

NEWSY NOTES

By J. A. Clark, D.Sc.

Veterinary Services

The inauguration of the Veterinary Service Policy by the Provincial Department of Agriculture, with the appointment of Dr. George C. Fisher as Director of Veterinary Services on March 1st, 1951, was a great step forward and a real boon to the live stock industry in Prince Edward Island. This was followed by the appointment of four graduate veterinarians on June 1, 1951, as follows: Dr. J. E. Sterns, Charlottetown, Dr. J. R. McCrea, Montague, Dr. G. R. Hendry, Kensington and Dr. H. A. Curry at O'Leary.

The writer remembers when the nearest graduate veterinarian to Stanley Bridge, Bay View, Cavendish or Hope River was at Charlottetown or Summerside, both more than twenty miles from most areas in these communities, and the roads then would scarcely be considered as secondary roads today. It is true there were two so-called horse doctors at Hope River, who had acquired considerable practical knowledge by experience, over many years. For minor live stock troubles they rendered good service, if called in time. In many cases, however, the animals were beyond their skill before they were sent for, and the common idea prevailed that once they took charge the animal's chance of recovery was slight.

The present staff of the Provincial Veterinary Services are not only available to all live stock owners for consultation and treatment of all animal diseases, but they are ready to assist in connection with all problems in relation to the health of animals, and are striving to eliminate such parasites as: Bots in horses, warbles in cattle, worms in sheep and hogs, as well as external parasites, such as lice, ticks, etc. In animals, and lice and mites in poultry. One of the out-

standing services that these veterinarians are rendering is in preventing the introduction of disease to the Island flocks and herds. In this they cooperate with the Federal Health of Animals Division of the Dominion Department of Agriculture.

This year there were quite heavy losses in various parts of the province from Blackleg, an infectious disease of young cattle and sheep. This highly fatal disease is easily diagnosed by a veterinarian because of certain characteristic symptoms, and confirmed, after death, by the reaction of the carcass to pressure applied to the skin over certain areas. The germs of this disease are usually found in soil or forage. The writer, however, knew of one outbreak that was caused by an aged cow chewing the bones of a stray animal that some years before had wandered into the woods and died, without anyone knowing that it had died there, or where it had come from. Where Blackleg is known to have occurred, or is suspected, preventative measures should be taken, as there is no practical treatment for this disease. The germs live in the soil for years, but vaccination is a reliable and effective preventative means of protecting both cattle and sheep. This should be done before they are put to pasture, or whenever there is danger of infection.

Three horses in Western Prince County contracted Anthrax last July. Unlike Blackleg, which is not transmitted to humans, Anthrax, or wool sorters' disease, can be transmitted to man, and therefore, even though this disease is not contagious, the area was quarantined, proper precautions were taken, and this small, isolated outbreak of two premises, was controlled and completely eliminated. It may be of interest to know that Anthrax bacilli are among the largest germ forms known to bacteriologists. These are only two of the many problems that our veterinarians had to cope with.

Newcastle disease of poultry, was first discovered in England, and later came into Canada from the Pacific United States by way of British Columbia, and soon spread from coast to coast. Great numbers of poultry were slaughtered without avail in trying to stop this dread disease. Vaccination has been used in many places, but the present method has not proven satisfactory, either in controlling or preventing the introduction of this disease.

The natural isolation of Prince Edward Island has so far favoured this Province, and up to the present, Newcastle disease had not been diagnosed here. We trust that our poultrymen will fully cooperate with the Veterinary Medical Services and the Dominion Department of Agriculture in carrying out their suggestions as stated in the press from time to time, to avoid any chance of introducing it by importing any stock, chicks or eggs that might carry infection. People from this province should avoid contact with any source of contamination, and visitors or buyers should be requested not to enter poultry houses or yards. Every precaution should be taken, to see that old crates, bars, etc., are not returned or allowed to be moved from one farm to another. Should any flock develop unusual sickness, it should be reported at once to the nearest veterinarian or the Director of Veterinary Services at Charlottetown.

False Face

By E. C. Buley

CHAPTER XIV

Continued

"You've no right to say that," Marcia objected. "Oh, yes, I have," Tobin said stoutly. "Unless he wanted to get that off his chest somehow. And he couldn't very well volunteer a hard luck story like that. He ought to be grateful to me for acting as catspaw."

"But what an experience!" Marcia said. "Well, he's turning it to account," Tobin said. "For instance, he turns up in Paris under the wing of Jeanne Lederer. Now I am not going to break my heart about a chap who runs with that little subdly. And while we are on the subject, here she is; and she's looking daggers at the faithless Henry Smith. Hadn't I better steer a course out of these waters?"

"Why should you?" Marcia asked. "I don't suppose that Mr. Smith has any reason for running away from the woman. For the rest of us, she simply doesn't exist."

"She has a way of asserting her existence, when she is annoyed about anything; or so I am told," Tobin remarked. "I only wanted to save you from the possibility of a scene, Marcia."

"Thank-you; I certainly should not like a scene," Marcia admitted. "But it is fair to Mr. Smith to suggest that a scene could be made?"

"I'm not trying to be fair to Mr. Smith," Tobin said. "I am simply thinking of you and of Miss Soames. All I know is that Jeanne Lederer was infatuated with Smith, and is now looking very angry, and just a little dangerous."

"Very well. If Mr. Smith suggests leaving it will be time to leave," Marcia replied. "It is his affair entirely."

Strange But True

By F. M. MacArthur

W. E. and E. M. Norman, a father and son geology team of Burnaby, B. C. are finding some amazing things in their two-acre plot. Recently the pair came up with a 300 pound granite axe. Some of the spears they uncovered were of giant size—evidence that giants once inhabited our West Coast province.

Truck gardeners in England are growing bumper crops by giving the soil a touch of electricity. Wires buried under the surface are electrically charged with a loading of between five to ten watts per square foot and the current is controlled by thermostat. The arrangement works wonders with such crops as Tomatoes and lettuce. Each lettuce requires about 1 1/2 units.

On the farm of Donald Campbell, Eaglesham, Alberta, may be seen a couple of porkers having ten legs between them. The extra legs have hoofs and nails and are attached to normal legs. The freak pigs belonged to a litter of eleven!

The Canadian family with the largest number of children from a single marriage was that of Joseph Flury de la Gorgendiere, with 32 children.

Glass windows made their first appearance in Montreal homes in 1688. Dragon-flies are a very ancient race of insects. They tenanted the strange antique forests of the Coal period, and some were, for an insect, of gigantic size, one having a wing spread of two feet. Dragonflies ought not to be killed as they destroy millions of mosquitoes.

The ostrich is distinguished from all other ground birds by having only two toes.

The lobster occasionally attains a great size, and specimens 3 feet, 6 inches long and 30 pounds in weight, were taken off the New Jersey coast in March, 1879.

Incidentally, there are some very tiny lobsters. The snapping Prawns, for example, are not longer than 1/2 of an inch. One clam is much larger than the other, and is armed with a sharp-edged blade. At the least alarm this blade is closed with a sharp snap, reminding one of the explosion of a small torpedo.

These little lobsters live among the coral reefs, under shells and in sponges; so that when a sponge is taken from the water it crackles as if filled with tiny fire-crackers.

Horses (12 in number) arrived at Quebec on the 10th of July, 1665, representing the first shipment of these animals from France, destined for the use of the Canadians.

The first Jewish resident of Canada, the 20-year-old Esther Brandeau came to Quebec in 1739, disguised as a man. She performed the duties of a male messenger with a group of monks. Upon discovery of her sex she was deported in 1740 as Jews were denied entrance to Canada throughout the French regime.

BULLETINS FROM BIRDLAND

By WINIFRED E. WILSON



REPORTED AT CHRISTMAS

So many of our birds are now holding in Central or South America, that we feel bereft. However, according to the latest statistics made by competent bird enthusiasts, at least 450 different species must still be either in Canada or the United States. Naturally most are in the southern part of the continent, for there many of our summer birds spend the winter because the climate is quite suitable for them. Nevertheless, even in the cold winter weather of Nova Scotia, a person may see 25 species or more within a 10 mile radius on Christmas Day.

Last December 26th, members of the Newfoundland Natural History Society in St. John's identified 21 varieties in the city and half a mile along the coast at Torbay and Witless Bay.

You may ask, "What kinds of birds can brave the cold?" The big test is really not ability to resist cold, but whether or not the bird can obtain the required food at this time of year. Big bodies of water are still free of ice. Therefore Geese, Teal, certain species of Ducks, and Gulls can yet obtain fish from the Atlantic Ocean, large lakes, or wide rivers.

Within urban districts the ever-present English Sparrows and Starlings seem to thrive on scraps or crumbs found on the streets; and only a short distance from the centre of the cities we notice more varieties. A flock of Pine Grosbeaks, males in pinky red, females in yellow and grey, look for mountain ash berries and old apples hanging from trees that they may take the seeds. A Robin may be staying, subsisting on left-over berries; Chickadees are frequently found feeding on insects and larvae in bark crevices; several species of Woodpeckers live on insects hidden deep in trees; Nuthatches eat nuts for their holiday meal.

A flash of bright blue in a wooded area means a Jay as it endeavours to satisfy its hunger on nuts; the Ruffed Grouse is eating buds of trees. Pellets at the foot of a big tree where sits a sleepy Owl tell a tale. Perhaps it fed on chipmunk, a mouse, or a small bird.

Among birds best able to survive a Canadian winter are seed eaters. Unless snowdrifts are unusually deep, some weeds are sure to poke

up, and seeds hang from bushes and trees. These provide nourishment for Juncos, Snow Buntings, Redpolls, Crossbills, and Tree Sparrows. Even Purple Finches and Goldfinches may remain here for Christmas dinner.

Can anybody see Cardinals?

OYSTER BED BRIDGE W. I.

The December meeting of the Oyster Bed Bridge Women's Institute met at the home of Mrs. Philip Matheson on Thursday, December 4th, with eleven members and one visitor present.

The president, Mrs. R. L. MacPherson, presided. The meeting opened with the "Ode," followed by repeating the Creed in unison. The roll call was answered by handing in an article for the auction.

The minutes of the November meeting were read and approved. Four members paid their membership fees. The committee reported cake for link institute overseas made and mailed.

Bills amounting to \$10.56 were ordered paid. Mrs. Omar Younker was asked to get 200 Cud Liver Oil capsules. Mrs. Philip Matheson was appointed Red Cross secretary and was asked to send for Red Cross work. It was decided to get fruit for treat for children at Christmas concert.

Sick committee reported two calls made. School committee reported fountain needed repair and something was needed to keep dust down while sweeping.

It was decided to send \$5.00 for a Tuberculosis Seal Bond. The birthday box was opened and \$4.48 was realized from it.

Mrs. Russell Smith invited the members to her home for the January meeting, the roll call to be answered by measuring the waist and paying a cent for each inch; a prize to be given for the largest and smallest waist and Mrs. Russell Smith to purchase prizes.

An auction was then held. Mrs. Philip Matheson acting as auctioneer. The total receipts of the auction amounted to \$7.25. The meeting closed with "The Queen." Mrs. Philip Matheson was pianist. The hostess served a delicious luncheon and a social half hour followed.

W.C.T.U. NOTES

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

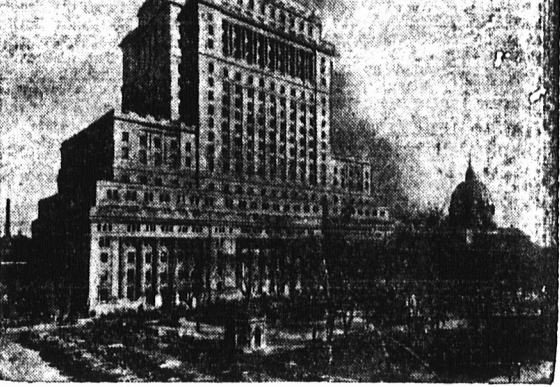
(Ida M. McBain)

December! Christmas! Our Lord's Birthday! What a joyful month this should be for all Christians! Not a month when all our time and thought should be so fully occupied with plans for our physical pleasures that we forget the spiritual significance of the great event which this month commemorates. God so loved the world that He gave—not Santa Claus and what we have made him stand for—but His only begotten Son, the Saviour of the world.

Christ's coming meant a new evaluation of life. He taught that service should be the mainspring of life. He said, "I am among you as he that serveth" followed by the words, "I have given you an example that you should do as I have done." I feel that this is the key-word of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, service for our fellowman. Our motto signifies this,

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Burgess Bedtime. Continued from page 11. he doesn't come over here." "If we are buried down in the snow, it won't matter if he does," said Thunderer. Mrs. Grouse knew this was true. How might find them in a tree, but he certainly wouldn't find them buried in the snow on the ground. "All right," said she, "we'll go down in the snow." She led the way. From where she was sitting half way up in the tree, she whirled out and down. She plunged headfirst into the snow on the ground. Thunderer followed. They worked their way along on the ground until they were a little distance from where they had entered the snow. The snow had fallen back, and nearly filled the holes they had made when plunging in. They settled themselves for the night. But Mrs. Grouse was still troubled.

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