, who sent to me either in writing or by word of mouth—all that they thought worthy of memory," as he says in his preface. What concerned his beloved Northumbria, he declares, "I received not from any particular author, but by the faithful testimony of innumerable witnesses, who might know or remember the same; besides which I had of my own knowledge." His History thus a fair average measurement. The first place, says Baeda, which meets the eye, after leaving Belgic Gaul, is the city of Rutubi-Perous—the Roman Rutupiae—which had been corrupted by the English into Reptaecastr. This city owed its importance to its being the port of embarkation for the great naval station of the continent, Gesoraucum, 50 miles away.

which had been corrupted by the English into Reptaecastr. This city owed its importance to its being the port of embarkation for the great naval station of the continent, Gesoraucum, 50 miles away. Britain even in those days excelled for grain and trees, and was well adapted for feeding cattle and beasts of burden. It produced vines in some places, says the historian, and in this connection we may find it on record in mediaeval times that certain districts had vineyards for the making of wine. (Coming to our own times the story went round about 1870, that the Marquis of Bute had planted a vineyard in the south of England, which began to bear in its third year, and in five years the sale of wine paid off the original investment.)

It has the greatest plenty of salmon and eels; seals are frequently taken, and dolphins as also whales, besides many kinds of shell-fish, such as mussels in which are often found pearls of all colors, red, purple, violet and green, but mostly white. The advance of industry and commerce has altered much of this; few salmon, for instance, would leave the polluted waters of the Tyne. The Tweed still yields a fine harvest, but the High and straits of Scotland are fast becoming the last refuge of the noble fish. There is, I am told, still a considerable trade in mussels and cockles, two bivalves of very different shape and color; these are boiled and peddled about the streets of the northern towns. We have a species of mussel here but it is not used as food; the cockle is not found on our shores, more to the north.

Turning to minerals, it is rather surprising to find that Britain was already noted for many veins of metals as copper, iron, lead, and silver; it has rich and excellent jet, which is black and sparkling, glittering as the fire and when heated drives away serpents, being warmed with rubbing it holds fast whatever is applied to it, like amber. (The "Whitby Jet" is now exhausted; it was greatly used in links.) The foregoing paragraphs illustrate, in the interesting manner in which Baeda records the general knowledge of his day.

From his living almost under the North Pole, the nights are light in summer, and dark at mid-night; the shadows are often in doubt whether the evening twilight still continues, or that of the morning is coming on; for the sun, in the night, returns under the earth, although the northern regions at no great distance from them. (As a matter of fact Baeda's territory lay almost on the parallel 55 deg. North Latitude, so that he used some imagination in making it "almost under the North Pole." Here it may be mentioned that in Baeda's country one could behold the Polar Star by bending the head back at an uncomfortable angle; but on coming to this country one saw that star lying midway between the zenith and the horizon, and therefore easily observable. The pleasures of the twilight are unknown in this country, for (like the tropics) when the sun sets, darkness follows almost immediately. In Northumbria, twilight is "the children's hour," or rather "the couple of hours, when school and work being over, the youngsters play cricket and other games in their season and have the long evening twilight to go to it.)

"Thus," says Baeda, "the nights are extraordinarily short in summer and the days in winter, that is, of only six equinoctial hours; whereas in Armenia, Macedonia, Italy, and other countries of the same latitude, the longest day or night extends but to fifteen hours and the shortest to nine."

FERNS OF P. E. ISLAND (16) The Hay Fern (Dicksonia punctilobula) is confined to this continent. In its fresh state its odor strongly suggests that of the Skunk Cabbage; but when drying out it is hay-scented, pungent and aromatic. The fern rejoices in sunny clearings in the woods, roadsides, and open hillsides, where its light green fronds, delicate and lacy, perfume the air. It will be noticed that the fronds don't taper at the base, and that the one are held in place by a turned-in (or reflected) tooth of one segment of the pinnae. Some writers call this fern Dennstaedtia punctilobula (Michx.) Moore.

(17) The O trich Fern (Onoclea Struthiopteris) is a cosmopolitan species, found in the North Temperate Zone, omitting the British Isles. Its natural habitat is along streams, and in moist places, but for some reason it is rare with us. The large fronds, widest above the middle and tapering both ways, are supposed to resemble, or rich fathers. Britton's "Manual" names this plant Matveevia Struthiopteris (L.) Todaro. (18) The Sensitive Fern (Onoclea sensibilis) is widely distributed on this continent, being found

HORSE MEMOIRS

"OLD TIME BREEDERS"

(C. E. MacKenzie)

In one article the writer asked any interested breeders to send him accounts of horses and breeders of the earlier days, and I am in receipt of an article from our esteemed friend J. E. Birch, Aberdeen, in which he gives a short sketch of his activities in breeding and racing the harness horse of former days.

By the way breeding and racing horses is only one of the activities of Mr. Birch. Back in the early days of this century he capably represented the first district of Prince in our legislature. Mr. Birch is also a charter member of West-Prince Board of Trade.

Mr. Birch's first venture in the harness horse world was the purchase of a mare from the late John Richards, Biddford, and gives her breeding as follows: "Sire, Dean Swift; 1st dam, a daughter of Farmers Glory; second dam an English thoroughbred brought out by a man named Edwards who settled in Lot 14.

This mare, Maud Bee, was raced by her owner and was a winner in her three year old form, and in 1886 she won every race in which she started. In 1887 Mr. Birch bred Maud Bee to All Right and the result of this mating was Donna West. This mare in her three year old form won a race at Alberton in which eight horses started, three of which were Summerville horses, and at Prince County Fair that fall she carried off the red ribbon.

Mr. Birch sold Donna West to W. B. Bonness for \$250.00. Mr. Bonness in turn sold her to parties in Shediac, N.B., and her first colt won his race as a three year old, best time 2:27 1/2. This horse was purchased by Mr. Bonness, and in less than a week was again sold to New Brunswick parties for over double the original purchase price.

Donna West produced good trotters, and many of the speedy prospects of Shediac and vicinity trace their breeding back to her. Maud Bee was mated with the then noted Administrator, and the product was Jay Bee, a beautiful bay colt that at maturity weighed twelve hundred pounds. Jay Bee was speedy and won every race in which he started except one, winning the first heat in

ed on this continent, being found in moist soil from Newfoundland to Ontario, thence southward to the Gulf of Mexico. It gets its popular name because it is the first fern to succumb to early frost. Fronds intermediate between fertile and sterile forms, often occur. No synonyms!

A WORD IN SEASON "Boxing Day," says the dictionary, "is the first week-day after Christmas, when gifts are given to errand-boys, letter-carriers, etc."

The gift, usually of money, was called a Christmas Box and the name seems to have originated in the fact that every shop or store kept a box on the counter into which customers dropped coins for the benefit of the assistants, that is, the clerks, as we now call them with a fine disregard of the word's etymology. Christmas Day being a holiday the box was not opened till the "clerks" were again assembled, and the money was distributed on Boxing Day. This custom died out in Victorian times, because the errand boys in the shops, possibly annoyed at the unequal distribution of wealth, had their cards printed with a poetic petition for the "Christmas Box," which they put directly before the customer. The Postmen or letter-carriers caught on to the idea, and canvassed privately also. The Box on the counter passed out, but the name survived to denote the gift.

Of all the classes who deserve the Christmas Box, I think the letter carrier or errand boy comes first. Few of us who sit at home in ease, warm and cozy, at an unheatingly hot and cozy station for the mail, as most rural couriers do, finishing off with a 20 or 22 mile drive in all kinds of weather. The good people "over the river, or among whom I worked for so many years, made a point of presenting their courier with a substantial Christmas Box every year and this is how they did it. Each householder put a sum of money, (proportioned to his means) in an envelope marked "Christmas Box for the Courier," and left it on the mail-box, the day before Christmas, thus showing his appreciation of a courteous, punctual and hardworking public servant. That is a custom we all might follow!

The Farm and Christmas

"Christmas and the Farm; the Farm and Food."

Christmas 1936 should see a revival of this ancient Christmas toast. Those were the days when the value of the farm was universally recognized, but in the whirl of modern life the farm, as the sure foundation of material civilization, is apt to be forgotten. The word farm means food and was so called because in older times the tenant was required to provide this land-lord with food by way of rent. Today this definition has been considerably extended in that the farm supplies the nation with food, and without food without the feeding of the multitude, it is not given to human beings to be able openly to express that spirit of universal kindness and peace and good will evoked by the teachings of the Master in the celebration of the festival of Christmas.

The connection between agriculture and Christmas has been intimate from the beginning. It was to shepherds watching their flock by night that the words "Peace on earth, good will to men" were addressed. It was in a lowly stable attached to a farm-kenn that the Saviour of the World was born, and a few days later it was on the back of the most humble farm animal, the ass, that He was borne to Egypt in safety.

It was from the agricultural population mainly that the early Christians drew their adherents, and many years later it was over the fawns and orchards in the vicinity of Rome that the early Christians secured the country in search of holly branches to decorate their

228. One of the outstanding horses in this race was the noted Montrose.

Jay Bee was sold to Mr. Fred Peters, Summerside, and resold to a Saint John man, who in turn sold him to parties in Maine, where he finished up his career with a mark of 2:18. Another good mare raised by Mr. Birch was Maymadora, a daughter of Hernando and Donna West. This filly netted her owner \$100.00 at five months and developed into a fast and beautiful mare and was the dam of Prince-ando.

This colt was also speedy and won a race in Summerside at three years, but afterwards met with an accident which spoiled his career as a race horse. But he sired such good trotters as Lonanda 2:17, Golden Glow 2:22, and others.

Still another colt of Donna West was Parkita, by Parkside. This mare could pace readily, and at Dawson's track, Tryon, paced a very close second to Brilliant in 2:26.

This mare is the grand dam of Roy Volo Jr., owned by Mr. Fred Renne, Alma. In speaking of Maud Bee Mr. Birch states she was the best piece of horse flesh he ever sat behind. She could pull two in a wagon all day long at ten miles per hour and in fact made a very enviable road record, doing seventy miles in four and one half hours, a record to be proud of.

One will notice that Mr. Birch had a success of breeding and raising horses, and deserves credit. Those of us who are honoured by his acquaintance have noticed that he is still an enthusiast and is very frequently an interested spectator at many of our race meets.

I am giving below a partial list of horses owned and bred by our genial friend, namely: Maud Bee, sire Dean Swift, dam Farmers Glory; Donna West, sire All Right, dam Maud Bee, foaled May 26th, 1887; Jay Bee, bay stallion, foaled May 13th, 1888, sire Administrator, dam Maud Bee; Maymadora, foaled May 15th, 1888, sire Hernando, dam Donna West; Miss May Bee, foaled May 15th, 1887, sire Jay Bee, dam Mary Walker; Parkita, foaled June 24th, 1887, sire Parkside, dam Donna West; Duxilian, foaled June 10th, 1904, sire Brazilian, dam Parkita; Togo, foaled June 6th, 1905, sire Haphazard (thoroughbred), dam Miss May Bee; Miss Parkash, foaled May 26th, 1907, sire Haphazard, dam Parkita.

This mare Miss Pharkaph, Mr. Birch states, was the dam of Purina Axborthy, bred by Mr. Frank Motherell and later owned and successfully raced by J. E. Milligan, Northam. There is no doubt that Mr. Birch not only made profit out of breeding these horses but he also enjoyed his work, as he is still young when it comes to watching a close contest. He has promised the writer a short history of Alberton race track, which I hope to pass on in future Memoirs.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

From time to time the question of whether or not a man should keep purebred livestock is often asked agricultural officials and one usually finds that the answer given is much in conformity with that of a very noted Canadian agriculturist: "The breeding and care of purebred livestock is a form of farming that requires special adaptation on the part of the person engaging in it. The breeding of high-class livestock is a business learned only by years of experience and consistent application. To succeed in such a business a man must be attached to it by fondness for animals, and he must possess the patience and industry that is usually required in any difficult or complex occupation. It is a very fascinating occupation, however, and well worth the effort if you appreciate its possibilities."

When a farmer decides to breed purebred livestock he should start in a very modest scale, making his purchases carefully and judiciously and always keeping in mind that a few good animals are better than twice the number of inferior ones. A definite policy in culling your farm animals should be adopted and consistently followed up. Animals that are not good doers or regular and constant breeders are often found on many farms, and they should not be retained but disposed of as promptly as possible and should disappear by way of the stock yards. Nothing is ever gained by selling an unprofitable animal to another breeder.

The best method of beginners in purebred business is by the purchase of a good purebred sire to improve your grade herd. Having decided upon the breed of cattle that suits your purpose and secured some useful grade cows, it will pay to get a good bull, one with some worthwhile lines of breeding behind him, as well as good individual.

As you proceed in your cattle raising operations it will be profitable to sell three or four head in order to purchase a better bull. It is always a good plan, when you have secured an impressive sire, to buy two or three purebred cows to mate with him, if you can at all afford the investment. In this way you will have a pretty fair chance of selling a young bull or two for prices that will make it easier to purchase another and perhaps a better herd leader.

When your calf crop begins to develop so you can judge their possibilities, and you find out they are not an improvement on their mothers, change your sire, as he is not impressive enough for your herd. This does not mean that you must go out and buy an extremely high-priced bull. Frequently good breeding bulls, and often tried sires, can be purchased at reasonable prices. In times when prices are not unduly inflated, a farmer who is building in a small way should always be willing to pay for a herd bull a price about equal to the value of two or three of the bull calves he has been selling. This should work improvement in his herd but is a suggestion rather than a rule. It often pays to buy at a much higher price, if you see the animal that looks like filling your herd.

The breeding of purebred cattle should only be undertaken by those who are ready and willing to give them extra care. Some one has said that the feed is half the breed. Cattle will not grow and develop if they are not well fed and well cared for. Neglected purebred cattle will soon degenerate into purebred scrub. When a

LARGE OATS YIELD

TWO RIVERS, Alta. — Average yield of 140 bushels an acre was reported by A. Burgess of this district from a 20-acre plot of registered oats. Mr. Burgess' fine return was typical of productivity this fall in the Peace River district where the best yields since 1928 have been obtained in wheat, oats and barley.

buyer comes to your place to purchase a pure-bred bull or heifer he expects to get something better than a common animal. If your boasts are not in good fit they will not look valuable enough for him to buy at anything but a low price. A good beast will always pay for its feed and a good animal half starved is almost a total loss. If you are not prepared to give your purebred calves extra attention, good feed to grow them out, and an occasional washing to keep them clean and attractive, you should not try to breed purebred cattle. The extra profit they will pay you above that from grades is mostly made by the care and attention you give them. When you finally develop into a breeder of first class of purebred cattle which are fit to take their place in the show ring, and to command higher prices at sales you will have learned not only the value of fitting, but many lessons in how to do it well.

It is a good plan to keep in mind the fact that to please the eye of your purchaser is to strongly promote a sale. Straight lines, beauty of form, attractive breed type, straight well placed legs, good heads and quality throughout are most desirable qualities. High tail heads, coarse horns, sloping quarters and shaggy bodies are undesirable in any breed.

Breed for attractiveness and general goodness, and feed to bring out these qualities, and accentuate

WANTED

A large quantity of well washed, picked wool. Price 30 cents per pound.

WM. CONDON, Woolen Mills, Charlottetown

TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH Silver Fox Farming

Continued from page 18. Translated, its name is "International Skin and Fur Market, Limited." It has a capital of \$150,000. The first auction sale will be held on or about January 20th, 1937. Shipments of furs from Europe, Canada and the United States are assured.

The Horse Show, New York City's great sporting event which was held at Madison Square Garden the second week of November, attracted record crowds. The horses were magnificent with the detachment of Canadian Mounted Police creating a tremendous amount of interest. The furs worn were luxurious and the women beautiful. Society attended afternoons and evenings and the week took of all the glamour of a big fashion show. All kinds of fur apparel, coats of display, capes, coats, jackets of silver fox, mink, sable, ermine, white fox, beaver marten, ermine, Persian lamb, Alaska seal, red fox, brown grey, black, blue, white furs, raccoon, squirrel, beaver, leopard, leopard cat and lapin—what is another name for the Rumba, rabbit sheared and dyed brown, and certainly a very attractive garment. New York fur dealers were right on the spot and utilized every opportunity of popularizing their many attractive garments. They have learned a lot from the Parisians, who regularly send out dozens of models wearing silver fox in beautiful effects to the race courses at Vincennes and nearby tracks of Paris and environs.

By CHARLES P. NUTTER, Associated Press Staff Correspondent. MOSCOW, Dec. 18.—Less and less the name of Stalin is being featured in the development of Soviet Russia. That is the way Stalin wants it. Although this has been apparent for many months, it was brought home most strikingly by the absence of Stalin's name from the 33 slogans approved by the Central Committee of the Communist Party for use in the November celebration of the revolution.

Many reasons why such a move is in order are apparent to those who have followed recent developments here. There is no one who believes the move means Stalin is releasing any of his great power, but rather that he has turned to a more removed and less advanced means of governing the nation. One of Stalin's reasons is the occupation, especially abroad, that he was only aping—Belatedly—the tactics of Mussolini and Hitler. He also realizes that Vladimir Lenin inherently command great attention from the people than contemporary politicians and executives. No sky-writer tried to print Lenin's name on the clouds. There were criticisms heard of this, as well as the stunt of the stratosphere balloon which took off carrying a gigantic picture of Stalin but not of Lenin.

BRINGING UP FATHER



POULTRY Buying Poultry, all kinds, daily. Paying Highest Market Prices Island Cold Storage Co., Ltd.