

FOR FARMERS, STOCK BREEDERS AND GARDENERS

NEWSY NOTES

BY AGRICOLA

THE ORDER OF INSECTS (7)

The "Long-horned wood-boring Beetle's" next claim our attention. They are a large family, and according to Blatchley, 13,000 different species are known, of which 600 are found in the United States. These beetles are in general of an elongated form with extremely long antennae ("horns"), often longer than the whole body. They fly well and are strong runners, but many of them have the habit of remaining motionless, as if dazed, upon the trunks or limbs of trees, and can then be easily picked up by the finger's tip. When thus caught they can make a kind of squeak. The color will vary in many species of these beetles by searching the piles of logs at the saw-mills and both the upper and lower surface of the timber should be examined. The larvae, which are white or yellowish, tapering grubs, have powerful jaws with which they eat their way into the heart-wood of trees or shrubs; and they are consequently very destructive.

Two specimens of *Morohammus titillator* (which may be translated as the "Tinkler Beetle") have been brought in by teachers for my inspection. They were brownish beetles but so thickly clothed with greyish pubescence that the ground-color was almost hidden. They were large—20 to 30 millimetres long—and both males with the antennae about four times the length of the body. (The antennae of the female are about half the length of the male's antennae.) Each thorax ran to a sticky point on each side. A close relation of this common here, is *M. scutellator*, which is about the same color, with the addition of a tiny triangular white patch at the base of the wing-covers (the "scutellum"). This species is not so large and robust, and the antennae are not so long. And finally, on July 5th 1931, I captured a specimen of *M. confusor*, which is larger but without the white sticky points. These three are said to infest grain and from their size must be very destructive.

Another "Long-horn" which is easily distinguished by its fine blue-black coloring is *Callidium stratum*.

This also has antennae a little longer than its body, and the elytra are coarsely punctate. This insect is about 13 or 14 millimetres long. The beautiful coloring is apt to fade when the beetle is mounted for preservation, and to some extent I believe it is to rise from the decomposition of the viscera.

(The abdomen should invariably be opened and the contents extracted in the case of the larger insects; and the cavity filled with cotton-wool. Light, too, and especially sunlight, seriously affects the colors of insects, and collections should be carefully protected from it.) The Callidium should also be looked for in the neighborhood of pine woods.

The "Leaf-beetles" are a very large group of 18,000 species, some of which are very troublesome. The eggs, which are laid upon the stems or leaves of the food-plant, are generally yellowish and elongated. The larvae vary in form but for the most part are fleshy, convex or hump-backed "slugs" or "grubs" such as those of the "potato bug", properly the Colorado potato beetle. The beetles themselves are "s" or "h" bodied and more or less oval in outline, and remind one of the lady-bugs, except in the matter of coloring. However, some of them are prettily variegated and marked, and in others blues, greens, and browns prevail.

Among the most voracious, is the so-called *Gastrolidea polygoni*, is quite common here, occurring on knot-grass (*Polygonum aviculare* L.). *Gastrolidea* means "pot-bellied" and apt description, for the abdomen can scarcely move about. The head and elytra are of a brilliant blue, and the thorax of a reddish color; a little stem of an insect, 4 or 5 mm long! The "Leaf-beetles" are only to be known; they are mostly small beetles, with the hind thighs enlarged and thickened, so that when disturbed they can leap like the insect from which they take their name. As the farmer knows, they are responsible for grave injury to the seedlings of turnips and cabbages, indeed of all the plants belonging to the family Cruciferae. As Pamphlet 70, New Series, says: "The first injury noticed is in early spring when red leaves are damaged, small holes appearing in the leaf surface. This is followed by the entire destruction of the seed leaves, resulting in the death of the young plants." The culprit is one of the *Phylloretas*, possibly *P.*

FIND LONG SOUGH T FRUIT



What Charlottetown fruit growers have sought for years, a plum that can be successfully converted into prunes is the discovery claimed by Henry Forman, 76, Colingwood, Ontario. The plum is called the Baker Co man and was found growing wild in the Georgian Bay district. In the above layout is shown 1. Isabel Malcom a little girl eating some of the fruit dried by the department of agriculture. 2. Mr. Forman standing under the plum tree in his garden from which the fruit was taken.

PLAN MAKING BRITISH AGRICULTURE PAY

Walter Elliot, Minister of Agriculture, At Helm of Recovery Plans.

(Canadian Press Cable)
LONDON, Dec. 28.—A resolute Scotman of quiet voice and disarming manner is rapidly changing the face of British agriculture. It was characteristic of Walter Elliot, Minister of Agriculture in the National Government, that a few weeks ago he should request newspapers to drop the "Major" they were accustomed to attach to his name. He asked to be just plain "Major" and nothing more. The "Major" of the Western Front were old days of the Western Front were over; his present job was making British agriculture pay. And in the same unassuming way Walter Elliot is securing Parliamentary consent to measures which a few years ago would have seemed beyond the bounds of reason. Tariffs and quotas strike at imported foreign food-stuffs, which once it was almost sacrilege to touch.

Marketing

Control and orderly marketing to mend production are steadily supplanting the old free competition. A guaranteed price for home grown wheat was followed by the Agriculture Marketing Act. Under the act, control schemes are in operation for pigs and bacon, for milk and hops. A control scheme for potatoes is before Parliament. Reorganization commissions are working out schemes for eggs and poultry and for livestock. Each marketing scheme is devised for the particular farm product in mind, but in all cases the technique is much the same. Take the milk scheme. Under it, England and Wales are divided into 11 areas (Scotland has a scheme of its own). The Milk Marketing Board is authorized to fix contract prices and conditions for all milk sold for household purposes. Buyers of liquid milk, whether for distribution or manufacture, pay into a regional pool. The board is further empowered to impose a small levy on sales of liquid milk in order to compensate farmers in regions where a large proportion of milk is sold for manufacturing purposes. Or take potatoes. Under the potato scheme England is divided into seven districts. Scotland and Wales each rank as a district. The Potato Marketing Board estimates the probable crop. If it is likely to be well in excess of consumption the board may regulate quantities to be sold. It is authorized to determine grading, packing, storage, advertising and transportation. A producer who is neither registered nor exempt from registration is now forced to sell potatoes either in Great Britain or elsewhere.

Risk

Some exceptions are recognized, but the "pooling" runs the risk of a heavy fine. Schemes in operation have had some unexpected reactions. Under the bacon scheme, too many little pigs went to market. It had been estimated the scheme would result in a steady increase in home production at the expense of imports of about 10 percent a month. Contracts actually signed and approved represented an apparent increase in home production to the level expected before 1933. The Minister of Agriculture had to make an order reducing foreign supplies by 16 percent. Home bacon curers faced with a deficit between their contract price for pigs and the selling price for bacon, had to be induced against loss. A joint committee of nine is to examine the situation.

Dairying

Dairy farmers in the midwestern and west-midland regions of England are urging a national pool. They are discontented with the regional pool scheme and discontent is particularly keen among farmers living near the edge of a regional boundary. The difference in regional pool price between one side of a boundary and the other, they assert, often amounts to as much as 45 per cent per annum. Farmers are consequently urging a national pool. And these efforts to make British agriculture pay are likely to react eventually on Dominion exports of food products. The British farmer complains that supplies of frozen beef, chiefly from the Dominions, have filled the gap created by reducing imports of foreign chilled beef, and kept prices down.

Wool Restriction

The Ottawa agreement that no restriction should be placed on imports of meat from Australia and

AGRICULTURAL COURSES

The Department of Agriculture will conduct a six weeks course in Practical Agriculture in the Prince of Wales College and at the Dominion Experimental Farm, commencing January 10th, 1934, for boys 16 years of age and over.

Write for particulars regarding the nature of the course, the cost and the assistance provided by the Department.

J. W. BOULTER,
Deputy Minister of Agriculture.

Annual Meeting Orwell Cove W.I.

The annual meeting of the Orwell Cove Women's Institute was held on Nov. 23rd at the home of Mrs. J. A. MacLeod. The meeting opened by reciting the Creed. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and signed. The election of officers resulted as follows: President, Mrs. Wilfred MacLean; Vice-President, Mrs. F. E. Rooney; Secretary, Estelle MacDonald; Auditors, Miss Eileen Morrissey and Mrs. J. A. MacLeod; Directors, Miss

Course for Fishermen

The Biological Board of Canada offers to assist a limited number of fishermen from the Maritime Provinces to attend the Short Course for Fishermen to be given at the Fisheries Experimental Station, Halifax, N. S. during a term of four weeks commencing on January 24th, 1934. Each will be given on completion of the course the sum of \$32.00, plus the amount of railway fare for a return trip between Halifax and the railway station nearest his home. Only bona fide fishermen from 17 to 25 years of age, who have passed through grade 6 in the public schools of the Maritime Provinces or an equivalent grade, will be able to obtain these grants. All applications must be in by January 10th, and should be addressed to the Fisheries Experimental Station, Halifax, N. S.

WANT FORMAL DEMAND MADE

(Canadian Press)
SAINT JOHN, N.B., Dec. 29.—Following an analysis by A. P. Patterson of the legal opinion prepared for the government of New Brunswick by J. F. H. Teed, K. C., on the subject of Maritime claims and rights under confederation, a special meeting of the Maritime Confederation League this afternoon adopted a resolution requesting the Provincial Government to present a "formal demand" to the Dominion Government for the "definite documentary recognition of the rights of the people of New Brunswick, especially with respect to transportation and trade."

LOWER FREETOWN WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The December meeting of Lower Freetown Women's Institute was held on the sixth at Mrs. Frank Cairns. The President, Mrs. Jardine Stewart, was in the chair. The meeting opened in the usual way. After the regular business was over a good Christmas programme was enjoyed by the twelve members present.

SILVER FOX IN NORWAY

The history of the development of the silver fox industry in Norway is well known to Canadian silver fox breeders, who contributed largely of their stock as well as of their experience. The industry, which the Canadian Trade Commissioner has been established and recently the first Norwegian fur auction has been organized, the first sale being fixed at Oslo for November 22.

WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE?

The Canadian papers of recent months have been filled with reports of riotous scenes in the Kingston Penitentiary, Ontario. If only it could be evenly divided up as to the number of criminals who had found their way there because of drink it might come home to many respectable citizens that they had helped to fill their cells by not being alive to a duty of opposing the liquor business everywhere and everywhere.

CHICKEN THIEVES CONVICTED

(Canadian Press)
NEW WATERFORD, Dec. 27.—Bits of feathers and traces of blood formed a trail that led to the evenful conviction of two local youths in the police court today on a charge of chicken stealing. The cop of Newton O'Brien was raised last night and officers Oakey and McMillan, detailed to investigate, also secured a trail of feathers and blood that led them to a shack on the outskirts of the town where the stolen fowl were found.

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W. C. T. U. NOTES

(Continued From Page 2)
In a referendum vote on three liquor administration options a year ago, 71.5 per cent of the voters rejected the prohibition law adopted in 1919 by an approximate majority of 328,000.

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(Continued From Page 2)
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A WHITE-FOOTED MOUSE

Last year a correspondent at Hutter Plover asked a question about the identity of the "Kangaroo Mouse," and I replied I was led to enumerate the species of rodents which have been found in P. E. I. Among them was the white-footed mouse, and a paragraph in the article runs as follows:

"This is the next on Palm's list, but I have not yet met with a specimen of it. It is, however, a mouse with its name, and it may well be here. To naturalists it is known as *Peromyscus leucopus*, and a description will help observers, in case it is found. It is a graceful little animal, usually a little larger than the house mouse from which it may at once be distinguished by the contrast between the dilute shades of fawn color, brown or gray, of the upper parts of the body, and the snowy white feet and underparts." One of these lively creatures was caught in the navy gun trap on the 7th Dec. 1933, and thus I was enabled to add to these notes, "mouse-grey, faintly tinged brown above; white below and feet; tail brownish-brown, longitudinal stripes above, ears rather large. A sleek little animal." Its total length, from snout to tip of tail was 145 mm.; length of tail 72 mm.; and length of hind foot 17 mm. This is one of the smallest mice and is perhaps better adapted for an outdoor life in the woods. I have not seen the Red-backed mouse (*Peromyscus gapperi*) which is said to be here.

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11 December, 1933.
8 January, 1934.
5 March, 1934.
7 May, 1934.
8 October, 1934.

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