

**SCHOOL HONOR ROLLS FOR PAST MONTH**

**No. 9, Glenelg.**  
 IV.—Freeman McFadden, George Collinson, Reg. Arnett, Mima Hargrave, Bertha Ritchie, Dolphie Lawrence.  
 III.—John Dunsmoor, Annie Arnett, Reg. McFadden, Mary Hopkins, Dorothy Arnett, Roy Hargrave, Orval Hopkins, Kenneth Dunsmoor, Louise Jacques, May Andrews, Bertha McNally.  
 Sr. II.—Grace Hopkins, May Collinson, Irene Collinson, Watson Walker.  
 Jr. II.—Evelyn Robins, Vera Robins, Eddie Lawrence.  
 Sr. I.—Clarence Hargrave.  
 Jr. I.—Margaret Dunsmoor, Roderick Dunsmoor, Lucy Robins.  
 Sr. Pr.—John Collinson.  
 Jr. Pr.—Freddie Arnett, Clara Jacques, Doris Lawrence, Susie Greenwood.  
 Pr. 4.—Lillian Collinson, Olive Hall, Olive Dunsmoor.  
 Pr. A.—Elmer Dunsmoor, Clarence McNally, Gordon Greenwood, Davie Aljoe.  
 —E. M. Park, Teacher.

**Latona School**  
 Sr. IV.—Myrtle Mortley, Charlie Schafer, A. D. McIntyre.  
 Jr. IV.—Mary McIntyre, Donald Morrison, Clark Morrison.  
 Sr. III.—Lena Schafer.  
 Sr. II.—Tom Melosh, Colin Ray, Walter Schafer.  
 Sr. I.—Francis Melosh.  
 Primer.—Freda Schafer.  
 —Lavina A. Mortley, Teacher.

**No. 1, Egremont and Normanby.**  
 Sr. IV.—Florence Grant, Sadie Noble, Landels Wilton.  
 Jr. IV.—Mae Noble, Arthur McCabe.  
 Sr. III.—Charlotte Patterson, Harold Grasby.  
 Jr. III.—Jessie Grant, Wilfred Grasby, Margaret Harper, Irene Grasby.  
 Sr. II.—Douglas Grant, Dorothy Caldwell.  
 Jr. I.—Evelyn Grant, Clements Patterson, Billie Caldwell.  
 —J. W. Kerr, Teacher.

**WHITE PINE BLISTER RUST; ITS HISTORY AND ORIGIN**

Now that the reforestation "bug" has got hold of some of the citizens of the surrounding townships it is well for them to secure as much information as possible on the white pine tree, the one, we understand, that will be most used in this country in the reforestation scheme. So far, Dr. Jamieson's reforested area at Wilder's Lake, on which he has already planted some five thousand trees, with more to follow, is the largest in this vicinity that we have yet heard of, although we have been told that several farmers have made a start in the commendable scheme. Those who have already started, or those contemplating doing so, will find the following article from the Central Experimental Farm of much interest. The article is from the pen of A. W. McCallum, the Dominion Forest Pathologist. He says:

The disease known as Blister Rust of white pine is caused by a fungus which is believed to be not native of this country but to have been introduced on imported nursery stock from Europe about fifteen years ago. At that time considerable quantities of young white pine were being used for planting both in Canada and in the United States. On account of the fact that labor in Europe was much cheaper than in America it was possible to import such nursery stock at much lower cost than it could be procured for here. While white pine is not a native of Europe it has, on account of its valuable qualities, been grown there for over two hundred years, during which time blister rust became thoroughly established upon it. When young trees were then shipped to America the fungus also was included.

The cycle which blister rust requires to complete its life history covers a period of several years. During the spring, in May and early June, numerous orange-yellow blisters, about the size of small beans, break through the bark of white pines. These blisters are filled with a powdery substance composed of very minute bodies known as spores. The enclosing membrane of the blisters soon ruptures and the spores, which correspond to seeds in higher plants, are borne away by the wind. If further growth is to result from the spores, they must be deposited on the lower side of a currant or gooseberry leaf, because it is only in this way that the life history of the fungus can be completed. In this respect blister rust is similar to the well-known rust of wheat, in which case the barberry acts as the alternate host. The fungus causing blister rust, then, cannot spread directly from pine to pine. Upon the leaves of currants or gooseberries the fungus appears in the form of small, yellow spots which again are composed of spores. These spores can spread to other leaves on the same bush or to other

currants or gooseberries and the fungus may thus become widely distributed. In the late summer spores from currants or gooseberries are carried by the wind to nearby pines and, being deposited upon the needles, grow down into the wood of the branches. Apart from a swelling of the limb there is little external indication of disease for at least three years following infection, and the period may be considerably longer. At the end of this time, the fungus again produces blisters which break through the bark and the life cycle commences again. The effect of this disease is that eventually it kills the tree by girdling. Upon currants and gooseberries the effect is negligible except in severe cases of infection, when defoliation may result. If this is continued for several years the plants will probably succumb.

In New York and in the New England States blister rust is widespread upon both currants and gooseberries and upon pines and is causing much damage there. In Eastern Canada, while the disease is present in every province, it is generally confined to currants and gooseberries and so far the pines have not become infected to any great extent. In British Columbia rust has been present in the coastal section for about the same length of time as it has been in the East, and it is so firmly established upon both hosts there that control measures are out of the question. In the interior around Revelstoke, where there is more white pine than on the coast, it has not been present so long, and it may be possible to adopt control measures there. In any case the total amount of pine in British Columbia is small so that any damage which might occur there would not be nearly as important as that which might be caused in the east. Fortunately there is a simple method of protecting the pines against blister rust. Since currants or gooseberries are required for one stage of the life history of this fungus it follows that if they be not present the rust cannot develop. The elimination, then, of currants and gooseberries in forested lands would prevent any damage to white pines from this cause. This work can be done for a surprisingly small charge per acre and may become necessary in the future in Eastern Canada.

**HANOVER AND SOUTHAMPTON HAVE CONGESTION IN SCHOOLS**

With the re-opening of school at Hanover on Wednesday morning the school board faced an unusual situation. Owing to the lack of accommodation only 20 beginners could be admitted to the Public school. However, after the construction of the proposed new High school this summer the present Continuation school will provide ample accommodation for Public school pupils for a few years.

Southampton schools also re-opened Monday morning and owing to congestion in the Primary department in the Public school no beginners were taken in and none will be till after the summer holidays.

**CARD OF THANKS**

We wish to extend our sincere thanks to friends and neighbors for the many expressions of sympathy shown during the illness and death of our infant daughter.  
 Mr. and Mrs. C. E. McCawley.

**THE BLUE JAY**

(By Frances Higgins.)

Many unkind things have been said about the blue jay. As a member of the crow family it pays dearly for the relationship, receiving almost as many uncomplimentary remarks, as does its black cousin. It is perhaps best described as an outlaw—a sort of Robin Hood of the bird world.

In common with other outlaws the blue jay leads a checkered life in which we can find much to condemn and much to admire. Though its crimes are many, its virtues must not be overlooked, for it does more good than harm.

It is doubtful if those who term the bird a nuisance would be willing to part forever with the handsome creature. Though it is one of the most common it is also one of the most beautiful of North American birds. It would be difficult to find more exquisite plumage or finer coloring than is displayed by the blue jay. We could ill spare the flash of blue, like a bit of sky, which is so rare a tint in the birds of our land.

Those who complain of the unmusical qualities of the bird, and perhaps most of us do, should be reminded that it is one of our few winter guests. Its bright plumage gives an air of cheerfulness to the leaden landscape. In this season we can truly appreciate its vocal qualities. No woods can be dreary if the jays are calling, and perhaps, after all, this is just as important as the more glorious music of the summer songsters.

The jay has a great variety of cries, all of which are distinctly its own. He is the barnyard sentinel for hawks and crows, the blue-coated policeman of the forest. Birds that fear and hate him, even the fowls of the barnyard, heed his warning cries.

There is much of human character—fear and boldness, affection and hate, perseverance and revenge—to be found in the daily life of this bright creature. A few years ago a pair of jays built their nest in a scrub-oak near our barn, where they became a rather intimate part of the life of the farm-yard. The nest was set on a limb near the trunk of the tree, where it was plainly visible from the ground. All the materials used were the color of the gray oak bark. The structure was coarse, but not conspicuous.

These noisy inhabitants of the barnyard were usually heard before they were seen. It was their own alarm that first called our attention to the nest. However, most of the time, the mother jay sat brooding serenely in plain view of all the traffic of the farmyard, her gaudy colors most conspicuous against the gray bark. On our way to the barn, the silo, the poultry houses, the garden and the orchard, we passed the spot countless times daily.

During times of danger the mother jay remained quietly on the nest, while father jay sounded his alarm from the top of his sentinel tree for the benefit of his neighbors. This duty performed he slipped quietly to the oak tree to see if all were well within his own little home, but invariably returned to his post in the orchard to watch for other hawks or crows.

Our acquaintance with the jay family grew with the season. Twice during the summer we rescued the little brood from snakes who were sealing the tree in quest of just such

delicious morsels. As many times we rescued them from summer storms, and carried the drenched babies into the house to be revived by the warmth of the kitchen fire. The young jays have the same beautiful marking and coloring as their parents.

From the intimate experiences of that summer dates our friendship for the blue jay. In spite of the bad reputation we can find many points in favor of this bird. It is a case where bad deeds are offset by good ones. There are times when we are sorely vexed with the mischievous fellow, but we know that we would miss him in more ways than one if he no longer came to the farm.

Ornithologists of renown have acknowledged that the jay does "great good at certain times in certain places." Without a doubt one of the places thus referred to is the orchard. The bird stands high as a destroyer of noxious insects. It must be credited with the destruction of the larvae of those arch enemies of the fruit crop—the brown-tail moth and the gypsy moth. It also feeds on harmful beetles and grasshoppers. We cannot deny the fact that the blue jay is of great value as a guardian of our trees and crops, when it helps to hold in check such enemies as these.

One unique service with which the blue jay is credited is that of forester. It is its habit to bury nuts and seeds in the earth. And not infrequently these forgotten stores have sprouted and taken root, thus helping to cover the waste places. This service, it seems, should atone for many questionable acts on the part of the jay.

The one great vice of the jay for which no pardon can be granted is that of nest robbing. Bird lovers everywhere bear witness to the fact. The blue jay stands indicted beside the crow. There are very few, however, who consider its crimes serious enough for drastic action on the part of man. Under natural conditions our feathered neighbors can hold their own regardless of the jay, and this is perhaps as was intended from the beginning. Though its beauty covers a multitude of sins, the extermination of the jay is by no means warranted.

Never despair of a boy. The village cut-up may become a renowned surgeon.

**APPLE-GROWING COMPETITION FOR FARM BOYS**

A competition has been instituted among the boys on the farms of Carleton and Russell Counties, Ontario, for the purpose of promoting the establishment of small apple orchards. A few years ago the late R. B. Whyte of Ottawa instituted potato growing competitions in these counties and provided a fund for the continuation of this kind of work. The fund is administered by Mr. W. T. Macoun, Dominion Horticulturist, Mr. George H. Clark, Seed Commissioner and Mr. L. H. Newman, Dominion Cerealist, as Secretary.

The competition is open to boys under eighteen years of age living on farms in the two counties named. Each boy entering the contest will receive six apple trees of early summer or late winter varieties. The contest will extend over three years. Prizes will be awarded annually as well as at its conclusion. The prizes will be based on inspection reports as to the condition in which the trees have been kept and the use made of the land between the rows. Mr. Macoun feels confident that the competition will result in a better understanding of the suitability of varieties for the district and the more general planting of apple trees on the farms. In the opinion of the committee the contest is considered worthy of emulation in other parts of Canada.

Surely this is a money-mad age. The young suitor now has to say it with roses, chocolates and gasoline, whereas conversation lozenges used to do the whole thing.

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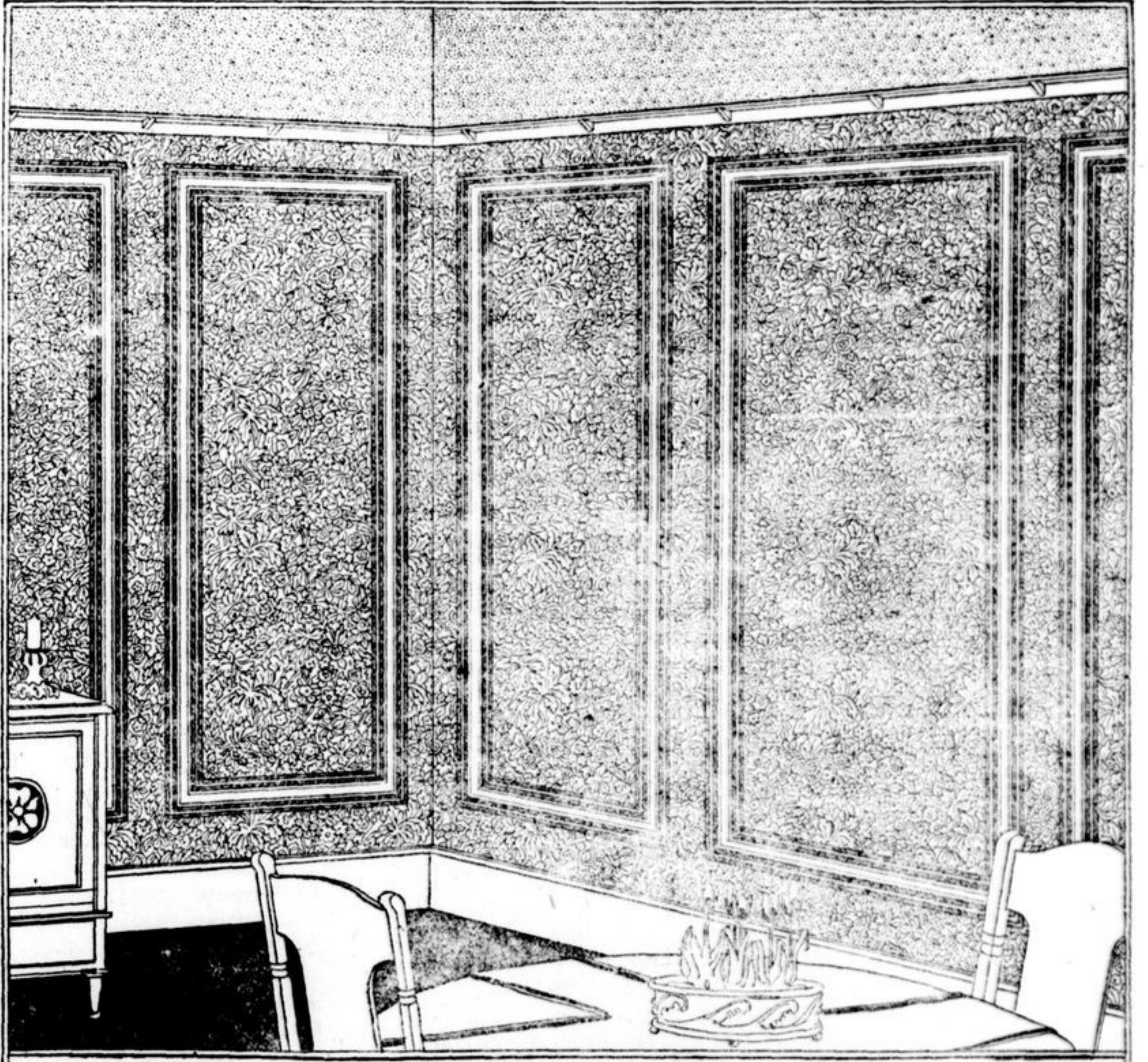
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