

"BRINKSHIP"

When it comes to "brinkship" the farmers of Western Canada have no peer. Many a year they were on the brink of disaster before the rains came—and during the hungry thirties they went over the brink.

This year again, disaster faced them, but timely rains on the weekend have at least, postponed the "brink."

Certainly the current crop has suffered to a degree from the long dry spell, with the fall rye being the hardest hit. The hay crop too has suffered to a considerable degree. Uneven germination is also evident in many of the

spring sown fields, but given timely rains, it could still result in a good crop.

The uncertainties of the farming business are being overcome to a degree with improved cultural methods, the use of fertilizer and other improvements in farming practices, but until the time arrives when man can control the weather, then the farmers will continue to face the "brink" of disaster on many occasions.

The amazing thing is that most of them face the "brink" with a philosophical outlook. Men of a lesser breed would end up with ulcers.

BLACK-OUT

For many years, liquor companies were the only legitimate businesses who were denied the right to advertise their goods in Canada, but in recent years a more sophisticated attitude has developed and the regulations have been relaxed to a degree for them.

Now another business group have been denied the right to advertise their business—this is the private operator of an aircraft who does crop-spraying as a sideline, the Flying Farmers in the

main. The liquor advertising ban was based on the principle that it might corrupt the morals of the population, but certainly this is not the case of the crop sprayers, who might face a risk of crashing, but pose not threat to the morals of Canadians.

There is no more justification of imposing an advertising ban on these operators, than on a farmer who has a tractor to sell.

Chinese Gordon Of Khartum

By Dr. Robert Harvey

President Nasser, the bombastic president of Egypt, has received a hard blow to his pride and prestige by his rapid defeat at the hands of Israel. It will take him some time to recover from the shattering defeat his armies sustained from the despised Israelis, but it is not the first time that he has been baffled. Some years ago he was trying to seize a part of the Sudan, but the Sudanese government called his bluff by carrying out elections that defeated his purpose. The Egyptians did have some form of government over the Sudan some years ago, but they led it to the brink of ruin. British leaders found when they took over the country that corrupt and inefficient officials had made a sorry mess of things.

One British soldier who gave up his life for the people of the Sudan and whose heroic and tragic death created a furore in Britain, was General Charles Gordon, generally known as "Chinese Gordon." He died at Khartoum, defending the city against the forces of the Mahdi from March 18, 1884, to Jan. 26, 1885. Two days later a relieving force on Nile steamers under Sir Herbert Wilson reached the fallen city, but too late.

Gordon was known as a capable and courageous soldier, and he was also a devoutly religious man. Born at Woolwich near London on Jan. 28, 1833, his father was a general in the Royal Artillery. The son also chose the profession of arms, and after graduating from the Royal Military College he was made a lieutenant in the Royal Engineers. During the Crimean War he served at the siege of Sevastopol, and after the war returned to England.

His stay there was brief, however, for war was declared against China in 1860 and he was ordered out of there. He rendered brilliant service against the Taiping revolt, led by a rebel who called himself "Heavenly King." Gordon's success won him the rank of Titu from the Chinese emperor, the highest rank in China, and the Yellow Jacket, the most important decoration then in China. The emperor also wished to give him a large sum of money, which Gordon refused. After this campaign he was often spoken of familiarly as "Chinese Gordon."

Gordon held several important positions during the following years and served in the Crimean, in the Sudan trying to suppress the terrible slave trade, and in Palestine, where he studied Biblical history and the antiquities of Jerusalem. Upon his return to Europe the king of the Belgians asked him to take charge of the Congo Free State. He accepted the post, but on returning to London to make preparations, the British government asked him to return at once to the Sudan.

A religious leader who called himself the Mahdi, a successor of the prophet Mohammed, had raised the standard of revolt and

many tribesmen had flocked to his banner. The feeble Egyptian authorities were unable to cope with the rebellion and in Nov. 1883, an Egyptian army of 10,000 men under Hicks Pasha (Col. William Hicks) was annihilated. It was then that Gordon was sent to take charge of the hopeless situation at Khartoum.

The city was completely isolated by the forces of the Mahdi on May 20, 1884, and from this time on the energies of Gordon were devoted to the defence of the city. With an energy and skill that were almost miraculous he organized his defences, with only one other British officer to assist him. His garrison and the population were of a different race and religion than his own, the town was badly fortified, and provisions were insufficient. Under such circumstances Gordon's defence of Khartoum was one of the most remarkable episodes in military history.

After months of delay, due to the indecision of the British government, a relief expedition was sent up the Nile under the command of Lord Wolseley but too late. The urgent requests of Gordon for relief had focused the attention of Britishers and others on that lonely heroic soul in Khartoum. Deep indignation was felt in Britain, including Queen Victoria, when the fatal news arrived. Khartoum had fallen and Gordon was dead.

It was not until Sept. 2, 1898, that Kitchener avenged him by defeating the forces of the Mahdi at Omdurman, across the Nile from Khartoum. Britain has a deep interest today in events that happen in the Sudan and Egypt; because of the lives and service given in that part of the world by her devoted sons like "Chinese Gordon" of Khartoum. And so she followed with deepest interest the defeat of Nasser of Egypt.

Outdoors Only . . .

By The Rambler

No. 58

With certain professional pressures lightened, the Rambler's roving may be taken up again and the results brought to press.

With the tickling of earth recently from light showers, nature is smiling with plentiful verdure even to the point of showing leaves on despaired-of transplants. Nothing like these warm heavenly drops to bring out the best in everything! May there be many more of the same gentle kind!

Skies have been highly varied these past two weeks, from dull to brilliant, from glowering nearness to lacy infiniteness. Nights on occasion have contributed a special magic, like that of June 9 when Luna, earth's shining satellite, Venus and Jupiter formed a short oblique line of cosmic

lamps in the lower western sky.

Did you notice that, in May, Venus, the brighter of the two planets, was in the lower location. Now positions are reversed with Jupiter so brilliant in the southern sky last winter, being the fainter lower companion to Venus. The latter planet will increase in brightness into July as it swings around the sun to farthest out position, then moves closer to us and to the line between earth and the sun. The close angle will prevent as much sunlight, reflected from Venus, from being seen by people on earth. This will produce the effect of apparent fading of Venus as she later will sink toward the horizon over the season. Much later in the year Venus will rise again but as the "morning star."

Coming down to earth, various other sights deserve attention. Let's first refer to a few general points.

Ambling by numerous sloughs and pot holes has revealed that the most prevalent breed of duck appears to be the Blue-winged Teal. Shovelers, Mallard and Pintail may be seen fairly often but with definitely less frequency than the little Teals.

Worth noting also is the increase in numbers of Yellow-headed Blackbirds, Loggerhead Shrikes and Baltimore Orioles. All three species are striking to see and to hear, even though the Yellow-headed Blackbird does sound like a rusty old gate. What is significant is that these increases suggest great survival of the species than previously, indication of safer use of pesticides, in some areas at least.

Mountain Bluebirds are still being seen occasionally. Latest report of them comes from Philip Thiessen who has observed a nesting pair on the home farm west of Ebor. If other nesting pairs are known in this district, please inform the Reston Recorder or myself; for this information is important.

Jim Donald Jr. brought our attention to an interesting situation. A bird with beautiful olive-green back, dark gray head, light underparts, whitish wing bars and eye-rings, stunned itself accidentally, came to, flew off and resumed nesting in its neat, cup-like home in an elm tree beside the Donald house. Notable about the nest's structure were the strips of light-coloured rag woven into it. Identity of the bird is not certain, but it may be a Least Flycatcher which is more often found in scrub woods, wood margins or unsprayed orchards. Probably more information will turn up to name the species accurately.

Another nesting situation came to light on a trip in the Sinclair area last Saturday, June 17. A halt where Highway No. 2 bridges the creek just east of Sinclair revealed slightly to one hundred Cliff Swallows swirling over and under the structure. Closer approach at ground level aroused a madly flapping exit by three of four pigeons and showed signs of occupation by the Cliff Swallows even though the angle of vision

prevented nests being visible. It is the availability of mud and water that governs where these Swallows construct their usually bulb-shaped nests under eaves or in the shelter of cliffs, dams or bridges.

June 18 netted a color photo of a Cliff Swallow nest (fan and bulb-shaped) located under the eave of a farm shed. Unfortunately was the time element that prevented spending maybe hours to get a picture of nest and bird. Interesting was the precision and care with which the birds had built up the concentric rows and rows of mud pellets pressed into the form of the nest.

Another winged neighbor which, seldom seen, intrudes upon the sound senses is the Red-eyed Vireo. A half-hour tour of Reston Park, June 14, finally produced sight of this seemingly shy and nervous creature, but only fleetingly, for it would continually shift its position and get another leaf, branch or spray between it and the viewer, all the while uttering its Robin-like song, more slowly though and with phrases separated by brief pauses. When clearly seen, this Vireo is identified by red eye, prominent white eye-stripe and blue-gray cap.

Even plainer and still less visible is the Warbling Vireo, which, however, is more numerous than its red-eyed cousin, and may be heard almost anywhere where tall deciduous trees are. The song is a cheerful babbling that always terminates on a rising note. Listen and you will likely detect the Warbling Vireo not far off.

This is the time of year for finding large, colorful moths, let that be, with net or drugging-brew lone bright butterflies. At night, plastered on tree or telephone pole. Use of net one night very recently produced a Cecropia moth, and a night or so later another Cecropia was captured the same way. This moth is 4 to 6 inches across the wings, colored with dusty browns, rosy-tan, and pale beige wavering bands. The larva feeds mainly on cherry,

The Days Gone By

10 YEARS AGO (June 27, 1957):

Alvin Birnie was the winner of the Pegasus car, feature prize at the bingo in the Reston Community Rink on Thursday last. A small crowd attended the event and it is doubtful if the event will break even. It was sponsored by the Rink Committee . . . The Brause family, formerly of Bellevue, and now of Brandon, were guests of honor at a community party in the Bellevue school on Friday night. A presentation was made to the family with Gordon Howat giving the address and Geoff Hutton making the presentation . . . Mr. and Mrs. Brown Andrews were honored at a farewell at Tilson on June 19th. They were presented with an easy chair with Frank Fletcher making the address. The couple are moving to Nesbitt . . . Rt. Rev. Roy Neill, Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Trinidad, was the speaker at a banquet in the Antler United Church basement on June 19th attended by fifty men from Antler, Sinclair and Bardal. Rev. G. H. Whidden of Reston, was the master of ceremonies . . . The well on the farm of Calvin Caldwell proved to be dry and the rig has moved from the site.

20 YEARS AGO (June 30, 1947):

The biggest rainfall since 1935 fell in the district over the weekend. The rain started on Friday

evening and continued uninterrupted until Monday afternoon and there were also some heavy showers on Tuesday afternoon. At Pipestone, Harold Forde's gauge recorded 4 1/4 inches. The Brasside correspondent reports nine inches fell there. Some flooding has occurred in the valley north of Pipestone but little other damage is reported . . . Mr. and Mrs. Leo Curtis and family left on Tuesday morning for Texas where Leo will take part in harvest operations. He recently purchased an International truck and he loaded his combine on the truck. He also took his car and trailer to live in. Messrs. Jago and Henderson accompanied him . . . The annual Pipestone Sunday School picnic was held in Elliott's Grove on Tuesday. The cold weather did not prevent the children and adults enjoying themselves.

30 YEARS AGO (June 24, 1937):

Grey Goose Bus Lines Ltd., have their new Deluxe 25 passenger bus in operation on the run between Reston and Winnipeg . . . Shamrock Travel Agency, located in the Union Bus Depot, at Reston, are advertising a number of special return fares . . . G. S. Munro Co. have a special on plain or patterned broadcloth shirts at \$1.39 each . . . Constable D. Cook who has been stationed at Reston for the past five years, has been transferred to Portage la Prairie. An officer from Flin Flon, Cat. Bert Howels, will take his place here . . . Walter Brown and Jim Morrison attended the football game in Winnipeg on Saturday when a visiting English team played the Winnipeg All-Stars . . . Many fishermen many from distant points, were fishing at the dam north of Reston on Sunday. A large number of pike were taken . . . The Reston Memorial Park is featured in the June edition of "Forest & Outdoors." Mr. Archer is praised for his con-

tribution to the making of this beauty spot.

40 YEARS AGO (June 16, 1927):

Police from Brandon passed through Reston on Tuesday morning in search of the Winnipeg Strangler who is supposed to be heading west . . . Tennis is in full swing at Cromer. The new officers are: Mrs. J. Cullen, pres., Mr. Scott, vice-pres., Douglas Gray, sec. . . The Winnipeg Tribune tourist edition just off the press gave a splendid description of the R.M. of Pipestone and also of Reston . . . Tenders have been called for alteration and an addition to the Cromer School. John Burnell will accept the tenders . . . The vote on the liquor question in Manitoba will be on June 28th. The liquor interests are working hard to promote the sale of beer by the glass . . . Pipestone Sports is next Tuesday and Ewart will hold a sports day on Saturday, June 25th.

The Editor's Jotbook

The over one-half inch of rain that fell on Monday morning was more than welcome. This rain was general, whereas previous moisture had been from spotty showers. More will be needed but it certainly revived the drooping sprigs and we may yet harvest a good crop. This year there has been hardly any lightning, except for that early storm which occurred before the snow had melted . . . At the time of writing (Monday) everyone is busy getting ready for the Centennial Day on Tuesday. The all-out effort has resulted in a large number of floats, etc. for the parade. One won't make it however, the Royalite float met with an accident enroute from Brandon on Monday and was demolished. No one was hurt.

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SINCLAIR

Mrs. W. A. Reid, reporter

Jack Halliderson and Lucien Paulus attended the fly-in breakfast on Saturday at Dauphin and returned home on Sunday. Mr. and Mrs. Jim McLeod spent the weekend at the home of Mr. and Mrs. E. McConnell. Mrs. McLeod remained to assist at the McConnell home.

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Melita, Man.

We wish a speedy recovery to Mrs. E. McConnell, who is a patient in the Reston Hospital.

Rev. Henderson and Mrs. John Borron of Antler, were supper guests at the John Williamson home on Thursday evening.

Mrs. Verna Wilton spent the long weekend at her home here, and returned to Winnipeg on Monday for further treatment.

Mrs. K. Allen and Fred of Winnipeg, visited at the Dave Jones and W. A. Reids last week. Let Gates attended the Maryfield Centennial on June 17th.

We wish a speedy recovery to Jake Senheim of Manson, who is a patient in the Elkhorn hospital holidaying at Brandon. Spy Hill Mr. and Mrs. Bill McCune are and Churchbridge, Sask.

Mrs. Wilton Sr. spent the long weekend at her home in Glenboro.

Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Reid, Mrs. K. Allen and Fred were supper guests at the home of Mr. and

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Melita, Man.

Mrs. Ralph Peloquin at Hargrave on June 13th.

Kerry Bright and Dr. and Mrs. Ray Bright of Minnedosa, and Sharon Bright of Winnipeg, left on Friday to visit Expo at Montreal.

The 12 and unders ball team have completed their League games for this season, having lost two games to Viriden last week. In the play-off, Reston and Sinclair senior league played here last week, the latter winning 4-3.

Miss Wendy Josephson of Winnipeg, is holidaying this week at the home of Mrs. K. Mitchell.

Mrs. Kath Mitchell was a guest at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lorne Voale on Sunday, where Drew Mitchell's fourth birthday was celebrated.

Mr. Ralph Peloquin and Bruce of Hargrave, had dinner at the W. A. Reid home on Wednesday enroute to the Ross Reid sale.

BELLEVIEW

Mrs. S. Camplin, reporter

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Henuset are spending a few days in Calgary with their daughter, Caroline.

Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Hutton spent the weekend at Sandy Lake. Mr. and Mrs. Bob Klippenstine and Kandra spent the weekend at Morden with relatives.

Mr. Jack Chrisp Sr. of Flin Flon, attended a meeting of the Shriners in Brandon on Saturday and is spending a few days with Mr. and Mrs. Les Chrisp before returning home.

EWART

Mrs. W. Chambers, reporter

Sunday visitors at the J. Forsyth home were Mr. and Mrs. Bill Oberlin Sr., Mr. and Mrs. Willie Oberlin Jr. and Kenneth, Mr. and Mrs. John Forsyth, Mr. and Mrs. Oric Duncan, Jim and Gordon, and Melvin Forsyth.
Mr. and Mrs. Ken Hall and family spent the weekend at the Chas. Zarn home.
Mr. and Mrs. Henry Zarn and Tracy, and Mr. and Mrs. Bert Forbes joined the Zarns for dinner on Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. M. Sturby visited at the John Pickett home in Reston on Sunday.

Ewart men's softball team took part in the tournament at Storhoks on Sunday and made the money brackets.

Mrs. H. Pengelly and Mrs. Keith Pengelly and family visited at the Chambers home on Friday. Mr. and Mrs. Cliff Geisbrecht and Lorraine were Thursday visitors.
Mr. and Mrs. J. McMunn were visitors to McAuley on Wednesday of last week where the former attended a regional meeting of the Union of Manitoba Municipalities.

PIERSON

Mrs. Lloyd Davis, reporter

Mrs. Billy Robinson has returned home from Gainsboro hospital. Mr. and Mrs. Jim Kennedy and Lori spent Thursday at Winnipeg.

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Jones of Melita, spent Friday evening at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Gary Van Steelandt.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Keirn and Miss Nan Hendry of Brandon, visited Sunday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Hendry.

Miss Dianne Browton of Winnipeg, is spending a few days at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Gus Browton.

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Cuthbert visited at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Finlay at Birtle.

Mr. and Mrs. Vic Higgins have taken up residence in the Co-op house, formerly the Barrows house.

Mr. Roy Charles of Ontario, visited at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Reddaway.

Mr. Bill Davis of Fertile, visited on Sunday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Davis.

Donald Davis spent the weekend at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Hendry.

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Howden of Waskada, visited at the homes of Mr. and Mrs. George Brown and Mr. and Mrs. Bob Daniels on Sunday.

Mr. Bill Fewings spent a few days in Gainsboro hospital having his tonsils removed.

Mr. and Mrs. Bert Lee attended the 25th wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. R. G. Smith at Beaver, Man. on the weekend.

Mr. and Mrs. Ted Middleton and family, Mr. and Mrs. Berne Minshull, Mrs. Minshull and Mr. John Moore attended the graduation exercises at Brandon College on Saturday for Miss Lorraine Middleton.

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