

# MODERN FARMER



## TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH Silver Fox and Mink Farming

Mr. Patrick Ashley Cooper, Governor of the Hudson's Bay Company, arrived in New York last week aboard the S. S. Queen Elizabeth. After a brief stay there which included a course of a visit to Lampson, Fraser & Huth, Inc., in which the H. B. Co. owns the controlling interest, he will leave for Montreal and finally to Western Canada where he will visit stores and posts. Interviewed, he said there was a continued and steady demand for furs and there will be no catastrophic drop in prices.

"As you know," said Sir Patrick, "there was a drop in fur prices in October and one around the first of the year. I believe that while prices may be a little high yet, the demand is strong enough to support prices at their present levels."

He said that shipment of furs to the United States was on the increase through their subsidiary, Lampson, Fraser & Huth, Inc., but that the biggest upswing was in shipments to England. "Since we became our first auction in England since the war during February, 1946, we have consistently increased our shipments."

**Retail Sales Going Well**

Sir Patrick said that sales were doing well through their big stores and the smaller outlets which he called the "interior chain," and that the wholesale business was increasing at a good rate. He took pride in the fact that the Hudson's Bay Co. was the oldest company in the world. Pointing out that it was founded in 1870, he said that it was chartered by King Charles I in that year with the cousin of the king, Prince Rupert, serving as the first governor. He said that the second governor was the Duke of York who afterward became King James II. Another governor was John Churchill, an ancestor of Winston Churchill.

He said that the firm's holdings in Canada were now 700,000 acres out of a former 7 million acres, and that this land had been given to the company in exchange for relinquishing its monopoly when Canada became a dominion in 1870. Sir Patrick is the 30th governor of Hudson's Bay Co. and has served 16 years in that post.

The chinchilla breeders are certainly not lacking in assiduity and confidence for they have organized a National Chinchilla Breeders' Association of Canada with a president, vice president, secretary and treasurer. It is really wonderful the way interest in chinchilla breeding has kept up notwithstanding the fact that the chinchilla pelts have not established a reasonable price on any markets that we are aware of. We presume it is the remoteness of the little animals and the romantic story of their furs having once brought fabulous prices. As our readers know, their habitat was the high plains of the Andes in Chile and Peru where they were tree dwellers. Trappers made them almost extinct and it was only by rescuing a certain number of more or less true or related species and bringing them to the United States where they were developed on chinchilla farms that they are numerous today. Now promotion of chinchilla ranches is being carried on similar to silver fox ranch promotion in the 1920's. For instance at Pontiac, Michigan, a new farm, the Michigan Chinchilla Ranch, Inc., has incorporated at a capitalization of \$100,000 with 1,500 shares of common stock issued. The object is to raise chinchilla.

\$100,000 worth of furs principally Mouton (proccessed lamb skins) were shipped to the American market last week. French merchants were the purchasers and it is understood that there is a market for this new type of imitation fur there.

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## Ruptures & Ridglings In Hogs

(R. P. Forshaw, assistant professor of animal husbandry, University of Saskatchewan, in The Country Guide.)

There are perhaps as many separate factors to be considered in hog raising as in any other branch of farming. While carried on mostly by the general or mixed farms in the Dominion, hog production is a relatively highly specialized business requiring the application of many skills if the project is to be successful. Looked at in one way, hog production consists in reducing to a minimum the many losses which can and do occur. The extent to which losses influence profit is not generally appreciated, and among the most important losses which may be listed are those due to the following: 1. Sows and gilts failing to breed; 2. low prolificacy; 3. deaths during farrowing and nursing; 4. poor growth during the feeding period; 5. disease, and 6. hereditary unsoundness such as ruptures and ridglings.

Rupture of hernia is the protrusion of part of the intestines or any other organ through an opening of the body wall. The opening through which the internal organs pass is called the hernial ring. A hernia is usually named according to the part of the body in which it is located. There are four types of hernia in swine: 1 and 2, inguinal and scrotal which are closely related, in which the intestine descends down the inguinal canal; 3, ventral in which the hernial ring is located in the lower part of the abdomen; and 4, umbilical or navel, in which the umbilical or navel opening is the hernial ring. Aside from being a condition which should not be present in our breeding stock, ruptured pigs in a herd present a problem at the time of castration. Special techniques are necessary to perform the operation properly. In many cases herniated pigs are destroyed when young, resulting in a definite loss. Others are allowed to go uncastrated on the herd.

dominant recessive combinations you want, knowing beforehand the cost of perfecting a new breed."

In Mr. King's list of breeds we notice Royal Pastel, Aleutian Blue, Imperial Platinum — also called Silverblue — Silverblue also called Platinum and Silverblue Platinum — Golden Cross — also called Green-Eyed Pastel, Jones Pastel, Golden Sable, Green-Eyed Sable, Arctic Snow White — also called Snow White, Royal White, Arctic and Winter White; Steebill — also called Gunmetal; Recessive Bluefoot — also called Bluefoot, Wicket Bluefoot. The above are recessives. In the dominant types we find Bluefoot; Royal Kohinar; Kohinar; Ebonyblue; Blackout; Orchid from Dominant-Recessive Blend; we have Breath of Spring Pastel; Breath of Spring Silverblue; Arctic Blue; Platinum Blue; Pastel Kohinar; Bluecross.

The above are just a few types which also carry quite a number of other appellations and the full list of all types and combinations reach in the hundreds. Anyone who is going into milk breeding exclusively or with a view to producing high quality new types should get the latest information and thoroughly familiarize themselves with the breeding strains and combinations. Milk breeding is destined for a great future but it is an occupation that demands a great deal of intelligence, a lot of stud, very considerable capital, equipment and training in the breeding of milk or the hiring of someone who understands them. They are subject, we believe, to more diseases, particularly dietary troubles, than any other type of swine, and the right method of feeding and caring for, but there is success awaiting that person.

carelessness by camp fire enthusiasts and in the above pictures two experienced guides are seen applying some of the do's and don'ts in making a camp fire.

(1) — A good open spot near water should be selected, thoroughly cleared of brush and soaked well before fire is built. Make a circle of rocks for the fire bed and, when possible, use dry pine. It splits easily into kindling and doesn't throw off sparks. Don't use dry hemlock, cedar or balsam.

(2) — A long pole dug into the ground at a sharp angle and supported by a vertical crotch makes an excellent and sturdy "tea-pole." The pole of tea can be slid down the pole and poured minus any burned fingers.

(3) — Most important step of all is thoroughly extinguishing fire by splashing area with plenty of water. The soil underneath should be scraped to make sure there are no burning embers left.

With last year's forest fire damage and firefighting costs in Canada totalling \$2,722,652 and more than a million acres of forest ruined by fire, the various provincial and Forestry Departments are doing everything in their power this year to eliminate such waste and destruction during the drier months of July, August and September, when dry woodlands and heavy winds create serious fire threats. Most fires are caused by

## - NEWSY NOTES -

By Agricola

### NOTES ON COUGH GRASS

This grass is known by many names in Britain: "Scutch," "Twitch" or "Quitch-grass" and in the North, "Whickens" or "Quickens." All derivatives from the Anglo-Saxon word "civic," meaning "quick" (as opposed to dead) for vitality is the plant's prominent characteristic. "Cough" the name by which it is now known, is a meaningless refinement of the previous names.

And towards the end of the nineteenth century juvenile crime did diminish! There was a general improvement in the standard of living, a police technique, and in methods of punishment, and the morality was very strict; and elementary education spread to wider classes. Rich and poor believed in corporal punishment, and the tendency was for the parent to punish the child.

So, for over a century humanitarian legislation has been dealing with this question and the great "Children's Act" of 1908, and 1933, are monuments to its progress. Today, no one under 19 years of age can be executed, no one under 14 can be sent to prison; experiments in reclamation are widespread and reformatories, approved schools, and the probation scheme, have been set up. Juvenile court proceedings are conducted in privacy, corporal punishment has been progressively abandoned, and every effort was made to prevent young people ever becoming criminals, and to direct them on the right path. This policy had its sweetest success-period between 1890 and 1910. Since then there has been a steady decline, and the present position, says Professor Keeton, is catastrophic, with very real cause for alarm.

He goes on: "It is not a question merely of a sort of minor crime, i.e. petty thefts, but there is organized criminality, involving the most serious crimes — murder, robbery, burglary, rape — with violence and illegitimacy. One child in four is illegitimate, and a startling number are born to girls of sixteen and under. There are many juvenile 'habitual offenders.' Maziou's families are laughed at, and fleecing is a sign of toughness. Approved schools do not in many cases prevent reversion to criminal habits and probation is a technique to be mastered. What are the causes of this state of affairs and what is the cure?"

Some of the factors are temporary. Parents were absent on war work, the blackout offered opportunities for escaping the penalties for crime; the war upset youthful as well as adult balance, and overplentiful pocket-money, through high wages, showed a more exciting way of life to juveniles. There are, however, other, more constant, factors — the changed conception of modern family relationships, the modern trend to belittle all authority, and the modern craze of psychologists to encourage "expression of personality" and "undamaged juvenile egos." Then, too, smaller families probably produce more pampered and spoiled children. Also the religious factor has virtually disappeared. "We (British) are no longer a church-going nation. The Sunday School is virtually extinct, and so are fears of eternal damnation and hell fire. Morals are relative — there are no longer any absolutes."

Another reason for these deplorable conditions is that young people are offered many more distractions than in Victorian days, and they all need money — "pin-tables," dog-races, football pools, dance halls. These particularly affect the "fifteen to eighteen" and when the school age is extended, there will be a longer wageless period, with of course a distinctly unsocial reaction. All the above factors point to a society in a state of disintegration. No doubt accounts of warfare, and of atrocities, have had some share in making juveniles "tough," since they are exceedingly imitative. They are likewise more sensitive to social change than older people.

Adult society is out to "get something for nothing" and revolts against authority in any form. Juvenile society is a reflection and an exaggeration of adult society, and a reform of the latter would go far to reforming the juvenile criminals for their imitateness would come into play and discipline would be more effective in juvenile delinquency, adults are in juvenile delinquency, adults are

looking in a mirror and are seeing their own reflections unpleasantly distorted. "We must make up our minds whether we are worth believing in and fighting for and when we do this our children will imitate us. Instead today, they imitate us in believing nothing, in treating property as available for the strongest and in practicing living for pleasure, thinking only of today. Nothing of value can be built on these flimsy foundations and it is therefore not surprising that children have presented us with a problem which is insoluble by conventional methods of treatment."

Such is the gist of Prof. Keeton's writings, but further comment will be made in next issue.

**The Scap Ducks**

The Scap Ducks or Bluebills are generally called as migrants on the Atlantic coast, and are mentioned in the 1916 list as having been taken for shot here. I have heard nothing of them in the last 30 years, for few gunners keep records. The Scaps obtain their food by diving into mussel-beds or clam-flats, and by capturing sardine-like fish. We have two species of these birds:

American Scap Duck, Bluebill, A.O.U. 148. Rare, spring and fall. Bill dull bluish in color, slightly curved upward. Male: head black, glossed green; neck and upper breast black; back pencilled or vermiculated black and white (canvass-like). Underparts white, faintly marked with wavy blackish bars. Speculum white. Female: brown of various shades takes the place of black in the male; a conspicuous white mark encircles the base of the bill. The back is not canvass-like, but the belly and the speculum are white. Length of male about 18.5 inches; weight 2 to 2.5 lbs.

Lesser Scap, A.O.U. 149. Similar to A.O.U. 148, but smaller. Head of male black with purple tinges. Length of adult about 17 inches. (N.B. Nos. 148 and 149 never have a ring on the neck nor a colored band on the bill.)

The first English colony at Jamestown, Va., used beads for

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Murder charges have been laid against Roger Gauthier, left, and Recco Bisco of Cochrane in the death of Toronto nurse Valair Vandebelt, 22. She was found dead June 23.



Inquest jury at Cochrane found that Miss Vandebelt, here, had been murdered. She had fractured skull and belt from dress was wound around her neck.

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