

Blue Jay Chatter

LLOYD T. CARMICHAEL, Editor.

TO the prairie folk, the crocuses pictured on this page and the meadowlark shown on the opposite one are, perhaps more than any other plant or bird, the long awaited heralds which usher in the stimulating days of spring-time. To the man with a love for open spaces under the blue sky, they quicken the life pulse, and awaken the desire to renew ac-

quaintances once more with the creatures of the fields, air and forests, and to cultivate an even greater intimacy with those companions which Nature has so abundantly provided. My wish to all BLUE JAY readers is that, in this profitable pursuit, they may find joy, peace and contentment.

* * *

In the preparation of this issue I found it necessary to leave out a few very interesting contributions which will now be held over for the next number. To relieve this situation I would suggest that, except in special cases, contributors limit their remarks to a maximum of one page or 700 words. A deduction from this should be made for any space desired for illustration.

* * *

One more Unit, the Yorkton School Unit, has subscribed to the BLUE JAY for all their schools — over 70 of them. We are pleased to welcome these new members, and trust both the teachers and pupils will derive much from reading the experiences of others, and by making their own nature contributions.

* * *

After much consideration it has been felt advisable to change the dates of the deadlines for the reception of material, back by one month. One reason is so the students may get their copies before school closes in June, and another is so that the fall issue can be in the mails well before Christmas. **THIS MEANS THAT ALL MATERIAL FOR OUR SPRING ISSUE MUST BE IN BY MAY 1.** Please send it as early as possible.

* * *

The suggestion made by Mr. August J. Breitung about changing the name of BLUE JAY to "The Prairie Naturalist" has received a very cool reception. I have a great many letters dealing with the matter and am happy that their unanimous desire is to retain the name we have. Over a long period of years we have built up this magazine until the name "Blue Jay" means something distinctive and something intimate. It has a feeling of warmth and not of frigidity. Mr. A. C. Budd has expressed the feelings of the others so well that I am pleased to quote, in part from his letter.

"A far greater danger in my personal opinion, is that the magazine may become too circumscribed and too 'highbrow,' thus losing its charm of simplicity and its appeal to the nature lover — the naturalist who loves wild life for its own sake and not as a deep, scientific study.

Let us keep our magazine fairly simple, broad in outlook and coverage, so that it will be of interest to the younger folk and to all who love nature as it should be loved, as the manifestation of God's wonderful creative powers. Certainly retain the name 'Blue Jay'."