

SERIES OF ADDRESSES ON GARDEN PESTS

Mr. R. M. Winslow, Provincial Horticulturist, Teaching Residents of B. C. How to Make Their Homes Beautiful

The provincial department of agriculture has initiated a practical campaign for the assistance of amateur gardeners in the cities who are doing their part toward the making of urban centers in British Columbia as beautiful and artistic as possible. In this connection the provincial horticulturist, Mr. R. M. Winslow, has arranged to give a series of plain and practical addresses on the subject of garden pests and their control. The first of these evening addresses, which was given in chatty, informal style, and was more in the nature of a personal talk on the subject of the insect pests most prevalent to vex the souls of amateur gardeners.

"The attainment of a successful garden," said Mr. Winslow, "is often hampered by the untimely appearance of some insect which mar the result. While this is, generally speaking, not often the case with the gardens of Victoria, which are more free than most districts from injurious pests, yet the means of control of the pests we have should prove of considerable value to the amateur gardener for whose benefit this address is given."

"In the treatment of the pests of a garden, not less than in diseases, infection is purely a matter of conditions, sanitary or otherwise. Good sanitation in a garden is very necessary, and one may feel fairly confident that as far as possible his garden is in good shape when the following rules have been carried out:

"1. Clean up the garden thoroughly in the fall and burn all the refuse, leaving no harbor for any injurious insects.

"2. Clean up and burn the remnants of each crop as soon as the usefulness of the crop is over.

"3. Keep weeds down at any time, not only in the garden, but in the surrounding lanes and lots. Weeds form a most prolific breeding ground for many insects.

"4. Clean cultivation during the growing season of plants.

"5. The rotation of crops. Do not plant potatoes where potatoes were the previous year. Similarly, do not plant cabbage where cauliflower, white turnip or radish were the preceding year, these being related plants. This is not at all possible in the garden, but as it is one of the most effective means of destroying certain injurious pests, as well as being directly valuable, it should be followed as consistently as possible.

"To speak next of strong-growing and disease-resisting plants, if good sanitation is the first line of defense for the garden, undoubtedly the second, or whatever kind is the second. On an average good strong plants will be almost free from insect injury where similar plants not so well nourished will be severely attacked and even destroyed.

Essentials for Success.

"The plant is like the animal in this respect. We now fight tuberculosis with fresh air, good food, proper clothing, and with a view to building up a resistant organism. Garden plants are handled with success much in the same way. Some of the essentials for success in this respect are the following:

"1. Deep and suitable soil to which the plant roots will find a sufficient amount of plant food for all their needs. This requires no emphasis.

"2. Soil moisture. A water-logged soil makes an unsuccessful garden at any time. Similarly, an open and very dry soil leads to failure also. The vigorous plants of Victoria require that the soil be deep, well-drained, and of good moisture-holding capacity if the best results are to be secured. The soil for most results should be moist, but not wet, and cool but not cold.

"3. The soil must be in good physical condition, not baked as is often the case with heavy soils, nor must it be too open as with sandy soils. Both of these conditions may be improved by the use of barn-yard manure or vegetable matter in any form. In fact, the incorporation of vegetable matter into the soil in large quantities is essential to the making of a good garden.

"4. For vigorous plants the best seed is none too good, usually it is essential. The extra cost of best seed is usually paid many times over in its more successful crop. Plants for transplanting, too, must be strong. Again, some varieties of plants are naturally more resistant to diseases than others, whilst still retaining a high quality.

"In making a successful garden, the above features of food, good sanitation, deep and well-prepared soil, and strong plants are of great importance. Where those are all obtained within any reasonable degree, troubles with insects are reduced to a minimum. Most insects disappear, or are rendered innocuous against such a combination. But even with the best soil, the cleanest tools, and the most vigorous plants, some insects, such as the cabbage maggot, are not conquered, and special treatment is necessary. The more persistent insects therefore require discussion.

Garden Pests.

"The well-known cut-worm pest hardly merits description. While there are at least two hundred species of cut-

worms in Canada, all have the same characteristics, namely caterpillars, almost hairless, growing to two inches in length, and generally of the color of the soil. Many of them hatch in the fall and live on weeds and vegetation in the garden. With a few, the eggs hatch in the spring, and while these latter the moths lay eggs only where vegetation is plentiful. On this account the easiest way to fight cut-worms is to have the garden perfectly free of vegetation after the fall crops are harvested, and to cut weeds as far as are feared in the spring, they can be most easily destroyed by making a mixture as follows: Moist soil, fifty pounds of bran with sweetened water. Mix with it one pound of Paris green. Smaller amounts are made in the same proportion. This is spread broadcast in the late afternoon or evening on the ground to be planted, or along the rows where plants are already set out. Cut worms seemingly prefer this mixture to any other food, and so are easily destroyed.

"Anyone who has grown cabbage, cauliflower, white turnip, or radish, knows of the little whitish cabbage maggot, which bores through the plant at about ground level and below. In some years white turnips can be scarcely made presentable for table use. The life history of this pest is as follows: A small two-winged fly, hatching in June, lays its eggs in small clumps on the stems of these plants at ground level. The eggs soon hatch, the little maggots working down the stems to below the ground, where they commence to eat. In a couple of weeks they will have grown full size, and there sufficiently numerous, will have completely girdled the cabbage, causing it to wilt. In the white turnip and radish, they usually bore through the fleshy part in all directions. Control of this insect is difficult. To rotate the crops, planting the above mentioned ones as far as possible one year from where they were the previous year, is one of the most efficacious remedies.

Lessons on Cultivation.

"Cleaning up and burning of all old stumps of cabbage in the fall together with deep cultivation in early winter, help to some extent. When late cabbage can be planted by July 1 or later, there is usually no trouble with them. With early cabbages, the best thing to do is to grow the young plants under a tight cheesecloth covering, which will prevent the entrance of the fly. When transplanting, plant only on soil which has had a quantity of lime, and after planting, spread soil lightly around the plants. Tar paper discs about four inches in diameter, fitted tightly around the stem, will prevent the young maggots from crawling down to the root and will give good results. For radish and white turnips, where general cleaning-up precautions do not produce a clean crop, it is most satisfactory to grow them entirely under the cheesecloth covering. The onion maggot is very like the cabbage maggot in appearance and habits, except that it works only on the onion. The same general treatment is used, but the most important point with onions, is to use only transplanted plants.

"The pests of the Aphis family are numerous, attacking many of our garden plants, as well as fruit trees. They are usually green or black in color, but there is also a so-called woolly species on the apple and the alder, and some others. The woolly species on the cabbage and on the plum. The treatment for all these green lice or black fly, or aphids, as they are variously termed, is about the same, and is as follows:

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STRIKING EVIDENCE AT SHEEP COMMISSION

Vancouver Island Farmers Give Opinions on Condition and Prospects of Sheep Raising in Province

Mr. Commissioner W. A. Dryden and Mr. Commissioner W. H. Ritch, who have been appointed by the Dominion government to inquire into the condition of the sheep industry in Canada, and have extended their researches to Great Britain and the United States—had a most important and illuminating information placed before them at the sitting they held on Thursday at the city hall.

A lengthy report of the proceedings appeared in yesterday's Colonist, but the evidence made it impossible to give a detailed resume of the evidence offered. This tended to emphasize the urgent need for a substantial subsidy from the government to encourage the sheep-raising industry in Canada. Among the things discussed by authoritative witnesses were the low price of wool, the suitable climate, land and food for the different breeds of sheep, the scarcity and expense of farm labor, the merits of respective herds of sheep for farming in British Columbia, co-operative "rammings" and the prices now obtainable for sheep products. After the opening speeches of Mr. W. E. Scott, deputy minister of Agriculture, and of Dr. S. F. Talmie, live stock commissioner, Mr. Heatherbell, of Colchester, was invited to give his opinion. He said that although, as Dr. Talmie had said, he had had some 35 years' successful experience in sheep-raising on a large scale, he could not understand why the price of wool was so low. Here it was regarded a good price, if one could get even ten cents a pound for wool. In Australia, England and the United States he had found very different prices prevailing. Otherwise, sheep-raising was, without doubt, the most profitable and economical form of farming he knew. The sheep kept down weeds and growing brush. The price of mutton, too, was still going up, so why should sheep-raising go down? "In these times of rush and worry it was better to make money slowly and honestly by sheep, than to try to make it fast and dishonestly by other means," Commissioner Dryden said. Mr. Heatherbell, however, was of the opinion that there was no difference between pure and ill-bred sheep. (Laughter.) Both became mutton and fetched the same price per pound. There was not much difference in the value of pure and crossed bred sheep.

Dr. Watt, in supporting Mr. W. E. Scott, said that he had sold twenty Southdown rams in one year at an average of \$25 a head. The sheep scab was a great pest, and he had lost many sheep. This was most unfair to British Columbia, where there had not been a single case of the disease. It has only occurred in the states. They could, however, get over the quarantine regulations by dipping their sheep. (Laughter.)

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In the first months of the year lambs were worth from six and a half to seven dollars each. They had not had any this year, however. It would pay the province's farmers well to fasten their stock for winter killing. More mutton would be wanted every year. Easter lambs ran from 25 to 34 pounds a quarter. Plenty of food, and good food, was essential for successful sheep farming. A good healthy young ewe well fed would bring lamb into market three weeks ahead of an ill-fed ewe. Sheep wanted plenty of food, and to stink the quality or quantity of the food was to lose rather than to gain the profit.

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In Australia, he spoke from experience, of rams fetching as much as \$40 and \$75 each. Nor was this a record for pure bred rams. Surely there was a chance for the fortunately situated and enterprising farmers of this province to simply mint money. Let them correct the faults of their organization and mixed breeding and the results would be amazing.

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