

TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH Silver Fox Farming

Mr. Major George McIntyre of Montague paid us a brief visit yesterday. George is looking in the pink, having fully recovered from an appendicitis operation some months ago.

In connection with the King's County Fox Show we regret to announce that W. A. McLagan who has been Secretary-Treasurer since his inception, is leaving shortly to take over the management of the branch of the Bank of Nova Scotia at Sydney Mines, C. B. Mr. McLagan has been a valuable asset to the town in many ways and his financial acumen has been the basis for the excellent condition of the Fox Show.

John A. Lee, well known foxman about Thursday City, is enjoying his retirement and his fishing and his business.

Dr. J. T. Lamb, eye, ear, nose and throat specialist, finds recreation from his tremendous practice in a medium sized farm at Kippowich, where he raises high grade cattle and superior foxes. The usual Doctor is always on the lookout for a "real one" and at present has about 25 foxes of the best that can be produced. We understand of the 16 females 14 have litters.

J. D. Jenkins returned Thursday evening from a visit to Montreal where he interviewed a number of wholesale furriers and attended the opening of the Canadian Fur Auction Company's sales. He said that the 12,000 pelts were a pretty good collection with quite a number of fine skins. There were no American buyers, consequently no particular excitement was manifested. He could not remain for the conclusion of the sale but believed that the averages would not differ very much from the previous sale. The good word from London where advances up to 50 per cent had prevailed seemed to impart strength and confidence.

It is with deep regret that we hear that Fred Callaghan, Manager of the Dominion Silver Fox Fur, Ltd., Summerside, and son of our esteemed friend W. P. Callaghan, is ill. His many friends will hope to hear of his early improvement.

Last week we referred to the success Colonel J. P. Hooper was having at his ranch at Tracadie. We have the figures. There are 34 females in the ranch, two of which have no litters. From the other 32, 152 living pups were counted so far. There is a possibility of two more litters being born. Colonel Hooper believes that considerable success is due to the raising of fresh plucks. His cereal is Purina Chow, Jack Cassford, his caretaker, has had long experience and judging by a letter which we saw from him he is delighted with the way things are coming through this year.

Colonel Hooper told us of a visit he paid to Charles Mosher, Tishish, late last fall, just about setting time. Mr. Mosher took him around and showed him the breeding foxes and pups he was keeping and a number of pelts he had taken off. They looked real good, heavy furred, clear colored, in fact a very superior average, so naturally Colonel Hooper asked to what he ascribed such good results. Mr. Mosher said, "We used to have a

lot of losses with our pups. They would fight and when we would go out in the morning we would find one short. We decided that they were getting some water and started in to water them three times a day. Since that time we have had no losses among our pups. We are also big feeders of vegetables and grow quite large patches of carrots, beets, lettuce and Swiss chard. These we feed regularly and in considerable quantities." He concluded by saying that he felt quite confident that the combination of fresh water and vegetables with meat and cereals was the cause of his good fur and freedom from casualties.

The writer believes that there is a whole lot in Mr. Mosher's theory and would like our ranchers to make careful note and carry out at least to a larger extent than we have been doing, his recommendations. It is quite possible that we have been feeding rather heavily of strong feeds which are probably necessary to produce good fur, yet we have neglected to provide the organic and inorganic salts present in vegetables as well as vitamins so necessary to act on the organs of elimination and the skin. The absorption of quantities of water flushes the kidneys and bowels and helps remove foreign matter that if absorbed would cause discoloration of the pelt or in a human—the skin.

Reports from the eastern section of the Province are that fox averages will not be any greater than last year and this with the cut-down will mean a considerable reduction in pelts. A great many ranchers have pelted off males after their breeding services were no longer required, so that will make a difference in the pelts placed on the market this fall too.

From Summerside, reports coming in, indicate the average of pups on ranches is about ordinary. Some ranches report averages up to 3-4 but mostly they are around three. Very few have all their pups yet and it is a little difficult to predict final results. On some ranches that had exceptionally early matings results have not been successful, the proportion of misses and losses among early mated females being rather heavy.

Layton Rogers, Kensington, reports a ranch average of 3 1-2. Lowell Hancock, Summerside, has a pen average of 3-4 with 79 pups in the first 15 litters counted. The balance of the ranch seems to have an equal chance. Lowell reports that four pens of platinum or ring necks have 29 pups with about 13 of these marked. One litter from a young female has 8 pups with 4 ring necks. It is the first litter of eight Lowell has ever raised since he went into the business. Lowell has nine more females mated to ring necks or platinum which the "Pops" purchased from Wellington McNeill last fall. They are expected to litter within the next few days. Quite a few purchasers of ring necked and platinum foxes last fall are reporting good results on matings. Ranchers in the vicinity of Summerside and in fact all through Prince County, are much more optimistic since they reported improvement in pelt prices. They are working harder in their ranches, feeding their foxes better and generally showing the interest and attention to business that characterized us all prior to the debacle.

From P. J. Williams, Canadian National Silver Fox Breeders' Association, we have some more particulars regarding happenings up west. This year as in past years he plays an unpredictable part in fox ranching. The females that in '38 and '39 raised the even dozen of pups has this year failed to produce any offspring. This year he reported 15 litters that Lowell Hancock has so far examined there are 79 pups. In four litters of platinum strain there are 25 pups. Mr. George A. Callbeck, Stewart, Lewis, Robt. Harry and Albert Silliphant and others in Summerside and vicinity find quite a number of white faced or ring necked or platinum in the litters bred from foxes of the platinum or marked strain. D. O. Stewart of Stewart & Lewis, reports that they are having a fair but few litters of platinum or marked strain but does not believe that the average production of the ranch will be quite as good as the past two years.

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but in both years they had a very heavy increase. The principal question in the minds of fox ranchers is how can we efficiently operate at smaller cost. The question of feed is a big one which includes meat feeds and cereals. Mr. G. E. Smith, Dominion Experimental Fox Ranch has worked out a formula for cereal mixtures to be fed June 1st to August 15th and another mixture from August 15th to October 17th and throughout the breeding season. Part of it is to be fed as raw cereals and part as cooked cereals. Ranchers interested should write to the Canadian National Fox Breeders' Association, Summerside, or to Mr. Smith for the formulas.

Archie H. Campbell of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, who spent some months in this Province studying the fox industry, is now a successful rancher, and a letter dated April 4th gives us some particulars about what is going on with him. One of the stunts is to enter into a deal with the principal furrier in the Province and supply him with dressed silver fox pelts, also advertising in the local newspapers. He has a first-class workman and has made the pelts up into scarfs, capes and other ways and they have been moving fast. In fact the principal furrier has been very much greater than anticipated.

In Archie's ranch things have been going pretty good. In fact this has been the most successful season since he took over the ranch in 1939. On the first of January he had silver females and 9 blue females; five of the silvers were white faces, 101 silvers were mated and three of the blue females to date. In the silvers he is diversifying with 60 white face matings, 12 silver blue or pearl platinum and 6 to a Peace River dog. He bred a white face male to a cross fox female and expects to come new types; also bred a white face female to a pearl platinum male. Of his 100 female mink, 97 have mated and he looks for a big production from them.

By organizing the fox ranchers in his vicinity, he has met prices for his silver foxes that are considerably higher than the market. The feed company which he organized has been doing a good business with the ranchers, but that will likely be lessened somewhat because of the cut-down among the ranchers' breeding stock last fall. Just in the vicinity of Saskatoon there has been a cut in 300 female foxes. This will mean about 1,200 less foxes around Saskatoon this summer. Archie concludes with kindest regards to all friends in Prince Edward Island. Thanks, Archie, for your very interesting letter and be sure and write us later on giving us more news.

At Lampon, Fraser & Huth's sale of silver fox pelts which commenced last Monday in New York, prices were slightly above the levels which prevailed at the previous silver fox auction. There was an excellent attendance and 70 per cent of the collection was sold. An unusually light silver fox pelt fetched \$875.00 and another one \$224.00.

Word from Stanhope is that Ira Carr, breeder of champion foxes, has the largest average production in years.

A local product that has made good is Dr. J. M. Nicholson's fox and animal conditioner. Many ranchers swear by it and have been regular users year after year, ascribing their good success in a considerable measure to the medicinal and tonic properties which the Doctor has incorporated in his mixture.

Muskrat Restoration To Aid Indians

One of the largest muskrat hunts in years will be held this spring by the Indian and half-breed population living in the Saskatchewan delta area, east of the Pas, Manitoba. This has been made possible through the muskrat restoration project started five years ago by the Manitoba Government with financial assistance from the Federal Department of Mines and Resources. The success of this ambitious undertaking inaugurated with a view to improving the economic welfare of the native population, now seems assured and marks up another triumph in the annals of Canadian wild life conservation.

One time the Saskatchewan delta area was overrun with muskrats, statistics revealing that in 1902 approximately 800,000 muskrats were trapped here, but owing to drought and diminishing water levels the little animals had decreased to such an extent that in 1934 the catch was estimated at a-

WHY HAVE SORE FEET? JUST RUB IN MINARD'S "KING OF PAIN" FOR WOMEN

out 50,000 pelts. As an initial step to replenish the muskrat population, a large tract of 135,000 acres on the delta marshes was selected for development as muskrat breeding grounds. Water levels were raised and regulated by the construction of dykes and dams, and a staff of game wardens was appointed to patrol the area. With the restoration of their natural habitat and the protection afforded them, the muskrats soon started to come back in the developed area, and within five years their numbers have increased from about 500 to more than 200,000.

Warble Fly And Its Control

Warble flies attack beef and dairy cattle in every part of Canada where live stock is raised. The damage they do is not generally realized but it takes thousands of dollars annually out of the farmers' pockets through the spoiling of hides by the holes made by the grubs, through injury to cattle from fright and worry when the flies are buzzing around, and through consequent reduction in milk production and wastage of beer. In recent years warble damage has been considerably reduced in some districts by systematic control measures, including timely application of derris washes to the backs of the animals.

On sunny days in spring and summer, warble flies lay their eggs, attaching them to the hairs on the legs and lower parts of the cattle. The buzz of the flies is sufficient to cause panic among the animals so that they run wildly about the fields. The small grubs that hatch from the eggs in three to seven days, penetrate the skin, and migrate through the tissues of the animal, in some cases congregating in numbers in the region of the gutlet. They remain there during the summer until late winter when they commence a second migration and come to rest under the skin of the back which they perforate to make breathing holes. In about two months they squeeze their way through these holes and emerge as grubs in the shape of hard black seed-like objects about three-quarters of an inch long, from which a new generation of flies emerge in from one to two months to make a new crop which repeat the egg-laying process. The total period from egg to egg requires about a year, and at least nine months are passed as a grub in the bodies of the cattle.

When the grubs are under the skin of the back of the animals is the time for the farmer to act. This period may be from January to June. If the grubs are destroyed before they leave the animal, no warble flies will emerge, for the warble fly menace will be largely reduced or eliminated in the district. The treatments, however, should be repeated each year to maintain a satisfactory control. Derris is the most active ingredient of the control mixture contains an insecticide, known as rotenone, and is derived from the roots of a certain species of tropical plants. Originally it was used by the Polynesians to poison the tips of their arrows and also to catch fish.

The Value of Hybrid Corn

(Experimental Farms News) During the past twelve months hybrid corn has been widely advertised throughout southwestern Ontario. The claims have been so favorable that many farmers are asking "What is the real value of hybrid corn?" For three years many corn hybrids have been tested at the Dominion Experimental Station at Harrow and, as a class, they have proved conclusively their superiority over the standard open-pollinated varieties now grown in the district. The major assets of hybrid corn are (a) greater vigor, (b) uniformity, and (c) increased yield. Vigor is expressed in the denser root systems and the robust systems provides greater anchorage for the plant, and since it penetrates the soil more firmly in all directions, the source of the water for the plant is much increased. This all has a great effect upon the plant's growth, making it sturdier and better able to withstand adverse conditions. Hybrid corn will not be as readily uprooted by winds or



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VETERAN VICAR DEAD DRIFFIELD, England—(CP)—Oldest beneficed clergyman in Brit. Canon William R. Sharrcock, 98, died here. He had been vicar of Driffield for nearly 40 years.

Thimble Theatre - Starring POPEYE MORNING—AND THE STORM HAS PASSED SWELL DAY AH, YUGENE DID OLIVE GET THE MONEY I SENT HER? IS SHE USIN' IT TO BUY SPINACH FOR POOR LITTLE KIDS? I SUPPOSE ROUGH-HOUSE RECEIVED THE MESSAGE REGARDING MY HAMBURGER ACCOUNT? YAS, ROUGH-HOUSE GOTCHER MESSAGE, ON ACCOUNT OF THAT SOUNDS LIKE HIS REPLY

TILLIE THE TOILER - MAC HAS MORE TO FALL FOR! IVE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS YOU'RE RIGHT, WALLY—MAC TOOK A TUMBLE AND GAVE ME A LAUGH AND YOU DIDN'T GET ONE THAT ISN'T TREATING US ALL ALIKE, HEH-HEH WHAT AGAIN? WELL, I HOPE YOU MUGS ARE SATISFIED TEE HEE HEH HEH HO HO OH, NO MAC, TILLIE SAW YOU TAKE TWO TUMBLES AND GLENNY AND I SAW ONLY ONE, HEH-HEH WALLY—YOU'RE IMPOSSIBLE