

RAVAGES OF BLACK BEETLE AMONG SHADE TREES

Watchful Care in Summer When Destructive Insects Are Laying Their Eggs May Save Our Orchards and Timber.

However desirable it may be to have a judicious pruning of our oaks, we can hardly trust to beetles to do the work as we wish it done, and during the summer of 1908 Elaphidion certainly exceeded the limit and caused much anxiety to owners of oak trees in various parts of the country. Further, since it sometimes attacks the apple and other quite valuable trees, it calls for some attention.

During July one may observe beneath oak trees many fallen twigs and in some instances small branches, with leaves still attached and generally withered, though sometimes still green. A glance into the tree will reveal possibly other twigs hanging sus-

older wood. At this time the "worm" is about half grown.

According to the above writer and others, this larva needs moisture to go through with its transformations to the pupal and later to the imago stage. This evidently it could not obtain if the twig remained on the tree. It therefore proceeds to cut off the twig which has afforded it a home so that this will lie on the moist earth during the autumn and winter. This is a very nice operation, evidencing apparently, as stated above, remarkable instinct.

Fitch claims that the entire larval and pupal stage is passed within the twig. From personal observations,



The Oak Pruner Beetle, Larva and Larva In Burrow.

ended with wilting or wilted leaves, not yet dislodged by the wind. The pieces on the ground, when examined, exhibit a clean cut or break at the large end, and if one cuts into the twig with a knife a whitish worm is disclosed lying in the burrow thus opened. This is the larva of the oak pruner, which when full grown is a little more than one-half inch long, and transforms into a blackish or brownish beetle of about the same length.

The life history of this pest is such, evidencing apparently marvelous instinct, that it commands our admiration. The female beetle, according to Fitch, normally lays her eggs in spring or summer on a green succulent twig in an angle between leaf twig and leaf stalk. This action affords the young tender food of the right nature, easily obtained. As the larva grows older it works into the

however, we are led to believe that such may not always be the case.

Our attention was called by a correspondent last August to the fact that many fallen twigs examined contained no worms. Later, in September, we noted this also, and were not able to find a single larva in any twigs examined, a large number being cut open for examination.

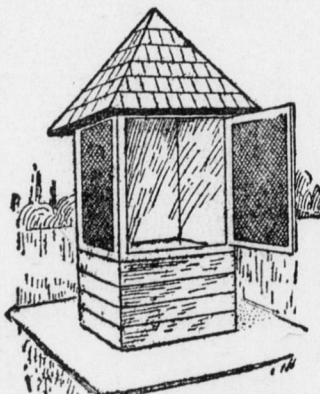
This can hardly be accounted for by the work of insectivorous birds, since they would be unable to reach them in their burrows. In any event the larva is in its burrow when the twig first falls and can then be easily cared for. We therefore suggest the following remedy:

Collect and burn all twigs cut off by this insect as soon as they are found on the ground in July or August. Do not leave this work until the following spring.

PROTECTING WELL FROM INFECTION

Plan for Fixing Curb to Serve as Covering.

A sketch of a plan for fixing an ordinary well curb so as to afford good covering for the well is given by Neil McLean in Prairie Farmer. The ordinary well curb can be made into one of the very best of well coverings if only a little time and money is expended on it. It is just as important that the curb be built so as to prevent a roosting place for sparrows,



A Well Curb Cover.

and to ward off leaves and trash blown about by the wind, as it is to give attention to location and surface conditions when choosing a place for the house well. Make a screen door for the old well curb and cover the remaining sides with ordinary screen wire.

Timothy Hay

Well settled timothy hay measures about 250 cubic feet to the ton, while new hay occupies nearly twice that space. In sale of new hay it is customary to take off about 15 per cent for shrinkage in weight, as compared with barn cured hay.

Remove Useless Stalks.

Flower stalks on rhubarb plants should be removed whenever seen, so that the plants' strength will not be wasted in the useless formation of seeds.

USING CEMENT TO SAVE TREES

Former Method Was Never Successful for Several Reasons.

The former method of working in falling trees with cement was never successful for several reasons. One was that the cement seldom if ever adhered to the wood, so the swaying by wind of the tree very generally made larger the treated crack between it and the wood.

Water penetrated beyond the filling, so the decay increased rather more rapidly than before attempting a remedy.

The improved idea is in removing from the interior all of the rotting mass. There remains only a living shell of sapwood and bark, and into this cavity a steel brace is nicely inserted and bolted in place.

The next important step is to cut watersheds—preventing any moisture from entering. There are deep grooves cut about one inch inside the edge and opening out to the ground below. Cement is packed tightly into grooves, forming a channel down which the water flows.

The cavity is afterward wired throughout thoroughly.

The cement is worked moist, and built out in the tree shape. Any bark that is cut away for an inch or two in order to prevent bruising as the filling is in progress will soon cover the filled spot so a passerby can scarcely detect the wound at all.

In very large cavities the opening is covered by utilizing large strips of zinc.

Nature helps in this kind of new work in trees, for the place soon heals over.

To Get Rid of Vermin.

My hogs got lousy last year before I knew it. I could not afford to build a dipping tank, so I put into three quarts of hot soapsuds one-half pint of kerosene oil, boiled and stirred vigorously for ten minutes. When the emulsion has cooled sufficiently I poured it through a sprinkling can along the backs and over the heads of the pigs. The ticks and lice quickly disappeared, but I repeated the dose twice more during the summer.—J. G. Barnes, Indiana.

THE ONLOOKER WILBUR D. NESBIT

THE RAIN SONG



O, the murmuring drip of the rain from the eaves And the melody sweet that the murmuring weaves! 'Tis a memory-melody born of the heart In the simplest of strains, of the commonest art, Yet the drip and the drop of the rain in the night Times a lyrical linking of laughter and light.

In the drowsiest, dreamiest, dimmest refrain Comes the song of the summer, of meadow and lane, Of the bees in the clover, and roses in bloom, And of breezes that wafted a wondrous perfume— For the musical drip of the rain murmurs on In a song of the days that are vanished and gone.

It is sleepily-soft and is solemnly-sweet As the measures all mellowly rise and repeat, And in memory now I have journeyed afar Down the paths of the past where our treasures are; And with boyheart thrill I lie hushed in the dusk While the air brings a tang of the mint and the musk.

And the shadows that sway in their dance on the wall Keep the time of the tune of the drops as they fall, Keep the time of the song as of old they would keep With the drip of the rain as it lulled me to sleep; And the hush of the night is the silence of old That had all of the world in its velvet hold.

O, the magic there is in the memories blest With the ripple of rain as it sings you to rest! How the worries and weariness falter and cease 'Neath the balsam and balm of the infinite peace Of the song that is sung by the whispering leaves And the murmuring drip of the rain from the eaves!



The Virtue of Determination.

Mr. Eli Johnson makes it a rule always to say something pleasant to everyone.

Day before yesterday he approached the ticket window of one of the railway companies to purchase a ticket for his vacation. The agent was hot and busy, and when Mr. Johnson opened with a remark that the agent was looking well the latter cut him short by asking where he wanted to go.

"Atlantic City," replied Mr. Johnson, smiling sweetly. "I was about to observe, sir, that you look as though you were enjoying good health."

The agent slammed the ticket in front of Mr. Johnson and told him the price.

"A man who looks as well as you do ought to be happy," said Mr. Johnson, taking the money out of his purse.

The agent made the change in a flash and shoved it to Mr. Johnson, who was trying once more more to compliment the agent on his appearance.

"Move on and give the others a chance," ordered the agent.

Then a great change came over Mr. Johnson's face. He reached through the window, grabbed the agent by the back of the neck and pulled his head through the opening.

"Now, sir," he hissed, "I've told you six times that you are looking well, and you haven't had the courtesy to thank me for my kindly intentions. If you don't respond properly at once I intend to beat your head off."

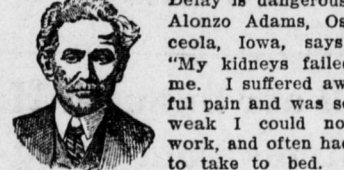
The agent gasped out his thanks, and Mr. Johnson released him and left the place, his face beaming with the glow of realizing that he had not been forced to break his life-long rule of being sweet-tempered toward one and all.

To convert the ordinary window into a casement window, get a large box from some merchant, rip it apart and nail the boards across the lower sash. Cover them with some dainty goods. Cut the lace curtains off at the top of the board and hem them with skirt binding. The effect produced will be decidedly novel.

Wilbur D. Nesbit

TIRED ALL THE TIME.

Languor, listlessness, dullness of spirits are often due to kidney disorders. Pain and weakness in the back, sides and hips, headaches, dizziness, urinary disorders are sure signs that the kidneys need immediate attention. Delay is dangerous.



Alonzo Adams, Osceola, Iowa, says: "My kidneys failed me. I suffered awful pain and was so weak I could not work, and often had to take to bed. I was dull and exhausted nearly all the time. I consulted doctors and used medicines, but only Doan's Kidney Pills helped me. Soon I was permanently cured."

Remember the name—Doan's. For sale by all dealers. 50 cents a box. Foster-Milburn Co., Buffalo, N. Y.

WELL DEFINED.



De Quiz—What's your idea of the difference between optimism and pessimism?

De Whiz—O! the optimist says it is spring when it isn't and the pessimist says it isn't when it is.

DREADFUL DANDRUFF.

Girl's Head Encrusted—Feared Loss of All Her Hair—Baby Had Milk-Crust—Missionary's Wife Made

Two Perfect Cures by Cuticura.

"For several years my husband was a missionary in the Southwest. Every one in that high and dry atmosphere has more or less trouble with dandruff and my daughter's scalp became so encrusted with it that I was alarmed for fear she would lose all her hair. After trying various remedies, in desperation I bought a cake of Cuticura Soap and a box of Cuticura Ointment. They left the scalp beautifully clean and free from dandruff, and I am happy to say that the Cuticura Remedies were a complete success. I have also used successfully the Cuticura Remedies for so-called 'milk-crust' on baby's head. Cuticura is a blessing. Mrs. J. A. Darling, 310 Fifth St., Carthage, Ohio, Jan. 20, 1908."

Next Best.

A certain young minister in Philadelphia, recently ordained, is still very nervous and sometimes his remarks do not convey exactly the meaning he intended. A few Sundays ago he rose, fumbled with the papers on his desk, blushed, and then said: "My Friends: I—I am sorry to say that I have lost the notes for my sermon, and I therefore cannot deliver it. I will have to do the next best thing, therefore, and read a few chapters from the Bible!"—Illustrated Sunday Magazine.

Royal Great-Grandmother.

The birth of a son to the youthful duke and duchess of Sudermania gives to royal Europe what it has not had for more than ten years, namely, a great-great-grandmother. The lady to whom this honor has come is the Grand Duchess Constantine Nicolae-vitch, who was, before her marriage, Princess Alexandra of Saxe Altenburg.

Another Step Needed.

"I like my house all right," said Luschman, "except for one thing. I guess you'll have to fix that." "What is it?" asked the architect. "Several times lately I've nearly broken my neck reaching for another step at the head of the stairs when I got home late, so I guess you'd better put another step there."—Catholic Standard and Times.

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A Vegetable Preparation for Assimilating the Food and Regulating the Stomachs and Bowels of
INFANTS, CHILDREN
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"Not a crop failure in 18 years."
"Can raise more here than on Eastern land costing five times as much."
"Came here 4 years ago with \$800; now have \$4,500 in bank;"—Said of Panhandle and South Plains Country.

The best land bargains to-day are found in the Panhandle and South Plains region of northwest Texas offers good lands at the lowest prices in the Southwest. You can't buy land there as cheaply this year as last, and it will cost more next year. So the time to buy is now. I am not in the land business. The Santa Fe Railway employs me to help settle up the country along its lines. The service to you is absolutely free. I aim not to exaggerate. The truth about the Southwest is strong enough. I consider the Panhandle and South Plains as unequalled for the man with small means. Likewise nothing better for the man with a big bankroll. Both will prosper. This country is no longer on the frontier. Thousands already have settled there. More are coming in every train. You won't be lonesome, but you won't be crowded, either. You ask what can be raised? Beef, cereals, fruit—and other things. The average rainfall is twenty-four inches, enough for raising crops without irrigation. The more brains you farm with, the bigger the yield. "Dry-farming" helps out some seasons. I might talk on forever and not convince you half as much as by reproducing the testimony of Mr. W. M. Curfman, of Hereford, in the Texas Panhandle. He says: "I came to Hereford four years ago and bought 640 acres of land nine miles southeast of town.

"Bull me a house and broke about forty acres of land the first year. Sold \$416 worth of produce off of same and had enough left to winter thirty-five head of cattle and horses. The second year had 120 acres in crop, and sold \$802 worth of farm products and wintered forty-five head of stock. The fourth crop is not yet harvested, except the wheat and oats. The wheat and oats will bring me about \$400, and expect to get about \$1,200 out of the balance of the crop, besides wintering my stock.

"I now have 165 acres in cultivation. I raise wheat, oats, June corn, milo maize, kafir corn, sorghum, California wheat, millet and cotton, and all kinds of vegetables. I came here with \$800 and could make my check out now for \$4,500."

Mr. Curfman seems to be a satisfied man. You can do as well as he—perhaps better. May I help you get a home somewhere in this best of the few places in the United States where raw land may be bought for less than it is worth?

Cut out this advertisement. Mail it to me with your full name and address. I will then mail you illustrated land folders which tell the story in detail and send our free booklet monthly, *The Earth*, six months free. Questions promptly answered.

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PLAIN TALK.



"I think she's double-faced!" "Oh, don't say that! One face like hers is bad enough!"

Mother Bird Drove Boy Away.

People on Main street, Dallastown, Pa., witnessed an amusing sight the other morning, when a curious small boy who climbed into a maple tree for a closer inspection of a nest of young robins was put to flight by an angry mother bird. Discovered by the old bird after he had clambered into the tree the youngster was savagely attacked. The bird pecked viciously at his bare hands and face, causing him to retreat to the ground, and then driving him home.

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W. N. U., CLEVELAND, NO. 29-1909.

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Positively cured by these Little Pills. They also relieve Distress from Dyspepsia, Indigestion and Too Hearty Eating. A perfect remedy for Dizziness, Nausea, Excitement, Bad Taste in the Mouth, Coated Tongue, Pain in the Side, TORPID LIVER. They regulate the Bowels. Purely Vegetable.
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