

TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH Silver Fox Farming

Walter R. Shaw, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, left for Delaware, Delaware, Thursday, where he will inspect the great brooder establishments which produce a considerable part of the United States chicken requirements.

We have much to thank our Department of Agriculture for the present head of which is W. F. Allan Stewart, B.S. M.A., F.R.S. (Strathgarny), who with his deputy, Mr. Shaw and assistant Stewart, Wright and others are constantly on the qui vive to ascertain in any way promoting the best interests of stock raisers, foxmen and agriculturists.

Then our talk ran to fox disease and the methods of combating it. Walter mentioned their department. B.S. M.A., F.R.S. George Bishop had imported a very considerable amount of Dr. Green's distemper virus, which had been used on several ranches with excellent results.

The reason why we bring up the subject of the Department of Agriculture is that too often people's doubts are hid under bushes and they do not get recognition for what they are doing.

Assent the big fox show November 24th we may say that while it is early to predict yet, from what we gather in talking to ranchers through the exhibits reaching close to the 500 mark which is capacity.

A lot of ranchers are getting ready for the big event, feeding up their foxes and taking measures to bring them forth in the best bloom of condition.

We had the pleasure of a visit from J. Wilfred Lecky, Summer-aside, on Tuesday, accompanied by his son who is receiving his discharge from the Navy and will re-enter Acadia Uni-

versity in the near future. Both are looking fit and well and it is a pleasure to know the young man and to see what a good chum he is with his very fine Dad, who is one of our oldest friends. Wilfred certainly looks in the pink and always has that happy smile which characterizes him. If you do not know it he ranches the largest number of foxes in this province and not only that he produces pelts that are among the very finest. Of a quiet unassuming manner yet Wilfred nevertheless is always on the lookout for good foxes or new methods that will improve his breeding operations. His production has been excellent. One large section of his ranch under the care of veteran rancher Harry England, has an average of four to the female which you must admit is wonderful, and others are not far behind. Wilfred is a good feeder, spares no expense in that regard and a good caretaker and his farm and buildings are neat and of attractiveness, cleanliness and utility.

Ranchers near Charlottetown that have good turnout this year include John B. Roper, Sherwood, who has an average of about four to the female the last two years. He has new types such as white faces, platinum and glaucous and a very fine line of silvers. John has a long distance record in the fox game. In fact we can remember his being engaged in it back prior to 1919. He had two progenitors of some of the most beautiful pelts ever shipped from this province. Foxes that were the progenitors of new types came John, being conservative, like ourselves did not get into the trend very quickly but he has made up for it in late years. This season he has a brand new shed combining the very latest in improvements, 180 feet long by 40 feet wide. Its construction is worthwhile seeing, a credit to him and to those who worked on it.

The good news that the fox feed situation is easing has been received with pleasure by all our ranchers. It was certainly getting to the serious problem stage but thanks to the representations made and the good sense of Deputy Minister Grisdale, we should have no trouble in the future or very little trouble in having our foxes fed. The demand for meat products will decline and the fox industry if encouraged will be ready to take the surplus off the market.

To those who have not yet heeded our advice to put up the shutters against the onslaught of foxes drafts reaching their foxes, we would say that we just had a copy of the Master Rancher, written by Dr. E. Hensel Bowness, who considered one of the best authorities on Ontario and he advises many ranchers to take careful methods of protecting their charges from drafts or uncomfortable. The last week or ten days has been very hot and such precaution has not been taken. The Doctor also discussed the question of using bedding. Many ranchers do not think of care of course to remove it from the wire when soiled. In our own Vimy ranch we do not use bedding at all. We find it is superfluous when care is taken with shutters and to provide wind stoppers. We have had very little chafing or rubbing of foxes in the past few years. However, we are not going to advise others who have had good results with bedding to do away with it. Different ranchers use different techniques to arrive at the best results.

Everyone asks us what is the outlook for prices this year. We do not pretend to be any better prophet than anyone else but we would say that it would be folly to look for high prices having in mind the recent sale in Montreal when pelts sold for an average of \$23.50 gross. It may be argued that a lot of these pelts were of

NEWSY NOTES

The Herb Angelica I read in The Guardian that the distillers gin are growing "a quaint wartime crop" near Melbourne, Australia. It seems that the seed is used to flavor gin in that country, and when cut off the supply, the plant was found growing in a herb-garden, and is now grown commercially by the acre. The proper flavoring for gin is, of course, the juniper berry, to which the spirit owes both its name and its diuretic property.

My good friend, Mr. Colin Higgins, of Oyster Bed Bridge, has lent me a book printed in Charlottetown, September 1861. The title-page is misleading as is often the case with old books—but on the front cover is a label on which can still be discerned the name of the author, "The author's name does not appear."

The Cucumbers (3) The third great division of this family, is the genus Cucumis, of which the ordinary cucumber is the best known species. It was Linnaeus who gave it the name of Cucumis sativa, the latter word meaning merely that it is planted in the garden.

The Cucumbers (3) Cucumis anguria is the Checkered Melon. Since it is a native of tropical America, it does not take well to Canada, where it was introduced about 150 years ago. The fruit is a small, round, bumpy melon, with a green skin and a white, watery interior.

made commercially available for the first time in North America by Green Cross Insecticides is only one of many powerful new insecticides for farm and garden which will soon be available under the "Green Cross" trade mark.

"Melon de Quito." The ripe fruit would pass for an orange, till dissected. I first saw a specimen of this "Melon de Quito" when visiting The Guardian Office a few years ago, and have occasionally grown it as a curiosity since then. It does well and fruits freely, when planted along with the pumpkins. I did not know until lately that it could be sliced and preserved in syrup "to make a tasty dessert."

LET'S TALK IT OVER M. C. STEWART Provincial Manager 11115 Graham Street, Charlottetown, P. E. I.

month we have a week or ten days of remarkably fine weather, known as the Indian Summer; after which cold weather may be expected. Produce is now shipped with all expedition, and barns and cellars are put in a state of preparation for the winter.

In his list of the fauna the Bear is mentioned as if quite common in 1861. It is "the largest and most formidable wild animal on the Island." It sometimes destroys sheep but "unless provoked by attack or im-

inferior quality and that is true. Yet the better grades sold at 25 per cent decline from the June sale which is an indication that the market is not right. There is one bright spot that we are hoping and looking forward to and that is the Hon. Mr. Lecky will use the bold stroke we advised him to and knock out that 25 per cent processing tax. We can then figure on an all around advance of four to ten dollars a pelt which would take us out of our difficulties and give us a margin above the cost of production.

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German Police Help Check Black Market



With the help of a German police officer, an official of the Military Government in Germany halts a truckload of potatoes in the outskirts of Hamburg during a campaign to prevent this vital food from reaching the flourishing black market. In a single day, more than 5,000 kilos of potatoes were confiscated to combat the black market.—(British Official Photo from N.F.B.)

Attention Farmers Near Charlottetown

Our Charlottetown business has been seriously handicapped since the first last December. We have almost completed building a frostproof potato storage on the farm, after that will dig our potato crop, then start to rebuild the Charlottetown warehouse. The first floor will be for seed only and will be equipped with a grader, the second floor will be for table stock and turnips, and have a separate grader for table stock. Five weeks from now should see this new warehouse in operation. We will be in a position then to buy potatoes, field run, and grade them if you are short-handed on the farms. If you have anything to move now, call at the office. We are putting out table stock and seed bags. Regarding turnips we will only be handling same in carlots until the warehouse is completed. Any farmer or number of farmers who wish to go together to load a full car will be supplied with bags. FRANK B. CLARKE. 10-6-31.



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QUICKIES By Ken Reynolds



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