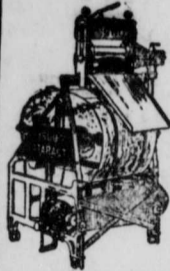




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HAMILTON

## THE CAUSE OF WARBLER'S

The Gad Fly Annoys Cattle and Injures Hides.

How the Pest Operates—Effects and Losses Described—Prevention and Treatment of Warbles — Weeds Versus Wheat.

(Contributed by Ontario Department of Agriculture, Toronto.)

The name 'warbles' is applied to a rather common condition affecting cattle which is characterized by the appearance of small lumps along the back and loins. The lumps gradually develop during the late winter months, and as spring approaches the skin along the back and loins is noticed to be covered with small rounded swellings about the size of a small walnut. The lumps are quite tender at first, and when they become fully developed a round hole, surrounded by a little frothy matter, becomes noticeable in the centre of each little swelling. Through each of these little openings in the skin a grub or warble finally emerges. The explanation of the occurrence and development of warbles in cattle is rather interesting.

The Gad Fly Is Responsible For the Injury.

The primary cause is the "Gad Fly," of which there are two varieties technically termed the *Hyderma bovis* and the *Hyderma lineata*. These flies attack cattle while at pasture during the warm summer season, and are seldom troublesome during cold damp weather. They make a buzzing sound when in flight, and cattle when attacked by them become terrified to such an extent as to cause them to stampede, which is commonly known as "gadding." The flies attack the lower parts of the body and the legs. They deposit their eggs in the hairs close to the skin, and in such a manner that the eggs are firmly attached to the hairs. After a time the eggs are hatched, and the larva or young insect passes down the hair follicle, through the skin, into the tissues. Further development of the larva takes place in the tissues, and finally they succeed in making their way to the region of the back, which they appear to select for the last stage of their development, and form little lumps in the skin, in each of which a grub or "warble" is present, which is the mature larva. Finally the grub bores its way out through the skin and falls to the ground, where it passes through the chrysalis or caterpillar stage encased in a cocoon or shell-like covering, and is transformed into a pupa which in about a month becomes fully developed and emerges as the mature adult gad fly.

Effects and Loss Sustained.

The effects produced by gad flies and warbles are chiefly economic losses, which the flies cause by worrying cattle while at pasture during the summer time and lessening milk production, and the damage which the warbles inflict to the skin, thus lessening the value of hides for tanning purposes. The extent of the injury done to hides through warbles is considerable, and it is conservatively estimated that twenty-five per cent. of cattle hides are thus damaged each year. Tanners and hide dealers do not want warbled hides, as the uses a grubby hide can be put to are limited, and as a result they are graded low and reduced in price.

Prevention and Treatment.

Various preparations have been recommended and used as repellants to ward off the attacks of gad flies and prevent them laying eggs on cattle during the summer season. Local treatment of the backs of cattle with a mixture of sulphur, oil of tar and train oil is popular, but it would appear to be of little real service. It is now generally considered that in districts where warbles are troublesome that the best course to be adopted is to keep the cattle under shelter or the shade of trees during the heat of the day in summer to prevent them being attacked by the flies as far as possible. During the winter months the cattle should be examined every week, and if any of them are noticed to be affected with warbles the grubs should be squeezed out of their backs every few weeks or at least once a month. To facilitate the removal and destruction of the grubs the little openings in the skin over each lump may be enlarged a little with the point of a sharp knife and a little iodoform-vaseline ointment applied. This ointment is composed of one part of iodoform and five parts of vaseline, and is very effective in killing the grubs. The grubs can be

Aunt Ada's Axioms: Someone has said that a farm is a business with a home attached; but the best farms are homes with a business attached.

Elm, maple, or even nut trees and fruit trees are good to plant along highways. The objection to fruit and nut trees is that they may be broken down by over-zealous collectors of fruit. This is not apt to happen if they are common on the highway.

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Men's Fine Striped Cotton Pyjamas, nice fine quality, good value at

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Men's Fine Shirts made from good Canadian and English cloths in a splendid assortment of colorings and cloths

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Women's all wool Bathing Suits

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**This Store Closes Every Wednesday  
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