

FARM AND GARDEN

GRANARY WEEVILS.

An Interesting Letter From Mr. Fletcher, Dominion Entomologist.

James Fletcher, Dominion entomologist, writes in regard to this pest: "A good deal of consternation was felt lately at the World's Columbian exposition, at Chicago, when it became known that all the exposed grain, including the ornamental and decorative in the different courts of the Agricultural building, was infested by injurious insects. An order was issued by the superintendent of the agricultural department forbidding the distribution of any grain from those courts, even when brought in from outside for that express purpose. Being in Chicago at the time, I made a careful examination of the agricultural exhibits and found that the injury in the Canadian section was due almost entirely to two insects, the common rice weevil, *Calandra oryzae* (Fig. 8, where the insect is shown enlarged), and the 'fly weevil,' better known as the Angoumois grain moth, *Gelechia cerealella*, a small moth at first sight, closely resembling the too well-known carpet moth. With the rice weevil were also found a few specimens of the granary weevil, *Calandra granaria* (Fig. 6, 7).



GRANARY WEEVILS.

any danger of introducing into Canada any new pests which would afterwards give trouble either in the field or in the granary. In my opinion, Canadian farmers need have no anxiety on this score; for both of the pests have already from time to time been imported from the south with various kinds of grain, but have failed to propagate and become established. This is due to the fact that they are tropical insects, which, although they are very injurious in the southern states, cannot exist for any length of time in our climate.

"The granary weevils are small brown beetles, a little more than one-eighth of an inch in length, which lay their eggs in holes which they bore by means of a slender beak in the dry grain. When young grubs hatch, they complete their growth and turn to beetles again inside the grain where the egg was laid. By this time they have eaten out all the interior of the kernel. The beetles then emerge and continue the work of destruction. When grain is kept in store for a long time, this injury may be considerable in hot climates; but in Canada the cold of our winters stops their development and destroys the beetles.

"The 'fly weevil' has never developed in Canada even to the same extent as the true weevils, although occasional instances of its occurrence have been brought to my notice. In the southern states, where it is very abundant, the moths fly from the granaries and lay their eggs upon the ripe grain in the fields; the eggs of young caterpillars are thus carried back again into the granary, and frequently are the cause of much loss. This never takes place in Canada.

"Remedy: Should grain at any time be found to be infested by these insects, often repeated experiment has shown that the insects can be easily and cheaply destroyed by treating it with bisulphide of carbon, in the same way that peas are now regularly treated to free them from the pea weevil."

A Farm Stable.

A writer in The Tribune gives his method of ventilation and of making a cement floor. We quote a fraction of his remarks:

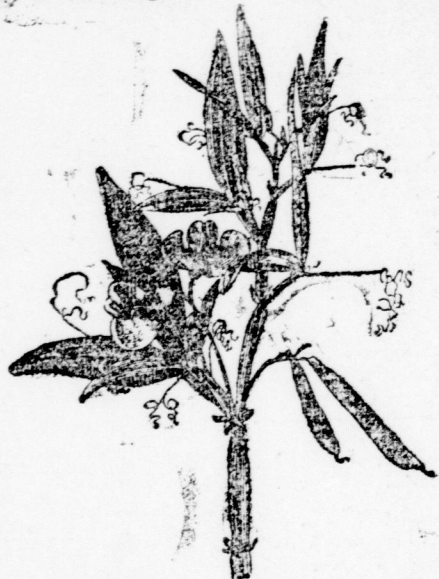
"My plan of ventilation is to have an open bay chute above the manger and extending the entire length of it, and we arrange the bay so that this bay chute comes at the side of the barn floor above and just under the edge of the bay bay, my barn being a basement barn. With plenty of windows and doors below and this opening over the manger, and good bedding used freely, the air of the stable is always sweet and wholesome. For laying stable floors only Portland cement should be used, but as a barrel of it will make nearly 100 square feet of floor for a cow stable, and good Portland cement can now be bought at \$3 per barrel, the cost of the material is actually less than that of plank and joist, for with suitable joist and a two-inch floor it will require nearly 400 feet of lumber for 100 square feet of floor, and this would cost me \$2 a hundred for pine or \$2.50 a hundred for oak lumber. My entire stable is floored with cement—horse and cow stalls, manger, manure ditch, cellar and bedding room and a walk two feet wide back of the manure ditch.

"To make this concrete, we mix one part of cement to six parts of good gravel, or finely broken stone four parts and coarse sand two parts, will answer. This is thoroughly mixed dry, then slightly wet by sprinkling with a watering pot, and thoroughly mixed until every pebble is coated with the cement, and then rammed solid. The finishing coat is mixed, two parts of sand to one of cement, thoroughly tempered and poured on quite thin and level, and then left to harden. Little skill is required to put down a cement floor, as any one can, with a level and straight-edge, get it level, and it does not need to be troweled smooth, as horses and cattle would be less likely to slip on it if left rough. We lay in sections four or five feet wide by staking 2x4 or 2x6 edges and level it with a light straight-edge."

THE APIARY.

Wagner's Flat Pea Valuable for Honey as Well as For Forage.

A plant that will pay laurel in honey alone has long been wanted. Figwort, the spider plant and many others have been tried and found wanting. At present German beekeepers are very enthusiastic over a new forage and honey plant, which it may be worth while to give a trial on this side of the water. A few seeds of this plant were sown this season, by beekeepers in this country, and their experience with it will be gratefully received by this



WAGNER'S FLAT PEAS.

department. The American Bee Journal has the following to say concerning the plant: "It seems that a scientist named Wagner, of Munich, Germany, has been at work for the last thirty years, crossing and improving, and from a bitter weed has developed a succulent forage plant unusually rich in sugar, and relished by all kinds of stock. The illustration of plant shows its resemblance to the sweet pea, to which it is closely related.

"The roots are said to penetrate the hardest, driest and rockiest soils, reaching to the depth of ten or twenty feet. Drought has little effect upon it. Barren land occupied by it has its fertility improved. Those who understand how red clover takes so much of its nourishment from the air, will have little difficulty in believing this as the flat pea, like the clover belongs to the leguminosae family. Four tons of dry hay per acre can be obtained if three cuttings are made. The first cutting takes away all chance for an early honey crop, but, if we understand it correctly, the bees gather a rich harvest after the first cutting, and not until October is its yield of nectar over. A somewhat serious drawback to growing it in this country is the difficulty of getting a start as it is very liable to be winter-killed during the first and second years."

Sugar Syrup as Food for Bees.

I have tried many different recipes for making bee feed without any of them proving very satisfactory. If the syrup is too thin it will sour and if too thick it will granulate. The principal trouble I had with it was that it would get so hard in the cells that a robber bee could not eat it. A beekeeper who has had twenty years of experience in making syrup for soda fountains, etc., and had encountered the same difficulties, recently made public the process he now uses. He says: "Many years ago we commenced the cold-water process, and since then we make a uniform quality of syrup that will keep—probably indefinitely—without souring or crystallizing."

"Our plan is to take a ten gallon keg (a barrel could be used if necessary), knock out the head and with it make a false bottom that will fit inside the keg. Bore the false bottom full of small holes and put in pegs to hold it up about six inches from the bottom of the keg. Then take about three or four thicknesses of white flannel and put it over the false bottom, stuffing it around the edges. Put in granulated sugar until about half full, pour in cold water, set the keg in the cellar and let the mixture percolate through the flannel.

"When the chamber below the false bottom is full draw the liquid off through the faucet and pour back. After the first draught the syrup is fit for the bees. All you have to do then is to draw off the syrup and add more sugar and water. We have always fed our bees with this when they needed winter feeding. With a barrel, a large quantity can be made in a short time."

The recipe given above has been copied by all the bee periodicals, and tried by many veterans, who pronounce it a success. In this way a fine syrup can be made for the table which will not annoy the housekeeper by granulating in the pitcher.—Mrs. L. Harrison, in Orange Judd Farmer.

Raise Your Own Fish.

Every farmer should raise his own fish as well as his cattle. There is no reason in the world why every farmer should not have a big fish pond. Tell that to your people, try to impress upon them that they can raise their own fish, and raise them at a tremendous profit for the surrounding market. Now the fish department, of course, does the same for fisheries and for everything connected with fish, that the agricultural department does for the raising of wheat and live stock. It tells the people as well as the country, what kind of fish can be best raised in certain sections and in certain waters and how they can be most profitably raised. It furnishes young fish and sends its experts out to instruct people in their growth. Fish raising, as the fish department teaches it, is immensely profitable as an industry. But, find out for yourself.

The Weight of Hay.

Compact timothy hay requires about 500 cubic feet to weigh a ton, but the quantity will vary with the pressure caused by the height of the mow, and with the age of the grass when cut, ripe and stiff grass yielding less under pressure, and requiring more in bulk to weigh a ton. Stiff coarse hay will be found to weigh less than fine and flexible hay, which will pack solid. The amount stated is a fair average for well-settled hay. If farmers, who frequently sell hay, or others who purchase it, would frequently test the quantity by measuring as above, they would learn to make estimates with the hay before them with considerable accuracy.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

LESSON III, FOURTH QUARTER, INTERNATIONAL SERIES, OCT. 21.

Text of the Lesson, Mark 1, 21-34—Memory Verses, 27, 28—Golden Text, Mark 1, 22—Commentary by the Rev. D. M. Stearns.

21. "And they went into Capernaum, and straightway on the Sabbath day He entered into the synagogue and taught. This lesson probably comes in order after the call of the four from mending their nets, etc., rather than after the call from the draft of fishes, but let us see Jesus, and the order of events may not matter so much. Capernaum signifies the village of Nahum, the comforter, and the true Comforter has come to His own city (Math. ix, 1). It was His custom to be in the synagogue on the Sabbath (Luke iv, 16), and we may be sure it was His custom never to be late.

22. "And they were astonished at His doctrine, for He taught them as one that had authority, and not as the scribes." He always preached the word and in the words which the Father gave Him to say (John xii, 49; xiv, 10). His words were the assertions of absolute confidence in God and in the Scriptures. He said, "We speak that we do know" (John iii, 11). We also, if sent by God, may speak boldly the message which He gives us (Ex. iv, 12; Jer. i, 7, 8; Acts iv, 31).

23. "And there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out." Evil spirits still go to church and Sunday school in the bodies of men and women and boys and girls, but not without the consent of those in whom they go. Anger, wrath, malice, worldliness, deceit, hypocrisy, are surely evil spirits. In fact, all that is not holy and true must be evil.

24. "Saying: Let us alone. What have we to do with Thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? Art Thou come to destroy us? I know Thee who Thou art, the Holy One of God." Let us alone is still the cry. We will go to church and contribute to the cause if you will only let us alone about the theater and the social customs, Sunday newspapers, and Sunday driving, receiving Jesus, preparing to meet Him and such like. But it is no use; we must all have to do with Jesus. He will destroy the works of the devil (I John iii, 8), and if those works include any of us, then we shall have to hear Math. xxv, 41.

25. "And Jesus rebuked him, saying: Hold thy peace and come out of him." He spoke to the spirit who was controlling the man. Let us also see to this and not likewise. Sin must be destroyed, and if the sinner persists in clinging to his sin he, too, must perish, but the Lord wishes to save the sinner and blot out his sins (I Pet. iii, 9).

26. "And when the unclean spirit had torn him and cried with a loud voice he came out of him." The cast out the spirit of a king is there is power (Eccl. viii, 4), and Jesus gave His disciples power over all the power of the enemy (Luke x, 19). What a strength it would be for service as we go forth in His name if we would only believe His word, "All power is given unto Me in Heaven and on earth, and, lo, I am with you all the days, even unto the consummation of the age" (Math. xxviii, 18-20).

27. "And they were all amazed, inasmuch that they questioned among themselves, saying: What thing is this? What new doctrine is this? The obedience of the demons to His word surprised them, and well it might, for whoever heard of evil spirits controlled by a word which men resist? Let His word be now received in all simplicity and finding, fretting, and evil spirit of fear, and let it be in His grace that we may abide in it, and then will we have to say, "What new doctrine is this?"

28. "And immediately His fame spread abroad throughout all the region round about Galilee." If the preaching in any church today should cause even the majority of its members of the evil spirits which seem to possess so many, what name would Jesus would get in that country? Why not with all our hearts, finding, fretting, and evil spirit of fear, and let it be in His grace that we may abide in it, and then will we have to say, "What new doctrine is this?"

29. "And forthwith, when they were come out of the synagogue, they entered into the house of Simon and Andrew with James and John." Happy men to take Jesus home from church with them. How many get all they want to do them a whole week, for once a week is all that pastors see many of their people in the house of God! If such should take Him home from church with them, they could not go out driving in the afternoon, nor go visiting, nor read novels.

30. "But Simon's wife's mother lay sick of a fever, and anon they tell him of her." Perhaps a poor day for Simon to bring company (four men) home to dinner—his wife might not come to the table. How many get all they want to do them a whole week, for once a week is all that pastors see many of their people in the house of God! If such should take Him home from church with them, they could not go out driving in the afternoon, nor go visiting, nor read novels.

31. "And He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and immediately the fever left her, and she ministered unto them." It was a good day for Simon to take Jesus home from church with them. How many get all they want to do them a whole week, for once a week is all that pastors see many of their people in the house of God! If such should take Him home from church with them, they could not go out driving in the afternoon, nor go visiting, nor read novels.

32, 33. "And at even when the sun did set they brought unto Him all that were diseased, and Him all that were possessed with devils. And all the city was gathered together at the door." The Sabbath ended at sunset, so they could then do this without, in the estimation of the Pharisees, breaking the day. See chapters 1, 24; iii, 2. The manifest power of God will draw the people. There are weary and heavy laden ones everywhere, sick in body and in soul, and this Jesus is today the very rest of soul and quietness of mind to every weary heart, and when He giveth quietness who then can make trouble? (Job xxxiv, 29.)

34. "And He healed many that were sick of divers diseases, and cast out many devils, and suffered not the devils to speak, because they knew Him." The margin says that He suffered them not to say that they knew Him. The testimony of the evil spirit in Acts xvi, 17, sounds well. What could be better? Yet it was not tolerated. God requires no help from the devil. When will His people see this and stop seeking help for the Lord's work from those who are not His children, and therefore must be children of the devil? (John viii, 44.)

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