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does not seem easily frightened, but it moves from place to place so quickly that it is hard to get a good look at it.

About a week ago one flew into our woodshed, where house-flies were quite plentiful. There it was caught, and brought into the house by my mother. While she held it in her hand I put my finger close to it, to stroke its head. The little creature pecked me viciously. We shut it in a bedroom. At first it flew a couple of times against the window, half-stunning itself. I feared it would die, but as it did not try to fly out again we decided to let it remain where it was till morning. Within two hours after sunrise next day it had eaten the stray flies that were in the room. Later in the day it perched on the mirror and watched inquisitively while I brushed my hair. Next day we brought it down to the dining-room and kitchen, where the flies were thick. All farmers understand how hard it is to keep a house free from flies in August. We had been fighting them with fly-paper and fly-poisons, but they were steadily on the increase.

Well, Mr. Nuthatch went at once to work to catch flies. He caught them on the windows and ceilings and walls, and went into every corner. We put away all the fly-poisons, leaving the work all to the smart little bird. And he has done his work well. Hardly a fly is now visible, and we are wondering how we will let in enough to feed him till fly season is over. With a little dish of clean water, and the freedom of the house, he seems quite contented, his only wish being for more flies. If we could only provide for him in the winter time, the problem of flies about the house would be solved.

Now farmers, just count the flies in one sheet of tangle-foot, when it is full. Then count the sheets your wife uses in a week or two; and notice that there seems as many flies in the house as ever.

If one little bird can in a few days not only eat as many flies as the tangle-foot catches, but also so many more so that the house is free from flies throughout, then we can have an idea what a farm would be like without any birds.

All through the summer, birds in large numbers hunt insects over our farms. If a few of them like a taste of grain or fruit in the fall, I think we can spare it to them ungrudgingly. They have earned it fairly enough.

And in connection with the insect-eating birds comes the question of raising trees. When the settler first moves out on to a bare prairie farm, only a few varieties of small birds are seen. These are the birds that build their nests on the ground, sheltered by the tufts of thick grass. But if the settler plants clumps of bushes and trees about his house and grounds—almost at once more birds come. They love the shelter of the trees. It does not require that the trees be large ones either; but they should not be severely pruned. Many branches will answer best to coax the birds to take shelter amongst them. Thick bushes like the lilac are especially inviting to our friend Mr. Robin; while the spreading branches of the Manitoba maple make a splendid home for the blackbirds, wrens, and wild canaries.

Of course it will be better if Mr. Robin does not build too near the strawberry patch. Do you know what he did here once? He raised his family in the seclusion of a hedge of wild choke-cherries, and I felt that the strawberries were safe. Just when the berries were ripe Mr. and Mrs. Robin told their babies it was time they learned to fly. As soon as they could fly that distance they moved to the strawberry patch, where I often saw them hiding beneath the leaves. I thought it showed quite a lot of wisdom on the part of the parent birds. It was so much easier to take the baby birds to the berries, than to take the berries to the baby birds. I did not drive them away, but I often wished that they would not wake up quite so early in the morning. I think they deserved a few berries after hunting worms and bugs all summer.

Before I close let me say a word for another friend of ours. He is not so attractive as the birds, and as far as I know he sings no song, but he hunts up worms and beetles and grasshoppers without number. He never does hurt to any man, but many men are inclined to hurt him. He is the brightly-colored garter snake, than which we have no better friend. Do not kill him, boys. He will not do anything any harm. You might pick him up and carry him about in your hands all day, and he would never try to hurt you—he *could not* hurt you if he would. Let him crawl away unmolested. Your fields may be saved from the ravages of cut-worms or grasshoppers by him, for I assure you he eats myriads of them.

Many people in the West think that our little brown lizard (or properly speaking, "newt") is poisonous, and will bite. I have handled many of them, and have found them very harmless and very timid. They always make me think of helpless babies. You will think the same if you look closely at their tiny hands, so much like a young child's. Instead of biting, the lizard will press its lips so tightly together that it is almost impossible to force the mouth open without making the delicate gums bleed. I know one young lady who will not go to the cellar alone for potatoes, because she fears finding a lizard there. It is such an absurd notion, when the poor creature thinks of is to hide away when someone comes near. I think the lizard sometimes goes into cellars in search of beetles and crickets.

ask.
BRENDA E. NEVILLE.

FIELD NOTES

Events of the week.

CANADIAN.

The Railway Commission is holding court in Winnipeg this week.

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Randall Roberts, a first cousin of Lord Roberts, died in the asylum at Brandon last week. Deceased was an old soldier, having seen service in India and other parts of the world.

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Dr. Saunders, director of government experimental farms, has just concluded a tour of Vancouver island, with the object of selecting a site for an experimental farm.

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Nothing new develops in the strike of the C. P. R., mechanics. The company is reported to be bringing in several hundred skilled men from England for the western shops. The strikers are depending on the expected grain blockade to end the trouble.

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The Canadian Pacific lately has been having serious difficulties along its main line from Winnipeg to North Bay. Floods this side of Port Arthur, bridges burned out further east, and other accidents of a minor nature, have necessitated the sending of the trans-continental trains on several occasions east and west via the Soo line through Sudbury and St. Paul.

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Serious forest fires have been raging for the week past within a few miles of Port Arthur and Fort William. The mountain to the west of the cities has been burnt over, the fire at one time reaching in between the two cities and grave fears were entertained that the two places would be destroyed. Later reports indicate that danger for the time being is past.

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After 46 years in Fort Chippewyan, where for almost half a century he remained constantly without a visit to outer civilization. Wm. Wylie, an employee of the Hudson's Bay Company, arrived at Edmonton recently and leaves shortly to visit with his wife and sons, his old home in the Orkney islands. Wylie came to Fort Chippewyan overland from Norway House in 1862 and has remained at that post up to the present time as blacksmith for the company.

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W. J. Rutherford, professor of animal husbandry in the Manitoba Agricultural, is reported to have resigned his position to accept of the deputy commissionership of agriculture in Saskatchewan. Professor Rutherford came to Manitoba from Iowa when the college was founded here two years ago, first serving in the agronomy department, and for the past year in animal husbandry. His withdrawal at the present time leaves the institution in a serious way. Only three men now remain on the teaching staff. The three most important departments, field husbandry, animal husbandry, and dairying are vacant. Principal Black is in the east, convalescing after a serious illness. The board is advertising for men for these three positions.

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Dr. J. Rutherford, the veterinary director-general and live stock commissioner for the department of agriculture, has been elected president of the American Veterinary association. This is the largest and most influential body of its kind in the world, and it is the first time a Canadian has been elected to the presidency of it.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN.

The battleship St. Vincent launched the other day at Portsmouth is the largest and heaviest warship in the world.

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Chisholm, a town of 6,000 people in northern Minnesota, was burned last week by forest fires. The loss is in the neighborhood of \$3,000,000. Other cities and towns in that part of the state are threatened with similar destruction.

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The International congress on tuberculosis will assemble in Washington, D. C., on September 21, and continue in session until October 12. Some of the most eminent physicians and specialists in the world will take part in the proceedings, and notable papers on tuberculosis or subjects related to it, will be read. President Roosevelt will preside.

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The Eucharistic congress, a convention of Roman Catholic churchmen from all parts of the world, is assembled this week in London. Protestant societies in Great Britain have objected strongly to the congress being held in London, and riots or disorders were feared. Nothing, however, occurred. The Eucharistic congress will be held in 1910 in Montreal.

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The Standard Oil Company is submitting reasons to the United States Court of Appeals for a re-hearing of their appeal against Judge Landis' "unheard of fine" of \$29,000,000, and charge that judge with allowing outside influences to govern his decision. The company is preparing to fight the case to the last ditch. The case will come up again in October.

For the first time in many years a member of the British royal family has been hooted and mobbed by the public. Prince Arthur of Connaught while reviewing the Boys' Brigade in Glasgow the other day, met with an extraordinary demonstration, in which five thousand idle men sought to mob his carriage. Foiled in this by the police, they hooted and jeered, sang the Marseillaise and other revolutionary songs for several hours. "Down with all Royalty," was the slogan of the mob, and "Keep the Red Flag Flying," its refrain. A large number of men in Glasgow are out of employment, and urged on by socialist agitators and anarchists, were evidently led to organize the demonstration. A recurrence of disorder in the city is feared.

Hints on Shipping Grain

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

Now that the grain shipping season has arrived, I thought it well to write a short letter advising how loss and trouble can be avoided, to a large extent, by the shippers using a little care. There has been considerable frost in some districts of the provinces, and low lying parts of fields are most likely to be caught with frost. Before threshing or stacking is the best time to guard against loss, by stacking or threshing the frosted parts first, taking care that part of the best grain goes with the frosted, rather than the frosted with the good. If this is carefully done it will save serious loss to the shipper. Last season I advised a party to do this, with the result that the greater part of his crop graded No. 1 Northern, part No. 3 Northern and the balance No. 5. A man called at my office a short time ago, and I asked him his opinion in regard to the damage from frost this season. He told me he thought the higher parts of his land had escaped, but that the lower parts were damaged. He told me that he advised his tenant to thresh the lower parts first, and keep the grain separate, I have known of some cars losing two grades on account of a slight mixture of frosted grain in them.

As smut is much more prevalent in the wheat this season, farmers should take great care to keep any wheat that is even slightly tagged, separate from the better grades, as when a car is graded rejected on account of smut it means a serious loss. I have always found it best to sell this class of wheat without being treated, as long as there are buyers in the market for it at a reasonable spread in price. And I have found it the case with all grain that has been graded as no grade tough, while there are buyers in the market for it in this condition. Sometimes it cannot be sold without being dried.

In regard to wheat that is badly mixed with wild oats or barley, the best way to handle it is to secure one of the latest improved fanning mills and clean at home before shipping. Your men cannot earn their wages to better advantage than by cleaning, as it can be cleaned to grade, and you will have a large amount of good feed that can be used to advantage on the farm. I have advised farmers and threshers to get together and come to an understanding in regard to using a proper seed sieve when threshing, to remove all the smaller seeds from the grain. Threshers claim they have no right to thresh this for nothing, which is quite true, but they can easily estimate the number of bushels under the mill at each setting, and it will be better for the farmer to pay for this and have it at home, rather than to draw it to market and in some cases pay freight on it to Fort William, and receive little or nothing for it. There was a car arrived here a few days ago that had 9% of small seeds such as pig weed and French weed seed. I am glad to know that several threshers this season have adopted the plan of cleaning. J. H. Ashdown of Winnipeg, has a supply of V perforated zinc that will take out buckwheat and other small seeds, and will not take out any wheat that is fit to market, and we find here that it does not choke with wild oats as the wire sieves do. As an example of what can be done by special cleaning, during the slack season, I had one car that was graded No. 6. I called Mr. Horn's attention to it, and he agreed if I could get the terminal elevator to clean it specially, he would be willing to have the grade changed. The result was we received an outturn for 92% of No. 5 wheat and an outturn for 8% of feed wheat, which meant a gain to the shipper of about \$78.00. In the busy season it would be impossible to have this done at the terminal elevators, but you can see that it would pay well to have this work done at home.

Seeing that grain is so dry this season, care should be taken in threshing to guard against breaking the wheat, I have seen cars of wheat from 6% to as high as 14% of broken wheat in