FARMERS' WEEK

Annual Meetings at Legion Hall

Charlottetown

February 21st. to 25th.

MONDAY — 21ST

7:30 P.M.—Annual Meeting Central Farmers' Institutes.

TUESDAY — 22ND

10.00 A.M.—Marketing Meeting.

The morning, afternoon and evening meetings on Tuesday will be devoted to problems of marketing. Mr. R. J. McSween, Director of Marketing, N. S. Department of Agriculture and Marketing, will be the special speaker at this meeting.

WEDNESDAY — 23RD.

9:30 A.M.—Opening Meeting P.E.I. Dairymen's Association.

1:30 P.M.—Dairymen's Association Members will divide into sections representing Butter, Cheese, and Fluid Milk, to discuss their individual problems.

7:30 P.M.—General meeting at which recommendations from afternoon meetings will be summarized.

THURSDAY — 24TH.

9:30 A.M.—Opening session P.E.I. Federation of Agriculture.

12:15 P.M.—Farmers' Week Dinner at Charlottetown Hotel.

2:30 P.M.—Meeting reconvenes at Legion Hall.

7:30 P.M.—Special open meeting to the general public. This will be a discussion on food prices as they affect both producers and consumers. Special speaker, Mr. Colin Groff, Secretary Canadian Federation of Agriculture.

FRIDAY — 25TH

9:00 A.M.—Annual Meeting Sheep Breeders' Ass'n. and Swine Breeders' Ass'n.

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TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH Silver Fox and Mink Farming

The report of the sale of silver fox and mutations held by the New York Auction Company recently, states 95 per cent of the offering was sold with interest sustained throughout and prices about 10 per cent higher than December levels for similar types. All kinds of skins were in demand, the darker type skins being sold chiefly for export. Mutation fox was 65 per cent sold with prices running firm with December levels. Platinums attracted more interest than white face and white marked. In the platinum classes best interest was shown in the choice qualities. The top price for these was $33.50 and white face and white marks brought a top price of $20.00.

Final figures of the Oslo, Norway, January fur sales have been released as follows: Silver Fox — 18,221 skins offered, 82 per cent sold, average price $28.60, top price $58. Blue Fox — 13,525 skins offered, 69 per cent sold, average price $21.00, top price $37.00. Platinums —1843. skins offered, 89 per cent sold, average $40.20, top price $102.00. Mink — ones and twos —8,586 skins offered, 87 per cent sold, average price $17.20, top price $38.00. The above prices realized by the Norwegian fox farmers were due to the fact that all pelts are handled by the government and sold on a barter basis. The prices are certainly startling as compared with those realized for Canadian and American foxes. The prime object of the Norwegian government must be to keep their fox farmers in the game on a money making basis, no doubt with the idea that eventually they will control the silver fox and mutation business of the world.

Lampson, Fraser & Huth's sale of mink last week showed steady demand for ranch skins. Of the 47,000 offered between 80 and 85 percent sold with prices described as firm in average compared with the previous auction. Section 1 — 23,777 skins, top $21.50 for extra dark and dark males; 80 per cent sold. Section 2—11,869 skins, top $25.20 for medium and pale Starlings; 80 per cent sold.

The Fur Trade Review, New York, in a recent issue strikes a note of optimism. Following is part of an article . . . "It is said that the fur market is generally the barometer of the whole economic situation and feels the first changes, first. The past season has been one of adjustment to what is considered the normal peacetime level of demand and monetary conditions. The fur market may not be the first industry to feel the revival of good business in the next season. The industry barometer feels the first good conditions as well as the first bad conditions.

Already manufacturers are looking forward with optimism to a good season ahead and are beginning to plan on the new season offerings. Designers are working on shorter coats which have so caught the public fancy this year. Capes and little furs will be given much of new styling and glamor plus comfort in wear for early spring showings and cruise and holiday wear. This may prove to be a season of luxurious long-haired furs because prices on this type of fur have been at an all-time low. Silver fox, Norwegian blue fox, skunk are all being wooed by fashion with new dyes and high styling. Already the street scene is seen well invaded by fox stoles, skunk stoles and jackets, fox capes, etc . . . and there is something about these furs that makes the eye rest with pleasure on them. We agree that there seems to be a revived interest in the long-haired furs — and 'that the eye rests with pleasure on them.'"

A course in diseases of fur animals has been added to the curriculum of the state college of Washington. This course will include discussions on bacterial, virus, nutritional and parasitic diseases of mink, fox and chinchilla. It will be given to the graduating seniors in veterinary medicine. The Ontario Veterinary College has been devoting considerable attention to training veterinaries in diseases of fox and mink but this is the first we have noticed where an American college has also added such instruction to the curriculum.

According to Frank G. Ashbrook, in charge of wild fur animal investigations branch, Washington, D. C., the supply of wild fur in the United States has shrunk an estimated 20 to 50 per cent. This shrinkage has occurred in the past ten to fifteen years and the finer fur animals have been reduced so low in numbers that commercial quantities are negligible and some species are in danger of extinction. The estimated catch of muskrat range from 18 to 20 million pelts, opossum up to 3 million pelts, skunk up to 2 1-2 million, raccoon 1 1-2 million, mink up to 800,000.

Incidentally the above depletion in wild furs which no doubt is similarly taking place in Canada but quantities offered to manufacturers show no diminution owing to the enormous quantities of wild furs brought in from Russia, China, Persia and other places It is these outside furs that are flooding the market and causing the low prices for many types that are prevailing today.

Retailers all over the United States complain of the government taxes which are slowing the sales of furs. People who would otherwise be purchasers of furs rebel at paying an extra tax either in the form of a processing or sales tax and until these taxes are removed both in Canada and the United States we cannot enjoy good times in the fur business.

The American National sale of silver fox held in Milwaukee attracted about sixty buyers from the United States and a few from Canada. The 36,500 mink pelts were about 81 per cent sold. Top price for standard dark mink was $19.25 and 81 per cent of 16,500 mutation mink was sold with a top price of $37.50 paid for pastels, Breath of Spring brought a top of $35.00 and the high for Silverblus or Platinums was $23.00; 5,000 silver fox including platinum and other colors was 88 per cent sold.

One of the highlights of this sale was the spirited bidding encountered when the three-quarter silvers were reached in the catalogue. They were 100 per cent sold. Several of the accounts bought for direct shipment to Europe. Platinums 86 per cent sold with a top of $31. Full silvers brought a high of $19. and were 85 per cent sold; white face silvers sold 80 per cent and white marked silvers 87 per cent. New York buyers stated they were very pleased with the sale and with the co-operation of the shippers with their auction. They estimated that prices for standard ranch mink had showed an increase of about 10 per cent from previous sales that mutations may have eased slightly and that silver fox were firm with current market levels.

- NEWSY NOTES -

By Agricola

evidently written for "seizin" or seisin, to put into possession of land by legal warrant. "Transport" is used in the sense of deporting a criminal beyond the sea; one never hears the word used in that sense now.

There ought to be a copy of Dr. Black's book in our own Library. Get together, brither Scots, and each contribute; then present the volume to the Public Library. Reference Dept.

In conclusion I thank Mr. MacQueen for his interesting letter.

The Long-eared Owl

"This is a middle-sized owl, not much larger than a crow, and is easily recognized by its long narrow ear-tufts set rather close together on its head. Its smaller size and different color pattern serve to distinguish it from the destructive Great Horned Owl. It is said to be one of the commoner owls of the U. S. A., and Moore's list of New Brunswick Birds (1928) states that is tolerably common as a summer resident, and breeds in that Province. It is given with little comment in the list of P. E. I. Birds (1916), but Francis Bain does not include it in either of his books. It is plain that we need more observers, to determine the status of this useful bird.

The Long-eared Owl is nocturnal in its habits, rarely moving about during the day unless disturbed, and even then loath to move. It roosts, in daytime, in the top of a tall tree, where, unluckily for itself, it is often spied by its tormentors, the crows. Its chief food consists of mice, varied occasionally by small birds and insects, especially the wood-boring beetles. The only harm, then, that can be charged against this species is the occasional killing of a small bird and this is far overbalanced by the good they do. They deserve all the protection we can give.

Long-eared Owl. AOU 366 Resident, not rare—1916. Adults smaller than the Great Horned Owl. Ear-tufts conspicuous, an inch or more in length, black, bordered white and buffy, towards the centre of the forehead. Facial disk rusty, bordered black. Eyes yellow. Upper parts brown, mottled black in a small pattern, base of feathers buff. Tail mottled and barred dark brown. Underparts whitish and buff; breast streaked brown; sides and belly irregularly barred with blackish. Length of adult, 14.5 inches.

The Surname MacIsaac

The following informative letter has been received from Mr. M. A. MacQueen, Winnipeg: —

"Since reading the interesting discussions on Scottish family surnames in The Guardian of January 15th, I went to the Public Library and there consulted the latest and recognized authority on Scottish surnames. It is

"The Surnames of Scotland, Their Origin, Meaning, and History, by George F. Black, Ph.D.

"This tome of over eight hundred pages was published by the New York Library in 1946. Dr. Black, himself a Scot, was head of the Scottish section of the Library for thirty-five years. The scope of this great work may be judged by the fact that for forty years the author worked on the MSS. The result is a monument to learning and industry.

"According to Dr. Black, fixed surnames or descriptive names appear to have commenced in France about the year 1,000, and that such names were introduced through the Normans into Scotland about one hundred years later.

"As one might expect many of these family names appear in Ecclesiastical and legal records and also in those of the nobility; witnesses to grants of land, etc. Few except the clergy and the nobles could write in those early days—and not all of the latter.

"Isaac. Under this heading Dr. Black points out that the name was not confined to the Jews. It was not uncommon among ecclesiastics in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. An Isaac was Prior of Scone from 1154 till 1162 and Magister Isaac was a cleric of St. Andrews 1201. Thomas Esak was Canon of a church of Argyll in 1448. Janet Isack was a witch in Kilwinning, 1662, and in 1671 a charge of usury was brought against Robert Isack in Kirkaldy. "A certain Squire named Thomas Isaac" married Matilda, daughter of King Robert Bruce. Under MacIsaac, Dr. Black has:—

MacIsaac, or Maclosdig, 'son of Isaac'. Gillandes MacYsac witnessed a Beauly charter of 1231. John MacYsaac, who witnessed a charter by Donald, Earl of Lennox, in or before 1364, may have been John Makysaac who witnessed a charter by Duncan, Earl of Lennox, 1395. Esaig M'Thome witnessed sasine of lands of Craginche to Archibald, Earl of Argyll, 1510. Murdoch McIsack to be transported to New England 1685. Ann Maclosaig in Ceannlagavat, South Uist, was one of the late Dr. Carmichael's reciters. McIsdick 1745, M'Isak 1676, Makesaig 1592, M'Iseik and M'Kiseck 1731. Under another heading is:—

"MacKessock, MacKessack, MacKissack, MacKissock, MacKissek. From Gaelic MacIosaig, 'Son of Isaac.' In 1476 the lands of Ardere in the barony of Glastray were resigned by Mariot, daughter of Molmoria M'Kesek, and Donald MaKessaeg recorded at Kilnun, 1496, is probably the Donald McEsdyg of 1511. John M'Intheir was convicted in 1623 for letting M'Keissik's bairnis (children) die for hunger in Breadalbane. (There was probably a famine). Marion MacKissock was resident in the Parish of Boyne 1684, Elspet M'Kissick in Bellclone 1688. Makesaig, 1592. Makkessake, 1596, McKisack, 1684.

"As you will notice, a chain of similarity runs through these names from the earliest days. It all proves that the life of the race is long compared with the transitory life of the individual.

"I think you will find the above of interest."

It is indeed interesting, and so comprehensive that one feels that nothing can be added. There are however one or two legal terms that need explanation. Sasine is

"The Lay of the Land"

A correspondent in the City writes:—"While reading yesterday I came across the expression "the lay of the land." John Buchan in his writings refers to the "lie of the land." The latter would appear to me to be the correct one—but I am not a grammarian. I think it would be interesting if you would give your opinion in Newsy Notes.—M.B.R."

While both "lay" and "lie" are in use in this phrase, "lie" is approved by the grammarians. My dictionary says "lay" is also in use, but classes its use as "vulgar." That is a reference to the language of the man in the street, from the Latin "vulgus" meaning the common people! and does not imply any special degree of reproach. There is a shyness which deprecates the use of "lie", and this because it is not Parliamentary language. An M. P. may accuse his opponent of "terminological inexactitude" but must not call him a liar. To "give the lie" to a man might cost your life in the old duelling days, so people avoided the word. Consequently they said "Lay down" to their dogs when they meant "lie down"; and "It's laying on the floor," instead of "lying on the floor." It will take a long time and much tuition to get this error corrected!

Another Famous Thorn

The Daily Mirror, English pictorial newspaper, says that hundreds of visitors went to St. Weonards, Herefordshire, to see if the hawthorn tree in farmer Powell's meadow, would bloom on Twelfth Night (Old Christmas Eve, January 5). At midnight they departed, satisfied: the tree was in bloom. A telephone operator from Hereford said, "Just at midnight I saw clusters of white bloom on the tree." But farmer Powell was peeved at the visitors' behavior, for they clambered about his tree, stripping off the bloom for souvenirs or to sell.

The local legend is that this tree sprouted from a piece of the Crown of Thorns, brought to England after the Crucifixion. However, Sir Geoffrey Evans, botanist at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, says "It is not unusual for hawthorns to bloom in December or January. The famous Glastonbury Thorn blooms at Christmas. I have not heard of farmer Powell's tree, but you will find that many of these stories are local legend. Although a tree might bloom on Twelfth Night one year, it may be a few days earlier or later the following year."

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E. J. MACDOUGALL,
Vernon, P. E. I.

Dorothy Dix Says—

(Continued from Page 2)

face the smile that won't come off. Then work. There is nothing like work to take you out of yourself and make you think of other things besides your loss.

DEAR DOROTHY DIX: I am a woman of 26 and hold a very fine position. My mother is simply crazy for me to get married and she simply harps upon the subject all the time. I have been going with a boy for a couple of years and I like and admire him very much, but I am definitely not in love with him. Yet Mother keeps pushing me into matrimony. The boy loves me, but do you think it would be fair for me to marry him under the circumstances?

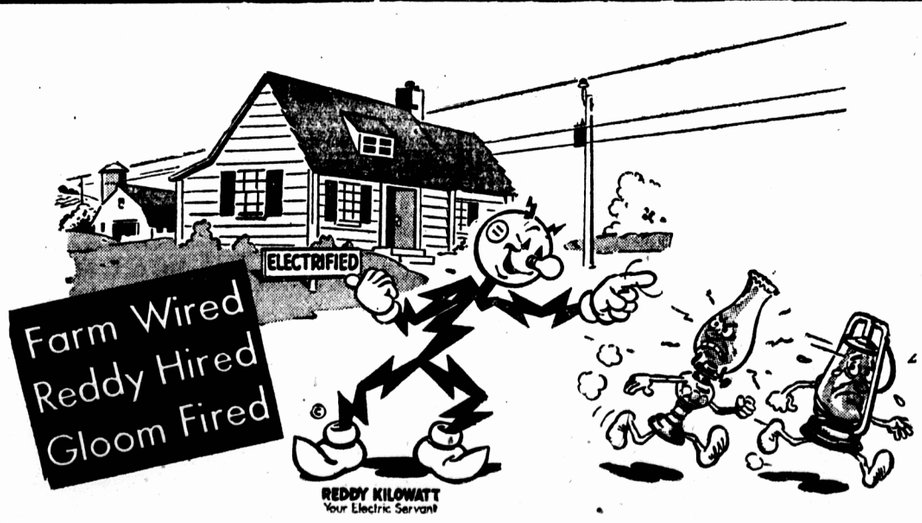
MARY T.

ANSWER: Certainly not. You would be miserable yourself and you would make the man miserable, and your marriage would almost assuredly end in divorce. Don't let your mother persuade you into marrying this man by telling you that you would fall in love with him after you are married. You would not. You would come to hate him and you would find marriage intolerable.

QUICKIES . **BY KEN REYNOLDS**

"We should have bought a house with a Guardian Want Ad, Alvin — with this one you'll be tinkering around trying to fix it up for the rest of your life!"

OUT OUR WAY By J. R. Williams



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