

OLD TIMERS' COLYUM

(Received Feb. 27, 1936)

WE'RE PSYCHROPHILIC NOW! VALLEAU, of Kentucky, hopes the temperature has risen to at least 20° below zero in Minnesota. If it does, we will roast.

BOB ATKINSON, the most recent transplant from the Tottering Tower, is basking in the salubrious climate of Louisiana, where he has recently become Lab. Assistant in Botany. Like gemmae in the Hepaticae we expect to see his ideas burgeon.

+++

With FORBES, PERSON, CHRISTOPHER, and Tenderfoot ATKINSON now in Louisiana, if they could field they could almost have a kittenball team, if they could bat.

ooo

From Germany came recently a card signed by Dr. ISENBECK, George HAFSTAD, and Dr. Nicolaisen, formerly a Hallenser who wrestled much, intellectually, with Frank Kaufert. The text suggested that teaching George to drink beer and talk German simultaneously was schwierig. Ja, aber, meine Herren, who ever heard Hafstad talk any language when the schaumender Gerstenseft gushed gurglingly down his gustating gullet? And silence answers silence, gulpit, gulpit, gulpit!

+++

Another silence broken! HOWARD JOHNSON, Forage Crop Disease doctor, U. S. Dept. Agriculture, wrote recently. His subject was grass and the ills to which it is heir. Oh yes, the droplets of dew glistening like diamonds on the verdant grass of June! But that was far away and long ago; and boreal blasts howl: "Nevermore and Nevermore."

--

And do the bitter, biting winds of vindictive winter congeal the glowing warmth of the poetic soul? Nay, nay! For on a morning chill and drear there corkscrewed through the tortuous tubules of the Tottering Tower these mellifluous notes:

"Sweet summer morn, how cheering is thine ambrosial face;
What joys, calm, pure, endearing, thy smiling features grace."

And another mind melted and bubbled away in babbling song.

+++

OVER THE BANISTER LEANED A FACE

TENDER, NOT ESPECIALLY SWEET, BUT BEGUILING --

And the following dialog was heard:

A. G. T. "Oh, bitter chill it was;
The owl, for all his feathers, was a'cold."
J. J. C. "WHAT FEATHERS?"
A. G. T. "Horse feathers!"

For that is considered a very funny joke in the Q. C. F.

Maybe Old Timer HOLTON used to bite on the high ones in kittenball. But he would not bite either on the high ones or low ones when he edified us in Seminar recently. After condemning the cussedness of the low smut of one wheat and the perversity of the high smut of another wheat in the Golden West, he was as inscrutable as a Scottish clam when the ancient casus belli, "Is there a high and a low smut?" was resurrected from a gone but unforgotten past. Attaboy, waitem out if the pitcher's wild!!

oo*oo

Old Timer FOLSOM, of Maine, whose "virous literature" brought out considerable etymological speculation in Literature Seminar recently, positively did not perpetrate the monstrosity. However, he did send recently a mimeographed Mainite Seminar paper on dissemination of plant pathogens by the wind. It is done with lobenswürdigiger Ausführlichkeit. Now, all students of German, past and present, I ask you, was it good or bad?

(((+)))

AUS DER GOLDENEN VERGANGENHEIT" --

If grass doesn't grow in the frozen North, what does the eskimo?

PAUL V. SIGGERS is making desperate efforts to become Teutonized -- at least enough to pass a German exam -- and in New Orleans!

From FORBES in Louisiana comes best wishes for the "Gang."

+++

Just when EDWARD VAUGHAN felt he was sitting on top of the world, in balmy Arizona, a surgeon with a knife extirpated his appendix. Vaughan's new address is 145 N. Jacobus Ave., Tucson, Arizona. Address of appendix not given.

Mrs. GLADYS KEILMAN, nee Kelley (Hughes), 4709 Cimarron, Los Angeles, California, has a son -- 4 months old Christmas Day. He wants to take plant path, according to his mater. The mater sends regards to "Gang" and says she misses the Tottering Tower. How come? We thought everything in California tottered much of the time.

+++

Dr. MARGARET NEWTON, Senior Plant Pathologist, Dominion Rust Laboratory, Winnipeg, wrote recently -- evidence that Winnipeg is not yet buried under the polar ice cap.

IAN TERVET is going to investigate flax at or near Edinburgh. Will they use it for Scotch tweed?

ooo

HARRY UNKELBERG, whose picture appeared in the last issue with that of a bathing beauty, sent a bushel or two of Florida sunshine fixed in oranges, grapefruit, and kumquats. The Seminar etc. basked in the sunshine with all the eclat due the occasion. It was declared a special Thanksgiving day.

+++

KARL ZALESKI has been holding the scientific degree and title of Docent of Poznan University since January 9, 1935. His four graduate students rush him with experimental work, but we expect he'll Polish them well.

FLASH-----FLASH-----Old Timer H. D. BARKER returns to U. S. A.-----Arrived in Washington, D. C., on March 4 with some regrets at leaving the salubrious climate of Haiti.-----Now hangs his hat in the Division of Cotton and Other Fiber Crops and Diseases and invites "us all" to look him up.-----Mrs. B. returns from Haiti in June.

ooo

"Thou must hasten therefore ---- because that intellective faculty in thee ---- doth daily waste and decay." --Marcus Aurelius.

Guess we had better get to work!

Adios!

PUBLIC SERVICE

Dr. Leach recently addressed a group of Home Economics advisors in Rural Rehabilitation work on "Methods of controlling disease in home gardens."

We understand that Matt Moore is considering the acceptance of a radio contract. He talked over WLB the other day on "Seed treatment for small grains." Now the farm maidens are flooding Matthew with fan mail. They say he has a charming voice. Beware, Matt! You know February has 29 days this year.

+++

The International Relations Club of the School of Agriculture was addressed by Vaheeduddin Syed on Feb. 21. A very enthusiastic audience listened to his talk on "India, its relations, people, customs, and the caste system." Syed says that his discussion of marriage in India seemed to interest the audience most, especially

the girls.

+++

Jack Western, our English representative of the Foreign Legion, is a very popular public speaker. He spoke before the assembly of the School of Agriculture the other day on "The Educational System in England." He also addressed the Cosmopolitan Club of the University on "Youth Movements in England."

The Tottering Tower was well represented at the Red River Valley Winter Shows held from February 3 to 7 at Crookston. Dr. E. C. Stakman did a big afternoon's work on February 4 when he gave two talks. The first he gave from the pulpit of the Presbyterian Church (believe it or not) to the women's section of the short course at the shows. His subject was "Problems in Human Subsistence." His second talk was given at the Crops Meeting on the subject of "Black Stem Rust." Dr. H. K. Hayes also talked at the latter meeting. His subject was "Thatcher Wheat!"

Dr. L. W. Melander with his assistant leader, Mr. L. M. Stahler, and Don Fletcher set up a rust and barberry demonstration in the Crops section of the shows.

Mr. A. G. Tolaas judged the potato show, which was one of the best held in this part of the country. Abie, in his program for potato improvement, has a large and faithful following in this particular section of the state.

(Note: The temperature averaged somewhere below -20°F. during the week.)

On February 20, Dr. Stakman went to Rochester and spoke before the Sigma Xi group of the Mayo Foundation. His topic was "Variations in fungi as they effect the solution of plant pathological problems."

+++

The La Grange Chapter of Alpha Zeta recently has instituted an annual series of lectures in the auditorium on the Ag. Campus. This year it consists of the following:

Feb. 4 - Biochemistry - C. H. Bailey
Feb. 25 - Game Management - R. T. King
March 10 - Plant Pathology - E. C. Stakman

DEPARTMENTAL BASKET BALL--GREENHOUSE RULES
CHAMPIONSHIP CHANGES OFTEN

The score was tied. It was the one hundredth and last heave. The serious man with the ball was none other than J. J. Christensen. He had missed shots 98, the backward loop, and 99, which was to be made from the corner of the court over a cross bar. Could he make the next very difficult one? Up goes the ball and straight through the loop. A new champ for 1936! Being forced to defend his title the following week against all newcomers, J. J. C. went down, fighting hard, losing by one point. Eagle, Decker, King, Downie, and Clark all did their utmost to dethrone him, but it was King (from North Dakota of all places) who won the crown by the slim margin of one point. Just how long he can hold the crown depends entirely on his ability, or disability, to shoot straight and true while partly balanced on one round of a ladder. (Even Lee Hines would have some difficulty with this one.)

Of all sports that one might follow in Minnesota during the winter months some seem to have taken a fancy to horseback riding. A little rough perhaps but darn good exercise.

+++
GOPHER PUCK TEAM SCORES 48 GOALS IN TITLE SEASON

Coach Larry Armstrong's 1935-36 edition of the Gopher hockey team has probably a better record than any former Minnesota ice team. Besides being the Big Ten Champions the team boasts of a victory over the strongest collegiate team in the East, Princeton, and one of the strongest amateur teams in the Northwest, the

Dayton's sextet. With the Canadians of Manitoba, however, it was one up, one down.

The Gophers played a total of 16 games, winning 10 and losing 6. The puckmen scored a total of 48 goals to 27 for the opponents.

ooo

BASKET BALL SEASON ENDS

The basket ball season is over for 1936, and the Gophers can boast only of staying one step out of the cellar position. While they played a consistent game all the way, the other teams had a distinct advantage in height over the Gophers, which usually means a great deal in basket ball. Jimmy Baker and George Roscoe, the two high scoring seniors, were elected co-captains of the season just completed. Electing a captain at this time is an annual practice of coach MacMillan.

GOPHER NINE TAKES SHAPE FOR OPENERS

Because of the cold weather coach McCormick is taking his baseball men south, so they can play outside, before the start of the Big Ten race. We are not wagering much on the team at the start of the season, but if the pitching staff comes through we are booking on the others.

+++

OUR PROSPECT FOR A KITTEN BALL TEAM

We are anxiously watching for the first signs of spring when we can start building the kitten ball team. The old fellows seem to have retained the spirit of the former champs, and the new members will try hard to uphold the traditions here set before them. If we can convert a cricket and a Rugby player into kitten ball players, we should have little trouble developing a whiz bang team. But don't be misled, for the new members are all depending upon the old fellows to teach us the game, so don't let us down. This is the first of March and in less than a month we should be well on our way, providing each and every one lends his support to the cause.

PERSONNEL

Newcomers

There just doesn't appear to be any. This seems to be the first issue for quite a while which has not reported a newcomer.

+++

Departures

Robert Atkinson has left for Louisiana State University at Baton Rouge where he is instructing in botany and plant pathology. He writes to the effect that he likes the institution and also the climate and that the return to "single" life again has its disadvantages; aren't there any advantages? A farewell tea was held for Bob at which Allison, Hanson, and Kornkamp spoke briefly, Bob responded, and the "Big Chief" gave the benediction.

Clyde Allison expects to leave us at the end of March to take over his new duties as agent for the U.S.D.A. in tobacco disease investigations stationed at Greenville, near Knoxville, Tennessee. We understand that Allison will be confining his work to the fungus diseases of tobacco.

+++

Mason returns to Maine at the end of winter quarter. His next trek to Minnesota wigwams should be for at least two quarters, so as to give the mercury a chance to climb out of its cellar while he's in the Land of Ten Thousand Lakes.

ooo

Mr. L. M. Stahler, assistant state leader of barberry eradication, resigned February 25 to accept a position as agent with the Division of Cereal Crops and Diseases, U.S.D.A. He is going to investigate methods of controlling noxious weeds, particularly Creeping Jenny (Convolvulus arvensis).

Vital Statistics

To Mr. and Mrs. Clyde P. Shumway on Jan. 26 a son. Not yet named, but good and husky.

+++

Fall of Maple Leaves

(Scoop on the Old Timer's Colyum)

Thorvaldur Johnson and Barney Peturson of the Dominion Rust Research Laboratory both recently deserted "bachelor ranks." We have not discovered the former names of the ladies or other details. Congratulations!

New positions were recently accepted by two Canadians who once minored in plant pathology at Minn. Dr. K. W. Nentby assumed his new duties as head of the Field Crops Department at the University of Alberta, Edmonton, in April, 1935. The position of Cereal Specialist which he vacated at the Dominion Rust Research Laboratory in Winnipeg has been filled by Dr. R. F. (Rudy) Peterson who was formerly Assistant Superintendent at the Brandon Experimental Station.

REGULAR SEMINAR

January 21. Alan Gemmel spoke on the nature of the toxic action of seed disinfectants. We made the acquaintance of a new agricultural term: "braird" - the plants which emerge above the ground.

Earle Hanson started the first regular paper of the year on "The general nature of antibiosis." He didn't get very far because of a heated discussion of terms. Most of the heat came from Stak and Atkinson.

January 28. Because he was to leave soon for L. S. U., Atkinson was allowed to give his paper on "Fungi and bacteria parasitic on other fungi." More discussion of terms.

February 4. Hanson finished his paper, begun on January 21.

February 11. C. S. Holton, Old Timer, now stationed at Pullman, Washington, was guest speaker. His subject included the genetics of buff smut of oats and the trials of a Bishop in Idaho who had a new and virulent short bunt in his wheat. The question arose as to why the buff smut was buff. Logic indicated that it had lost an episore. To Holton go our thanks for an unusually pleasant hour. (Actually 105 minutes, as usual.)

February 18. "Antibiosis in soil microflora," by Fred Davies, an authority.

February 25. Dr. Stakman laid down the law about getting the seminar paper manuscripts in three weeks ahead. Offenders to suffer loss of grade and copy their paper 10 times (presumably after school).

Clyde Christensen then presented a paper on "The effect of one organism on the spore production and morphology of another." There was an argument over the identity and nature of chlamydespores.

LITERATURE SEMINAR

January 23. An evening of speeches.

Dr. Melander reluctantly (?) introduced Mr. Ray Bulger, who spoke of barberry eradication as assisted by W.P.A. Melander added a few remarks.

Mr. Allison recounted his experiences at a flax-crushers convention. A very tame convention.

Mr. Tommy King, recently of M. D. A. C., told us about agriculture, forestry, and flood control in North Dakota. It sounded convincing, too.

Chris balled out Jack Western and Eide for creating a disturbance.

Mr. Gibbs reviewed literature.

January 30. Another evening of speeches. Stak delivered three separate lectures on sociology, scientific publications, and wine and science in Germany. He got a little help on some of them, but it's a fair record even at that. Three people reviewed literature.

February 6. The seminar discussed at length abstracts in Phytopath. and the problem of paying to publish.

Messrs. Decker, Cormack, and Kernkamp disclosed the results of spore measurements made in class last fall, complete with degrees of freedom.

Syed and Davies reviewed literature.

Kernkamp brought homemade doughnuts, which were thankfully received.

February 13. Dr. Stakman reviewed the rust situation as he saw it in Texas and Mexico during January. There was a discussion of wheat acreages and yield, and geography.

Harold Mattson reviewed literature.

Wang brought pies, he being 28 years or so old. For these we also gave thanks.

February 20. Decker reviewed the same paper that Mattson reviewed last time. Nobody recognized it, and it was discussed fully 10 minutes. Western also reviewed literature.

At the instigation and under the leadership of Mr. Gibbs, a discussion of technic was started, including contamination of cultures and methods of avoiding it, and methods of isolation. The seminar voted that a short time be devoted at each seminar to discussion of similar problems.

February 27. Mr. Gibbs started the discussion of technic, the subject being free-hand sections and how to cut them. Stak remarked that cutting free-hand sections was a lost art, whereupon Clyde Christensen ventured that it was a small loss. In the ensuing argument Matt Moore and Miss Hart supported Christy while the British delegation showed a tendency to side with Stak. No decision was reached.

Several people reviewed literature.

BOOKSHELF

Greaney, F. J. (with J. E. Machacek). Studies on the control of root-rot diseases of cereals caused by Fusarium culmorum (W.G.Sm.) Sacc. and Helminthosporium sativum P., K., and B. III. Effect of seed treatment on the control of root rot and on the yield of wheat. *Sci. Agr.* 15: 607-620. May, 1935.

Hanna, W. F., and W. Popp. Experiments on the control of cereal smuts by seed treatment. *Sci. Agr.* 15: 745-753. November, 1935.

Johnson, T., and O. Johnson. Studies on the nature of disease resistance in cereals. III. The organic nitrogen content of mature and immature tissues of the wheat plant in relation to stem-rust resistance. *Can. Jour. Res. C*, 13: 355-357. December, 1935.

Christensen, J. J. (with R. R. Immer, et al.) Barley in Minnesota. *Minn. Spec. Bul.* 135. Revised September, 1935.

Stakman, E. C., M. N. Levine, J. J. Christensen, and K. Isenbeck. Die Bestimmung physiologischer Rassen pflanzenpathogener Pilze. Nova Acta Leopoldina 3: 281-336. 1935.

WE ARE HAPPY TO ANNOUNCE THE FOLLOWING ALSO:

Freeman, E. M. Phytopathology and its future. Phytopath. 26: 76-82. January.

VISITORS

Dr. Holton, the smut pathologist (Ph.D. 1932), who has done outstanding work with bunt and oat smuts, particularly his "Buff smut," was here for three days. Holton lives and talks smut, and before he left chlamydospores developed lethal for epispores. Holton spent several weeks in Washington, D. C., with H. A. Rodenhiser, another smutologist. Chuck was west bound for Pullman, Washington, where as a U.S.D.A. investigator he works in cooperation with Professor F. D. Heald and Professor E. F. Gaines.

Rolland Lorenz, a forest pathologist (two years experience in Africa), paid us a short visit. He is working for the U.S.D.A. in the Lake States region, with headquarters at Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Mr. Whittemore Littell and Mr. Wyckham from the Division of Education, Commonwealth Fund, New York City, spent a day with Mr. J. G. Gibbs from New Zealand and Mr. A. R. Gemmell from Scotland, both Commonwealth Fellows.

THE FOREIGN LEGION

An editorial fiat has gone forth to the effect that the Foreign Legion shall be responsible for the production of the next number of Aurora. In view of this fact we have decided to withdraw gracefully from the current issue.

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

Spring is here! Tra la la!

Dr. Dodsall: "Dr. Eide, will you give me a culture of your Sclerotinias?"

Dr. Eide: "Say! What do you think I am?"

Dr. Dodsall: "I think you are just wonderful!"^{/*}

Prosperity has turned the corner! How do we know? We heard Dean Freeman speaking nonchalantly about a long-distance telephone call to Maine that cost him only \$49.53. -- Well? What of it?

+++

J. J. Chris has been around collecting again. He says that it is for some mysterious deficit. We don't think Chris lost on the races. We think he is collecting in advance for the window pane that is sure to be broken as soon as spring practice for kitten ball starts.

ooo

Big mystery solved! Weekly broadcasts on history of plant path have been troubled with static interference. The chief trouble shooter investigated and located the static source in Q.C.F. Holton was relating some Tilletia stories accumulated in Washington. Were their faces red?

^{/*} Yes, she got the cultures.