



THE MODERN FARMER



NEWSY NOTES

By AGRICOLA

GODS AND ENDS
 This plant was cultivated in Italy and that "the seeds are nutritious to man."
 Skunks are plentiful in this district. Last fall the setting of hares was this year by skunks digging under the coops and eating the eggs. When the culprit was finally trapped I concluded that he was the largest skunk I ever saw. I am not the only sufferer from the activities of these animals I am told; they are increasing in this locality. Germany to be split up? Some thinkers advocate the splitting up of Germany into separate States when Nazism is beaten; this, they suppose, will entice that country and prevent it from engaging in war thereafter. But they forget this: Germany did consist of a number of small states and kingdoms, till its consolidation early in 1871. All the separate states, speaking common language and sharing a common literature looked with longing to the time when they would unite in a common confederacy. In the future, the victors dreamed of it; until at last Bismarck brought the German Empire into existence by the defeat of France. If such a dismemberment took place in the future, the victors would have the same emotional upsurge to deal with and the question would be how to meet it?

Brake or Bracken. This is a fern with a stout erect stem which branches into three much divided fronds at the summit. It is found in all temperate and many tropical regions; and it appears wherever there is a forest on this island. Nothing flourishes under its shade: the sheep pastures of the Highlands are being ruined by it, says the Journal. It is a patch of bracken growing on this farm, which I cut down, close to the ground, with a sickle. In a little while new crop of fronds appeared, which normally would have arisen next year if the ground had remained shaded. When these are cut down there will be no more spring up!

Good Christian Men, Rejoice!
 In the Editorial Notes, a short time ago, I pointed out a religious development in Britain that aroused a lively feeling of satisfaction. This was "the formation of a joint standing committee of the Anglican, Free Church, and Roman Catholic Churches in social, economic and civic spheres." That is good news for all who believe in the brotherhood of man. The unhappy quarrels of those professing themselves Christians, were well illustrated in a cartoon a few years ago. The Anglican, the Roman Catholic, the Free Church, and the Protestant, were playing and being slain, we are told, by the names of Christian "denominations." The spectators in the grandstands were cheering derisively cheering the combatants. The heathen are not cheering now; they themselves have united to destroy all forms of religious intolerance, and to Christ-ianity, in its defense, it should have been done long ago.

Plants to Name
 From a settlement in the S.E. of the Island comes a packet containing a spray of millet and a leaf of a tree. The accompanying name, asks me the writer, says is locally called "Dogwood," though she does not think this is flowering. The U.S. dogwood, while this is shrub of great beauty, while this is not common in our woods though I've seen several. When young the vertical leaflets with one or two inches in length - giving the green bark an unusual appearance. This is the striped maple, or Mooswood, and is here a short description: "A tree to pennsylvanium L. (New York, p. 17). A small slender tree with smooth greenish bark stripes with darker lines, finely serrate, at the apex thin, finely serrate, pubescent below. Racemes drooping, appearing after the leaves, the 'above, Samaritan' and 'Mooswood' has economic or medicinal uses as yet. It may have cream-colored flowers, but specimens I've seen were colored as above. I agree that the leaf is very beautiful and have made a sketch of it, one-third size, to illustrate your 'New Flora'.

The other plant was Millet, as my correspondent supported. There are several species and varieties of millet, but I am not sufficiently acquainted with the genus to say to which the specimen belongs. I note with interest that a friend of the writer has been advised to heat crop and turned out. Dr. Clark, Director of the Experimental Station, advised farmers to grow millet as an annual hay crop this year, and I am sure that the authorities at the Station will be glad to give it.

One-third Size
 The leaf, one-third size, was measured by a proportional compass. It consists of two strips of wood, 1 1/2 and 1 1/4 inches long, thick. A small hole was drilled through each, 4 and 1 1/4 inches from one end, and a small brass bolt passed through as a pivot. The ends of the strips had been slightly tapered, and needles driven into each end acted as compass points. The "long eye" was used to measure the parts of the leaf, and the "short end" transferred the measurement (reduced) to the sketch pad. The reduced sketch is a shade under one third size.

POLISH-SCOT MARRIAGES
 GLASGOW (CP) - In the two wars that Polish troops have been training in Scotland there have been 70 marriages between Polish soldiers and Scots lassies.

CONSERVATION

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

CORAGRASS
 Smooth, or saltmarsh, corgrass (Spartina alterniflora) occupies deeper water than any of the other emergent salt-marsh plants and makes up nine-tenths or more of all the vegetation of its zone. It grows in depths ranging from the level of ordinary high tide nearly to that of mean low tide, so that a considerable part of its height is submerged at high tide. Corgrass is a true grass, not a "cudweed" (one like those just referred to. It has a rather stiff, leafy stalk, as much as 10 feet tall, a flowering and fruiting head composed of leather-like parts, and a wiry rootstock. The plant is sometimes used for bedding or mulch. It has local food value for wildlife. The rootstocks being eaten by geese and muskrats; and it makes a good cover for rails and smaller birds, some of which nest in it, especially where bunches of dry eelgrass or other drift have lodged.

BLACK-GRASS
 Areas inside the corgrass zone that are not covered by ordinary high tides but that are subject to flooding by spring and other exceptionally full tides have a variety of vegetation, in which different points black-grass, bulrushes, cuttals, or marsh hay may predominate. Black-grass (Juncus gerardi), so called from its very dark-green color that turns almost black in flower, is a slender plant with a tuft of flowers or seeds at the top, makes large dense stands but nevertheless permits the growth of numerous other salt-marsh plants within its domain. It is of no known value as a wildlife food plant.

BULRUSHES
 Bulrushes of the salt marshes have triangular stems and tufts of flowers or seeds near the top. The so-called three-squares (Scirpus americanus and S. olneyi), without leafy stems, these tufts are lateral, and in the larger leafy-stemmed saltmarsh bulrush (S. robustus) (3) they are terminal. From their fruiting heads can be grown out in the palm large numbers of shiny brown seeds. The seeds, eaten freely by waterfowl, are in some localities an important food supply for muskrats, too, and are used also by them as material for their winter homes.

MARSH WAX
 Marsh wax is a term that covers the slender saltmarsh cordgrass (Spartina patens), saltgrass (Distichlis spicata), and a few other species. A striking characteristic of marsh wax after it has attained its maximum growth is a "lodged" appearance, as if "frozen" in the form of waves produced by the last strong wind. A variety of other plants may be seen in the zone of the salt marsh, and more birds nest here than in the other zones. Flowers that may attract attention are the sea-leaved (Limnolobus carolinianus) with its limonite sprays of tiny lavender blossoms, growing all along the coast; and sea oxeye (Bertholletia frutescens) with bulbous heads, yellow flowers, and purple-brown fruit, growing from Virginia southward. The seeds and rootstocks of some of the plants, including those in flower and seed, are sometimes eaten but are not known to be of much food value, with the exception of arroyograss (Trichlocten app.), plants with fleshy leaves and slender stalk bearing three-parted green fruits that are sometimes locally important as food for wild ducks. Salt-marsh hay has at times been important and thriftyly used but now appears to be little used.

GLASSWORT
 A salt-marsh plant sure to attract attention is the glasswort, known also under a variety of names, as seawort, pickle grass, or glasswort (Salicornia spp.). It has fleshy, watery-looking, jointed stems, and grows in places made so salt by repeated flooding and evaporation that they are bare of other vegetation. This plant is pale green in summer but turns red or even scarlet in fall. Locally its seeds may be important as food for wild ducks. Its fleshy parts are said to be cropped by wild geese.

REED
 Although not characteristic of strongly saline situations, the cosmopolitan common reed (Phragmites communis) grows along the landward side of salt marshes and apparently has increased in recent years. Reed grows 6 to 12 feet or more high, has a strong stem, and bears an ornamental plumelike, lacy head. The stems are widely used for thatching and for the construction of light fences, lattices, screens, and mats. The plant is of no use to wildlife except for cover.

PLANTS OF THE ZONES AND THEIR VALUE TO WILDLIFE
 On the Atlantic coast, seaweeds in variety thrive both in the ocean itself and in saline sounds and lagoons where tidal movement is free. Eelgrass grows in similar waters from Beaufort, N. C., north, manatee and turtlegrass subsist on the bottom of bays and creeks of the Florida coast, and shoalgrass is present from the Gulf coast to North Carolina. Wigwaggrass grows in usually more quiet and shallow pools and occurs in suitable places along the entire coast. The other plants discussed live in the marshes themselves. Salt marshes may at first glance seem monotonous, but they have a diversity of life that is not so obvious to the casual observer. In summer the corgrass is light green, the

TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH

Silver Fox Farming

The New York Auction Company has postponed its sale of approximately 10,500 silver fox and 300 platinum, white-face, ring-neck and various color phase foxes scheduled for this week until Thursday and Friday, September 19th and 20th, 17,200 pelts were in the fur market at the present time was the cause of the postponement. It is to be hoped by September that things will have picked up and activity be again regained.

Herbert A. Nieman & Company of Thiensville, Wisconsin, report that 52 per cent of the 13,500 silver fox pelts they offered for sale in New York July 14th and 15th were sold. The average price reported was \$30.00, not counting skins of low quality. On the Canadian Fur Auction Sale of June 19th and 20th, 17,200 pelts were offered with 59 per cent sold at a very good average of \$21.55. As George A. Callbeck has pointed out, however, sales of the higher priced pelts were not proportionately as heavy as the lower grade and this accounted somewhat for the small average price.

The Canadian muskrat catch this season is estimated to be 50 per cent less due no doubt to the fact that many trappers are engaged in other occupations. William H. Tichenor of the New York Auction Company, addressed a meeting of fur farmers recently and it was his opinion that the new regulations re fur sales were complicated, but that action was already being taken to clarify them and make them workable. He expressed confidence in the ability of the Dominion Government agencies to unravel existing tangles.

The American National Fur Breeders Association with the approval of the army and navy officials have designed and manufactured an aviator's flying suit consisting of five parts - a fur-lined parka with hood, fur-lined trousers and heavy rubber shoes which were the lined Russian boots. The uniform it is claimed, is extremely warm, easily put on and taken off and cord is used around the waist around the face thus eliminating the need of zippers. The Association is working on other types of fur apparel suitable for the army forces.

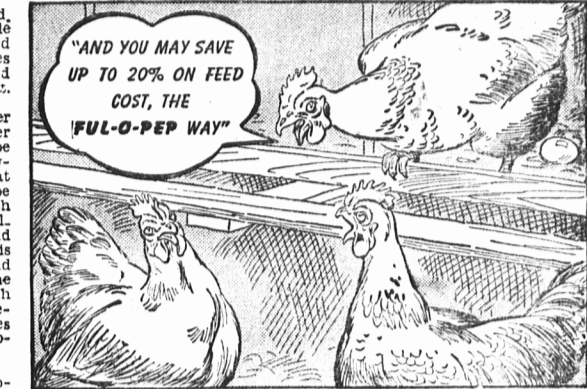
The American National Fur Breeders Association have already spent \$3,760.00 in their efforts to develop the platinum fox. The new wigwag fox breeders for the free world of their platinum pelts as a new color phase fox into the United States. The intention of the American Association and others is that the platinum is just another color phase of silver fox. The case after being heard in New York returned to New York and will come up before the October term of the court.

Here is some good advice tendered to the American fox farmers at a recent meeting. It is applicable to us. We quote: "The fox is a big animal, and his face is bigger than any of us. That is why we are tackling this thing in the traditional American way - getting someone to do the catering and fighting while the thing through to a finish. Of course it is not easy and it is going to be harder, but we have got to stick together. We know it is sometimes difficult for human beings to forget and forego differences, but we were never surer of anything in life than we are that we either work together for the common good or we shall inevitably share the common evil of defeat."

The American Fur and Market Journal has a very good article entitled, "Timing Hot Weather Tips" with particular reference to the keeping of meat during the hot weather. This is an extract: "Of importance during the hot months is the thawing and handling of meat. Frozen blocks usually are thawed out by placing them in the water for 12 to 24 hours or longer. Probably the most desirable practice is to place the blocks into large pans so that as the meat thaws the juices which

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Thawing will take place quicker if the blocks are sawed into smaller ones. Bacterial action should not be allowed to occur during the thawing process, and although the meat should be thawed, it should still be cold when ready for mixing with other parts of the ration. It is always best to feed both foxes and minks promptly after the feed is mixed. To permit feeds to stand for hours or hold it over till the next day permits bacterial growth and chemical action which may result in severe digestive disturbances because of the toxic products produced by undesirable bacteria.

It is essential that all meat products which are to be frozen are fresh and wholesome. Freezing not in any way rectify bad meat conditions. Be sure that both your foxes and minks have plenty of ventilation in their kennels during the summer months. Also be sure that they have plenty of water at all times and check the watering pans two or three times a day. See that both your foxes and minks have adequate shade to help them to combat the heat.

Water for the animals is seldom a serious or acute problem during the winter months. During the spring, the ordinary twice-a-day watering will take care of things. The approach of warm weather, however, requires a lot of vigilance on the part of the fellow who is responsible for keeping water before the animals, especially before the minks. Minks have a way of splashing water out of their pans. On a hot day a thirsty mink will dive into a pan and inside of a second splash out every bit of water that is in the pan. If it is a hot day and no water is brought to them, the next day or ten hours, serious consequences will probably result.

If foxes are being fed dry on compressed feed, the water is much more important than in the case of foxes that are fed on moist feed. Caretakers should be especially careful to see that the water pans are filled before the foxes are fed. Foxes that have been without water for hours and are then fed on compressed feed, have been found to be filled before the foxes are fed. Foxes that have been without water for hours and are then fed on compressed feed, have been found to be filled before the foxes are fed.

The following article by Frederick Bell, taken from The Montreal Times, will be of interest to fox ranchers. "Canadian furs are among the articles specified in Mr. Isley's new budget as being liable to an increased tax imposition. This amounts to 25 per cent in comparison with the old tax of 12 per cent, an increase of 13 per cent. The effect of this on the utilization of the fur by Canadian furriers, be so slight that it should occasion little concern. This point is one of considerable importance when it is realized that the present time, though the Dominion is experiencing a decided shortage of wool, there is on the other hand a good supply of available Canadian furs. This situation makes it imperative that wherever possible fur should be selected to take the place of wool in outer garments.

To the average Canadian the ramifications of the Canadian fur industry are a closed book. It might therefore, be useful if a few recent facts were set forth providing an insight into this important industry. For a number of years an 8 per cent tax has been imposed by the Dominion government on furs. This was raised to 12 per cent two years ago, and is now raised 15 per cent more. But furs in general have been fairly cheap for some years past. A large part of the export market has been cut off for the duration and there has been a corresponding decrease in the volume of imported furs, each thereby balancing the other, resulting in a fair stabilization of prices. For this reason and others the new tax liability will not result in great price rises. The tax, too, is levied on raw furs, plus dressing and dyeing charges only, and by the tanner, and not on the skins already treated

ed or on finished garments. About half of this year's crop of furs is to the Canadian furrier and to the already dressed and therefore will not be liable to the new increase. It takes a full year of steady work for the dyers and dressers of this country to take care of the year's supply of furs. Prime reason, however, is the fact that furs in their raw state are a readily negotiable commodity. Once they have been dressed this is no longer true. Raw fur, too, before the imposition of the tax, is comparatively cheap in the United States at any time when the demand for any one type or quality of fur is at a low ebb in Canada. Dressed Canadian furs, however, on which the tax is at once levied, become instantly dutiable on crossing the American border. This duty at the present moment amounts to 23 per cent. This, added to the 25 per cent Canadian tax means, of course, an increase of 50 per cent in price, which is completely unnecessary when raw furs are allowed to flow freely from one market to the other. Therefore, it is easily seen that the furrier has ample reason for retaining his furs in a raw state as long as possible."

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