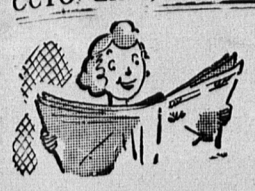

A Page for the MODERN FARMER

- NEWSY NOTES -

By AGRICOLA

RACKETEERING IN BRITAIN

In the Old Country as in every other, there are certain acquisitive persons who are eager to take advantage of the country's need of food. A few kinds of goods—foodstuffs principally—are "price-controlled" by the British parliament, and so far the speculators have not been able to find any way of defeating the law.

But there is an immense variety of foodstuffs, textiles, and other goods which are not price controlled; and these have been sold at exorbitant prices by the racketeers aforesaid. So many and so loud were the complaints against these speculators that in January 1940 seventeen Price Regulation Committees were set up to cover the seventeen Defence Regions of the British Isles; and these committees were given power to investigate complaints of over-charging and the like. It is instructive to glance over the list of personnel of the North Midland Region. It comprises: Sir Douglas McCraith, Solicitor (the chairman); two housewives, one of whom is a County Councillor; a Chartered Accountant; a Trades Union official; a manager of a boot store; a director of a drapery company; a doctor who is also a County Councillor; a secretary of a Cooperative Society and five other persons. The point that interests me is that all the men business men themselves are out to see that the public is not imposed upon.

There is evidence of this intention in the statement issued by the chairman, and in the way in which abuses have already been dealt with. In April 1940, after making close investigation of the subject, Sir Douglas stated: "Speculation is rampant. Goods are changing ownership many times, like stocks and shares without even leaving the warehouse; people who render no service in distribution are enriching themselves at the expense of the consumer; prices to the public have in consequence risen out of all reasonable proportion and contributed considerably to the increase in the cost of living, with inevitable discontent."

Generalizations of that kind do not make a direct appeal to one's sense of justice, so the committee follow up with specific instances. A manufacturer, it reports, sold cans of soup at 6s. 6d. a dozen, or in our money, 13 cents apiece. They reached the retail shopkeeper at 12s a dozen, and he sold them to the public at 14s. 6d a dozen, or 29c each. Between the manufacturer and the storekeeper came six (or seven) middle men who bought in succession and each sold at a slight advance. Middleman No. 3 actually bought again as middleman No. 6 Another importer sold tinned marmalade at 8 1-2d (17c) a tin. The retailer bought it at 2s. 9d a tin, and sold to the public at 3s. 6d (about 84cents). In between the importer and the consumer came three intermediaries who had forced the price up by just 67 cents! As these items did not come under the price-control acts there was nothing illegal about the transaction, for under the existing law there is nothing to stop one wholesaler from selling to another.

In view of this Sir Douglas suggested that the remedy was a simple one. Manufacturers must sell to wholesalers, who may only sell to retailers. If a wholesaler sells to another wholesaler he must be put out of business. Moderate suggestions indeed, in the circumstances But Lord Woolton the British Food Controller did not congratulate Sir Douglas on his report and the Under-Secretary for Food said, in the House of Commons that Sir Dougla's disclosures were "most improper." The Ministry of Food accused Sir Douglas of Falsehood, saying that the disclosures had been made by the Ministry and had afterwards been claimed by his committee. One is reminded, at this point, of the treatment handed out to the Hon. Mr. Stevens of the Price Spreads Commission fame; but from my latest readings Sir Douglas is sticking to his guns. The raison d'etre of any government is to protect its subjects; and it is no help to democracy when the ruling body falls down on its job in order to favor a special class.

GARDEN NOTES

There has been no "blossom-end rot" amongst the tomatoes this year, but there has been trouble in another direction. A kind of waterlogged condition has set in, in most of the fruit, which is quite hard where attacked. This condition spreads quickly and ruins the fruit market. Nevertheless the tomato crop has given more satisfaction than any other in the garden this year. They are however, about three weeks late in ripening. The wild "Riverbank Grapes," too, are ripening slowly, though there is a good crop. This is a cold bleak spot on the North Shore and being exposed to all northerly winds, plants must be pretty hardy to stand up to it.

The soybeans were flattered by the gale of Sept. 18th but are ripening at least 50 per cent of their seed. This is the worst year they have experienced here so far. There was a good article describing their value and uses in the Family Herald of Sept. 24th.

The wet weather of spring and summer was favorable to the increase of the slugs by which is meant a kind of shell-less snail very destructive to plants. These animals feed on the green tissue of leaves which they strip off, leaving only the network of "veins". The navy beans suffered most, though plants were attacked. Owners of rock gardens ought to examine the underside of low-growing matted plants and kill off any slugs found If one doesn't mind the look of it, a few short pieces of old damp board laid on the soil will attract the slugs to shelter underneath. Then examine each morning and eliminate the culprits!

Having a considerable quantity of green tomatoes, but no pumpkins I decded to fill part of the sealers with Green Tomato Marmalade. Here is the recipe and it is good. Green Tomatos 6 lbs; Appls 2 lbs; two oranges and one Lemon. Cut all up fine, place in cooking pot, add 6 lbs white sugar and allow to stand overnight. In the morning cook very slowly for 4 hours or until thick and jelly-like. Bottle and seal. A simple recipe, but the Marmalade is voted excelent by all who've sampled it.

The Broad Beans are cut and made into sheaves for ripening. The quality of the seed is going to be good. I had a note about these beans a few weeks ago, which I hope readers have preserved

A visitor who knows a great deal about gardening, seeing my line of Kohl Rabi said to me: "I wonder why the people of this Province don't take to that vegetable." It is strange, for in Europe it is looked upon as one of the aristocoats of the dinner table. It tastes like cauliflower, and is twice as easy to grow. But if allowed to grow too large it becomes woody and that may have led to its rejection. I use the "roots" when about two inches in diameter, and sometimes pare the woody bark off the basal part. The "roots," looking like little green apples are then boiled till tender.

Pumpkins are scarce up here but vegetable Marrows are not, so I tried to find out if they lent themselves to making perserve to take the place of "pumpkin jam." They were diced, sugar was added, and the whole left all night in a warm place. Next morning essence of lemon, and ground ginger was added, "to taste". Then the mixture was cooked till it thickened. It came out just like pumpkin preserve, only rather paler in color. I used three lbs, white sugar to four lbs marrow. It would seem that the Marrow is hardier than the Pumpkin, and if spared I hope to grow marrows next year.

NOTES ON THE JUNIPERS

Our good Minister of Agriculture, Hon. W. H. Dennis, who is always on the look-out for something to benefit the farmer or his family, has lately drawn attention to what may prove a new industry in certain localities. Mr. Dennis has been in correspondence with a manufacturng firm in N. Y., who are offering 30 cents a pound for Juniper berries. Their need must be great for last year's wholesale price was very litle more than that; and stocks must be low since all European supplies are cut off.

Going back almost to the beginning of the "Notes on Island Plants" I find the Junipers alluded to thus: "We have at least two species of Juniper, the last of our Pinaceae, and we must be careful to distinguish them, since the popular lore gives the name "Juniper" to what is really a very different plant, the Larch. The Juniper, however, is a prostrate evergreen shrub, bearing, not cones, but bluish-black berries, with a bloom and a resinous taste. This berry in spite of its turpentine taste,i was eaten by the Indians. perhaps for its diuretic properties. The Juniper berries used in the manufacture of Hollands gin, are gathered and sent to that country from Germany and Italy."

The "New Flora of Prince Edward Island" tells us the names of the two species. The one is the Alpine Juniper **(Juniperus communis L., var montana Ait.)** The other is the Savin **(J. horizontalis Moench).** There may be other species or varieties, for no really systematic research has been carried out in this genus. I am told that these plants are to be found in abundance on Rustico ("Robinson's") Island, now part of the National Park.

I should not class the Juniper as rare, but think it may be abundant only in certain favored localities. It seems to prefer dry exposed hillsides.

WHY THE BEST?

"Why is it," said one of the company, "that the English always want the best? Take the bacon now; they call for the best, when there must be thousands who cannot afford to pay the price."—"well," said I, to banter him, "perhaps they have heard of the old theory "We are what we eat." (I must tell you of that some day I said.' "But seriously, I think that they are only wanting to set up a certain standard, fair to both sides. and both parties to stick to it Did you know that well on to a century ago there was a large export of oats to the Old Country? It might have lasted longer but some ingenious persons helped the oats out by enclosing rocks in the sacks. The orders soon ceased. But you are right in supposing that there are many who cannot pay the price demanded, which for bacon, is said to be 7¢ cents per lb. I priced sliced bacon when I was last in town and it was 41 cents per lb. (I didn't buy any.)

But in the happy days when bacon ran one shilling to one and fourpence per lb (25-32 cents), Sir Thomas Lipton ran several stores in Newcastle on Tyne. He was the Tea Man, you will remember, but he added butter and bacon to his stock-in-trade. His stores had a custom which was of great interest to the poorer folk. Suppose you went in for a couple of pounds of bacon, the shopman took a big knife and sliced away till he thought he had enough. Then he put it on the scale and if he had cut a couple of ounces too much he cut that off and threw it into the "Bacon-end Box." As Lipton did an immense trade, these snippets amounted to a considerable quantity by Saturday night when they were retailed, late on, to the poorer people, at the low price of 6 1-2d (or 13 cents) per lb.

There were no expensive slicing machines then, and the sides of bacon were rolled into cylinders and tied with thick twine. I think this fashion has died out: at any rate I've not seen any bacon like that lately. The Bacon-end Box, they tell me, is still to be found in some towns in the U. S., and maybe in Britain too. It is a good institution and answers one of your questions about the people who cannot pay the price for the best."

A FRAGRANT PAEONIA

Some time ago Mr. L. H. Brehaut, of Murray River P. E. I., sent me some blooms of a fragrant peony which he had originated, and which, in accordance with custom, he had named after one of the family "Beth Brehaut." The bloom was intense deep crimson, of good shape, and highly perfumed. Many plants, though fragrant, require one to be close at hand to enjoy it: very few plants" waste their sweetness" to any distance. The Beth Brehaut Peony is one of these few; and I have a very distinct recollection of the delicious rose like scent passing from one room to the other when the door was opened. I also recollect telling Mr. Brehaut that he ought to multiply his plant and put it on the market. He has attended to the first advice I know, since he has sent me a root-cutting along with his good wishes; for which I tender him my best thanks. I hope Mr Brehaut is now able to put the peony on the market: it is a later type than the crimson peony so often seen, and so extends the peony season—a feature which will be appreciated by all gardeners.

- CONSERVATION -

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

THE CONTROL OF SKUNKS

(By Dorr D. Green and Ernest M. Mills, Biologists, Division of predator and Rodent Control.)

The striped skunk (genus Mephitis), which is widely distributed over the United States, and the smaller spotted skunk (genus Spilogale), the range of which is restricted largely to the more southern part of the country, are both members of the weasel family and hence have habits that are similar.

Skunks are mostly beneficial to man. They feed on insects and grubs to a large extent and are excellent mousers. In the cooler parts of their range their economic value alone as producers of fine fur entitles them to a large measure of protection. Occasionally, however, when they take up their abode too near human habitations or when they develop a taste for poultry, it becomes necessary to remove one or more of them. Such individuals can be disposed of without waging a general war on all skunks

HABITS OF SKUNKS

Skunks are chiefly nocturnal, coming out at night to seek their food, which consists of grubs, insects, small rodents, carrion, and such plant material as soft fruits, berries, unripened corn, and mushrooms. They may at times take birds' eggs and fledglings, but since they can not climb well, their depredations are restricted to nests situated on or close to the ground. Despite their short legs, skunks may travel considerable distances in their nightly forays after food.

Their strong plantigrade feet are equipped with claws well adapted for digging in soft soils in which their burrows are sometimes made. Generally, rather than dig an entirely new den, skunks choose a convenient hole and enlarge it. Frequently a cavity in a rock pile serves as a den. Often skunks take up their abode under the floor of a summer cottage, farmhouse, or outbuilding, where their presence may be a matter of concern and unpleasantness to the owner

NUISANCE AND DAMAGE

Where skunks are numerous, rural and suburban dwellers sometimes find them a nuisance. One of the chief causes of complaint against them is their tendency to den under the floors of houses, outhouses, garages, and other buildings and in other places near human habitations. Frequently a den is occupied by a number of skunks, and the penetrating, nauseous odor emanating from such a place is then highly obnoxious.

The charge is often made that skunks kill poultry and destroy eggs. As already mentioned, however, skunks are not good climbers and therefore are limited to poultry that roost on or near the ground and to eggs in nests situated near the ground. A skunk usually takes but a single bird at a time but once it forms the habit, it may return to the poultry yard time after time. Such a guilty individual should be disposed of. Upon investigation, however, it will frequently be found that the real culprits are weasels or minks, or even rats, all of which are adept climbers and kill far more ruthlessly.

Their fondness for insects causes skunks to make depredations upon beehives and beekeepers complain that the juicy larvae as well as the adults are devoured.

Skunks occasionally dig holes in lawns and grassy meadows to which they are attracted by heavy infestations of cutworms and other grubs. As such areas are thus made rough and unsightly the property owners object, but it is probable that the skunks are really rendering them a valuable service in ridding the ground of the injurious insests.

Dogs seldom can resist the temptation to investigate the trail of a skunk, but an encounter usually ends disastrously for the dog, it becoming well scented.

SIGNS OF THE PRESENCE OF SKUNKS

Shallow pits 1 or 2 inches deep and 3 or 4 inches across indicate the presence of skunks. These pits are particularly conspicuous late in fall when frosts have laid the vegetation low. Droppings of skunks, which are usually distinguishable from those of most other animals of simular size because they consist largely of chitinous insect coverings and the undigested seeds of berries, are found along trails and near denning places. Inhabited burrows are readily discernible; they are free of spider webs and often emit the distinctive skunk odor. A burrow that is in use shows evidence of the rubbing of the animal's body against the entrance as it passes in and out. Skunk hairs left clinging to small roots or other projections and tracks of the animal along trails and in the soft soil around burrows may also frequently be seen..

PREVENTIVE CONTROL

Because of their value, rather than to destroy skunks needlessly, they should be prevented from establishing themselves in places where they will become a nuisance. If they are numerous, it is well to seal all openings in the foundations of garages, porches and outbuildings through which any small mammal might enter. Skunks are not efficient burrowers; hence they can often be discouraged from denning and driven away by making den sites difficult to find.

When skunks are found under buildings, they can usually be driven away with the use of repellents. Naphthalene flakes or moth balls are sometimes satisfactory for this purpose. About a pound of the flakes or of the moth balls should be placed in the den and scattered about it. Household ammonia also is suggested as a repellent, but the quantity required is too great and it does not last long. After the skunks have departed, all openings through which the animals can gain entrance should be closed with some suitable material, as cement, boards, or wire netting.

Skunks damaging lawns can be indirectly controlled by ridding the lawns of grubs and other insects.

PROTECTIVE LAWS

Most States now protect skunks by law during the greater part of the year but usually permit an open season in fall. If, however, skunks prove to be detrimental or injurious to property, the owner or occupant can usually obtain a permit from the State to control them. Persons wishing to take skunks should familiarize themselves with local and State ordiances information concerning which may be obtained from game wardens or from officials of the State game department, the office of which is usually in the State capital.

Prairies enjoy Bigger cash income

OTTAWA, Oct. 2—(CP) —Cash income of prairie farmers during the 1940-41 crop year ended last July 31 was the best in more than a decade, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics said today.

The report said receipts during the present crop year will be influenced by sharp reduction in marketings of the 1941 wheat crop, but this would be "partially offset" by further expansion in livestock production, coupled with higher prices.

Cash income from sale of farm products on the prairies for the 1940-41 crop year was $410,222,000 the largest since 1929-30 and 10.9 per cent above that of 1939-40.

Compared with the average of the five years 1935-36 to 1939-40, when drought often affected crop production, the 1940-41 cash income figure was 43.3 per cent higher, the bureau said.

Use Minard's for sprains.

Weekly Live Stock Market Report

SUMMARY

With the third quarterly quota on heavy Canadian cattle eligible to enter the United States at the reduced rate of duty approaching fulfillment, export buyers were exceedingly cautious during the past week. The effect was immediately noticeable on weighty steers, cows and bulls, the classes ordinarily in demand for shipment south. From information available it would appear that approximately 47,000 cattle crossed the border from July 1st to September 18th out of an eligible quota of 51,720 head. Butcher cattle for the domestic trade, as well as stockers and feeders, continued in fairly good demand and held their previous prices Calves were steady at most markets except for some easiness in the west. Hogs held unchanged but lambs were again seasonally lower.

Eastern Cattle Markets

Weighty steers declined 25c and bulls 50c at TORONTO but killing classes held steady. The range on weighty steers was $8 to $9.50 and butchers $7.50 to $9, with a few $9.25. The lower grades weakened around 25c at MONTREAL, where good steers sold from $9 to $10.25 and butcher cows from $4.50 to $7.25. The MARITIME market continued to experience a lack of good quality cattle but prices held steady, with good to choice steers at $9 to $9.75.

Western Cattle Markets

Trade was not too active at WINNIPEG and most killing cattle were under pressure. Most of the slaughter steers sold at $8.50 down, with relatively few good enough to bring up to $9. Good stocker cattle continued in demand at $7 to $8. CALGARY was fairly active on a light run, although here, as elsewhere throughout the west the quality of the offering was no better than medium. Good butcher steers sold at $8.50 to $9. EDMONTON had a practical top of $9 on handy weight steers, while the best price paid at PRINCE ALBERT was $8, MOOSE JAW and REGINA $8.50. SASKATOON $8.75 and VANCOUVER $9.50.

United States Market

There were no Canadian cattle sold on the Buffalo market during the week and the latest quotations from St. Paul were $7.75 to $8.75 on on medium to good Canadian bulls and $11 to $14 on good to choice calves.

The latest information available from the United States Treasury Department shows importations of heavy Canadian cattle from July 1st to September 6th, under the third quarterly quota, totalling 40,107 head. Since hat time, 6,900 head have been eported, making a total of approximately 47,000 to move south in this quarter.

Exports during the past week included 2,097 beef cattle, 525 dairy and 1,079 calves. There were also 157 beef cattle shipped in bonds to be cleared through customs in the fourth quarter. Total exports to date this year, with corresponding figures for 1940 in brackets, were: beef cattle 101,957 (85,412); dairy 13,927 (10,342); calves 55,524 (62564) hogs 34,032 (180).

Calves Steady to Easier

Calf prices held steady in the east with Toronto paying $12.50 to $13 for choice veals and an odd $13.50 and Montreal $9 to $13 Prices in the west, however, in some instances, took on an easier trend. Winnipeg reported top veals at $10 to $11, while the high at Calgary Edmonton, Regina and Vancouver was $10, Prince Albert $9, Moose Jaw $9.50 and Saskatoon $10.50.

Hog Prices Continue Steady

The only change in the hog market was a slightly firmer tendency in Alberta. Toronto remained on a basis of $14.65 for grade B-1 hogs dressed, Montreal $14.75, with odd sales $14.85. Winnipeg $13.50 to $13.60 but Calgary finished strong at $13.35 to $13.45 and Edmonton, likewise, was firmer at $13.25 to $13.60. Prince Albert paid $13 to $13.35 for the basic grade. Moose Jaw $13.05 to $13.30, Regina $13.05 to $13.20, Saskatoon $13 to $13.15 and Vancouver $14.10 to $14.35.

Lambs in Further Decline

Lamb prices took another dip. Toronto was down 50c selling good ewes and wethers at $10.50 and Montreal closed lower with sales at $11. Winnipeg held fairly well in line with the previous week, with good lambs at $9 to $9.25, Calgary paid $9.25 to $9.50 with tops to $9.75 and the high at Edmonton was $9.25, Prince Albert $8.50 Moose Jaw $8.60, Saskatoon $8.75 Regina $9.50 and Vancouver $11.25

THE WOOL MARKET

An important announcement affecting the sale of graded wool in Canada comes from the wool administrator's office to the effect that applciations to export domestic wools of 58s quality and finer will be considered. Authority to export wool may be granted under licence issued by the wool administrator and is contingent upon the issuing of an Export Certificate for graded unwashed fleece wool by the Marketing Service.

Several carloads of fine medium combing wool have already been exported under licence and it is understood that considerable quantities of the finer grades are being offered for sale in the United States.

There is little change in quotations for Canadian wool, although the general market outlook appears to have broadened out somewhat during the week and there is some talk of Canadian woollen manufacturers nearing the point where they will be starting to absorb quantities of Canadian graded wool

Quotations for Choice Quality to manufacturers are as follows: Western Range Fine 28c to 30c; Fine Medium 26c to 30c; Medium Staple 27c to 30c; Low Medium Staple 26c to 31c. Average quality is quoted fully 1c per pound lower and about on a par with Western Domestic Bright. Eastern Domestic Wool appears to be more in demand and sales to date have reached a fairly large volume with quotations as follows: Medium Staple (Ontario) 28c to 29c; Low Medium Staple (Ontario) 28c to 30c; Low Staple 29 to 30c Coarse 27c to 29c; Seedy 15c to 17c; Black 19c to 20c; Cotts 17c to 18c.

TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH Silver Fox Farming

The Fredericton, New Brunswick, Fur Farming Club held a Field Day recently which was organized by F. George MacLeod, Provincial Fox Fieldman. It took the form of a tour of a number of ranches at which various objects of interest were displayed to the visitors. In addition to the members of the Fredericton Club a number of invitations were sent to other fox ranchers in various parts of the Province and to mink breeders to join the group and share in the benefits of the Field Day.

The first stop was at Fowler Brothers ranch at Welsford. This ranch is under the supervision of Mr. Bert Fowler and is a model for location, cleanliness and convenience for working. Situated on a sandy site hill it is sheltered on two sides by huge pine trees and is without doubt one of New Brunswick's most attractive ranches.

The next stop was at Truman Copp's, Rothsay, Mr Copp is President of the New Brunswick Fur Farmers Association and he has been experimenting with some of the new types of foxes for several years so was able to show his guests a very varied and attractive display of white-face platinum silvers and pearl platinum foxes, as well as standard silvers. Mr. Copp was in a very happy mood and gave a great deal of information and answered many questions regarding his ranching operations.

As noon had arrived the party proceeded to Black River where lunch was enjoyed on Black River beach. Following this happy repast the ranch of Fox Fieldman George MacLeod was visited and a number of pups checked for weight and development. The use of wire bottom outside breeding pens was illustrated. This ranch is using a home cooked cereal and the preparation of this and the results obtained from it were most interesting to those present.

The next call was at E. O. Miller's, St. Martine. Mr. Miller had a very nice group of silvers to show his visitors and he also took the opportunity of exhibiting improvements in ranch and sheds that he had made. Chief among these was the remodelling of an old type of shed from which the board floors had been torn out and replaced with wire, and other changes made to promote ventilation and cleanliness.

Leaving Mr. Miller's the group proceeded to Sussex where the ranch of Dr. A. B. Teakles provided some very beautiful and varied types of foxse for inspection. Everyone was at home here, being made so by the genial proprietor and his wife, and the white-faces, crosses, platinum silvers and Arctic blues were certainly attractive and of great interest.

Dr. C. K. Gunn of the Experimental ranch, Summerside, and Ken Taylor, Halifax, met the party here and Dr. Gunn gave a very interesting address on feeding methods, parasite and disease control. Before dispersing business matters in connection with the forthcoming New Brunswick live fox show were discussed and short talks given by Mr. C. F. Bailey and T. K. Copp

Attached to the notes sent by Mr. MacLeod were snaps of the gathering which show them to be very fine type people as one would naturally expect, and the gathering is quite large. There is a more than ordinarily good snap of a group of foxes displayed to the visitors by Dr. Teakles. All four foxes have complete ringnecks, are very large foxes and apparently quite well along in fur. Thanks, Mr. MacLeod, for your thoughtfullness in sending the above notes, which I am sure our readers will be interested in.

In the Fur Trade Journal of Canada for September appears a very interesting letter from England on fox raising over there. These are extracts...."We kept 20 vixens and six males and we raised 53 pups up to now (July)...Our worst problem is cubs dying up to about the third day after birth, vixens having hardened milk glands as a rule. I feel now that many cubs never get really started suckling at a vixen, especially if she is a cub herself with small teats.

Cutting down the food before and after whelping seems to make no difference in many cases. If I have another breeding season I shall certainly see that every litter is started suckling on the first day. In my experience planes, flares, searchlights, etc., have no great effect on the foxes. These are about a quarter of a mile away from our ranch. I think a stranger intering their pens would distract them more. We can still get horse meat, but cereals are scarce and are only sold to those having the necessary coupons.

Pelt prices at the end of last season were good, owing to the scarcity, and we averaged £9 and £10—$45 to $50 in your money. My man, who has been here five years, was called up the other day and I shall probably go the same way myself in a few weeks Labor is a problem. I have been building a herd for over eight years now and it goes against the grain to pelt them all, so I shall hope to be able to carry on a small stock for next season if at all possible."

In the mail last evening we had a letter from Roland McG. Tuplin dated from Washington, Pa., in which occurs the following..."We were away just seven weeks and never had such a fine time in our lives. The times spent on the Island we enjoyed especially at it is home to me and Mrs. Tuplin had the opportunity of meeting all my old friends. Everyone was grand to us and it is a wonderful feeling to get back 'home' and have everyone make you feel like you were welcome." We are sure Roland's friends were just as happy to see him and Mrs. Tuplin as they were to be with us and I am sure everyone will look forward to another visit next season.

Frank G. Ashbrook, well known United States authority who is in charge of fur research for the United States Department of Interior, in a recent address said the following..."Silver fox is still considered a beautiful fur and when it comes to real silvery beauty this year's crop of pelts produced in the United States and Canada surpasses all others. Those who are in a position to know express the opinion that silver fox will remain a highly profitable article for retail promotion because it is still a most popular fur. It is plentiful, it is reasonable in price. It is as beautiful as ever and the most flattering fur in existence, so next fall and winter in New York and other cities throughout the land many thousands of women will wish to wear it.

Our country, and more particularly New York, is offering the retail distributors the furs of the world. Never has the fur trade had such a variety of furs to work with. They have come from all parts of the world and in larger quantities as long as the United States still remains the only free fur market in the world for furs.

The coming season furs produced on farms in the United States will be in greater competition with those from foreign countries than ever before. It would not greatly surprise many of us if skins from Sweden and Finland arrive in New York next winter, so our farmers can expect competition that may curtail a rise in price on farm raised furs. I realize there will be an increase in consumer demand because of increased employment and there will be a considerable quantity of easy money in possession of the workers. On the other hand, however, we will have a large supply of furs and a reasonable price level must prevail so consumer resistence is not encountered."

Since Mr. Ashbrook gave the above address of which our quotation is but a part, the United States government has put a tax of 10% on many commodities including furs. This has been added to the retail price of the article which means that a $100.00 silver fox scarf will retail at $110.00, the 10% tax going to Uncle Sam's treasury.

At a meeting of the International Relations Committee of the Mink Breeders' Association held in the United States, among the subjects discussed was the limitation of import of low grade mink from Canada and the United States. Introduction of uniform descriptive grading system. Importance of orderly marketing as opposed to

(Continued on page 11, col. 7)

BRIGHT PROSPECTS

Fur experts predict marked increases in the price of furs.

Now is the time to look after your foxes for worms and fleas.

We carry a complete line.

Nema Caps 75c to $1.00
French $1.00

Pulvex Flea Powder all sizes.

Ear Mite Lotion, the best procurable.

FOLEY'S
DRUG STORE
S'side Phone 37.

"Pretty warm weather we're having, sir!"

BRINGING UP FATHER By George McManus