

THE DURHAM CHRONICLE

W. IRWIN, Editor and Proprietor.

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THE HESSIAN FLY IS HERE - HOW TO SAVE YOUR WHEAT

Many of the farmers of Ontario are not aware that the Hessian Fly has been attacking their wheat and causing much destruction. They have noticed numerous broken down straws in the fields when cutting their grain, but have attributed them to other causes than the real one. In some fields this year, 50 per cent. of the crop has been destroyed by this, the worst insect enemy of wheat. Some of those who have suffered severely the last few years are thinking of dropping winter wheat out of their rotation until the Hessian Fly ceases to be a menace. The life story of the insect and the best methods of control will therefore be of interest to farmers.

LIFE HISTORY.—The adult fly resembles closely a mosquito, but is a little smaller and darker. It is seldom noticed in this stage, but has three other stages, viz., egg, maggot, and pupa or flaxseed stages. At the date of writing, August 9th, the insect is in the pupal stage in the wheat fields. These pupae look very like flaxseeds, and are to be found in the wheat stems near the ground. Remove the blade from the stem just above the first or second joint from the ground, and these reddish brown pupae will be seen. Sometimes as many as twenty are clustered together on a single badly attacked stem. In a few weeks these pupae will change into the black, mosquito-like adult, in fact some have already done so in my rearing cages. These flies live a few days, and lay their eggs on the wheat plants that spring up in stubble fields or in early sown fields. Soon little legless maggots hatch from the eggs and feed on the young plants at the crown, frequently doing much damage, and causing the wheat fields to look a sickly yellow color late in fall. Before winter most of the maggots are full grown, and have changed to the flaxseed stage. Next spring, about June, these transform into the adult flies. These now lay their eggs on the lower wheat leaves, and the maggots on hatching work usually just above either the first or second joint between the leaf and the stem, causing the latter to become weak and bend over or not infrequently to break off. The feeding of the maggots deprives the head of its proper supply of food and thus injures the grain; in some cases a plant is so badly attacked that it is unable to head out at all.

MEANS OF CONTROL.—The best means of control is to prepare the seed bed with extra care, so that it will be in excellent shape when sown; to select good, large, plump, unsprouted seed (small grains can be removed by the fanning mill); and not to sow any wheat before the 5th of September. In the warmer parts of the Province the 10th or 15th would be preferable. If the seed bed is in proper condition, this late sown grain should grow rapidly, and produce good vigorous plants before winter. The better it grows, the less injury it is likely to receive from the fly. The object of late sowing is to wait until the flies have laid their eggs elsewhere, or died before the new crop appears above ground. Ploughing down or burning over wheat stubble as soon as the grain has been hauled in, or on the other hand running a cultivator or disc over the field to start the wheat growing and induce the flies to lay their eggs on these plants, and then ploughing them down in September to destroy the eggs or maggots; or sowing a strip or two of wheat in August in the field intended for wheat this year and letting this grow up for the flies to lay eggs in, and then ploughing it under just before seeding the whole field; are each helpful methods of control wherever they can be applied, but the main remedies are those first mentioned. Late sowing is likely to be very effective this year because the showers we are getting in August will hasten the appearance of the flies more than dry weather would, and therefore they are likely to lay their eggs considerably earlier.

Several kinds of parasites are attacking the maggots and pupae of the Hessian Fly. Some have already emerged in my rearing cages, but it is not safe to depend upon them to keep it under control.—L. Caesar, Department of Entomology, O. A. C., Guelph.

TRAVERTON

The past week has been buck-wheat weather; but none too suitable for fodder corn, nor for ripening grain.

Zionites were intensely touched by the earnestness, originality and forceful remarks of the Rev. Mr. Ward, of Varney, who occupied the pulpit on Sunday. His solo was much appreciated.

S. S. Jaques, formerly of this vicinity, is now in Windsor Mills, Que., and wishes to be remembered to friends of other days. He reports it a busy town, men scarce and wages high. Hay is the principal crop grown by the farmers.

The members of the Hunt family held a private picnic at Bell's Lake on Saturday afternoon, in honor of their guests, Mrs. F. Mullin and Miss Horton. Despite the dripping afternoon, upwards of thirty attended, and enjoyed the beauties of the lovely old spot.

Messrs. T. Timmins and John O'Neill sold a fine bunch of stockers each to Mr. Casey, of Dornoch, delivering them on Saturday.

Mrs. T. Smith had quite a successful barn raising on Wednesday afternoon last. The size is 52x26x16 foot posts. Messrs. D. McNab and James Banks were the framers, and the timbers snuggled neatly together. Miss Bessie gave a party to the young folk at night, when a most enjoyable time was spent.

Misses Mamie and Jessibel Haley are the guests of their auntie, Mrs. R. McFadden, of Riverdale, this week.

The monthly horse fair brings good results each time. Mr. John McNally, 6th concession, sold an eight-year-old mare to Mr. Arthur McClocklin, and Mr. T. E. Blair a heavy Clyde to buyer E. W. Limin.

Mr. Matt. Deavitt, and his sister, of Euphrasia, were guests of the Hunt family the first of the week.

Miss Flo. Hunt, and her guest, Miss Horton, leave for Hartney, Manitoba, this week, taking the ss. Huronic from Sarnia to Duluth. The former is head milliner and the latter bookkeeper in Mr. Hill's big departmental store there.

Quite a bunch of our stalwart boys go west this week. Among them are Messrs. John McNally, and his son Lorne, John O'Neill, James Young, jr., Jos. and Will McNally.

Mrs. Bert. Summers and Master Jackie returned to their Toronto home on Wednesday, after some pleasant weeks at her old home here.

"Trifles make up life," runs the old adage, and yet some of the little things of life can cause much inconvenience, and some amusement as well. We were re-shingling part of the old home on Saturday, when the strokes of the hammer aroused a hornets' nest in the cornice. They made Lorne McNally dance a fancy jig on the roof, caused Dave Davis to wonder what had gone wrong with his nose, and your humble scribe excelled an Apache war-whoop as they dissected his lug. A couple of sulphur fumigations evened up scores.

THE POWER OF SAVING.

One often hears people growling because others are so much more fortunate than they are in accumulating money. They imagine the latter had some kind of advantage—got larger salaries than they did, or something of that sort. It never occurs to them that the difference between the two classes is almost solely due to the fact that one class lives up to the last cent of their income and the other doesn't. It is wonderful how small savings count up in a few years, and we were never more forcibly struck with this fact than after reading the following article in an exchange:

What self-help and thrift can do for a man is strikingly demonstrated in the case of John Morrison, a Yorkshire carpenter, who although his wages had never exceeded \$8.75 a week, has been able to leave behind him the substantial sum of \$15,000, every penny of it the fruits of saving.

When he married, a little over forty years ago, he looked round to see what economies he could effect. He found that he had been spending at least \$1.25 a week on beer and tobacco; these he could very well dispense with. That meant a saving of \$65 a year. And this was the nucleus of his fortune.

A few weeks later his wages were raised from \$7.50 to \$8.75

weekly. He could rub along without the extra \$1.25, and was thus able to put by \$130 a year. When his savings had amounted to \$500 he bought two cottages, borrowed three-quarters of the purchase money and paying off the loan out of the rents. He was a man of property now.

The appetite for thrift took full possession of him. He was fond of gardening, and decided to turn his hobby and his spare time into money. He rented half an acre of land; his wife opened a shop for the sale of the produce, and the first year he was able to increase his saving to \$5 a week, with which, in two years' time, he was able to buy two more houses.

And thus simply his fortune grew. House was added to house, each paying for its own purchase with its rent, until at 60, he was able to retire on \$750 a year, almost twice his highest wages as a workman, and when he died to leave a good \$15,000 behind him.

And what John Morrison could do and did, others have done. Only a few weeks ago a working man confessed in a court of law that he had already saved \$3000 out of wages, which had never exceeded \$7.50 a week. "How did you do it?" asked the magistrate. "By a little self-denial, your worship," the man answered, and then proudly added "And I've brought up four children, too."

FLESHERTON.

Mrs. Miles Thistlewaite is visiting her daughter at Brighton.

Mr. T. J. Sheppard and family, of Toronto, spent last week on a motoring tour, and were accompanied from Hawkesville by Rev. L. W. Thom, who joined them in visiting old friends here.

Mr. and Mrs. David Strachan, of Toronto, are spending a week with Mr. Thomas Clayton and mother.

Mrs. Bemrose, of Toronto, is visiting her brother, Mr. George Mitchell.

Miss Lillian Buchanan, of Vandeleur, visited Miss Dell Thurston last week.

Mrs. E. Storey, of Orangeville, visited last week with her mother, Mrs. Flynn.

Mr. R. Wilcock spent a few days last week with friends at Stayner.

Mr. and Mrs. McGuffin, of the Soo, visited Mr. and Mrs. Will Moore, and other friends last week.

Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Bellamy left on Tuesday to visit their son and daughter at Saskatoon, Sask.

Mrs. A. McCauley and son Roy leave this week to visit the former's daughters in Saskatchewan.

Mr. C. J. Bellamy has returned from spending a few weeks in Toronto and Aylmer.

Miss Annie Howard is home from Toronto on a holiday with her mother.

Mrs. W. J. Douglas, and daughter Jean, left on Tuesday for their new home in the west.

Mrs. J. D. Clarke, and daughter, of Ottawa, are visiting her mother, Mrs. J. W. Armstrong, and other relatives. Mr. Clark accompanied her, and paid a short visit last week. Their son, Mr. George Clark, of Peterboro., is also on a holiday here, and favored the Methodist congregation with a pleasing solo on Sunday evening.

Rev. Mr. McNeil, of Wisconsin, who was to preach in the Presbyterian church on Sunday, was unexpectedly called home last week, and Rev. W. C. Mercer, of Southampton, supplied the pulpit very acceptably.

Mr. Bert Petch, of Toronto, holidayed with old friends here.

Mr. Gordon Laird, of Milverton, is spending a few days with friends in town.

Mrs. George Stuart and children are spending a week with friends at Thornbury.

Miss Duggan, and Miss Doyle, of Schomberg, were visitors at Mr. George Stuart's on Monday.

Mr. J. F. VanDusen and family, of Dundalk, visited his mother and sister on Monday.

Mrs. Edmunds, of Walton, Ont., and Mrs. Curtis, of Wayne, Mich., are spending a few days with their sister, Mrs. Trimble.

The campers returned from Holland lakes on Thursday night last, after two invigorating weeks' outing. An unpleasant dip in the lake by one of the party, who was successfully rescued, and a runaway by the team coming home, which resulted in but little damage, were the only mishaps of the holiday.

FEARED HE HAD CONSUMPTION

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HUGH MCKENNA, Esq.

ST. STEPHEN, N.B. Jan. 17th, 1911. "I wish to tell you of the great good "Fruit-a-tives" have done for me. For years, I was a martyr to Chronic Constipation and Stomach Trouble. I was greatly run down and my friends feared I had Consumption. I tried numerous doctors and all kinds of medicines, but received no relief until advised to try "Fruit-a-tives" by Mr. McCready of St. Stephen, and am pleased to say that I now enjoy excellent health. "Fruit-a-tives" are the best medicine made, and I strongly advise my friends to use them."

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Messrs. Charley and James White, of Saugeen Junction, had a narrow escape from serious injury last week. Driving towards the village, their spirited young horse took fright at a passing automobile, and colliding with a telephone pole, they were thrown from their buggy, which was badly damaged.

Mr. R. J. Sproule met with a nasty accident one night last week. In the darkness, while driving home on the Collingwood road, his horse took fright at a passing rig, and he was thrown with much force from his cart, sustaining severe bruises in the face, and cut in the head which required some stitches in dressing.

The garden party under the auspices of the Women's Institute, on Thursday last, was a great success. There was a big crowd to witness the sports, which were good. A football match between Flesherton and Swinton Park teams, was, as in their former match, a tie. No goals were made. A baseball match between Spring Hill school and Inistioge, was won by the former, 13-3. The most exciting event proved to be the baseball match between the young ladies' clubs of Flesherton and Ceylon, the former winning by 20 to 16. In the evening there was a baloon ascension and nice display of fireworks.

Mrs. Mary Baskerville, relict of the late Rev. James Baskerville, passed away at the home of her daughter at Wayne, Mich., on Tuesday, August 13th, aged 85 years and 9 months. The remains were brought here for burial, and the funeral took place on Friday afternoon, from the residence of her son-in-law, Mr. W. W. Trimble. In the absence of the pastor of the Methodist church the funeral service was conducted by Rev. G. S. Milligan. The deceased was an amiable woman, and beautiful Christian character. With her husband, she gave many years of her life in the Methodist church in faithful and self-sacrificing service, and was esteemed and beloved wherever she lived. Flesherton was one of their fields of labor, and some time after superannuating, settled here, where Mr. Baskerville passed to his reward over twenty years ago. Three daughters and one son survive, viz., Mrs. Trimble, Flesherton; Mrs. Rev. Elmunds, Walton; Mrs. Curtis, Wayne, and Dr. Robt. Baskerville, Detroit, all of whom were present at the funeral. The bereaved family have the sympathy of numerous friends here.

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