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THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 1925.

Fighting the Corn-Borer

J. H. Morden, of Ilderton, wrote to The Advertiser, telling of his observations regarding the work of corn-borers on his farm. He had found them last October when going over the field, but not nearly in proportion to the damage they had done. So naturally Mr. Morden wonders where the borers have gone, and suggests they may be down with the potato bugs waiting for the next crop.

The Advertiser referred Mr. Morden's letter to Mr. John Dearnness, who is an authority on plant and animal life, and the letter and its answer are reproduced in another column on this page. They are worth reading because they deal with a problem, the seriousness of which has not yet been adequately recognized.

A quarantine map issued by the entomological department at Ottawa shows the following countries under the ban on account of the existence of the European corn-borer:

Essex	Kent
Lambton	Middlesex
Elgin	Norfolk
Haldimand	Welland
Lincoln	Wentworth
Oxford	Brant
Perth	Waterloo
Huron	Wellington
Madison	York

According to this map the borer is supposed to be at its worst in Middlesex and Elgin, but owing to the larger acreage of corn in Kent and Essex it is really a more serious problem there. But it is not a problem for the farmer alone, because on the various markets last year the housewife soon learned that she must be on the watch for corn that had been drilled by the borer.

The rapidity with which this pest has spread over Ontario is almost incredible. A few years ago such a thing as a corn-borer was unknown. Its presence is now blamed on a shipment of Austrian broom corn imported by an Ontario factory. Light on the way in which the borer multiplies comes from the statement that one moth in captivity laid 1,210 eggs, so it can be seen that unless the process of destruction is certain and complete a very few borers can produce enough of their kind to carry on the havoc.

It is in August that the borer makes its way into the corn stalk and prepares for the winter. It spins a covering of silk and prepares for a nine months rest. The best method of eradication is the feeding of all corn stalks, plowing down the stubble, or the burning of anything that remains of the crop. To leave corn stalks standing in the field during the winter or not to put the stubble thoroughly underground is very much to the advantage of the borer.

"Cabinet Calibre"

The Hamilton Herald is inclined to think there is justification for increased pay for cabinet ministers on the ground that "\$8,000 is not too much to pay men of cabinet calibre who devote all their time to public service." The ministers not only collect the \$8,000, but an additional \$2,000 as sessional indemnity, and mileage as well.

The phrase "men of cabinet calibre" is interesting, and leads one to wonder how under our political system men of "cabinet calibre" are discovered. When election time comes the various parties put up their candidates and they run on the ticket of the party nominating them. They are all contestants for the provincial legislature or the federal parliament, as the case may be, and the various candidates are not running for such positions as provincial treasurer, minister of public works, etc.

After the election is over the party securing the majority in the contest proceeds to form a cabinet, and it does so in nearly every case from the members that its own ticket has returned. They may or may not have special aptitude for the work in hand, yet they become "cabinet calibre" as soon as their appointment is made. Placing a \$10,000 salary and extras on all cabinet ministers, in view of the process by which they are chosen, is a risky piece of business.

Local vs. International Unions.

Developments which are taking place in some of the coal fields in Western Canada indicate a further breaking away from the international union, and the springing up of a number of local unions instead. The last place to report this is Blairmore, where the Western Canada Collieries operate, not far from the border of British Columbia.

It should be remembered, though, that the men now working under these local union agreements are having the advantage of some of the battles fought when they were members of the larger organization, for it is a fact that conditions in the mines are much better from the standpoint of the men than they were a number of years ago when there was no union in existence in those fields.

It is a matter of local history that there was a time when the mining companies would not countenance the presence of a representative of the men on the weighing platform where the cars come from the mines in order to see that the men got full credit for the coal they sent

out. The late Frank Sherman was credited with being the first "check-weighman" in that field, and he used to tell a very colorful story of going armed to his work before the "check-weighman" system was finally agreed to by the operators.

The manner in which the international union developed strength in the western coal field is attested to by the clause in many of the agreements whereby the companies agreed to collect the dues from the miners and hand the proceeds over to the union, a system that was tolerated by the companies because they felt powerless to resist it.

If the miners find that they can now make working agreements as local unions that are satisfactory to them, they will probably do so in many cases, but they cannot get away from the fact that the international union in the first place had much to do with making these conditions possible.

Worthy of Recognition.

William Green, of Hillside, seventy years of age, is one of many who should be recognized for a brave and dangerous act. Ross Brooks attempted to cross the arm of a lake on the ice, and when half a mile out he went through.

Mr. Green knew it would be useless to go toward him on the ice, so he got a canoe and an axe and chopped his way to the land. On reaching Brooks he was so far gone that he could not be lifted into the canoe, so his hands were strapped over the end to keep his head out of the water, and Mr. Green then made his way back through the channel to the shore, carried Brooks to a farmhouse and secured a doctor, and the lad will recover.

We should not be content to let such cases as this pass by simply with a notice in the paper, or the praise of the community concerned. A similar deed in wartime would receive official notice, and there should be some plan whereby the dominion would give similar recognition in times of peace.

Great Is Science.

The report of the Ontario Veterinary College shows conclusively that human beings have no monopoly on diseases and ailments with long-sounding and mysterious names. Of course horses have strangles, ringbone and spavin; that is common knowledge, but they also have paraphimosis, laryngeal hemiplegia, sesamoiditis, conjunctivitis and keratitis.

A fruit farmer near Springbank went to Strathroy a few days ago to buy a horse that had been won in a raffle. The animal looked all right and his appetite was at one hundred per cent, but in order to get him home he had to secure a truck and give him a ride. If that farmer will drop in he can have the government blue book, for it may be his steed has conjunctivitis, sesamoiditis or a touch of keratitis.

Helping or Hindering?

Counsel were present for both Smith and Matthews during their examination by the legislature's committee at the penitentiary, and it was probably quite right that such should have been the case.

It is noticeable, though, that in one or two instances where the questions were getting to the point where it looked as though there might be something worth while forthcoming, the witnesses were advised by counsel not to give answers. According to the laws governing evidence counsel was within his rights in giving such advice and the witness was also on legal ground in following the instructions.

The effect, though, is that the hidden points remain hidden, and, rightly or wrongly, the public is liable to draw the inference that more information might have been forthcoming had there been none of these legal barriers raised. After all, the spirit of the inquiry is to secure as many pertinent facts as possible, and if that is not the guiding motive of the investigation then it will be fruitless.

Note and Comment.

A preacher in Brantford pulled a six-pound pike out of the river there, after which navigation was opened for the season.

The bill to incorporate the barbers of Ontario was thrown out, so the question of whether a shave has precedence over a bob remains unsettled.

Speaker here last night said that Toronto had the highest consumption of eggs in the world. And it has a number of bad eggs who mostly break into politics.

Woodstock is discussing pasteurization of milk, and also the purity of its water supply. Woodstock would be well advised to keep these two problems well separated.

Marriage licenses may have to be issued three days before the wedding takes place, and it is a fact that in that time the thermometer has often been known to fall forty degrees.

Officers who went to arrest fifty Doukhobors in British Columbia who refused to send their children to school found the fifty had fled to the mountains. A very good place for them.

Mayor Jutten of Hamilton says he knows of three cases where both man and wife are working for the city, and adds that it must cease. As a matter of principle it may be good, but it is decidedly tough on the husbands.

With Toronto and the county of York holding eighteen seats in the next Ontario legislature it will mean that one of every six members in the chamber will come from there. Is it not putting a premium on the idea of people huddling together in cities?

A cigar box is now figuring in the legislature's investigations as a place where a mysterious sum of money was kept. And those who know anything about it are so secretive that it hasn't even been suggested that it originally contained election cigars.

Playin' Hookey

It used to mean a lickin' sure, a rumpus and a goodly row, but I'd be itchin' for a chance to be a-playin' hookey now!

I can't help thinkin' on a day when sun is shinin' bright once more, of days when we was goin' to school upon lot ten, concession four. 'Twas there they taught us many things about the ancient days in Greek, it be most hard to learn such things with suckers swimmin' down the creek.

It be quite right when school is on that youngsters learn arithmetic, so they can measure cords of wood and reckon on a load of brick, but I allow how it be tough to grow a passion warm and fond, for learnin' figures on the days when frogs be singin' in the pond.

And likewise when they go to school the children should be taught to read, so when they come to after years their tongues be not a-goin' to seed—but there's a secret cave out there where robbers eat boiled artichokes, and roundin' up a pirate gang a person doesn't have to threat or coax.

And down the road most half a mile the sawmill's buzzin' at its job, from where I was a-settin' there you'd hear the engine puff and throb, and know how fast the log pile goes and fearin' it will never stop, until it eats into the pile that has the slippery elm crop.

And if you stay till four o'clock the afternoon be almost through, when there's so much outside just now a chap don't know just what to do.

Of course it is a wicked thing to be a-playin' hookey now, for when the thing gets noised about there's sure to be one awful row. The teacher just as like as not will trim you up as she can do, and when you get to home at night there may be more performin' too.

But still I know them fish be there, and bullfrogs croakin' like they'd bust, and roads be dryin' up so good, and showin' now a bit of dust. I guess I'll take a chance at noon and park my books beneath the barn, and let tomorrow's sun take care of what there be in rows and harm.

I know it's wrong to say such things, it may seem wicked like and queer, but it be hard to choke such thoughts when it be just this time of year. I know there'd be the deuce to pay, an awful leekin' and a row, if I was ten or twelve years old I'd be a-playin' hookey now.—ARK.

Borer a Menace

To Corn Growing

Ilderton Man States His Experience, and John Dearnness of London Gives Some Interesting Facts on Dealing With This European Pest.

Editor of The Advertiser:

Sir,—I see that they are proposing an inspector to see to the plowing of the corn stubble in an effort to kill the corn-borer. Last fall in the first part of October I examined my corn and would say that every four or six feet there had been a borer, but the most of them were gone. The stalks were partly rotten, where they had been, and you might find a borer every 50 yards, but these seemed to be small and had not got their growth. Now where did all the others go—that is what I want to know. My nephew, who cuts a lot of corn, examined many fields, and he found that most of the borers were gone. If they live over the winter in the corn why did they leave? I have hunted the stubble this spring and can't find a single one. Where are they? I know where the potato bug is. Is the borer sleeping with him in the ground? I intend to capture a lot of them next fall and put them in a box of mud to see what they will do, and will let you know what I find out.

There is one good way to get rid of the borer and that is to stop growing corn for a year, or just to grow a quarter of an acre or so and then burn the stubble in August. Then we would have most of them.

J. H. MORDEN.

Ilderton, April 7, 1925.

MR. DEARNNESS ANSWERS.

The Advertiser submitted Mr. Morden's letter to John Dearnness, recognized as an authority on plant and animal life, and his answer is as follows:

"Mr. Morden tells us of his investigations and of his intention to publish the results of future experiments. His practice and purpose are to be commended and his example should be followed, for more light is needed yet on several important questions connected with the European corn-borer. This destructive insect, starting not long ago from a broom factory that had imported Austrian broom-corn stalks, has spread to seventeen counties in Ontario and threatens to make profitable corn-growing impossible. Its power of multiplication is illustrated by the fact that as many as 1,210 eggs have been counted, which were laid by one moth in captivity. Even if only a few moths on each farm survive the winter they can spoil a season's crop.

"Intending experimenters should know certain facts that are established. When the borers become full-grown larvae about mid-August they seek a plant stalk, usually of course a corn stalk, but stalks of other kinds suit their purpose. Into these they burrow, spin some silk around their bodies, and settle down for a nine months' sleep. Experimenters say that when they take these infested stalks and bury them a few inches under ground the borers leave them and try to reach the surface to seek another, above-ground stalk to burrow into. In this usually unsuccessful search they perish; hence the justification for the law requiring the burial of the corn stubble. "The larvae of the potato beetle, the tomato worm and many other insects that go into the earth to pass the winter pupate there in a firm protective covering, but the corn-borer does not enter the pupal stage until after the winter is over.

"Mr. Morden thinks we could get rid of this insect by entirely cutting out the corn crop for one year. Now, while corn is its favorite food-plant, it is not limited to it. The same borer species is found in dahlias, sunflower, pigweed and many other stalked plants; indeed in one part of New York State the sugar beet crop has been greatly injured by it. Planting corn to attract the insect from the beets and then destroying it has been proposed as a remedy. To stop corn-growing for a year would reduce their numbers, but it would not exterminate the insect. The best remedy yet discovered is the complete consumption of all corn stalks and cobs by feeding or burning, and plowing down the stubble."

POOLS FEAR PLOT IN WHEAT CRASH

Charge Recent Drop in Prices Was Effort To Wreck Associations.

Canadian Press Despatch.
Winnipeg, Man., April 8. — The Manitoba Free Press says today: "That the crash in wheat prices which has caused a flurry on the market recently was an organized effort on the part of big wheat manipulators to destroy the wheat pool is the effect of a statement which has been made public and purports to come from George W. Robertson, secretary of the Saskatchewan pool, who was in Winnipeg Tuesday in conference with officials of the central office."

"Mr. Robertson declared that the pool was strong enough to withstand attacks from any quarter, however, and that their agency sold wheat at five to seven cents above the quoted market price during the artificially produced depression. It was admitted in the statement that the largest and best-known dealers were not connected with the attempts to undermine the co-operative organization, but it could not be doubted that the market

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The value of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills when the system is run down is shown by the experience of Mr. William Mitchell, R. R. No. 1, Bedford, P. E. I., who says: "A few months ago I found myself in a badly run down condition. My appetite was poor, I was easily tired and did not sleep well. I tried several so-called tonics, but did not get any relief. Then I decided to give Dr. Williams' Pink Pills a trial and soon found that I had got the right medicine. Gradually my strength came back, the dull, tired feeling disappeared, and after using the pills for about a month, I could eat heartily and was as strong and active as ever I have been. I can most cheerfully recommend Dr. Williams' Pink Pills as an unsurpassed tonic."

You can get Dr. Williams' Pink Pills from any dealer in medicine, or by mail at 50 cents a box from The Dr. Williams' Medicine Company, Brockville, Ont.—Advt.

had purposely been broken by the selling of small parcels of wheat below previous prices and probably creating the lack of confidence which is reflected in reports at home and abroad."

"EAST LYNNE" PRESENTED IN DELAWARE CHURCH

Special to The Advertiser.
Delaware, April 8.—Under the auspices of Delaware Memorial

church, the play, "East Lynne," was presented in the church by the young people. The following took part: Murray Evans, Stanley Merrill, Rev. H. Royle, James Robinson, Archie Ireland, Edgar Doane, Donald Stewart, Mrs. Charles Johnstone, Amy Culver, Hattie Hartsell, Hattie Ryckman and Florence Royle. The audience filled the church, and repeatedly showed approval. An orchestra of violinists, under the leadership of Miss James of London, rendered music between acts. Mrs. Fenton accompanied on the piano.

BARN BURNS.

Special to The Advertiser.
Blenheim, April 7.—A barn on the farm of Flora Patterson, two miles east of town, was burned this morning. The dead grass had been fired at some distance from the barn, but gradually worked its way over the intervening space before the workers in the fields noticed the barn was on fire. Fortunately there was no livestock or farm produce of value destroyed. No insurance was carried.

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