

FARMERS' STOCK BREEDERS AND GARDENERS

Canadian Poultry on British Market

Under the heading "Canadian Turkeys and Chickens," the Fish Trades Gazette (London, England) of May 8, 1936, says, with reference to the arrival of a shipment that week, Canadian turkeys are showing up perhaps rather late in the season, although ever since the Christmas trade there have been here and there large turkeys that could be brought in for sale. This week, however, a shipment has arrived which contains several cases of hens weighing from 6 lb. to 8 lb. and 10 lb. There should be no difficulty in disposing of these birds as they are of a size that any shipkeeper could use. They are eminently suitable for the family trade, whereas the larger ones, which weigh from 16 lb. to 18 lb., can only be used at this time of the year by hotels, or for the shipping trade, Canadian chickens too are more plentiful now than they were a few months ago. Why these shipments should have been held up for so long is difficult to understand. There are a good many chickens on the market just now, but at prices that will suit the pocket of a good many tradesmen who can use a frozen chicken. One item in favour of the Canadian chicken is the quality, although most of what I have seen are grade B selected. They are young and a very good colour. Here and there a bird will be found not quite up to the standard, but taking the pack as a whole they are very good. Now, with regard to the future of the Canadian chicken, there is and always will be a good trade in this country, providing that the merchants in the market produce a bird that can be sold cheaper than English and at a season when the English chickens are scarce, or not plentiful. The general opinion is that February, March and April are the best months for cold storage birds, and there is no reason why Canadian chickens should not take the place of all other imported birds.

How to Combat Garden Insects

Garden plants are liable to attack by many kinds of destructive insects. Some of these destroy the foliage others the flowers while others bore into the stems and even into the roots. Injurious insects may be divided roughly into two classes by the nature of their mouthpieces, namely, (1) biting insects which bite and chew their food, such as cutworms and other caterpillars, and leaf-eating beetles, and (2) sucking insects which suck up their food by means of their beaks, such as aphids, the true bugs, and the scale insects. If the insect is one with biting mouthparts, a stomach poison such as Paris green, or arsenate of lead, is usually applicable, but if the insect has sucking mouthparts, such poisons would be useless because the insect would insert its beak through the poison and reach safe feeding places beneath. For sucking insects, therefore, contact insecticides are usually recommended, those commonly used being in kerosene emulsion, whale oil soap, and preparations containing tobacco. A kerosene (coal oil) emulsion is made as follows—Use two gallons of kerosene, one gallon of rain water, and a half pound of soap. Heat the water, cut the soap into fine shavings and add them to the water until all is dissolved. Then pour this mixture into the kerosene and churn the whole violently with a syringe or force pump for about five minutes, or until a thick creamy emulsion is produced. This makes the stock solution which it cools thickens into a jelly-like mass. The stock solution when properly made will keep for months if air is excluded. When required for use, the solution should be diluted with nine times its measure of warm water. When only a small quantity of kerosene solution is required for immediate use, the following mixture is recommended: kerosene, one quart; flour, eight ounces; water, two gallons. Stir the flour and kerosene together, then add the water and churn briskly for minutes. It should be used at once. While oil or fish soap is used extensively for aphids and such like insects, but its unpleasant odour is objectionable to many lovers of ornamental plants. For brown or black aphids it should be used in the strength of one pound to four gallons of warm water; for green aphids or thrips, in the strength of one pound to six gallons of water. With regard to tobacco extracts, trade preparations containing 40 per cent nicotine sulphate are sold by most seedsmen, hardware and drugstores, and should be used as directed.

THE CUCKOO

(Natural History notes contributed by the Jack Miner League)

This week we write of the cuckoo. The cuckoo occurs rather rarely on P. E. I. but once in a while in the month of June or July you may hear him in the orchard. He is a bird, once you find him, which is rather difficult, you will have little trouble in observing again as he is rather tame. We quote an article by Gilbert Pearson on the yellow-billed cuckoo. Although it is most likely the black-billed that you meet with on this island. Of all the tales told of European birds, the one relating to the nesting-habits of the Cuckoo must reflect the least credit on the accused. In the spring, when the nesting-time for birds arrives, it does not build a nest for itself, but quietly steals away and deposits its eggs secretly one at a time, in the nests of other birds. There the eggs are incubated and the young are reared by foster parents. While the Cuckoo thus saves itself the labor of building a nest, and the anxiety of caring for its young, it suffers from an unpleasant notoriety, perhaps by few other birds. In this country the black C. bird has the same parasitic habit. Nest and Eggs Our Yellow-billed Cuckoo has learned the art of nest-building but poorly the cradle in which the young are reared being little more than a mere platform of twigs. Indeed, so thin and frail a structure is it that often the eggs may be counted through the nest from beneath. It is usually placed on the sheltered limb of a tree or among thick vines in hedge-rows growing along streams, and in orchards or groves. The eggs are nearly an inch and a quarter long, and about three-fourths as wide. They number from two to four, and in color are greenish-blue. Many birds lay their eggs, one each day, with great regularity, until the full number has been reached. The Cuckoo, however, often allows a few days to pass after she begins sitting on some of the eggs before the others are deposited. Thus a young bird, an incubated egg, and a freshly laid egg are sometimes found in the same nest. Among the branches of our fruit-trees we may sometimes see large webs which have been made by tent-caterpillars. An invading host appears to have come and pitched its tent among the boughs on all sides. These caterpillars are destructive to trees, and the Cuckoo does us a great service by coming often to raid the encampment. They pull the little hairy intruders out of their tents by hundreds and eat them. So many are eaten by these birds that often their coats are found to be thickly coated with a layer of caterpillar-hairs. Cuckoos also eat grasshoppers and various kinds of flies. Great Utility The Biological Survey of the United States Department of Agriculture has, for many years, been studying the feeding-habits of wild birds, with the object of determining their relationship to mankind. Dr. F. E. L. Beal, of this Bureau in his paper on the relation of Cuckoos to agriculture, says: "The insect-food of Cuckoos consists of beetles, grasshoppers, cicadas, bugs, ants, wasps, flies, caterpillars, and spiders, of which grasshoppers and caterpillars constitute more than three-fourths. In 129 stomachs examined, 2,771 caterpillars were found, or an average of 21 in each. In May and June, when tent-caterpillars are in the prime of their life, they constitute half of the Cuckoo's food. One stomach was so full that the bird had evidently devoured the whole tent-colony, as there were several hundred in the stomach. This diet of hairy caterpillars has a curious effect on the bird's stomach, lining of which is often pierced by so many hairs as to be completely and almost entirely concealed. It seems hardly possible to overestimate the value of the Cuckoo's work. All caterpillars are harmful, many of them are pests, and any of them are likely to become so. The common tent-caterpillar formerly fed on the wild cherry, but has now turned its attention principally to apple-trees, sometimes completely defoliating them." In some parts of the United States, especially in the South, the surface of the country is fairly level and the soil is sand. Large tracts are of pine-woodland, sometimes with oak, and in some places growing near, occupy much of the sparsely settled land. In these pine-forests the Cuckoo are seldom seen; and in such regions, if we wish to find them, we must search by the lakes and along the streams where other kinds of trees are growing, or else among the shade-trees of a town. 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NEWSY NOTES

BY AGRICOLA

ASTRONOMICAL NOTES

Dr. Richardson, of the Mount Wilson Observatory, Pasadena, tells me that there have been maculae (sunspots) on the surface of the sun every day for about a year past. At times they are plentiful. As has been remarked in these Notes, we are close to maximum sunspot year, when (according to the astronomers) we may expect more rainfall in coastal districts, and a condition of drought in inland regions. This seems to be exemplified in our abundant rainfall during the past few months, and in the arid condition of the northwestern United States. Observers must have noticed the unusual cloud effects such periods bring us: "Wild-looking skies," as one correspondent says. And now and then we have electric storms and auroras, traceable to these disturbances of the sun. An earthquake was registered in the Dominion Observatory on June 30th, at 12.18 p.m., A.D.T. Its epicentre was 4,860 miles from Ottawa; probably in Kamchatka, Siberia. On my calendar I had marked that the moon would be in the neighborhood (visually) of Jupiter on July 1st; that is, both bodies would be exerting a gravitational force from the same direction. Was the earthquake a response to this strain? I believe it was. But no earthquake would have taken place unless a state of tension had been induced in the earth's crust by other factors not yet clearly known. Hence not every planetary conjunction is accompanied by an earthquake. This has made many persons skeptical about the relationship between the two. A GREAT HERBARIUM A communication from Mr. E. W. Hart, Botanist, of Ottawa, gives considerable information about the activities of the Division of Botany there. To facilitate the identification of native Canadian plants (which come in from every part of the Dominion) there have been gathered together some 15,000 mounted specimens, collected mainly by members of the staff, though some have been selected from the hundreds of plants sent in to be named. The present writer sent in two plants from the island (an Evening Primrose, Oenothera serotina, and the Wood Groundsel, Senecio sylvaticus) which found place in the herbarium. The collection is accessible to the public and as a result of visits by teachers and others, small herbariums have been established in many other institutions. The plants sent in for naming fall roughly into three classes. Information is often sought as to the edibility of wild fruits; noxious weeds are come in for a share of attention as being one of the most important groups of plants. We are not to do without there is a "botanic garden" of wild plants at Ottawa; but I have a catalogue, made many years ago, and now out of print, which told of many European as well as Canadian plants growing in the borders there. Some in the interval since 1908, my attention have been out, but just as surely a number of their descendants are adding to the interest of my own garden in the year 1936! Not long ago I told my readers of the "artificial hill" in the park at Sunderland, in Durham County. The "Park-keeper" as they called the man in charge of the municipal park there had laid out a little botanical garden in one corner of his domain. It was a series of fruit-trees, and a few deciduous trees, divided from each other by turf walks, and filled with local plants arranged in their Natural Orders. For all it was limited to the plants of the limestone district, it was very useful as a source of "fresh material" for teachers of botany in the schools; and on the occasion of holiday visits to the Park, I found that the little garden was well patronized by the scholastic profession. SOME INSECTS OF P. E. ISLAND The "June Bugs" (Lachnosterna) are very difficult to name: but a specimen collected was said to be L. anxia. There are nearly 100 species of June Bugs in the U.S.A., and it is probable that there is more than one species here. Another division of Cicadae includes the wood-boring Cicetia includes assemum mostuum, Cricophagus agrisus, C. obsolatus, callidum antennatum, Lepura canadensis, and L. mutabilis. The "Leaf Beetles" are a very large family; about 18,000 species are dispersed all over the world. There are 750 species in North America. They are medium or small-sized beetles, often of metallic hues, while some are dull brown or black. They feed on foliage, and are sometimes very destructive. Lepidoptera decemlineata is the Colorado Potato Beetle; our "Potato Bug" is only it is not a Bug. Calligrapha elegantis is known to feed on Goldenrod (yellow-weed) and C. rhoda walshiana is believed to feed on plum-leaves. A pretty little blue and red beetle feeds on clovergrass. It is the Castoridae, polygona, a name which means "pot-bellied," an apt description. Trichostema canadensis is another yellow-and-black striped beetle, feeding on Goldenrod. In Aug. and Sept., 1932, there were hundreds of small blue-black beetles feeding on the leaves in the alder swamp; they were Haliplus bimarginatus. They had decreased in 1933. One species of "Darkling Beetle,"

Dairy Industry Act Amendments

The regulations under the Dairy Industry Act of Canada have been revised and renumbered and the revised regulations are now in effect. The important changes are as follows:— Formerly packages containing butter were required to bear the registered number of the factory of origin unless the package contained print butter put up under the brand of trade mark of a wholesaler or retail dealer who was not a manufacturer of butter. Under the new regulations, several methods of identification are legalized. Creamery or whey butter, cut as described in section 6, subsection (3) of the Act if contained in a wrapper or carton, must bear on the wrapper or carton the name and address of the manufacturer, cutter, or jobber, or the name and address or the registered number of the creamery or factory of origin, or the brand or trade mark of the wholesaler or retail dealer. Other important changes in the regulations are in connection with standards for grades of butter. Provision is made whereby butter containing more than two per cent of salt will be placed in second grade, unless the butter is destined for a purchaser who requests over two per cent of salt. First grade certificates issued for butter containing more than two per cent of salt must bear the following notation—"As butter for which this certificate is issued contains more than two per cent salt and is represented as being for a trade requiring more than two per cent salt, a first grade certificate has been issued. This certificate is not valid for sale of the manufacture of either export or domestic trade except to a purchaser requesting a salt content of more than two per cent." Heretofore, the showing of dates of manufacture on packages containing butter has been optional for domestic trade but compulsory for export. Under the revised regulations, all packages containing butter submitted for grading must bear the date of the manufacture of the butter. Copies of the complete text of the regulations may be obtained upon application to the Dairy and Cold Storage Commissioner, Dominion Department of Agriculture, Ottawa.

HAYING TOOLS NOW IN STOCK

A full line consisting of MAPLE LEAF HAY CARRIERS (for both Wood & Steel Track) D. H. FORKS LEVER FORKS STEEL TRACK RAFTER BRACKETS HANG HOOKS WOOD AND IRON PULLEYS PURE MANILLA HAY ROPE and WIRE CABLE all of which we are selling at lowest prices. A. HORNE & CO. Charlottetown

Control of Insects in Flower Garden

From early May until the middle of August, ornamental plants in gardens are subject to attack by insects. R. P. Gorham, Dominion Laboratory at Fredericton, N.B., told the Fredericton Horticultural Society recently. Beginning with the joy of gardening in May, here is a more or less regular succession of plant pests which takes their toll of the plants grown by gardeners, both amateur and professional. Only a few of these insects completely destroy the plants but there are a number which cause enough injury to worry the plant and flower lover and dampen the ardour and mar the joy of gardening. Therefore the pressing need of every garden is frequent visits of the gardener to detect the indications of insect damage at the earliest possible moment and to direct the immediate application of control measures. Cutworms are generally the first of the garden pests to attract attention. There are many species of cutworms, the caterpillars of night-flying moths, and each species has distinct habits and food preferences. Some pass the winter as nearly full-grown caterpillars and attack the plants in the perennial border in the early spring. In the Fredericton district, the foliage of not so well known although grown for many years by some gardeners. This plant botanically is Tetragonia expansa, the expansa part of it relating to its expansive habit of growth. It is of indeterminate branching habits, keeping on branching and each branch furnishing leaves for greens. These leaves are small, fleshy and triangular in shape and it continues to grow and increase all during the summer months. It is an excellent plant for poor soil as it does not require the rich fare of the true spinach and its season is much longer, lasting for weeks. The seed should not be planted until well into May when the soil is warm and it needs plenty of room. The plants should be given two feet each way in which to expand. A few plants will give sufficient material for a liberal supply of greens. Those who like its flavor like it very much. You can't tell until you try it. For early fall the modern development of cookery has discovered another material for greens, similar although milder flavored. But for all summer greens of quality, the Swiss chard is by long odds the most liberal producer and the best quality material. No garden should be without a row of Swiss chard. A few plants will go a long way if the leaves are cut. It isn't an individual and characteristic flavor much liked by some and not so much relished by others. It is

Listing Seed For Germination

Quality of seed includes ability to grow, freedom from the seeds of weeds and of other cultivated plants and from chaff, dirt, and disease. Uniformity in size and colour are also important. The seed and clear seed may be, it has no value unless it is able to produce healthy normal plants. This can be determined only by means of germination tests, and for this purpose the seed testing laboratories of the Department of Agriculture have been established. Not only do these laboratories furnish data for the enforcement of the Seeds Act but they give information to farmers and gardeners regarding the quality of the seed which they wish to grow. To make germination tests is not always an easy matter. While the tests of really high-quality fully-matured seed does not as a rule present much difficulty, there are many exceptions to the rule. Seeds are living organisms, consequently the analyst is never quite sure how any particular lot will behave during a germination test. Many seeds which show signs of life are not capable of producing plants under field conditions and are therefore considered to be worthless. Clover seedlings often have broken seed leaves, split and water-soaked roots and other abnormalities which prevent the plants from developing. Such seedlings are not included in the germination results by official analysts. Delayed germination or dormancy occurs frequently in many kinds of seed. This means that seeds will not germinate during the period required normally. Experienced persons would consider such seeds were dead. However, the analysts have found that dormant seeds are capable of germination in time, and are therefore good seeds. Dormancy causes a deal of trouble in the official laboratory, especially in some seasons when seed is sent to the laboratories soon after harvest. This is especially true of cereals harvested in wet weather. The temporary inability of seed to germinate generally disappears if the seed is stored properly. Unfortunately there is nothing in the appearance of seed to indicate that it is going through this period of dormancy. A sample of seed may be sent in to the laboratory by a farmer soon after harvest for test. The percentage germination at that time may be low. Later another sample may be sent in and the results may be very much higher so that the farmer naturally thinks that there is something wrong with the methods used for making tests in the government laboratories. Persons submitting samples for testing should remember that the seed analyst can report on the seed only as he finds it. Dormancy in the cereals, timothy and the seeds of some other crops was common during the autumn of 1935. This was particularly true of timothy harvested in eastern Ontario and of cereals in Alberta.

Farm is Ideal for Goose Raising

Goose raising does not receive the attention of the farming community that the business warrants, states A. G. Taylor of the Poultry Division, Central Experimental Farm, Dominion Department of Agriculture. The farm is the natural habitat of the goose, in fact no other surroundings can make goose raising for market a profitable proposition. The two great essentials in goose raising are, first, free range and second an abundance of green food. On the farm these essentials are always plentiful, and the raising of a flock of geese is one means by which the farmer can reap good reward with a very small investment and comparatively little labour. On the Christmas markets, the demand for geese is always greater than the supply. The origin of the various breeds of geese is identified with many countries, the most important breeds being the Toulouse, Embden, African, Chinese, Canada, Wild, and the Egyptian. The last named are kept for ornamental purposes only, are usually found in parks and public gardens. The Toulouse goose originated in France, and the Embden goose, sometimes called the Bremen, has its origin in Central Europe. The African is a cross between the Chinese and the Toulouse, and there are two varieties of Chinese geese, the white and the brown. Distinguishing the sex in geese is more difficult than in any other class of fowl. Outward or visible signs are not in geese. Turkeys for example, usually evidenced by stout bill, broad full head, short thick neck, broad shoulders and plenty of bone in legs and feet. Coarse females are frequently mistaken for males, so that masculine appearance is not always a sure guide in the selection of a male. Female geese usually present a feminine appearance, but a male of fine make-up may be mistaken for a female, particularly during the fall or early winter. This is especially true of the Toulouse and the Embden breeds. The most satisfactory method of picking out breeding geese is by the picking out of eight of the flock separated out of sight of the farmer but within hearing distance. Its call is distinctive. The male has a voice which could be termed hiss and is of a long single call, while the female is of a much higher note and usually of a double echo. Where the sex cannot be ascertained by a bird's distinct difference in voice, the bird should not be used as a breeder. Information as to the various breeds, and the best management, and the marketing of geese is contained in the circular on Goose Raising, to be obtained by request to the Poultry and Extension Branch, Dominion Department of Agriculture, Ottawa.

Nest and Eggs

Our Yellow-billed Cuckoo has learned the art of nest-building but poorly the cradle in which the young are reared being little more than a mere platform of twigs. Indeed, so thin and frail a structure is it that often the eggs may be counted through the nest from beneath. It is usually placed on the sheltered limb of a tree or among thick vines in hedge-rows growing along streams, and in orchards or groves. The eggs are nearly an inch and a quarter long, and about three-fourths as wide. They number from two to four, and in color are greenish-blue. Many birds lay their eggs, one each day, with great regularity, until the full number has been reached. The Cuckoo, however, often allows a few days to pass after she begins sitting on some of the eggs before the others are deposited. Thus a young bird, an incubated egg, and a freshly laid egg are sometimes found in the same nest. Among the branches of our fruit-trees we may sometimes see large webs which have been made by tent-caterpillars. An invading host appears to have come and pitched its tent among the boughs on all sides. These caterpillars are destructive to trees, and the Cuckoo does us a great service by coming often to raid the encampment. They pull the little hairy intruders out of their tents by hundreds and eat them. So many are eaten by these birds that often their coats are found to be thickly coated with a layer of caterpillar-hairs. Cuckoos also eat grasshoppers and various kinds of flies.

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OUT OUR WAY

VER GONNA BE LATE, STUBBY IF YA DON'T GET GOIN! GO AHEAD AN' ASK TH' BULL IF YA KIN GIT OFF TO GO TO THE GAME. SURE! GO AHEAD, HE LIKES KIDS, AN' BESIDES, DIDN'TCHA STICK AROUND LATE LAST NIGHT, CLEANIN' UP, SO TH' SHOP'D LOOK OKAY WHEN THAT GUY CAME IN 'TAY—HE'S TH' PRESIDENT OF TH' COMPANY, YA KNOW. YEAH—TH' BULL KIN EXPLAIN TO TH' PRESIDENT JUST WHY YOU'RE ENTITLED TO A HALF-DAY OFF, AND EVERY-THING WILL BE JUST LOVELY! BUT, BE SURE YA SAY PARDON ME WHEN YA BLT IN ON THEIR CONVERSATION. COACHING A ROOKIE

Fresh "Greens" for Summer Use

While Swiss chard is the mainstay for summer greens after the season of the spring greens such as dandelion, mustard and spinach has passed, another vegetable to relieve the monotony of the chard. This is the plant known as New Zealand spinach although it is no relation to spinach, doesn't look like it and doesn't taste like it. It has an individual and characteristic flavor much liked by some and not so much relished by others. It is

KNEES ARE NAUGHTY IN STAID OLD COUBOURG

COUBOURG, Ont., June 30—Somebody complained the gymnasium costumes girl students of the collegiate institute wore to school were immodest, so the collegiate board has formally decreed skirts and bloomers for athletic wear must extend to the knees.

BINDER TWINE

You've tried all the rest, now try the best, Tip Top Binder Twine. Order early. G. R. KEEFE Charlottetown. By WILLIAMS

for RHEUMATISM

Four Minard's into a warm dish. Rub liniment gently into the affected part and you'll get relief!

MINARD'S "KING OF PAIN" RHEUMATISM LINIMENT. Four Minard's into a warm dish. Rub liniment gently into the affected part and you'll get relief!

COACHING A ROOKIE. A cartoon by J.R. Williams showing a man coaching a young boy in a game. The man says: 'VER GONNA BE LATE, STUBBY IF YA DON'T GET GOIN! GO AHEAD AN' ASK TH' BULL IF YA KIN GIT OFF TO GO TO THE GAME.' The boy replies: 'SURE! GO AHEAD, HE LIKES KIDS, AN' BESIDES, DIDN'TCHA STICK AROUND LATE LAST NIGHT, CLEANIN' UP, SO TH' SHOP'D LOOK OKAY WHEN THAT GUY CAME IN 'TAY—HE'S TH' PRESIDENT OF TH' COMPANY, YA KNOW.' The man says: 'YEAH—TH' BULL KIN EXPLAIN TO TH' PRESIDENT JUST WHY YOU'RE ENTITLED TO A HALF-DAY OFF, AND EVERY-THING WILL BE JUST LOVELY! BUT, BE SURE YA SAY PARDON ME WHEN YA BLT IN ON THEIR CONVERSATION.' The cartoon is signed 'J.R. WILLIAMS' and '7-11'.