A Page for the MODERN FARMER

- NEWSY NOTES -

By AGRICOLA

A GERMAN POEM

Here is an extract from a poem which is not likely to be a favorite of Der Fuehrer:—

"One look below the Almighty gave,
Where streamed the lion-flags of thy proud foe;
And nearer, wider yawned the horrent grave
And woe,' saith He, shall lay My England low—
The stem that blooms with herodeeds—
The rock when man from wrong a refuge needs—
The stronghold where the tyrant comes in vain?
Who shall bid My England vanish from the main?"

It has suffered a little in the translation but it comes from an epic work on "The Armada," by Johann C. F Schiller. Schiller was one of Germany's greatest poets and dramatists, and died in 1805.

NOTES ON ISLAND PLANTS

The Monotropaceae

This is the small and exclusive Indian Pipe Family, with but three members in this province. Botanically it is closely related to the Heath Family; but the plants have a much different way of "earning their living" as we shall see. None of them are of use economically, and if they have any medicinal value it has not been discovered.

Nonetheless the Indian Pipe (Monotropa uniflora L.) is of considerable interest. It must be looked for among the thick deposits of rotting leaves in the dim aisles of the harwood forests. There one finds a number of white fleshy stems, six or eight inches long, looking as though modelled in white wax. On the top of each stem is a single flower, equally white and waxy, hanging "face downward." There is not a speck of green on the whole plant; the leaves are reduced to mere scales on the stem Its peculiar pallid appearance has given rise to another popular name —the Corpse-plant.

There is a very simple explanation of the structure of the Indian Pipe, and a lesson as well. Doubtless the plant was honest and industrious ages ago; working for its own living, full of green leaves to draw its food from soil, air, and sun. But one unlucky day its evil genius —we know not how or why —induced it to make use of the food stored in rotting leaves by other plants. It deteriorated from that day; the leaves gradually became smaller and lost their green chlorophyll—that substance so essential to their work. It is the Parable of the buried Talent illustrates in the plant world. Nature is full of vestigial remains—organs, once useful, but now degenerate because their owners, for some reason, neglected to make use of them. A recent writer calls the plant a robber but as I see it, the Indian Pipe may with more truth be likened to an indolent but picturesque hobo, content to live on "handouts" provided by respectable working plants! It is a most disappointing plant to the collector, for it blackens rapidly after being picked, and nothing can be done to retain its waxen purity. The Manuals state that the Indian Pipe may be red or rosy, but all the plants I've seen were white.

Not so unlike is the Pinesap or False Beech-drops (Monotropa hypopitys): a widely spread plant from Cape Breton to Western Ontario. Botanists believe this plant to be a robber too, but the evidence seems to show that it is only a saprophyte, like the Indian Pipe, making use of the decomposing vegetation. (Some plants do actually rob their neighbors by sending suckers into their roots to abstract the sap.) The only time I found this plant was on the Kintyre Road, July 31st, 1915. It had a short raceme of fragrant bell-shaped flowers gracefully drooping to one side. In color they were tawny yellow tipped with a reddish shade. It was growing in the shade of a spruce hedge, and must have died out for I could not find it in succeeding years. The Pinesap is another degenerate, with scales instead of leaves.

Asa Gray, in his Manual says that a third member of the group, the Pine-Drops Pterospora Andromedae Nutt) is found in P. E. I. I have not yet seen this plant. Britton gives it another popular name, the Giant Bird's-nest, from its mass of roots.

RE THE FISHES (3)

Fishes are great eaters, and their food is mostly animal comparitavely few feeding on vegetable matter. Some live on the hosts of soft-bodied animals that float in the water: others feed on shell-fish, lobsters crabs, and sea animals with a hard outer covering. To a very great exient they feed on fishes that are smaller than themselves. As it well known the larger sharks do not hesitate to attack man himself. In their feeding habits then, fishes have a resemblance to the carnivorous tribes of Mammals, Birds, and Reptiles. A lecturer once gave the Zoological Society of Dublin a remarkable account of the rapacity of fishes: he had a Frog-fish two and a half feet long, in the stomach of which was Codfish, two feet in length. The stomach of the Cod contained two average sized Whiting, and these in turn held the half-digested remains of many smaller fishes too much broken up to be identified!

This leads us to an examination of the mouth of the Fishes. Some species have no teeth but most have several rows of them. As a rule they are not confined to the jaws, but are located on the tongue, the palate, and other parts of the mouth (We have a distinct advantage there; we can never have toothache on the tongue!) Most fishes have teeth merely for grasping the food and passing it to the throat: others have teeth for cutting or tearing and those that live on shell-fish have strong teeth fitted for crushing their food.

Fishes far exceed the numbers of any other class of Vertebrates: the ... of the sea has been going on for centuries with little apparent diminution, and it would seem that that it can go on for centuries more without exhausting the supply. About seven tenths of the earth's surface is covered with water (not including the rivers and lakes), and in this immense space are fishes living at different depths like the dwellers in our sky-scrapers: ... we know how large a population can thus be accommodated.

Sometimes we see pictures of gaily ...fishes; these are found near the surface, and are associated with the Tropics; hence it is certain that sunlight has something to do with the development of color — which is often as bright as that of the birds or butterflies. Some fishes live at great depths but they are dull in coloration.

To keep up this immense multitude, against the inroads made by men and the fishes themselves, it follows that that fishes must be abundantly prolific. It is found that the roe of a herring contains at least 60,000 eggs, and that of a cod about nine million! The resulting young would be too abundant were their numbers not kept down by the causes before mentioned.

As to the number of kinds there are, it is likely that nobody knows; it must be some thousands with some hundreds still to be discovered.

Of the many singular species of fishes I will conclude with a short account of two; the Electric Eel, and the Torpedo. The former was first found by the great naturalist and explorer, Humboldt, in South America. This eel is capable of giving such an electric shock to other inhabitants of the pools and rivers, that they are killed instantly, then devoured. Humboldt describes how the eels are captured without danger to the natives. They drive a troop of wild horses (who seem to know what is awaiting them) into the pool: the eels attack and when they have "exhausted their batteries" on the horses, they may be captured with impunity. The Torpedo is a kind of flat-fish, belonging to the Ray tribe, and has a "battery" on each side, composed of a multitude of small tubes, pressed closely together like the cells in a honeycomb, and filled with a thick fluid. With this apparatus it can give an electric shock at will, to stun its prey. The destructive implement we hear so much of, got its name from this fish.

Origin of Photography

Just one hundred years ago, in 1840, the first "photo" of the human being was taken. That was the year after Daguerre had succeeded in photographing inaminate objects by the Daguerreotype method. Because of the lengthy exposure required—half-an-hour)—it was impossible for any sitter to "have his picture took" with success.

But with the hour came the man, and his name was John William Draper. This remarkable man one of the greatest geniuses which America has produced, is little known to the present generation though he anticipated many of the inventions which later came on the market. He had worked out many of the problems of radiation and at once saw the value (and the weakness) of Daguerre's invention. He investigated and soon found that blue light was practically the only light that affected the sensitized plate. (There were no films then: a glass or tin plate was coated with the sensitive emulsion). As a consequence Draper arranged reflectors to throw a strong beam of sunlight through a concentrated solution of copper sulphate, on to the features of the sitter. The copper sulphate solution acted as a filter, cutting out the heat rays and allowing only the blue light to pass, without discomfort to the person involved. The light was so intense, that Draper was able to take the first photograph ever made of a human being: that of his sister Dorothy Catherine Draper. That was in 1840, and the picture is still extant. Arago had expressed his belief to the French Chamber ... ties that very year, that the feat of photographing living persons was too fabulous to be carried out! Draper, by the way, was the inventor of the adjustable iron headrest so much used in the studios of former days during the critical process.

Here is an anecdote for those who believe that Edison invented the electric light. (Swan lighted his drugstore in Newcastle on Tyne by electricity, the year Edison applied for the patent!) Draper, in his work on "The Radiation of Red-Hot Bodies," made known that " a surface of platinum of standard dimension, raised to a standard temperature by a voltaic (i. e. electric) current, will always emit a constant light." Shortly after, in a public lecture on his platinum standard, he stated that one day some ingenious individual would use it for public lighting. In the long run this statement had a curious consequence. When Edison applied for a patent on his incandescent lamp the authorities refused to grant it because they regarded Draper's platinum standard" as the prior discovery. The Patent Office wrote to Draper who replied that Edison deserved all the credit for the lamp, and on his statement the patent was granted.

It was owing to Draper that th Atlantic cable was laid: the leading European scientists believed that it couldn't be done. Draper held that the idea was a sound one and on the strength of his opinion the public invested their money and did it.

His last great work, "The History of the Conflict between Religion and Science," (1885) went through twenty English editions in the ten years after its appearance, and was translated into nine languages. Yet how few in this generation have even heard of him. Vanitas vanitatem!

Composition of Cabbage

How many of my readers remember the Summer School for Teachers, which was held at the old P. W. C in Charlottetown? That must be around twenty-five years ago or so. I attended classes there, and still have all the complete notes with sketches. One subject interested me greatly—the analysis of the potato and since then I have scraped acquaintance with the composition of several other of our common vegetables. Here is something concerning the cabbage:

This vegetable, like others, in the green or fresh stage, contains a high percentage of water: to be exact, 89.6 of its entire bulk. It is low in cellulose, 1 1 per cent; all the better for the digestion, though a certain amount of roughage is essential to health. There is the same percentage of proteid matter even to the decimal: body-building matter, but not very much. Energy and heat producing carbohydrates are more in evidence, 5.8 per cent. Mineral matter, an important series of constituents with almost medicinal values 1.3 per cent. A little fat, 0 4 per cent; and what is known as "extract" which gives flavor, oror, etc., 0.7 per cent Make this up in the form of a tabular statement for your notebook.

When cabbage is "boiled ragged," as it mostly is, there is a serious loss of its solid contents: it is estimated that 30 per cent are dissolved into the water; and all the extract is taken from the leaves to flavor the water and to perfume the air! That fate overtakes most green vegetables when carelessly boiled: they gain water but lose much of their nutrients. Cabbage should be put into boiling water and boiled fast and furiously: when this is done carefully—and no cooking should be done otherwise —the cabbage remains white and delicate with little odor or none.

Raw cabbage is rich in vitamins and usually is cheaper than lettuce, especially in the colder months of the year. The inner tender leaves may be made into salads. They are said to be more digestable than cooked cabbage. For my own part I prefer the early quick-growing Chinese cabbage, which comes into bearing long before the letture in spring.

That's The Trouble!

And to conclude, here is a little story with a moral for everybody but ourselves.

One day a rich but miserly Chassid came to visit a Rabbi The good man led him to a window "Look out there," he said, "and tell me what you see."

"People," answered the rich man.

The Rabbi led him to the opposite side of the room, before a mirror. 'And what do you see now?"

"I see myself."

"Yes," nodded the Rabbi," in the window there is glass and in the mirror there is glass. But the glass of the mirror is covered with a little silver —and no sooner is a little silver added than you cease to regard others and see only yourself."

—S. Ansky.

Weekly Live Stock Market Report

OTTAWA, Canada—October 24, 1940.

SUMMARY

Price changes were few in the cattle market during the past week and any recorded affected plain and trashy material of which there were far too many included in another heavy total supply. Shippers, apparently, paid little attention to recent warnings regarding offering plain to medium stockers too freely and further liberal numbers of this class showed up contributing to a very sluggish trade. An increase in southern orders was welcomed by the trade and served to relieve the situation considerably. Some calf sales were made at a reduction of 50c in Toronto but elsewhere the market was steady to firm. Hogs and lambs were mostly unchanged.

Eastern Cattle Markets

A few top grades in the killer division at Toronto sold steady but others were down 10c to 25c and a similar situation existed in the stocker division where the lower qualities dropped twenty-five cents to fifty cents. Some 1600 cattle remained unsold at the close after a few choice weighty steers had topped at $8.25, with others making $8 down, and butcher material up to $7.50 and $7.60. Good stockers and stock calves moved out at $7 to $7.65. Montreal had a large percentage of plain cows in the offering and these sold lower with other kinds of stock holding steady. Good steers made from $7.50 up to a top of $8.25 and good cows were on a basis of $5.50 to $5.75. Maritime sales held about steady with good to choice steers quoted at $7.25 to $8.

Western Cattle Markets

Liberal numbers of plain and medium cattle at Winnipeg served to bring about a sluggish trade and common to medium light stockers were hard to move. The better grades, however, were fairly well taken care of by outside orders at $5.50 to $6.25 and some fleshy feeders moved south at $6 50 to $6.75. Most killing classes held steady to firm, with best slaughter steers at $7 to $7 50. Cows looked about 25c higher in spots with good kinds at $4.50 to $5. Calgary had fair action and sold good to choice butcher steers up to $7. A similar high, $7, was paid at Edmonton, while Prince Albert sold good butcher steers at $6 25 to $6 50 and Moose Jaw paid an odd $6.75 yith good steers mostly around $6.50. The high at Regina was $6.25 and Saskatoon was draggy and lower with only a sprinkling of good steers at $5.85 to $6 and an odd $6.50. Vancouver was active at $7.25 to $7.65 for good steers.

United States Market

A number of loads of Canadian steers of fairly heavy weights sold on Saturday last at Buffalo at $10.50, with others down to $9.40. It is estimated these would net back to Ontario country points from $7.50 to $8.50 or considerably better than prices obtaining at Toronto. Several loads of stockers were taken from Toronto for Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Recent quotations from St. Paul on medium to good cows The movement of stock on export to the United States during the week included 3,903 beef cattle, 330 dairy and 788 calves, making the totals to date this year 98,834 beef, 12,169 dairy and 65,933 calves. Exports in the corresponding period of 1939 were 158,082 beef, 10,697 dairy and 75,925 calves. Exports from October 1st to October 24th, under the fourth quarterly quota, consisted of 10,550 beef cattle, compared with 17,281 in the same period last year.

According to a release by the United States Treasury Department imports of calves into the U. S. from al countries from January 1st to October 12th, inclusive, totalled 98,616 head out of the annual quota of 100,000 at the reduced duty rate.

Calves Mostly Steady

Only one or two changes occurred in calf prices. Toronto opened with best veals at $11 to $11.50 but had none above $11 at the close. Montreal paid around $11 for good veals with no tops on offer, while Winnipeg was firm on lights at $8 to $9. The top of the Calgary, Prince Albert, Moose Jaw and Regina markets was $7.50, Edmonton $8.50, while Saskatoon was lower at $7.50 making sales late last week up to $8. Good calves made $7.50 at Vancouver.

Hogs Mostly Steady

The basic price for hogs at Toronto remained unchanged at $12 for B-1 grade dressed, and a similar price was paid at Montreal. Winnipeg ruled mostly at $11.15 but closed weaker at $11. Calgary was on a basis of $10.75 to $10.90, while Edmonton closed at $10.60 after making a high of $10.75 Prince Albert paid $10 75 to $10.80, Moose Jay $10.80, Regina $10.80 to $10 90 and Saskatoon advanced 20c to $11 on Tuesday.

Lamb Market Unchanged

There was no change in lamb prices. Toronto paid $8.75 to $9 for good ewes and wethers off trucks and $9 to a top of $9 25 for rail deliveries. Montreal sold good lambs at $9, Winnipeg up to $7.75, Calgary up to a top of $8.25, Edmonton and Vancouver $9, Prince Albert and Saskatoon $7, Moose Jaw $7.75 and Regina $7.50.

- CONSERVATION -

A WEEKLY COLUMN OF PRACTICAL OPINIONS OF THE VITAL ISSUES AFFECTING THE USES AND ABUSES OF NATURAL RESOURCES BY MR. LUDLOW JENKINS, MARSHFIELD.

RESEARCH FOR ADVANCED STUDENTS

(Designed for nature clubs, scout and similar groups; or teachers may give special credit for this work).

TOPIC I. PERSONAL ACQUAINTANCE WITH THE WATERFOWL

Home study. Familiarize yourself with pictures of the waterfowl: beautifully illustrated books are available at libraries. Be able to name quickly the pictures of both the males and females of at least fifteen species of waterfowl. Know which species are migrants, and which nest in your locality. Know the "river ducks," the "sea ducks," the "diving" and the "shallow-feeding" ducks. Know what food is taken by the waterfowl, in both salt and fresh water, and on land. Know the routes of migration, the 'flyways," of the various species; where they nest, and where they winter.

Field study. Once introduced to the waterfowl through pictures and through an interest in their habits, you will not forgo the delight of study in the field. The knowledge gained by pictures will stand you in good stead, especially if you have noted carefull the silhoutte of different species. But at a distance, color in the birds will often be scarcely distinguishable. For work in the field Peterson's Field Guide to the Birds is recommended. If possible take photographs. There appears to be no limit to what may be learned about birds through field observation. Observations by careful and accurate amateurs are the foundation of field ornithology. Write an essay on your field experiences.

TOPIC II THE CROW IN RELATION TO WATERFOWL

Propaganda against the Crow has been skilfully fostered, so that many nature lovers believe that the crow is generaly harmful. Compare the propaganda of the commercial interests who seek a larger sale of guns and ammunition with the findings of biologists. The "Rod and Gun" coloumns of daily newspapers are rich with anti-Crow material See also Outdoor Life and Field and Stream: Outdoor Life: 1933, May, October; 1934, March, May; 1935; February: Field and Stream: 1933, July; 1934, January, April; 1935, March, July, November.

Write an essay showing where the writers in magazines and newspapers are right or wrong in their statements about the Crow.

TOPIC III LEAD-POISONING

Lead-poisoning is the most widespread and important cause of waterfowl mortality, next to the direct kill of hunters.

Find out how many shot are contained in shot guns shells of two or three different sizes. Note that the size of the shot makes a great difference in the number. Estimate how many shot will have fallen in one year into a duck lake on which twenty hunters shoot fifty shells a day, three days each week for six week. If the lake is 160 acres, how many shot have fallen per square yard?

Write to the U. S. Biological Survey, Washington, D. C., and ask how many gunners during the past season shot in each of the "sanctuaries" in which public shooting-grounds are included. Ascertain the acreage of water over which the shooting takes place. Estimate the number of shot fallen in one or more of these "sanctuaries."

If possible, talk to a civil engineer, about the possibilities of dredging in order to remove shot from the bottom of duck-shooting waters.

Write an essay, telling your findings. What action should be taken by the Biological Survey to put an end to lead-poisoning of waterfowl?

TOPIC IV. MIGRATORY BIRD TREATIES WITH CANADA AND WITH MEXICO

Compare the two treaties. (See: Text of federal laws relating to the protection of wild life: U. S Department of Agriculture, Washington, D C.) In what respects does one treaty give better protection to migratory birds than the other? Does the treaty with Mexico reflect the advance of public opinion, particularly with regard to the restoration of the waterfowl, which has been made in the twenty years elapsed between the writing of the Canadian and the Mexican treaties? How may the Mexican treaty be improved and extended?

If a treaty were proposel with some nation to the south of the U. S., what provisions would you wish to see included?

Discuss whether the terms of a treaty affecting wild life, the property of all citizens, should be kept secret until after ratification. Who should be consulted regarding the terms of a migratory bird treaty—sportsmen? conservationists? biologists?

CLASS ASSIGNMENTS
For Younger Students

1. Chart I. Rule a sheet of paper into three columns. Head the columns: "Predators," "Other Causes," "Hunting." Under "Predators," list any and all birds and animals that prey on waterfowl Under "Other Causes" list such things as drought, disease, etc. Under "Hunting," list all the means that have aided man in hunting. Make a note in this column of the number of waterfowl hunters before the drastic reductions in bag-limits and seasons went into effect.

2. Chart 2. Rule a sheet of paper into three columns, and list: "Predators that have increased in the last fifty years"; "Predators that have possibly held their own in the last fifty years"; "Predators have been greatly reduced in the last fifty years." Think carefully of each animal before deciding whether it has decreased or not during the last fifty years .If possible, verify your conclusions from magazine articles, and by talking with your family and friends. Are there as many predators left today as fifty years ago? Why?

3. Write a short history of crow-killing campaigns. When and why were they started? Who sponsors them? Why has the government refused to aid in crow and magpie control work?

4. Study Column 2 of Chart 1. For which of these causes has man been chiefly responsible? Which do you think takes a greater toll of life, those in Column I, or in Column 2? State why you think so.

5. Study Column 3 of Chart 1. What was the increase in hunters between 1911 and 1928? What was the increase in the number of duck hunters between 1934 and 1938? What aids do hunters have to-day that they did not have 20 years ago? What devices whereby the hunters took ducks in the past are now forbidden by the government? Why were they forbidden?

6. What percentage of waterfowl are crippled and lost? If predators eat the cripples, should the predators or the hunters be blamed for the loss? What are the findings of trained field men regarding the condition of ducks often eaten by predators?

7. Comparing Columns 1 and 2 with Column 3 of Chart, 1, what factor do you believe has been most destructive to our waterfowl? What are the three main causes of the shortage of waterfowl, according to government officials? Which of the three do you think is the greatest? Why?

8. From class discussion and from the dictionary, tell in your own words what the word sport means to you. What does sportsman mean?

Many hunters claiming to be good sportsmen come under headings listed below. Tell in your own words whether you think the practices listed are good sportsmanship; and tell why you think as you do.

A The hunter who kills more birds than he can eat, so lets the birds spoil, or throws them away.

B The hunter who goes out with others, gets his limit before the rest, keeps shooting, and gives what he shoots to the others until all have their limit.

C. The hunter who cannot identify the birds, but shoots whatever he can, hoping they are not protected.

D. The hunter who has only one or two more birds to complete his limit, and then shoots into a flock of ducks, perhaps bringing down four or five.

E. The hunter who shoots into a flying flock which he knows is out of range, hoping he may be "lucky enough" to drop one bird.

F. The hunter who shoots at birds that he cannot retrieve, hoping the wind or current will bring the dead ashore.

G. The hunter who wastes no time hunting for cripples, fearing he will lose a good shot, and so gets his birds more easily.

Write a code by which a hunter could be measured to prove whether he is, or is not, a good sportsman.

9. What is baiting? What are the arguments in favor of baiting? What are the evils of baiting? Why did the government stop baiting?

What are "rest days"? What are the arugments in favor of rest days? What are the evils of rest days? Check through the sporting magazines, and see if sportsmen were satisfied with the 1934 season. What were the objections to the "staggered season"?

10. Why did so many hunters change from the use of the old wooden decoys to the use of live decoys? Does the hunter who baits and uses live decoys fit into your definition of a sportsman? Why, or why not?

11. Give a short review of waterfowl protection. Has this protection been adequate to save the birds? What faults do you find with past protection? How do you believe such faults may be remedied?

12. If the saving of the waterfowl were left entirely up to you, what methods would you use to save the birds?

TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH Silver Fox Farming

Two weeks from Monday —Nov. 18th—will be the opening date for the Provincial Fox Show at the Exhibition grounds, Charlottetown. All entries must be in the show room by 3 p.m., Monday afternoon. All Monday will be devoted to classification and the committee consisting of Parvin Cass and John Jack, Summerside, and Douglas Bell, of Cape Traverse, will be on hand shortly after nine o'clock and will continue throughout the day at their very particular and exacting task.

Judging will commence at nine o'clock Tuesday morning, Nov. 9th. There will be 20 classes for registered foxes. The yearling class has been cut out, and instead of having six sections there will be four, one for adult males, one for adult females, one for male pups and one for female pups, with five colorings. There will be eight classes for non-registered foxes, adults and pups and a number of classes for the new types, adults and pups, ring necks, white faces, near platinums and platinums, with a novelty class for other kinds of freaks. George A. Callbeck will judge the classes.

By all means make up your mind to attend this show because it will be not only interesting but educational. The entry list is expected to be a large one, but there is also a very large prize list, so if you have a good fox in any of the categories bring it in.

In last week's notes we mentioned that we did not believe it would be wise to start pelting before November 15th. We must reverse ourselves to some extent, because we have found in going over our own foxes that some of the adults that were a bit greedy, have arrived at or near the pelting stage, but the majority will not be ready until after the 20th of November. This season, of course, has been a very favorable one for the development of fur because the cool nights started in August, and there has been no warm spell such as usually characterized other falls. Most of the foxes we have examined show a good fur development which has improved particularly during the last three weeks.

Alfred McNeill, of Well. McNeill & Son, returned the other evening from a business trip to Montreal and Toronto, and had the pleasure during a plane trip from Toronto to Montreal of meeting Don Ameche and wife. She was wearing a platinum fox coat, and naturally their talk centred on the platinums. They were greatly interested to learn that Mr. McNeill and his dad are raising this type of animal in Southport. They were unaware that platinums could be procurable except from Norway.

Had a nice chat with Peter G. Clark, manager of the Prince Edward Island Fur Pool, at the airport the other day. Mr. Clark made us feel real good when he mentioned the prices received from recent sales in London, and also stated that the dark skins were in good demand, with three-quarters moving freely. Yesterday afternoon we had a telephone call from Mr. Clark, and he read the contents of the cable, which follows, from London, dated October 31st: "Market continues active with buyers interested in all grades and levels. We have sold this week 783 pelts. This does not include 360 which we sold last week. We can secure a price of £8 5s (equal to about $36.55) for a case of yours containing 100 pelts."

Mr. Clark's organization has made a pelt survey of the Maritimes and his considered opinion is that Prince Edward Island fox ranchers will not pelt more than 25,000 foxes this season. That is less than half of last season's pelt crop. Nova Scotia will only have half a crop and New Brunswick will be in the same boat. All over Canada it is the same story —fewer pelts for 1941.

The above should be heartening news to everyone engaged in fox farming. We have had two tough years, one particularly bitter one last season, but we are confident that this year if we maintain our poise and do not become stampeded and accept the first offers that come along, we should come out with a profit. Our ranchers must know that it is the early sales that fix the prices, and if buyers find they can get pelts for very little money the news quickly travels, and that becomes the standard price. With the facilities that are offering in regard to advances, and the fact that we have every prospect of a tremendous circulation of money in the United States and Canada in 1941, it is to the advantage of everyone to keep prices up. Ranchers will make more money, buyers will make more money and retailers will make more money, when good prices prevail.

We do not wish to infer that the buyers are out to do the rancher—nothing of the kind. The buyer creates a healthy interest in our market and without his activity sales would not be so brisk. His prices are fixed by the Montreal market for Canada and the New York market for the United States, and these prices in turn are fixed by what the buyers pay the ranchers. The words unscrupulous and such terms should not be applied to buyers who come here. As a matter of fact, the writer knows that they turn over pelts at as little as a dollar apiece, and very often turn them over at a loss. Some of them have been coming here for years. They were with us in our good days when high average prices existed, and no doubt they made far more money on one pelt than they would on four or five today.

United Fur Brokers, in a letter to shippers, which is quoted in full in Women's Wear Daily, New York, on Thursday, October 24th, has the following to say regarding Silver Fox: "This article has sold well throughout the summer and fall, and there are only small supplies on hand at present. First receipts will be in good demand at prices about 25 per cent higher than last year at the start."

Canada's fur production for 1938-1939 showed an 8 per cent. increase. Ontario was tops with $2,538,658; Quebec comes next with $2,230,280, New Brunswick, Alberta, Prince Edward Island, North West Territories, Manitoba and British Columbia follow in the order named, each with a value of over $1,000,000. Saskatchewan's product was valued at $983,447 and the Yukon Territory at $267,721. The total number of pelts of all kinds sold was $6,492,222.

Mink production on farms reached a total of 220,359 pelts, valued at $2,100,000. Silver fox, which is almost entirely a product of the fur farms, was first place in value of all furs. It was followed by mink, while muskrat is third in importance. The number of silver fox products was greater than any previous season, but the average price was the lowest in the history of the industry and the total value dropped to a figure below that of the preceding season.

The writer had a letter from Dr. J. A. Allen, who is in charge of the Division of Animal Science, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, in which he expressed the deepest regret in the passing of W. Fred Burke,. "As you know," writes the Doctor, "Fred and I were closely associated in the pioneer days of fur animal research. He was my first and most conscientious assistant in this branch of endeavor. But he was more than that. He was a tried and trusted companion, with a native ability and keen insight which helped me immensely in those early days. There was a debt of gratitude I can never repay." The Doctor concludes with deepest sympathy to Mr. Burke's widow and family.

The October issue of the Canadian Silver Fox and Fur is to say the least, a most attractive one. The cover is a masterpece of the lithographer's art, with photo engraving of Norwegian platinum fox furs attractively displayed. They are really beautiful if a trifle exotic, and that latter quality may affect their wide distribution. It seems to the writer that viewing these beautiful furs that they will not suit as many types of feminine faces as silvers do with their wide variety of colorings. However, the future will tell.

Interspersed through the magazine are illustrations of various white face or platinum foxes, and among the advertisements we note C. C. Holman's, J. S. Thompson, McIlquham & McGill, showing the male purchased from Well. McNeill last January and one of his platinum pups, Ruthven Fox Farms, LaForest Fur Farms, Hudson's Bay Company, Dr. R. H. MacDonald with a page ad showing some of his best platinums and white faces. There are also photographs with George A. Callbeck, Dan McFarlane and Dr. A. K. Cameron holding platinums at Dr. MacDonald's ranch.

There is also a very fine tribute to W. Fred Burke, Provincial Fox Fieldman. The commendable words in the opening are: "one of the finest citizens of Prince Edward Island died at Charlottetown, September 28th. It was W. Fred Burke, a most likeable person whose very name even beyond the length and breadth of his Island home betokened appreciation and respect."

The Fur Trade Journal of Canada October number, is another very fine fox publication, comparing favorably with the best produced in the United States. It has a wealth of interesting material between its pages with an informative article by C. C. Holman, entitled, "Practical Platinum Problems." There is also a good article by R. G. Hodgson, entitled, "We Visit the LaForest Fur Farm." These are the farms from which two of the platinum foxes recently imported to Summerside came from. On page 14 is a very attractive ad for Raoul Reymond's foxes, offering for sale 130 platinum and white faces of a very high quality. These pups are the progeny of fifteen marked males among which the well known extra pale platinum male DCY-28, who in 1940 mated 21 females and produced 84 pups of which 43 are platinum and white faces.

Just another reminder that only a few weeks remain to watch your foxes carefully to bring them through to pelting time clear and clean. If they have a tendency to bite their tips it means you are feeding too much fat. Whole milk or very fat meat or marrow from bones cause heartburn and foxes bite themselves. You can remedy this by the use of baking soda in the feed if you are not using tomatoes or any acid vegetables. Or you can get some Glauber's salts, or what is commonly known as cow salts, and dissolve in hot water in the proportion of one teaspoonful for four foxes. Mix this in the feed for three nights, then skip a few nights and use again if desired. By cutting down a bit on fats and using this preparation you will cure tip biting providing the cause is not an insect or fleas, which is not usually the case.

We mentioned last week how necessary it was to continue watering the foxes even though cold weather is here. If you do not water your foxes they are liable to become constipated, and if so they will quickly brown. Whatever you do, watch the foxes' bowels at this season of the year, and if any tendency to get constipated add bran or other roughage and more vegetables.

PULVEX

Actually kills all fleas instead of merely stupefying them.

ONE APPLICATION DOES THE JOB

SAFE, ODORLESS, EASY TO USE

BRITISH MADE—FULLY GUARANTEED

Order PULVEX from Hardware, Drug, Feed and Seed Stores, or write

CANADIAN CO-OPERATIVE WOOL GROWERS LIMITED

Quebec and Maritime Branch
Lennoxville, Que.

RAW FURS

The season is open on silver fox, mink, muskrats, red fox, skunks, etc. Proper valuations given and best market prices paid.

J. D. JENKINS.

L-52-11-2-6t.

ATTENTION FARMERS

POTATOES TURNIPS

NEAR CHARLOTTETOWN

Fertilizer accounts due us must be paid during November. There are growers in this locality who have not moved any Potatoes. I think you are making a mistake for the following reason: The sale of Seed and Table Stock to the American market is not more than a fifth of the usual amount at this time of year. There are too many Potatoes in the United States. The movement of the Table Stock Potatoes to date has been heavy, but there is only one market of consequence, Ontario, and it won't take long to fill that province up.

We are prepared to pay market price and haul your Potatoes, Seed or Table Stock, with our trucks from your farm, either graded or ungraded, it is easy for us to place them now. If your supplies are in outbuildings, contact with us at once.

We have a splendid outlet for large quantities of Turnips weekly, and do not overlook the fact that your accounts are about due. If you wish to speculate and store your crop, that is your affair, but the notes and accounts must be paid.

For the next ten days we are open to purchase Potatoes and Turnips from all growers near Charlottetown, irrespective of where you purchased your fertilizer.

FRANK B. CLARKE

(Continued from page 16,

POULTRY NOTES

meet your fellow fanciers, forget Hitler, enjoy yourself in the freedom of our good Canadian country and our splendid poultry show.

So now the issue rests with you. We cannot demand that you show, we can only persuade you to, but do think how necessary it is to keep going. If you have not already sent in your entrys, do so at once, because entries close November 20th. Send all entries to the manager, Charles Worth, 226 Great Geo., St. City. No charge, or entrance fee. Classes will be provided for all breeds. Prizes will be awarded and the birds will have the best of care. Any poultry raiser in P. E. I. is cordially invited to exhibit and to come and attend our show.