

FRIENDS AND FOES OF FOREST AND FIELD

A recent issue of the "Farmer's Advocate" contained some pertinent remarks on the subject of the destruction of our trees by insect pests, and the great service rendered by many birds in destroying the insects and their eggs, grubs, etc. One sentence, however, seems to call for some qualification, namely, "It is a hopeful sign that the youthful passion for killing every bird that crosses the line of vision seems to be dying out, etc., etc." So far as the city of Winnipeg is concerned at least, this is certainly not the case. For the last seven years the writer has been continually shocked by the ruthless destruction of animal life of all kinds by young "sportsmen," and there does not appear to be any diminution of this cruel and utterly useless slaughter. It is much to be feared the habit is too common all over the country. Many young men, boys, and even mere children, are constantly in the habit of frequenting the wooded banks of the Red River and other streams, armed with fowling pieces and small rifles, not for the purpose of securing specimens for preservation, or for any other useful aim, but merely for the "fun" of the thing. Anyone interested can, by the expenditure of a little time and careful observation, verify the truth of this assertion.

It is, undoubtedly, a wise thing to teach boys to handle fire-arms, and a pleasant sight to see them doing so, in a sensible and humane fashion. But it is obvious that some other teaching must go along with instructions as to the use of the weapons. Arming a boy with an instrument capable of destroying life, even on a small scale, is only putting a premium on cruelty, unless he is fully instructed as to the purposes for which he may, legally and humanely, employ it. Any boy intrusted with a gun will naturally, and thoughtlessly, shoot at anything, but it is essential that a little common-sense instruction should accompany the permission to handle such dangerous tools.

The "cadet corps" in connection with schools, "boys' brigades," "boy scouts," and all the modern schemes for encouraging our boys to take a live interest in the defence of the empire, are wise and good in other directions than in mere "militarism," and should be priceless in giving the rising generation, in addition to the undoubted benefits of discipline, a power of self-control and unconscious dignity unknown to the training of our young days. Development of character there will be, of the best kind too.

And, just here, at the psychological moment in the lives of our young citizens, is the opportunity to instil into their youthful minds the imperishable truth that manliness and cruelty cannot exist in the same person. It should add very little to the work of the teachers to explain to their pupils the inestimable services which nearly all birds render to the farmers' crops, as well as to the trees of the forest; or to the labors of their drill instructors to enforce the fact that they may learn to defend their country and their homes without indulging in the wanton destruction of harmless birds and beasts. Gather all our young people, boys and girls, into one great society of Friends of the Forest and the Field, and we shall undoubtedly do a mighty service to the State in preserving the greatest of our vast national resources, now disappearing at an alarming rate. We have only to hear what our naturalists tell us to realize, imperfectly, it may be; the immense debt we owe to our native birds; the experiences of forestry experts and rangers will open our eyes to the enormous destruction which the free development of insect life entails upon our forests and fields. A very, very small proportion of the birds do any actual harm to the farmer, and even that is amply counterbalanced by their protective services.

It has been the delight of the writ-

er to watch the wooded banks of the river, year after year, and the great variety of beautiful bird-life, which, until recently, has haunted them. In any ordinary season the foliage has been so profuse and dense that scarcely a branch has been visible in June, but this year the "leafy month" is a misnomer, and "our" wood, for weeks, has presented a very bleak appearance, the stems and branches of many of the trees being nearly as bare as in winter. Even now, when a second growth is beginning to show, the aspect of this delightful outlook from our windows is extremely depressing. Where once a solid mass of lovely variegated greenery met our view, we see thousands of bare branches, and the opposite side of the river and the sky is visible, when our eyes were wont to meet an impenetrable screen. And the birds are getting scarcer every year. Formerly, a walk in "our" wood was doubly enjoyable by reason of the presence of active and attractive birds, all busy searching out the destroyers and keeping them within reasonable bounds. Now? Alas! Much could be said, in the same connection, of the needless destruction of many useful quadrupeds which are ruthlessly hunted down in the same indiscriminate fashion. Any law on the subject would seem to be a dead-letter. Were the gun not so much in evidence, we might hear less about the rat invasion.

L. S. LITTLE.

DELIGHTED WITH THE TEA SET

"Farmer's Advocate," Winnipeg, Man.:

Dear Sir,—I received my china tea-set over a week ago in good condition. I thank you very much; it is just a beautiful set; much nicer than I expected.

BERTHA STUART.

CANNED RASPBERRIES

Dear Dame Durden,—I have been a silent reader of the "Advocate" for four years now, and have made use of a lot of useful recipes from the Ingle Nook. Now I am writing to ask for a little help. I want to can raspberries this year instead of making jam, but have no idea how to go about it and should be glad if you could give me full instructions how to do them. I think we shall have a lot this year as our canes are loaded with blossoms. We have fifteen rows in the garden, 30 feet long. They are the wild canes, but with cultivation they yield large, fine-flavored fruit.

I was reading "Emerald Eyes" letter in June 9th issue, and find she makes muffins and would be pleased to help others. I should be glad if she would send me her recipe for muffins as I have wanted to try them a long time. She also asks for a light cake recipe so I will enclose one I use, as she might like to try it.

Malta Cake.—Take two eggs, one-quarter lb. flour, one-quarter butter, one-quarter lb. sugar, the grated rind of an orange, and one tablespoonful of milk. Put sugar in a basin, partly melt butter and stir it in, then beat in the eggs, stir in the milk, orange rind, and flour. Put Mixture in a well-greased tin, spread evenly, and bake half an hour in good oven.

Yours truly,
COUNTER KICKER.

(The finest canned raspberries I have ever eaten were done by this method: Have perfectly clean bottles and tops and new rubber rings. Fill the jars up to the top with the dry fruit, but do not press it down. Set them then in a moderately warm oven for a few minutes while you make a boiled syrup of sugar and water, allowing half a pound of sugar to each pound of fruit. Pour the syrup when made over the fruit in the cans filling right to the top, and screw the covers on tightly. Set them in a tub or other large vessel and cover with boiling water. Put a cover over the tub, and let stand until

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