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THE RHUBARB BORER

A caterpillar which bores in the larger roots, in the crowns, in the leaf stalks and flower stems of rhubarb, has been common for some years past in Nova Scotia and has caused severe losses. In 1925, it was found in two counties in New Brunswick and this memorandum is to caution growers to take measures against the insect at once if a single plant is found infested in their plantation. The experience in Nova Scotia has been that in a plantation of rhubarb the borers increase to such an extent that no usable leaf stems can be obtained, and the crowns are eventually killed.

The first signs of infestation commonly noticed are masses of a gummy material on the leaf stems at or near the base, and the tough, fibrous nature of the stems when broken or cut for use. Examination of the crowns will then commonly show the burrows of the caterpillars in the larger roots and parts of the plant near the ground level. One caterpillar will bite a number of leaf stems in different places, forms the gum-like masses mentioned. The adult insect is a moth which lays eggs about the end of August for the brood of the following year. These are usually laid on couch-grass near the rhubarb plants.

Control

Clean Cultivation: Keep a plantation free from weeds, especially couch-grass, at the time of egg-laying is a preventive measure.

Destruction of larvae: When a plant is found infested, try to destroy all caterpillars. This will necessitate splitting the crowns in several pieces to find the burrows, but not the destruction of the entire plant unless very badly infested. Replant the parts when free from caterpillars on another piece of ground, preferably at a distance.

Change of Location: When putting out a new plantation, locate it at a little distance from the old one and be sure all crowns used for planting are free from caterpillars.

Beware of the chronic hard-shaker. He may have something up his sleeve.

FIRST ENGLISHMAN IN JAPAN

A movement is now on foot to erect a memorial in the church or churchyard of Gillingham, Kent, to the first Englishman to set foot in Japan.

This bold Kentish man was an Elizabethan named Will Adams. Like several of his contemporaries, he was a wanderer, and after many adventures and hardships he fell into the hands of the Japanese, who made him prisoner.

Later, having been released, he built two ships for the Mikado, to whom he gave lessons in mathematics. But when he applied for permission to return to England to visit his wife and family at Gillingham, it was refused. He had made himself too useful for the Mikado to risk losing his services.

Will accepted the situation philosophically and married a Japanese lady. He died in Japan in 1620.



WET, BACKWARD SPRING HAS PREVENTED FOREST FIRES

The old saying that "it's an ill wind that blows nobody good" may appropriately express the situation in respect to New Brunswick's providential escape from forest fires during all the months of April and May this year.

The cold, backward spring has retarded agriculture and from many standpoints has been a serious blow to the whole country but, on the other hand, the cool cloudy weather when it has not been rainy has kept the woods in such a condition that fires could not start or burn.

Usually at this time, New Brunswick is in the midst of heavy fire losses and the destruction of the forests is often appalling at this season, but up to the time of writing there has not been a

forest fire reported in the Province this year. The Victoria Day holiday which usually is directly or indirectly responsible for a number of fires is about over and the second holiday of the fishing season—The King's Birthday—will be on June 3rd.

Records of the Forest Service of the Provincial Department of Lands and Mines show that in April last year there were 18 forest fires in New Brunswick and in May there were 44, bringing the total during the period the province has this year escaped fires, up to 62. There were no less than 24 fires in the week preceding Victoria Day last year and there was 13 the last week in May, 1925. This mystic "13" didn't prove a hoo-doo last year, however, for rain fortunately preceded June 3rd—The King's Birthday—last year, and it is no secret that Forest Service officials are hoping for similar conditions this year so as to lessen the fire hazard in the woods on the holiday, when hundreds of fishermen will be whipping the trout streams.

Returns received by the Department of Lands and Mines show that hundreds of Forest Travel Certificates are being issued throughout the Province. Everybody entering the forests for any purpose—except a few specified persons—is required by regulations to obtain Forest Travel Certificate. It is illegal to be in the woods without a Forest Travel Certificate.—Department of Lands and Mines, Forest Service, Fredericton, N. B.

LOOKS ENCOURAGING

One of the cheerful signs of the times is found in the fact that a host of Americans are able to buy life insurance in increasing amounts as well as to buy automobiles in increasing numbers.—Boston Transcript.

BAD BUSINESS

Motorists are reminded that from an efficiency standpoint turning corners on two wheels is poor management. It is a case of paying for two wheels that aren't being used.—Regina Leader.

LOWER RIDGE

(Received too late for last issue)

May 25—Our cheese factory began operations on May 10, with Cecil Keith as cheese maker, this being his third season with this factory.

The weather seems very wet and cold and does not seem to be the right kind for encouraging much farming.

On Tuesday, May 18, a number from here attended the Havelock district Sunday school convention at the Havelock Baptist church, afternoon and evening. Miss Annie Harris, of the M.R.E.C. was the visiting secretary. The sessions were very much enjoyed by those who attended.

Mrs. B. P. Cusack was a guest of Mrs. George Alward on Wednesday last, and of Mrs. M. B. Keith, Friday.

Clarence Keith has returned from Portland, Maine, to his home here.

Much sympathy is extended to Mr. Daniel Keith, of Upper Ridge, for the severe loss he sustained on Friday last when his barn with 19 head of cattle and four pigs, was burned to ashes.

Mr. Keith's loss is a very heavy one.

Peter Landry and family of Spring Hill, have moved to this community, on his father's farm.

Wm. Landry, of St. John, spent a few days at his home here last week.

Mrs. B. P. Cusack and Mrs. Byron Keith spent Sunday last with Mr. and Mrs. H. T. Cusack and A. L. Price.

The little son of James Melvin, who was accidentally shot through the hand by an older brother, is improving.

A number of the Institute members visited the school on Friday last to enjoy the Empire Day program. Miss Isabel McFarland, the vice president, also gave a history of Our Flag, which was interesting to the school.

The program consisted of songs and recitations, after saluting the flag and singing the National Anthem, the Institute members served refreshments to all.

Our Sunday school opened on Sunday, May 23rd after being closed through the winter months.

May 24th passed along quietly, a number went fishing and reported a fair catch of the speckled beauties.

Mrs. M. H. McFarland and her son and daughter were visitors with her brother, Byron Keith, on Sunday last.

Mr. and Mrs. Ora Campbell have a new baby girl at their home.

The Lower Ridge branch of Womens Institutes met on Wednesday, May 19, at the home of Mrs. Colby Keith. Meeting called to order at 3 p.m. by the president, Mrs. W. W. Alward. After singing O Canada, eleven members answered roll call with a conundrum.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and adopted, some discussions followed. A lot of correspondence was presented to the meeting and dealt with. In regard to the one relating to the fall exhibit, it was decided that we enter an exhibit in one or all three, as called for by Miss Nutter.

The convenors of standing committees reported they, as best they could, and re-nominations to the provincial convention were made. Mrs. M. Byron Keith reported her visit to the school, and referred to the excellent order maintained by the teacher, Miss Louise Carson. It was decided that they visit the school on Friday, May 21st, to hear their Empire Day exercises.

Mrs. W. W. Alward, our president, was appointed as our official delegate to the convention at Fredericton, with Miss Isabel McFarland, vice president, as substitute. A paper on Social Hygiene was read by Mrs. H. B. Thorne, Mrs. M. Byron Keith and Miss Isabel McFarland in turn, as the paper was a lengthy one.

It was very interesting. After the business was all transacted and the National Anthem sung, a delightful repast was served by the hostesses for the day, Mrs. George Alward and Mrs. Colby Keith. Mrs. B. P. Cusack was a visitor at our meeting. During the social time some current events were discussed.

WAS RESCUED FROM PERILOUS POSITION, AFTER THREE HOURS

Jammed at the bottom of a hole fourteen feet deep and only ten inches across for more than three hours, Freddy Walker, aged two and a half years, had a miraculous escape from death at Moose Jaw. His father missed the boy and in seeking him heard muffled calls from a test-hole, which was usually covered with planking.

This had been removed by the youngster. Voluntary helpers worked at frantic speed in an effort to bring the boy to the surface before the air became too contaminated and oxygen was pumped into the well to give the lad a better chance of life. After three hours of hard work, the diggers were able to release him from his dangerous position. Except from a stiffness consequent upon his cramped position, he was little the worse for being nearly buried alive.



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HIGHFIELD

(Crowded out last week)

May 25—The funeral was held in St. John's church on Wednesday, May 19, of Willis Totten, eldest child of Mr. and Mrs. George Totten, of Salmon Creek, aged 12 years. Death came very suddenly on Monday night, after only one day's illness of pneumonia, and was a great shock to his family and friends. He is survived by his parents and several brothers and sisters. Service was conducted by Rev. C. A. S. Warneford and interment was in the cemetery adjoining.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Pearson and family motored to Sheba on Sunday.

Wm. M. Pearson, St. John, and John F. Pearson, Moncton, returned to their homes yesterday, after spending a few days with their mother, Mrs. T. H. Pearson, who is still quite ill.

Mrs. Robert Spriggs, Montreal, arrived on Saturday to spend the summer with her parents, Rev. C. A. S. Warneford and Mrs. Warneford, at the rectory.

George Kincaide, St. John, was a visitor at Rutherford Small's last week. Mrs. Flora Pearson, St. John, is visiting her sister, Mrs. Isaac Pearson.

Friday was Arbor Day and the teacher, Miss Annie Pearson, and the pupils cleaned up the school house and grounds, which adds very much to their appearance. A number of the scholars have been confined to their homes during the last week with colds.

Miss Ellen Pearson is not enjoying as good health as her friends would like to see.

Mr. Wilson gave an agricultural lecture in the hall, Wednesday evening.

Mrs. Fred Robinson, Lower Millstream, spent the week end and holiday with friends in Pearsonville.

Miss Laura Muir, Belleisle, is the guest of Misses Annie and Olive Pearson.

Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Pearson entertained at a dance last evening, which was very much enjoyed by the large crowd present.

Mr. and Mrs. Bursey and little son Ralph and Miss Davidson motored from St. John on Saturday and spent the week end with friends here.

FIGHT AGAINST WAR ADVANCED A LITTLE

The League of Nations preparatory disarmament commission has adjourned at Geneva, the members feeling that the fight against war has been advanced a little and considerable impetus given the movement.

Advocates of the League feel they have sufficient cause for rejoicing in the fact that their Utopian aspirations did not collapse under their own weight. They had lived in constant fear of the utility of reducing Europe's armaments until the moment the League ended and turned over its labors to two technical sub-committees, which will remain in session.

"The movement is still in a nebular stage," declared Hugh S. Gibson, chief United States delegate, "but the slight, good will and realization of difficulties evidenced in the last ten days are ample cause for optimism. The sessions have been highly educational and from now on developments of real value can be expected."

Viscount Cecil, of England, expressing similar views and his gratification that the initial stages have been successfully passed, warned:

"But we do not want it understood for a moment that we are at the point of establishing a scheme for disarmament. We still have a long way to go, and it is imperative that we proceed cautiously."

Actually, according to Lord Cecil, aside from making more specific seven questions which the League propounded as preliminary to disarmament and ascertaining the views of various countries, the present discussions have resulted in two gains.

The first is agreement that all nations will present a definite scheme to the final conference, which will probably be summoned for late in 1927, indicating what actual disarmament they are willing to undertake voluntarily.

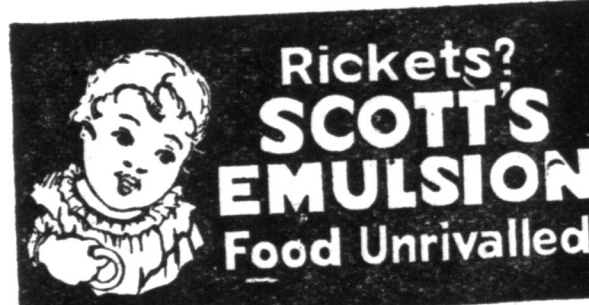
The second is specification of proper subjects for disarmament. The preparatory commission also added to the League questionnaire the problem of measure taken for supervision of armaments and what sanctions can be considered in order to enforce observance of treaties forbidding use of chemicals in war.

Mr. Gibson after the conference emphasized that the United States maintains the theory that disarmament must be regional, and that naval, military and aerial categories must be separate. However, Washington is wholly committed to the Geneva conferences, and will not jeopardize the

results by engaging in a competitive conference, even with Japan on naval matters.

The U. S. delegate pointed out one committee of experts has been asked to ascertain what regional agreements are possible and desirable. After they report it will be decided whether Japan, the United States and Great Britain can extend the provision of the Washington naval authorities.

Lord Cecil sees no objection to naval pacts, but made it clear that any major disarmament schemes must be world-wide in character to be effective. However, if the special committee of experts recommends it to the plenary session in September, it is possible a naval pact regarding the Pacific can be negotiated, at least conditionally upon France's reaching an understanding with Great Britain.



THE HENS AND THE JAZZ

A scientist asserts that by lighting the chicken coop at night and playing music to the hens, a far higher rate of egg production can be secured.—News item.

On learning that hens never slumbered as long as it seemed to be light, we lighted our coops—and the chickens—poor dupes.

Sat up and laid eggs every night. But just as we found we were getting the number of eggs we desired, being long without sleep, with a pit-cous peep.

They turned up their toes and expired.

Undaunted by one little failure (Such failure as everyone has, we cheered up again when we heard that the hen

is frightfully fond of the jazz. "If hens are enlivened by music they will jazz round the chicken coop floor." (So the author we read in his article said)

"And lay twice as fast as before."

We therefore put in a piano And greatly delighted, we found When we started to play in our rather crude way

That the hens began dancing around. They swarmed from the yard by the hundred.

They crowded the windows and doors, They danced till they dropped, but whenever we stopped They would flap their wings for encores.

WHY?

Farmer Jenkins was unfortunately in a bad humor, when, one evening, approaching the 25th anniversary of their wedding day, his wife said: "Next Tuesday will be our silver wedding; we ought to celebrate. Let's kill the red calf!" "Kill the calf!" roared Jenkins. "What's the good of murdering an innocent calf for something that happened twenty five years ago?"—Toronto Mail and Empire.

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