

Island, do not grow in quantity where they are likely to be eaten by cattle. All the species of Aconite are more or less poisonous, but no injury to cattle has been recorded. *R. sceleratus* is the most dangerous species of the genus *Ranunculus*, growing as it does in marshes and along ditches where cattle are likely to eat it with other forage plants; it is also the most poisonous species. The juice of several species will, if rubbed on the skin, produce blisters and sometimes ulcers.

Although the berries of Mountain Ash, *Pyrus Aucuparia*, are poisonous to man, *Prunus* is the only rosaceous genus that causes serious injury either to man or stock. The leaves of all the species may be eaten while fresh, but when wilted contain a virulent poison, hydrocyanic or prussic acid. *P. serotina* is the most poisonous species in the north, although *P. pennsylvanica* and *P. virginiana* are almost equally so. Poisoning is frequently caused by cattle and sheep eating the wilted leaves, and children occasionally die from eating the kernels of the seed. So many sheep are killed by browsing *Prunus* leaves when being driven along trails in the west that in many places the bushes have been cut out, in others the dangerous places are marked by flags. Leaves wilted in bright sunlight to about 75 per cent. of their original weight, or until they appear slightly limp, yield the maximum amount of prussic acid.

Many of the *Leguminosae* are injurious to stock and it is to this family that all the "loco weeds" belong. Of these, in Canada at least, *Oxytropis* causes the greatest damage to sheep, horses and cattle. No Canadian species of *Astragalus* is known to cause injury. One effect of eating any of the "loco weeds" is that a depraved appetite is developed and the animals prefer the "loco weed" to wholesome food, and will even dig up the roots to satisfy their craving. The first stage of the disease is the effect on the nervous system, which in time drives the animal frantic; in the second stage there is emaciation, exhaustion and finally death from starvation. *Thermopsis rhombifolia*, which is common in the prairie country, is said to be injurious to stock, and several cases of children having been poisoned by eating the seeds are recorded by the Canadian Department of Agriculture. It is only in recent years that it has been shown that poisoning from lupine occurs almost always when the plant is fruiting, and experiments in Germany have shown that the active poison, ictrogen, is found chiefly in the seeds and pods. It is after the first frosts destroy other vegetation that the lupine is eaten in the greatest quantity. Of one band of 200 sheep let into a field of lupine for a short time when in a hungry condition, 100 had died within a few hours and 50 others succumbed later on, and on another occasion 150 rams were given a feed of lupine hay and