

About the House

Keeping Ants From the Home.

Nearly every one is familiar with ants and knows something of their habits, structure, mode of living, etc. They vary in size from the tiny red ant that is so frequently found in the kitchen and pantry, about one-sixteenth of an inch in length, to the large, black carpenter-ant that lives in decayed stumps or old timbers. They occur in all parts of the world from the dry and arid deserts to the damp tropical forests, and from the torrid zone to the arctic circle.

The housewife goes to the pantry, some summer's day, to get some cake and finds that the frosting is covered with tiny red ants. Further investigation reveals them in the butter, sugar and running all over everything apparently. Sometimes it is the larger black species which carried its love for sweet things to the sugar bowl. How am I to get rid of them? It is, of course, useless to try and kill them one at a time, like "swatting the fly."

The first step is to take everything out of the infested place, clean everything, burning papers, and throw away or clean out any infested foods. Any foods that are likely to attract this insect like cake, bread, sugar, meat and similar substances, should be placed in ant-proof metal containers or set over a dish of water in which the ants will drown in trying to get at the food. The source of the colony should be located. If it be under the floor or in the wall the liberal use of carbon bisulphide will soon kill the queen and attendant ants. An old wood-box may be the seat of the trouble or its nest may be in the ground near the back porch. In using the carbon bisulphide care must be taken that no light or fire is near, as it is very inflammable.

If ants like the sweet things in the cupboards one of the best remedies is to mix one part of tartar emetic with twenty parts of extracted honey. Syrup may be used in the absence of the honey. Put this in small saucers and place where the ants will have access to it, but where it is inaccessible to the children or household pets. If the ants are grease eaters use grease instead of the honey in the same proportions as above.

If ants are troublesome in lawns or in the garden, where they are building their nests, they can be killed even more rapidly than in the house. Drench the nests with boiling water or pour into them a small quantity of kerosene or coal oil. Another method is to inject bisulphide of carbon into the nests, the quantity of the chemical depending upon the size of the nests. After this fluid has been poured in, the entrance to the nest should be closed by a blanket or inverted pan placed over it in order to retain the chemical. The fumes of the bisulphide will penetrate slowly through the underground channels and kill the ants.

Child Laborers.

Does the compulsory school attendance law protect children from heavy work and long hours in the fields? There are interested and vigorous school officers who do their best to enforce the law; but even at best the period of attendance required is meagre. There is always a loophole through which children may be piped to work.

If Canada is to be a country of healthy and intelligent people, both parents and children must realize that school is better than work for children until they are sixteen. It is quite true that "the more you learn the more you'll earn."

Most of us think of the farm as an ideal place, and no one can question the wholesomeness of much in farm life. But we have learned that it is not wise to take it for granted that all country life in Canada makes a child happy and healthy. It must be admitted that too much farm labor interferes shockingly with the child's schooling, overtakes his strength, and impairs his future usefulness.

Again—The Fly.

With Germany disposed of, our thoughts can again turn to the at-home problem of disposing of that ever-present menace—the fly.

The swatter—to be sure, no house is home without a fly swatter and a baby and where there's a baby there ought to be two swatters, one for father and the other for mother to use.

Poison—any and all kinds, but it should be kept high enough to be well out of the reach of children and domestic animals. If insect powder is used be careful not to scatter it about the room and then close the doors, forgetting Dickie the canary.

Birds are very susceptible to anything that shuts off their supply of pure air.

Tanglefoot—plenty of it. Hang the kind that comes in rolls from the gas jet and if sister runs against it and carries the ball off attached to her backhair, never mind. You are waging a great war, and who can stop to think of trifles. The kitten may wrap herself in it, to her terror, and father may sit on the sheet you have laid, for just a moment, in his favorite chair, but it catches flies as well, and that is the real issue.

Formaldehyde—that is perhaps best of all. In an old saucer put a mixture composed of ten parts of formaldehyde, eighty-eight parts of water and two parts of sugar in the centre of the dish put a small sponge and set where it will not be disturbed. The flies drink the mixture and die almost immediately. With this as with all other poisons be very careful to keep well out of the reach of domestic animals, children and careless people. It's the fly you are after.

MERCHANTS BANK CLOSES BEST YEAR IN HISTORY

Gains In Net Profits, Current Loans and Assets.

Shareholders of the Merchants Bank of Canada who attended the fifty-sixth annual meeting at the head office on Wednesday, the 4th instant, were treated to the most satisfactory report in the history of that well known banking institution. The statement presented showed net profits of \$1,383,569, a new high record in the history of the bank and \$146,000 more than was earned in the previous year. As a result of the larger earnings the dividend was increased from 10 to 11%. Not only were net earnings the largest in the history of the bank, but every department of the bank's activities showed satisfactory increases; gains being registered in current loans, deposits, liquid assets and in total assets. One of the most outstanding achievements was the large increase in deposits. Interest bearing deposits now stand at \$91,904,000, as compared with less than \$76,000,000 for the previous year. Non-interest bearing deposits gained from \$34,800,000 to \$43,552,000. In other words total deposits in Canada now amount to over \$135,000,000, as compared with \$110,000,000 in the previous year. It is somewhat significant that despite the large increase in deposits the bank's clients subscribed to over \$45,000,000 worth of Victory Loans, of which only a little over \$4,000,000 were conversions from previous issues. Another satisfactory feature is the growth in commercial loans; these having increased by nearly \$20,000,000 and now stand at \$95,874,000. This large increase indicates very clearly that the Merchants Bank is doing its full share in catering to the business needs of the community.

Despite the fact that the bank is doing a continually larger share of the country's business a further examination of the report shows that careful, conservative banking methods characterized the policy of the management. The bank has kept an unusually large proportion of its assets in liquid or quickly available form. Of its total assets of over \$166,725,000 no less than \$62,750,000 are in current coin, Dominion notes, Dominion and Provincial Government Securities. These liquid assets are over \$5,000,000 greater than a year ago and bear a very high proportion to the bank's total liabilities to the public. Total assets have increased over \$25,000,000 during the year.

In order to provide for future expansion the shareholders authorized the directors to increase the capital of the bank from \$10,000,000 to \$15,000,000, although it was stated by the President, Sir H. Montagu Allan, that there was no intention of issuing any of this stock in the immediate future. The president also spoke feelingly of the death of Mr. Andrew A. Allan, one of the bank's directors. His place has been filled by the appointment of Mr. Lorne C. Webster.

An interesting evidence of the bank's progressiveness was shown by the statement that since the signing of the armistice the bank has opened 88 branches and sub-branches which not only provided employment for the bank's officers returning from overseas, but furnishes that much more additional banking facilities to the public. Mr. Macarow, the general manager, stated in the course of his address that out of a staff of 1,300 at the beginning of the war enlistments numbered 823, or nearly 100% of the eligibles. Of the number going overseas, 73 men made the supreme sacrifice, while 87 were wounded.

The general manager in his analysis of present conditions spoke optimistically regarding the bank's position and its ability to share in the coming expansion of the country's business. The old board was re-elected and at a subsequent meeting of directors Sir H. Montagu Allan was re-elected president and Mr. K. W. Blackwell, Vice-President.

A good paste is made with grated potato and boiling water. Boil till thick.

THANKFUL MOTHERS.

Thousands of mothers throughout Canada—many of them your neighbors—speak with thankfulness concerning the use of *Baby's Own Tablets*. Once they have used the Tablets for their little ones they would use nothing else. The Tablets are an absolutely safe medicine for even the youngest baby, being guaranteed by a government analyst to contain neither opiates nor narcotics or other harmful drugs. Concerning them Mrs. David McRobb, Divide, Sask., says:—"I have used *Baby's Own Tablets* and have found them so satisfactory I would not be without them." The Tablets are sold by medicine dealers or by mail at 25 cents a box from The Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

Love's Labor.

What have I done to-day, now let me think,
I haven't read the book I should have read;
I didn't make that call on Mrs. Brink.
Nor spend the youth-restoring hour in bed.
Nor massage out the wrinkle in my cheek,
I didn't bake the fruit-cake, but may-be
I wrought as well—I sang my son to sleep,
Close cuddled and content upon my knee.

What have I done to-day?—I missed the Guild
And quite forgot my shopping trip to town;
My music rack with treasure amply filled,
I left the cover of my organ down.
I didn't sew the new flower on my hat,
But son and I played marbles on the floor,
And there was virtue quite as much in that
Perchance than though I had accomplished more.

What have I done to-day?—now let me see,
I've put the paltry things from out my soul,
I've mothered Laddie and he's played with me
And we've been happy; making that my goal.
I've learned why God, creating human kind
Made Mothers to be guarded safe from harms,
To train a baby's active, eager mind,
To hold a little lad in loving arms.

Old Gentleman (baldheaded but warmhearted): "Don't cry, Willie! Grandpa will play Indians with you."

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CURIOUS CHINESE CUSTOM.

Which is Supposed to Insure Persons Against Evil Spirits.

Once a year, during the first fifteen days of the seventh Chinese month, the curious ceremony of Yu-Nan-Whei is celebrated, being, in fact, the paying of homage to the land and sea devils. Seven priests carry out the ceremony by offering up various forms of prayer and making an unearthly noise by beating large gongs.

Anyone wishing to show his respect to the devils can do so by a payment of 600 cash—about twenty-two cents—to each of the priests, for which amount they will continue their performance for twelve hours—a truly modest remuneration for men engaged in the arduous occupation of propitiating evil spirits. For an extra payment of 2,000 cash a number of small red paper boats, about six inches long, with lights inside, will be sent floating down the river with the current.

These lights are for the benefit of the sea devils, in order that they may be able to see their way about on dark nights—a little attention which it is hoped these maritime demons appreciate. Having finished this performance, the person on whose behalf it has been carried out goes away happy in the conviction that he will not lose any of his family throughout the

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year, either by sickness or drowning, so that the whole ceremony may be looked upon as an insurance policy.

The Beginning of Wisdom, Anyhow.

It was at the Boy Scout week-end camp. The boys had grown tired of repairing the cabin. So the wise scoutmaster suggested that they have an impromptu concert. One boy sang; another danced. Then there was a pause.

"Come, Billy," said the scoutmaster to a member of the troop, "you know 'How doth the little busy bee?'"

"I don't!" said Billy, examining a fiery patch on his hand. "I only know he doth it."

Small Boy: "B-but you won't do! Y-you're scalped already!"

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Don't Let Him Sneak Up on You

Old Potato Bug doesn't blow a horn to let you know he is coming. Just when your potato plants are shooting out tender green leaves this deadly destroyer sneaks in and begins to chew them up. Have a hot reception all ready for the pest by spraying plants with

MUNRO'S PURE PARIS GREEN

It is the good old killer that always does the job right. Spray early and as often as required, and your Potato plants will be impervious to attack.

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