

THE LONGED-FOR APPLE

Rosy Cheeked, Thick Skinned and Well Flavored.

Fruit Eaters Will Welcome It — It May Be Growing To-day In Some Ontario Fence Row—Running an Egg Factory.

(Contributed by Ontario Department of Agriculture, Toronto.)

Somewhere on a farm in the apple growing districts of Ontario there are rows of seedling apple trees. Seedling apples that may have characters that would make them valuable commercial sorts, if such could be introduced to the public. True, there are thousands of worthless seedlings, but some fence row or orchard area is now growing a tree or trees that produce a superior fruit.

Box Packing Apples at a Premium.

Ontario needs an apple suited to box packing, and it may be from an unnamed seedling that such want will be supplied. If those having really good seedling apples would bring them to light so that their qualities might be judged by those competent to do so, an apple worth while might be unearthed and introduced to the public. Western apples shipped in boxes have invaded the Ontario market because of their color and shipping quality. The bright red color attracts the buyer and the thick skin preserves the good appearance of the individual.

Thick Skins Most Desirable.

This skinned Ontario varieties will not stand the shipping and long exposure in the retail stores to the same degree as the Western thick skinned apples. Western stores may go punky and become unfit for use, but still look well, as the exterior will stand alone. Ontario needs a good box pack apple, something rosy red of good quality, and a good thick protective coat.

Where, Oh Where, Is It To-day?

Perhaps somewhere in a fence row such an apple may now be found. Who knows. What have you? Stevenson, Sec., Dept. of Agriculture, Toronto.

RUNNING AN EGG FACTORY.

Valuable Hints as to How to Make the Best of the Hen.

Every flock of hens is an egg factory. Like any other factory the flock can be given the best materials in the world to work on and still fail to produce enough to pay for running the plant. Good feed in sufficient variety is necessary for egg production, but the ability to manufacture eggs from feed must be there first.

It pays to cull out the poor layers any time, to save the feed and labor they cost, but to make a profit on them it is best to cull in late summer or early fall, before the rush of spring chickens lowers the market price of old hens.

Shut up all the hens and pullets some evening. Count them and decide just how many can be readily kept during the coming year without crowding, for this is very likely to hurt egg production and increase the danger of disease. The next morning the flock is ready to be cull.

Cull

- 1. Poor layers and all old hens. 2. Cripples, and hens with broken-down abdomens or frozen teats. 3. The sick, quiet, inactive hens that spend much time on the roost. 4. All "crow heads" with long, slim heads and beaks. 5. The large, coarse-headed hens with sunken eyes. 6. All very short, stubby hens with feathers extremely heavy for their breed. 7. All late-hatched immature pullets and those that are early hatched but much underweight. 8. All hens that molt before August 1. 9. The persistent sitter. 10. All hens with solid, fat abdomens. 11. All hens having bad habits (cannibals, feather-pullers, egg-eaters). 12. All cockerels not needed for breeding purposes.

Keep

- 1. Strong, healthy, vigorous hens with short, neat heads and strong beaks. 2. The hens with long, deep, rectangular bodies and parallel top and bottom lines. 3. The hens with large, bright eyes, active appearance and short, well-worn toe nails. 4. The hens with dusty, worn feathers, especially worn tail feathers, but having a bright, healthy look. 5. The hens that molt late. 6. The sleek, happy, friendly hens. 7. The early risers and those late to roost. 8. The vigorous hens with the faded beaks and shanks. 9. The hens with the soft, pliable abdomens. 10. The hens with the thin pelvic bones spread wide apart. 11. The early-hatched, well-grown pullets. 12. Large, strong, active, quick maturing cockerels of desired variety type and high-producing mothers.

There are five major factors in profitable poultry production—breeding, culling, feeding, housing, and care. These are the essentials; combined they will put the poultry business on a practical business basis.

Onions once frozen should remain frozen until time to use them. If you want stocky, healthy plants in your hotbeds or greenhouse, ventilate well. Too much water and heat make tall, spindly, weak plants. Have you organized a farmers' club or a reading circle in your community? Lots of enlightenment, as well as profit, may be obtained from an organization of this sort.

Don't "butt in" with "butts."

CASTORIA

For Infants and Children In Use For Over 30 Years Always bears the Signature of Dr. J. C. Watson

Death's Head Beetle Has

Played Havoc With Roof of Ancient Westminster Hall

Back in 1399 Master Hugh Herland, the King's carpenter, carried out a job of renovation. His work was to repair the roof of Westminster Hall, which had been erected by William Rufus, some 300 years previously, in the village of Westminster, then separated from the City of London by a mile or so of open country.

It is not on record whether Master Hugh, on surveying his work, remarked that he guessed that would hold 'em for a while, or voiced a similar sentiment in the phrasing of his time. But in the 600 years that followed nobody ever accused Hugh Herland of being a jerry-builder. The storms and suns of six centuries played upon the oaken covering that he had erected for this palace of kings, but still it fulfilled its allotted functions.

Now, it is exceedingly doubtful whether Master Herland ever had heard of a little fellow named Xestobium Tesselatum. People of the present day know of this chap as the "death's head beetle." His food and his home alike are wood; nice, dry, mellowed oak, for preference. For untold years thousands of insects of this species had been busily devouring Master Herland's timbers, and early in the present century it was discovered that, technically speaking, there was no reason why the famous oak-beamed roof should not have collapsed long since.

That discovery was made by a boy named Frank Baines, who had climbed as an adventure up among the topmost rafters of the famous old hall, which, now almost surrounded by the modern Houses of Parliament, is to the casual observer scarcely distinguishable from the rest of the Gothic pile. Years passed, and it befell that the boy became Sir Frank Baines and the principal architect of the Office of Works.

One of his first acts in his new capacity was to carry out a thorough investigation of the roof of Westminster Hall and to report that, unless the ravages of the beetles were checked, the arches and hammer beams and trusses could not possibly remain in position much longer. In 1914 a start was made on the work of restoration; but, of course, the war cut it short.

After the war, the necessary funds being forthcoming, the work was again taken up. It had been decided to build what virtually amounted to a skeleton of steel under the old oak girders, in such a fashion that from the ground the alteration would be practically invisible. Previous to this, however, the problem of ridding the timbers of the boring insects had to be considered, since it was obvious that the rest of the ancient oak would soon disappear were this not done. The suggestion was made that the hall be sealed up and filled with chloroform; but members of Parliament, perhaps scenting a new Guy Fawkes plot, vetoed it. Next a disinfectant called "tetra-chlorethane" was used with some success, until the smell of it penetrated into the chamber of the House of Commons.

Then it, too, had to be abandoned. Finally a mixture was found which would do the work, but which did not possess too offensive a smell, and from tall towers reminiscent of fire towers in an American city, the rafters and beams were deluged with this preparation. As each beam and truss was thoroughly soaked with the insecticide, the work of placing a steel frame behind it continued; and in the last one is in place. From the floor of the hall, where the most notable state trials of England, including those of William Wallace, Sir Thomas More, Anne Boleyn, Somerset, Strafford, Charles I., the Seven Bishops, Lovat, Ferrers and Warren Hastings, have been held, very little of the work of restoration is visible. Here and there, a bit of light oak shows up against the golden-colored wood placed in position in 1399; but all the new wood used has come from the Weald of Sussex (where the original timbers grew), and should soon age into harmony with its surroundings.

An idea of the magnitude of the invisible repairs may be gained from the fact that they cost approximately \$500,000.

Widows' Weeds.

The word is derived from the old Saxon "weode," which meant nothing more or less than a garment, literally something worn. In course of time, however, the term became confined to the distinctive dress of a widow. The word really signifies her entire costume, but by further narrowing of the sense is nowadays mostly given only to the long pieces hanging from the back of the bonnet.

These in turn are another survival. In early days widows formed a distinct order of society, being expected to perform certain semi-religious duties, such as the nursing of the sick. They wore a special dress, almost nun-like in character, and an essential of this dress was that it should veil the face. Of this veil all that is left are the long streamers of our modern widows' weeds.

People Live Longer. People are living longer to-day than in the past, said Sir Kingsley Wood, M.P., of the Health Ministry, at a recent meeting of the Faculty of Insurance at Leeds, England.

There are at the present time in England and Wales 600,000 persons over seventy years of age, and 60,000 persons over eighty-five years of age. In 1920, 300,000 deaths occurred in the case of persons under the age of forty-five, or 44 per cent. of the total number of deaths.

The clause in the income tax law admitting that a wife costs \$1,000 a year was framed by a bachelor. A married man would have given other married men at least \$10,000 exemption.

There are so many hypocrites in this country that if you could get the hypocrite vote you could be elected president.

ADMIRAL SIMS' BIRTHPLACE AT PORT HOPE.



On Nov. 15th and 16th Admiral William S. Sims, late of the U. S. navy, visited his birthplace at Port Hope, Ont. The house is shown above, together with portraits of his father, the late Alfred Sims, and himself as a cadet of 16 years. The admiral's father was an engineer on the construction of the Midland division of the Grand Trunk Railway, and married Miss Adelaide Sowden, of Port Hope.

Milburn's Laxa-Liver Pills The Great Liver Regulators

The duty of the liver is to prepare and secrete bile and serve as a filter to the blood, cleansing it of all impurities and poisons. Therefore when the liver is inactive and failing to secrete bile in sufficient quantity constipation and other liver troubles soon follow. Mrs. H. D. Hutchinson, Peterborough, Ont., writes: "I have been using your Milburn's Laxa-Liver Pills and they have done me a great deal; I was drowsy and tired all the time and didn't feel like doing anything, let alone my housework. I tried everything, but your Pills seemed to do the work far better than anything I had ever taken."

Price 25c a vial at all dealers or mailed direct on receipt of price by The T. Milburn Co., Limited, Toronto, Ont.

Good Night Stories By Blanche Stone

David Meets A New Kind of Squirrel.

"Well," David laughed, as he stopped before the wire cage and read the name of the creature inside. "Sugar squirrel! Who ever heard of a sugar squirrel! I suppose he's named that because he lives on sugar," he added. "He'd starve to death if he had to depend on sugar for a diet," laughed a merry voice, and Happy Giggles, David's little elfin friend from Makebelieve Land, stepped up beside the wire cage. "So you think he's called sugar squirrel because he feeds on sugar? No, I guess you're wrong this time, David."

"I'll say he's wrong," chuckled another voice, and a dear little squirrel, no longer than nine inches, a bundle of the softest ash-gray fur David ever saw, came out from his

hiding place. His tail was the same color as his body, and as bushy as a lovely plume. This he held proudly up over his back, down which ran a long black stripe.

His cheeks were white, with a black patch on each of them, and underneath his body the soft fur was a lovely white. He pricked up his long, pointed ears, and declared as he shook Happy Giggles's hand:

"Let me say right here that you fellows can feel mighty proud to think that I left my bed to talk to you."

"My goodness, you're as lazy as I am!" laughed David shaking the little squirrel's paw. "I haven't been up very long, myself."

"Lazy, nothing!" replied Mr. Sugar Squirrel. "I'm anything but lazy."



"Well, Sugar Squirrel!"

"I should say you're not lazy," laughed Happy Giggles. "You see, David, Mr. Sugar Squirrel sleeps in the daytime and does his work at night."

"Oh, then we disturbed you," David started to apologise, but Mr. Sugar Squirrel began to laugh.

"There, there," he drawled. "No harm at all. I don't stick to the rules since I came to this country."

"Oh, then, America isn't your native home?" David asked. "Where did you live before they brought you here?"

"New South Wales, I believe they call the place," replied Mr. Sugar Squirrel. "They brought me over in a boat. I never will forget how one day I got loose and ran up the mast. A sailor started up and I just spread out this membrane you see attached to the sides of my body here, and leaped back to the ship's deck."

"My goodness, then you're a flying squirrel!" cried David. "We had a family of squirrels living up in our cherry tree, but they didn't look like you."

"My American relatives, I suppose," chuckled Mr. Sugar Squirrel. "But as yet I haven't told you why I think they call me a sugar squirrel. Of course, I don't know this to be the real reason, but I just guessed it. Back in New South Wales we make our homes in the gum-trees, and let me say right now, they certainly are magnificent trees. My, I'll never forget the hunt I gave the natives one day. But goodness me, I'm chatting too much, and losing all this sleep, so if you'll forgive me and call again some evening after the sun goes down, I'll tell you about it then."

Frisking his long, bushy tail, Mr. Sugar Squirrel scooted back into the hollow tree trunk, and no coaxing on Happy Giggles's or David's part could bring him out again.

Boxers Stranded in Havana. A number of American pugilists are stranded in Havana without funds because of inability to collect their share of fight purses, according to Joe Selmor, New Jersey bantamweight boxer, who has returned to New York from the Cuban capital.

Selmor charged that the Havana boxing commission had taken steps to see that the Americans were reimbursed.

Selmor was accompanied by Frankie Genaro, New York, former Olympic flyweight champion, who was unable to box the Cuban flyweight title holder, Valdes, because of the latter's illness. Selmor defeated Louis Sardenas, Cuban bantamweight champion, in an eight round bout at Havana.

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The Economy of OXO The Little Housekeeper



OXO SPAGHETTI PIE.

Boil half a packet of spaghetti till tender. Chop an onion, mix with 1/4 lb. Hamburger steak, fry till partly cooked, then put with spaghetti in pie dish, season to taste. Mix 2 Oxo Cubes with little hot water, add can of tomatoes, and put over meat. Mash any cold cooked potatoes, spread on top and bake a nice brown.

OXO BULLEOIRE.

Put a can of tomatoes into a saucepan with one quart of water and four Oxo Cubes. Boil till tender, strain, add a little butter and season to taste.

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