A Page for the MODERN FARMER

- NEWSY NOTES -

By AGRICOLA

TOMB OF A SAXON KING

Archaeologists in England are still puzzling over a "burial-ship" which was discovered late last summer at a place called Sutton Hoo, in Suffolk. Hoo is an old spelling of Hoe, meaning rising ground; which in this case is on the side of an estuary into which flows the little river Deben. Burials in which a ship took the place of a coffin were common among the Northern nations in pagan times. Sometimes the dead hero was placed on the deck, girded with his armor and weapons, and surrounded not only with his jewellry and personal belongings, but even his furniture; and the ship having been set on fire, it drifted to sea until all was consumed in the funeral pyre. At other times the ship was hauled up to the top of some hill near the shore, and it and its contents were laboriously covered with earth. One of the most remarkable finds took place at Osebeg early in the last century. When the ship was uncovered, it was found to hold a full-sized sleigh, a four-wheeled cart (for one horse) an armchair, pottery, glassware, and weapons, all, without exception, beautifully ornamented: besides a rich store of jewels, bracelets, and ornaments of gold and silver.

The Sutton Hoo ship was a galley 82 feet long, with places for 38 oarsmen, but the strange thing about it was that there were no signs of any human remains. It was filled with archaeological treasures, but none were of the strictly personal character usually found in Kingly burials; no rich clothing, no rings, bracelets nor pendants. Along the centre line of the keel were urns but they contained only the earth with which they had been covered. There was an ornate suit of armor for the spirit of the chief to wear in the Kingdom of the Dead, and the remains of a pair of shoes, but no human bones.

For this reason the memorial is thought to be that of a Saxon Chief or King who had been lost at sea: a cenotaph placed on the shores of the estuary whence he sailed on his last voyage. There were many gold and silver objects in the galley, but none as valuable (from the antiquarie's point of view) as the big silver platter, 28 inches in diameter, ornamented with the profile of the Byzantine Emperor Anastasius I. (This was secured by the British Museum). That Emperor reigned at Constantinople at the end of the fifth and the beginning of the sixth centuries.

Only a King would merit the honor of a ship-burial, and when the discovery was first made it was supposed that Raedwald the Cautious, King of East Anglia, was buried there. But the absence of any trace of the dead King disproved that. (Raedwald is supposed to have died in 617 A.D.).

A reference to that delightful old book, Wright's "Celt, Roman and Saxon in Britain", shows me that such "absentee" burials were not rare. A remarkable instance was found in an Anglo-Saxon cemetery in Bourne Park, near Canterbury, early in the nineteenth century. This was a grave, fourteen feet long, about half that in width, and four feet deep, smoothly cut in the solid chalk. The grave had been filled up with fine soil brought from a distance, and not with the chalky soil of the district. At the foot of the grave in one corner had stood a bucket, and the bronze hoops and bail handle still occupied their proper positions, as if the wooden staves had been there to support them. Such buckets, often elaborately carved, were used at feasts to hold beer for replenishing the drinking-glasses. In the position where the legs of the body should have been, was a considerable heap of fragments of iron. Among these was the bass of a shield, a horse's bit, a buckle, a number of nails with ornamental heads, and some smaller nails of brass. At the side of the grave were rings and buckles apparently the remains of harness. (The horse may have belonged to the "absentee", and was sacrificed, for his use in the spirit world.) Near them was a piece of iron, thought to be the point of a weapon. At the head of the grave was an elegantly shaped bowl of copper, thickley gilt, about a foot in diameter, but much crushed by the over-lying earth. Many smaller articles of unknown use were found but no trace of a body, nor was there the long sword and knife usually buried with adult males in Anglo-Saxon "barrows." From this it would seem that the chief had been killed in some distant expedition and his friends had not been able to obtain his body.

The curious thing to me is, that the soil of such a small island, dug, ploughed, and ransacked, for our a thousand years, should still yield these archaeological treasurers.

VITAMIN B1

"Better Homes and Gardens" an American horticultural magazine, has been delving into the doings of a new preparation designed Vitamin B1. This, it is claimed, when applied to the soil, will produce five-inch rose-buds, daffodils bigger than a salad plate, and day-lillies (we call them "orange lilies") with stems seven feet high. These claims have made B1 "the most discussed gardening aid in years."

How is one to reconcile these statements? A man from Winnetka, Illinois, writes — "I'm afraid we'll be so smothered in house-plant greenery that I can't find my typewriter." A woman from Ashland, Kentucky, says:—"I see absolutely no results from B1. My decision was and is that I've just been taken in again, and that you are liable for using the mails to defraud."

These letters—along with hundreds of others, were addressed to the scientists who discovered that plants need vitamins too. Undoubtedly the preparation has figured in some marvellous cases. Dr. Frederick Bartlett, dental surgeon of Washington, D.C., relates how he climbed a ladder, and cut a bloom, 10 inches across, from a 12-foot dahlia. In Lincoln, Nebraska, F. W. Misch, chemist, had a Christmas Cactus that had grown none for two years. He watered it twice with B1, and it doubled its size in a month. A nurseryman in Alhambra was not so pleased. "You've ruined the sale of my plants," he said. The little plants, only two or three inches high, were already in full bloom.

The explanation given by the California Institute of Technology, (which introduced the use of the vitamin) is that B1 is so new that much experimental work must be done before we can be sure what it will do to all plants in all soils and all climates.

At this point I may relate an odd happening in the rock-garden last summer. In one corner of the garden plot I had a heap of couch-grass roots piled there in 1938; they had lain there during the winter 1938-39, and were dead, and, to the eye, fairly rotten. In extending the rock garden last spring, I used the decayed roots for filling the "pockets" between the rocks. Then I planted a sprig from a plant of Sedum reflexum (which came from Souris), in the new soil and awaited results. Pretty soon the sprig began to grow and grow till it was twice the normal height while the leaves became thrice the usual size and thickness; one might have thought it a different species. The flower-head was abnormally large too. So it continued all summer, but when the autumn set in, the new shoot came back to the old form. The old folks at home believed that something in the couch grass roots "burnt the fields" and the batonical name **Agropyron** embodies that belief. It seems as if they contained some chemical with whose properties we are not yet acquainted, and which it might be well to experiment with.

THE IDES OF MARCH

"Beware the ides of March," said the soothsayer to Julius Caesar, who was becoming the dictator of Rome. The warning is still used in current literature but in a different sense. The German dictator, who has his soothsayers too, according to report, believes that March is his lucky month, and makes his attacks on his smaller neighbors then. It is they who must "Beware the ides of March."

The word ides or idus, was an expression used in the Roman calendar to denote the 15th day of March, May, July and October, and the 13th day of the other months. I have not been able to discover why these dates came to have a special name attached to them. The calends or Kalendae were the first day of every month. Martial calls them "Tristes kalendae" (sad calends) because they were the time of paying interest! The Greeks did not call the first day of their months by any special name, and so had no calends: when a Roman promised therefore to do something "ad Graecas Kalendas", he meant "never." The Nonae or nones of the month were the seventh days of March, May, July, and October, and the fifth of the other months.

This peculiar and rather cumbrous chronology was adopted by the monkish compilers of the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle. Thus under date A.D. 916: "This year was the innocent Abbot Egbert slain (i.e., by marauding Danes) before midsummer, on the sixteenth day before the calends of July. The same day was the feast of St. Ciricius the martyr, with his companions."

"ADVENTURES IN CONTENTMENT"

If you enjoy a book of a gently humorous turn, read "Adventures in Contentment" by David Grayson (Hurst & Co., New York). The chief character—(I cannot call him hero)—is an American, who through many feverish years worked in a big city, striving (as he says) "towards that vague Success which we Americans love to glorify."

One day—it was in April, when the soft ripples in the city park were beginning to bloom—he came to himself. He recalled the delights of his boyhood on the old farmstead: he hungered and thirsted for the earth. So that year— eight years before the story really opens—he rented a farm and took his sister Harriet to housekeep for him. By the fall he had come to love the place so much that he decided to buy it, and from that moment his "adventures" begin.

Our new farmer has the soul of a poet, though he never writes verse; the eye of a humorist, to discern the foibles of his neighbors —and to condone them; and underneath all a very human and understanding heart. His visitors, the Scotch Preacher, the book-agent, the Professor who trespasses in search of botanical specimens, the millionaire who farms for amusement; the community Infidel, and Horace who sold him the farm, all furnish little chapters from which the reader will get a sedate chuckle. Even Harriet, busy with things of the house, adds to the amusement. A good book: you must read it.

GUANO

Sixty years ago the name "guano" would have been no mystery to my farmer friends: perhaps there remain some, who if they have not used this material still remember the eagerness with which it was sought after. Guano was a fertilizer, of an ashy-grey color tinged in places with a rusty brown, and of a consistency which might perhaps be described as "mealy." One of its unpleasant features was a penetrating, pungent and nitrous odor that was liable to permeate anything near, or in contact with it; and ships taking it to Britain, carried on the outward voyage coal or some cargo that would not be affected by the smell. An uncle of the writer, who was a farmer, and was moreover gifted with a flow of colorful language, kept his supply of guano out of the way in a tool-house in the orchard, because, as he avered, "it smelt like perdition."

This guano was the excreta of numberless sea-birds such as penguins, gannets, cranes, cormorants and so on; and feeding mostly on fish, their manure was composed of soluble and highly valuable constituents. It was found only in certain rainless, or nearly rainless islands and districts in South America.

Humboldt, the great explorer, first brought a specimen of this deposit to Europe in 1804, and after analysed it attracted some attention in the experimental world. By 1840 when Liebig's works on chemistry in relation to agriculture were published, guano began to come into its own. The use of it increased rapidly, Great Britain and her colonies taking the largest share, with France a good second. Statistics are hard to obtain, but it seems likely that fourteen million tons of this sea-fowl manure were imported into various countries up to 1876, when the quantity began to fail, as well as the quality. Poruvian guano, at its best, when analysed gave 17.41 p.c. of ammonia and 24.12 p.c. phosphates. The guano from the noted Ichaboe Island deposits, had a greater phosphatic content (30.30 p.c.) but only 7.30 p.c. of ammonia.

From the foregoing it will be seen that guano was rich, active and stimulating: it had a tendency to cause an excessive development of foliage, and was well adapted for application to grass land. In using it for field or garden crops it was always applied in conjunction with superphosphates.

Ask your neighbors what Bray Chicks did for them. Then phone, or drop in.

W. I. Bowman, Hunter River.
W. K. Crafer, Kensington.
Francis Gardiner, Launching Place.
Mrs. Basil MacDonald, Tracadie Cross.
Waldo MacDonald, Bothwell.
Lloyd H. McEwen, Souris.
Mrs. George Myers, Hunter River.
Earl Diamond, Winsloe; or
O. C. Johnson, North Tryon.

- CONSERVATION -

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

HOW ABOUT CITIZENSHIP PAPERS FOR THE STARLING?

By Rachel L. Carson

When John James Audubon painted his Birds of America a century ago, he included no portrait of the starling in that famous portfolio. This omission is easily explained, for starlings did not exist in Ameica in Audubon's time. There is good reason to suppose that every one of the uncounted millions of starlings now inhabiting the United States from the Atlantic Coast to the Great Plains and ranging from southern Ontario to the Gulf of Mexico traces his lineage to two colonies of birds—80 and 40 respectively—imported from Europe and liberated in New York's Cenrtal Park in the springs of 1890 and 1891. Several previous attempts to introduce the bird appear to have failed. The successful introduction was made by Eugene Schieffelin who also brought in the English sparrow and tried without success to introduce song thrushes, chaffinchs, bullfinches, skylarks, and nightingales.

In spite of his remarkable success as a pioneer, the starling probably has fewer friends than almost any other creature that wears feathers. That fact, however, seems to be of very little importance to this cheerful bird with glossy plumage and stumpy tail. Without seeming to care whether the benefiting farmer thanks him or reviles him, he hurries with perky steps about thhe farms and gardesn in the summer time, carrying more than 100 loads of destructive insects per day to his screaming offspring, cramming his own stomach full of such food as Japanese beetles, caterpillars, and cutworms. With complete indifference to angry protests, he finds roosting places in warm cities in the winter, going out each morning, a faithful commuter-in-reverse, to earn his bread in the surrounding countryside.

On one point ornithologists are pretty well agreed—the starling is here to stay. Shall we then continue to regard him as an alien or shall we conclude that his successful pioneering and his service in insect destruction entitle him to American citizenship?

As to economic worth, a pretty complete auditing of the starling's books has already been performed by the Department of Agriculture. After going into the matter of food habits more thoroughly than has been done for almost any other bird, the Department pronounced the starling "one of the most effective bird enemies of terrestrial insect pests in this country."

It was found that the starling is quick to ferret out the presence of the Japanese beetle and to destroy it; that weevils, ground beetles, and plant-eating scarabaeids, cut-worms, grasshoppers, and millepedes are favorite items of diet. The total evidence led the biologists to conclude that "from the viewpoint of the farmer the insect-eating habits of the starling leave little to be desired. . . In the northeastern states the starling is economically the superior of the robin, the catbird, the red-winged blackbird, the grackle, the cowbird, or the English sparrow."

The starling is often charged with eating cultivated fruit. On the other hand, it has been estimated that the robin, which no one would seriously propose to "control", eats about twice as much cultivated fruit as the starling. It has been charged that the starling harass native birds and drives them out of their holes; but it has recently been found that the gentle house wren is also a despoiler of nests, and who does not love the wren?

Even granting his economic desirability, many will continue to condemn the starling for his winter habit of congregating in cities. Objections to the litter produced by the nightly gatherings are responsible for strenuous efforts in many cities to dislodge the uninvited guest. Gunfire has been tried in Harrisburg, Baltimore, and certain other cities under special police regulations. In others, streams of water have been played on the birds; colored balloons have been waved under the roosts; or tin cans have been rattled by the otherwise jobless in an effort to scare away has been attained in some quarthe birds. While temporary successers, I have seen no claim that starling roosts as a whole are a whit reduced.

To my mind, the most interesting qualities of this bird are associated with the habit which some find so objectionable. From these nightly encampments, bands of starlings set out for the suburbs shortly before sunrise each morning are busy all day about their insect-eating activities, and knock off work to return to the city roost at about the same time each evening. Apparently light conditions rather than actual time control the arrivals and departures. Starlings that were watched for a number of successive mornings in October left their roosts 10 to 14 minutes before sunrise on clear mornings, but 5 minutes before on cloudy mornings. In Washington I have noticed that in good weather the starlings are rarely assembling about the buildings and Oriental planetrees on Pennsylvania Avenue, their favorite roosting places, as early as four o'clock. On dark, threatening afternoons, however, the four o'clock hour is often marked by flocks of starlings hurrying across Lafayette Square or Potomac Park toward their roosts.

One of the most fascinating sights I have ever witnessed is that of starlings in their aerial maneuverings before settling for the night. In mighty flocks, which grow moment by moment through the addition of new arrivals, they wheel and turn above the buildings, paterning the evening sky with intricate designs. Leaderless, apparently animated by the pure joy of indescribable beauty. At its conclusion, the birds settle down rather abruptly on the buildings below. They crowd into church towers; they perch, black as Poe's raven, over windows and doorways; they outline the ledges and the sheltered porticoes of buildings with row upon row of small dark forms. This is a period of intense commotion, during which competition for choice roosting places is keen. From now until darkness quiets them, their tongues are never still. A confused, incessant chitter-chatter fills the air, at once sibilant, shrill, and grating; a sound that has become as typical of a city street at dusk as is the raucous hooting of impatient traffic, homeward bound.

Acquaintance with so engaging a bird as the starling suggests many questions, among the most interesting of which is how and when he developed his habit of congregating in cities in the wintertime.

It seems that a possible explanation is to be found in the facts of the starling's existence in this country. The birds liberated in Central Park came of a migratory stock. With the coming of cold weather, the starlings of the old world go south: from the British Isles or northen continental Europe to the Mediterranean, the shores of the Indian Ocean, the foothills of the Himalayas. Apparently this racial memory, which the immigrant birds must have carried with them across the Atlantic, was modified by the fact that they were in a strange land—a land crossed by no ancestral air routs that they might follow to a warmer climate.

If this fear of the unknown was stronger than the instinct to migrate, as we may suppose, it is not surprising that so intelligent a bird as the starling should have sought a substitute for migration. Cities, he quickly found, are warmer than open country. Every observant human knows that the first showing of yellow forsythia and the first up-rushing of pale green shoots come in the city. So the adaptable starlings flock into cities in the fall and winter as the best substitutes they can find for the subtropical climes where their ancestors spent the winter.

Little by little, however, the starlings have extended their range. Little by little they have begun to drift south in winter. For the first six years of their life in the United States breeding starlings were confined to Greater New York. By 1910 they had occupied much of Connecticut, Rhode Island, southern Massachusetts, much of New Jersey, and a little of eastern Pennsylvania. In 1916, an important year in starling history, they crossed the Alleghenies. Thereafter progress was rapid. By 1930 the glossy black bird had become a familiar sight to residents of southern Ontario, Wisconsin, Missouri, Arkansas, and even the northern parts of states bordering the Gulf of Mexico. They have now pushed westward into Minnesota, Iowa, Kansas, and Oklahoma, and a few even farther.

In all this expansion of range there has been evident a pronounced seasonal drift, which is becoming strongly northeast to southwest in direction. Thus birds that breed in western Ontario, western New York, and western Pennsylvania winter in Ohio, western Kentucky western Tennessee, and even farther to the southwest. The birds commonly live in a new section several years as winter migrants before they move in as breeders.

These facts lead one to speculate on the future of the bird. There is strong evidence that in the relatively short space of half a century the pioneering starling has established the general path of a migratory route. It seems not improbable that in another half century this aerial highway may be known to the bulk of the starling population; that the migratory instinct may become more pronounced as the land to the southward becomes better known. If in time the starling in America forms the habit of wintering on the Gulf coast, as his forefathers wintered on the Mediterranean, will not the need of warm cities be lost and the "starling problem' solve itself? The answer to this speculation depens on many unpredictable factors.

TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH Silver Fox Farming

Frank Hamlin, Mount Stewart, has good results with the two male white face foxes he bought from Well McNeill and son. He mated them to twenty-two females and expects to have a fine crop within a short time.

Parker Wood, Southport, who struck luck two years ago by producing some of the platinum variety freak foxes, two of which he sold to Colpitts Bros., Salisbury, N. B., and one to Dr. Leo Frank, has had an urgent inquiry from parties in New Brunswick for this season's crop. He has been wise enough to retain some of the best of previous litters for himself and says that he expects some 20 or 30 pups quite as good as those he sold and some even better.

Hudson's Bay Company, London, England, will offer approximately 30,000 silver fox pelts at their sale commencing Monday, April 1st.

The story of silver fox pelt imports into the United States shows that the average value of the skins purchased from Canada for United States consumption this year is 42 per cent less than last year. The average price paid in Canada was $13.50, for Norwegian skins $15.35 and for Swedish skins $16.11, making an average for all imports to the United States of $14.20 compared with $26.00 for 1939. However, the purchase of pelts in 1940 from all sources totalled $986,000 for 66,500 pelts as against $420,500 for 16,465 pelts in 1939.

The Customs Bureau at Washington announces that no more silver or black fox skins can be imported from Canada until December 1st. Foreign countries will be permitted to fill quotas commencing April 1st. Canada's quota was 58,300 skins.

It is expected that the Canadian Customs Bureau will announce shortly its classification of the Norwegian platina fox as a new and distinct type of fox and not in the silver fox classification.

Yesterday a collection of 4,200 fresh Norwegian ranch bred blue fox pelts were offered at public auction at the sales room of the New York Auction Company. The collection is advertised as containing some of the very finest specimens of blue fox with color phases varying from the beautiful platinum blue shade to the rich sable shade. This is the first special sale ever held in the United States of Norwegian bred blue foxes. There is no duty on blue foxes, white foxes, cross foxes or any other type of fox brought into the United States with the exception of silver fox on which there is now a duty of 35 per cent. No decision has yet been given as to whether Norwegian platinums will be considered in the same category as silver foxes.

Perhaps some particulars regarding the Norwegian blue foxes may be interesting to our readers as there are quite a number of ranches in western Canada specializing in blue foxes and others that are adding some of these animals to their herd to diversify it. There are also quite a number of breeders in the United States who are making good with blue foxes, so herewith is a short description of what the Norwegians call the "beautiful blues."

"Blue fox as bred today on modern fox farms in Norway is one of the most colorful furs available to the fur trade. It has been bred up in a recent years so that the pelts are rich, lustrous silky, heavily furred and of various blue shades. A far cry from the clumsy wooly dull, dark purple-brown pelts of a few years ago. Norwegian blue fox breeders, building on wild Greenland and Svalbard breeding stock, have gone far ahead of breeders in other countries in the production of finer blue fox pelts. They have striven to produce pale or light colored skins —that is blue fox pelts with an abundance of the bright silver hairs which may be described as a platinum blue shade.

Norwegian farm bred blue fox runs heavily to the silvery or pale types with a small percentage of the unique and beautiful blue fox skins well described by a leading Parisian fur man as "chinchilla." These particular foxes are so very silky and yet so deeply furred, so pale and beautifully marked as to be comparable only with the lovely and inimitable chinchilla fur.

There is a great deal more to the description of the Norwegian blues given in recent Fur Trade Magazines, the write-ups being the work of Olmar Brager-Larsen, who as a publicity man is certainly number one. It will be interesting to see how these skins sell—next week we will give particulars in this column.

Additional information regarding the Canadian Fur Auction Sales which were completed a week ago last Friday in Montreal has arrived. The sales room estimated the offering on the whole as about 5 per cent below the previous month, although there was very little difference in the figures obtained. It was the quality of the skins that was better. Of the total silver fox sale selected halves to three-quarter silvers were 38 per cent sold at an average of $24.87, a decline of 10 per cent. Regular quarter to three-quarter silvers were 64 per cent sold, averaging $16.89, advance 2 per cent. Selected full silvers were 72 per cent sold, average $30.82. Regular full silvers were 77 per cent sold, average $20.57 Inferiors were 67 per cent sold, average $13.27. Low grades were 76 per cent sold, average $6.53. Absence of New York buying was noticeable and buyers representing Australian and South American firms were not particularly in evidence. Canadians bought almost all the skins sold though some were believed to be for European account. Included in the lot offered on the last day were 61 skins described as freaks. They averaged $44.23.

Mrs. Gertrude E Fox, pioneer woman mink breeder, has sold her interest in the Black Fox Magazine to its publishers and has retired as Editor. She will, however, remain on the staff as consultant until this fall. Recently she purchased a large plantation and orange grove on the west coast of Florida where she spends her winters and engages in the growing of citrus fruit, Australian pines for the rayon industry and the raising of pure bred Brahman cattle. In addition she is engaged in mink farming, owning a ranch in Maine which is couducted by Harry B. Plumer. Mrs. Fox is certainly a very versatile woman and richly deserves a holiday after engaging in so many ventures.

The Black Fox Magazine was started in 1913 by F. C. Kaye, and the writer gave him one of the advertisements for his first issue. He also had advertisements from W. Chester S. McLure, Walter Grant, W. K. Rogers and many others who have either gone to the Great Beyond or ceased their connection with silver fox farming. Later on B. Graham Rogers of Summerside, now head of our Tourist Publicity Bureau, was his largest advertiser, and copies of the old Black Fox Magazine of 1917 to the late 20's were made considerably more interesting by articles from the pen of B. Graham, or full page ads that really sold foxes.

Those were the boom days of the industry and F. C. Kaye, a good soul if ever there was one, received a fair recompense for his labors. When the 1929 panic came it hit Mr. Kaye along with the rest of us and he never quite recovered his health. In his passing the fox industry lost a great friend and very fine gentleman. He was ably followed by Mrs. Gertrude Fox, who relinquishes her pen and guiding hand to others who will no doubt carry on the splendid traditions of the Black Fox Magazine.

From reports we get from all over this Province there is every reason to believe that the average fox female production this year will be larger than usual. The reason given is that there has been a big shake-up and poor foxes have been pelted off and those remaining are receiving better care and better feed than usual because feed is low in price and the outlook is better for more substantial prices this fall. However, the total number of fox pups produced this year will, our informants say, not be very much more than half of last year's crop. This goes for other parts of Canada as well, with the exception of certain ranching parts of Saskatchewan, Alberta and Manitoba, where breeders have mated up bright silver females to polygamous white faced or platinum variety foxes. There is every indication of a large production of these types this Spring.

The weather has been quite favorable for females whelping, with the exception of the first two days of this month which were very cold and some losses resulted, but most fox farms don't have very early litters and the weather has been ideal lately and will probably continue with very little lower temperatures until whelping is over.

A few tips regarding foxes at this season of the year may not be out of place. First, be sure your females are kept laxative and if necessary buy some liver and feed 1 ounce to 2 ounces a few days prior to whelping. If you have been feeding cod liver oil in the ration don't cut it out. Some vitamin C in the form of turnips, lemon juice or tomato juice should be an ingredient of your ration, but if you have not used any start cautiously.

When you examine the fox pups look in their ears for scales. Even young pups may have earmites and if so use some earmite lotion, not of the watery kind, however, as it will not stick in the ear long enough to be of use. Fox pups should be pilled if pot bellied at fifteen days, certainly at twenty-one days and again if necessary at twenty-eight days. There is not so much danger of worms during March but later on when the snow goes pups are very liable to be infested considerably with worms. If there are any fleas dust over with a good flea powder and be sure and do all the litter and watch the female after your pass them in to see that she does not take offense at the new odor.

This is the anxious time. For the next few weeks we will all be on our toes wondering what mother foxes are going to do for us. Let us not fall down ourselves by any neglect or inattention. Better days are surely ahead, so one and all let us put our shoulders to the wheel and bring our industry back again to something of its former greatness.

BUTCHERS' BONUS

LONDON — (CP) — To meet the higher cost of living caused by the evacuation of Smithfield Market, the London Wholesale Meat Supply Association Ltd. will pay workers a bonus of 10s ($2.22) a week.

EASTBOURNE, England — (CP) —A family of 12 itinerant fruit pockers here was found to be illiterate no members of the family for generations having been able to read or write.

PICKLE BLEND CUCUMBERS

This special blend is composed of the outstanding pickling varieties in correct proportion to produce maximum yields of uniform, symmetrically shaped, dark colored pickles. Each variety in this mixture is a pure strain grown separately, after which the seed is mixed to secure proper cross-pollination, resulting in first generation hybrid pickles. Their vigor, productiveness and uniform quality follows by the same principle used in hybrid seed corn and other hybrids. The value of this blend has been thoroughly proved. It is, in fact, very similar to the blend used for years by several large commercial pickling concerns. Order direct from this advertisement. (Pkt. 10c) (oz. 20c) (¼ lb. 40c) (lb. $1.25) postpaid.

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Saint John New Brunswick

Canadian Garden Service 1940

By GORDON LINDSAY SMITH

No Mystery

There is no mystery about gardening. Despite all the mighty books devoted to this subject, despite again the Latin names which professionals liek to inflict on the innocent, in any party of the whole Dominion a good garden is possible and at a minimum of expense and labor.

Much too often the lack of a garden traces to a misapphension. One sees ones neighbor out in garden evening after evening. One naturally concludes that this sort of thing must men a lot of hard work. This conclusion, of course, is utterly wrong. The neighbor is simply enjoying himself. Half the time he is merely puttering around, moving a shrub from one corner to the other, or more likely admiring the beauty he and a marvellous Canadian climate have been able to produce together.

Suits All Climates

As a recreation gardening is unexcelled. There is the widest range of materials with which to work, thousands of flowers, of as many hues, at least half a hundred distinct vegetables and scores of shrubs and vines. Wether one lives in the balmiest part of Canada, or down close to the Arctic Circle something in almost every line has been developed to suit the local conditions.

Creating Spaciousness

Where space is limited it is advisable to follow a strictly informal layout with the central portion of the garden cleared entirely to grass. Around the edges will be grouped beds of perennial and annual flowers leading up to shrubs and vines along the walls or fence boundaries. This open centre adds to the effect of spaciousness and if the rigid boundaries are softened and partially hidden so much the oetter and intriguing.

Where the garden is larger, experts advocate screening off a portion by bringing forward the surrounding shrubbery at one point, or using a hedge, wall or trees so that the whole affair will not be entirely visible from any one post of observation. This will add further to that air of spaciousness and also provide a secluded corner or two for childrens swing or sandbox or possibly a seat or trellis covered table, where on hot summer days the family may enjoy outdoor meals.

War Boosts Vegetables

War and its need for conserving food supplies brings vegetable gardening into popularity again. Certainly at a time like this any piece of idle land should be put to profitable use. And in doing this the grower will discover once more that only when vegetables are taken fresh from the garden to the table is the highest flavor possible. Indeed with certain things like corn and peas there is absolutely no comparison between the fresh picked article and that which is hours removed from the garden.

In vegetable gardens every foot of space should count. Rows are narrow and as one vegetable is used another takes its place. Only the most productive things are planted like beans, radish, lettuce, spinach, beets carrots, corn and tomatoes.

Small vegetables like lettuce, and radish require rows only 12 inches apart. Beets, beans, carrots, peas and spinach need at least 15 inches between while potatoes, corn and staked tomatoes must have a couple of feet to thirty inches. Space may be saved with the latter type if something quick maturing such as lettuce, and spinach are planted in between. The bigger things will not need the full room at first and by the time they do, the early crops will be out of the way. Tender vegetables are those which are grown quickly therefore the experts force theirs along with chemical fertilizer, cultivation and if possible water.

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Recommendation on Turnip Seed

I strongly advise that only two varieties of Turnip Seed be planted with the hope of selling them as Table Stock Turnips for shipment from this Province this coming Fall.

The R. V. Ditmar Registered Turnip Seed grown in Nova Scotia is by far the most popular and 4-5 of your acreage should be planted Ditmar. The Laurentian Registered Turnip Seed, grown in Nova Scotia, this is a purple topped Turnip that we are trying to introduce but unfortunately it does not wax as well as the Ditmar variety and not more than 1-5 of your acreage should be Laurentian.

I strongly suggest that our Turnip growers plant not more than 1-4 of their acreage for the early market and for the remainder do not be in any hurry planting but use 2-12-6 with Borax and if possible have your land analyzed.

We have a limited supply of both these varieties of Nova Scotia Registered Turnip Seed for sale, wholesale and retail. You can secure these varieties of Turnip Seed from any of the following; George C. Kitson, Colville, Lorne Coles, Milton, Harold Cudmore, Brackley, John A. McKinnon, Union, Melvin Jay, York, Irving Thompson, Dunstaffanage, Frank McNally, Scotchfort, Earle Ings, Mt. Herbert and J. Leo Praught, Cherry Valley, Harold P. Smith, Pownal, as well as at our Charlottetown office.

FERTILIZER

The Island price has not as yet been established. Our price will be the same as other distributors. Our business is expanding each month and indirectly through the above mentioned dealers or at our office we would appreciate a share of your Fertilizer requirements.

Consider that you are bound to run into a year when prices on Produce will be low and naturally when this occurs we will prefer buying from those who purchased their Fertilizer from us.

We allow whole sale prices on both the above mentioned varieties of Turnip Seed and Fertilizer to Shipping Clubs.

FRANK B. CLARKE

CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. I. PHONE 212