A Page for the MODERN FARMER

- NEWSY NOTES -

By AGRICOLA

Some Traits of the English

"The proper study of mankind is Man," says one of the classical poets—Pope, I think—and undeniably there is instruction, entertainment, and sometimes a little wisdom, to be gathered from noting the habits and customs of our fellow beings. In the present note I propose to apply this study to some national traits of the English people.

I have sometimes thought, as an Englishman, that our greatest national asset is our ability to take a joke against ourselves: and furthermore this good humor prevents us resenting foreign banter so long as it is politely uttered. A good while ago, towards the end of last century a witty Frenchman, one Max O'Rell, wrote an account of "John Bull and his Island," in which all our little failings and foibles were touched upon with a deft and sure hand. This book had an enormous sale, and was read, laughed over, and quoted for months. In these days it is another Frenchman, called Andre Maurois, of greater literary fame, who has devoted his time to a more serious study of the English character; and he is not liked the less for the jocular comments and banter with which he seasons his work. On the other hand, a nation or race that "flies off the handle" when one pokes fun at it, is reacting against an inferiority complex, as the psychologists call it

Of course we love criticising each other and denouncing our own national faults, too; "John Bull is always grumbling", say his candid friends. But this confirmed habit, when analysed, is seen as a preliminary to all our reforms. Whatsoever calls forth that grumbling had better look to itself, for behind all their sentiment the English are an eminently practical nation, with a genius for righting the wrong.

In one of his books the learned Scottish geologist, Hugh Miller, tells us some of his impressions of English character. He says that when an Englishman strayed into Scotland, he acquainted everybody with his business and told where he came from and where he was going to. Perhaps this may have been true in Miller's day, but no Englishman that I knew, would have trusted a stranger with a knowledge of his business. The English aloofness, in fact, could scarcely be exaggerated; and one might travel a couple of hundred miles in a compartment of a railway carriage, along with a dozen fellow passengers, without hearing any conversation beyond the collector's "Tickets, please!" One writer considers this reluctance to be "hail-fellow-well-met," as a basic, racial and complete lack of curiosity. To me it seemed an eminently, natural protective trait, for one could not be sure of the moral worth or reputation of one's fellow-travellers, strangers as they were; and so they were best kept at a distance! I have heard that the World War brought about great changes in this respect, with more "sociability".

Another dominant trait is the dislike of variety, novelty, or change. The English prefer sameness, monotony and repetition. This, I feel sure, is due to the "best bad climate in the world," (as I have heard it described). There is no seasonal rush, followed by half a year when one could almost hibernate; nor has it an atmosphere supercharged with electricity as ours is. The seasons as a rule blend into each other by infinitesimal graduations; and the English people have been subject to this beneficient influence for more than a thousand years. In France—where the Gulf Stream has no sway—the climate is different and different is the character of the people. The political rulers of France change about every six months, sometimes oftener; as we have seen, it takes a very grave crisis to induce the Briton to change the head of his government, and then it is in the form of a compromise.

"There are two kinds of pleasure," says another writer: "The pleasure of surprise, adored by children, and the pleasure of recognition, cherished by the aged." Now that thousand or more years of national existence has made the English an old people, more mature and less childish than any other race on earth,—except the Chinese. They love old favorites, both songs and hymns; and they extend that love to the singers too. "They will go in thousands to hear an old woman with a cracked voice, sing dreadfully the songs she sang beautifully fifty years ago, and they will enjoy it." I thought of this quotation on the last night of seatravel before we reached the Island, and recognized its truth. As was customary in those days, there was a concert on ship-board, to which all contributed. To my surprise there appeared on the platform a conjurer whom I remembered to have seen at least thirty years before. His "tricks" were old and of the simplest character, but didn't the crowd enjoy them! And when his wife came on and sang old songs—old in our parents' time—she was cheered to the echo, although her voice was the worse for much wear. The English memory is strong; it is for them the source of much of their sentiment.

Flies Dislike Blue?

Here is a matter for experiment. In a book on South Africa I read that flies are a nuisance there, as they are in all other hot couuntries. The account goes on to state that the people paint their doors blue, and the flies keep away from them as they dislike that color. I don't like that color for doors either, but it might be well to test the statement by painting a board or other object blue, and placing it where flies most do congregate. It is not stated whether the tint is light or dark, but both might be tried. I'd be glad to publish the result.

The Shore Crab

When rambling on the shore one sometimes runs across the "shell" of the shore-crab, cast up by the waves. It is not as large as that of the English species, never exceeding the dimensions of one's palm, as far as my own observation goes; while the British crab easily attains the size of a large saucer or a small dinner plate. Our shore-crab is known to science as Cancer irrotarus, the latter term rather obscurely connecting the crustacean with dew or moisture. It is, I am told, exceedingly abundant along the rocky shores of the Gulf of St. Lawrence but may be found from the Labrador coast down to the shores of the Carolinas. Crabs, it may be mentioned, do not thrive in cold water, and those of the Labrador are fewer and smaller than those of the southern seas. Although I have never heard of shore-crabs being used for food here, it is said that they are taken in large numbers for the Canadian market; but in the United States they are reckoned as second in value to the "Blue Crab" (Callinectes sapidus). The shore-crab (or Rock-crab, as it is termed by our American cousins) not infrequently finds its way to the restaurant table under the name of its more valuable congener.

The shore-crab frequents shallow water, and being unable to swim, it is very secretive, slipping from one sheltering rock or bunch of seaweed to another in most furtive fashion. Or it may lie for hours buried up to its watchful eyes in the sand. There it awaits such passers-by as are to its liking, and then with the swiftness of a cat it pounces on its prey. Nevertheless it will eat carrion just as readily as it will eat any crab less than itself; and although the thought is not an appetizing one, it cannot be denied that the shore-crab performs an important role (as scavenger) in the economy of nature.

The lobster is a close relation of the crab, and has the same food preferences. It is a misnomer to call these animals "shell-fish," as some do; the outer bony skeleton may be termed a carapace. The "claws" prepare the food for swallowing, so that these crustaceans are said "to chew their food with their fingers!"

Odd Historical Notes

Cleopatra's Needle. On the Victoria Embankment, near the approach to Waterloo Bridge, London, stands an obelisk, which is known as Cleopatra's Needle. That Queen was, however, in no way connected with the raising of this and another similar column, at Heliopolis or On, about fourteen centuries before the Christian era. (1470 B.C.?). On it are recorded the conquests of Thothmes III, an able King and warrior, who won the victory of Megiddo subdued Syria and part of Mesopotamia, and rendered the tributary Phoenicia, Babylon and Assyria. The "needle" is of red granite, and stands 69 feet high. Julius Caesar removed the two obelisks to Alexandria and re-erected them before the temple which he built there and which was called the Caesarien. In the course of time the temple was pulled down, and one of the columns fell prone on the desert sands.

There our needle lay till the year 1820, when interest was once more directed to it by the ruler of Egypt, Mohammed Ali, who presented it to the British Government. As it weighed 180 tons considerations of expense prevented its removal till the year 1878. Then it was enclosed in a huge metal cylinder, made airtight, and towed toward England. A storm in the Bay of Biscay, sank the tug, and the cylinder went adrift; another boat recovered it and took it to the Thames. Some years after the column was erected on its present site, I went to have a look at it and found that our damp northern air, laden, too, with acid, was obliterating the inscriptions in a way that the passage of thirty-three centuries could not equal. The authorities afterwards painted the column with some waterproofing solution. In the last war the Needle did not escape, for it was gashed by a bomb. Its companion obelisk,—if my memory serves—was afterwards taken to Paris and re-erected on the banks of the Seine.

It was in the Temple of the Sun at Heliopolis that Moses was educated "in all the wisdom of the Egyptians"; and the future leader of the Israelites must have often gazed upon the inscriptions on our "Needle."

Alnwick Castle. This, the seat of the Dukes of Northumberland, has been aptly termed "the Windsor of the North." The original Norman fortress was built by Ivo de Vescy, Baron of Alnwick, about 1096, and after suffering from the assaults of the Scots, and the storms of two hundred years, it was almost entirely rebuilt by the first two Percies (1310-1350). (The Vescy family are descended from that Ivo de Vescy who helped William I to conquer England). Extensive alterations by Dukes Hugh and Algernon Percy gave the Castle its present stately appearance. The latter nobleman modernized the Castle in 1854, at a cost of £250,000. He was a great traveller, too, principally in Egypt; and brought home numerous relics connected with the land of the Pharaohs. All the Dukes had hobbies of one sort or other, and the curiosities they collected were kept in museum-rooms all over the Castle, and were displayed to the public freely. The upper storey of the Sallyport Tower contained a collection of ancient British, Roman, and Saron antiquities, which I confess gave me more pleasure to examine, than all Duke Algernon's Egyptian relics. There was an altar from Habitanicum dedicated to the three Goddess Mothers (Deae Matres), whose history was given in this column some time ago; and another altar from the same place, in rather unintelligible Latin, which seems to say "In a dream forewarned, a soldier directed the wife of Fabius to erect this altar to the nymphs who are worthy of worship." The nymphs were local divinities, something like the fairies of later times, who presided over groves and meadows, and especially over fountains. There was a beautifully carved Saxon sepulchural cross, found in the ruins of Woden's (!) Church at Alnmouth, in 1789.

But Alnwick Castle is closed now, and its noble owner has just been killed in action. I doubt whether it will ever again be the family home of the brave race who have held it for over six hundred years. The taxation is so high in the Old Country that the owners of these historic places cannot afford to maintain them, and the succession duties complete the ruin.

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

Arthur H. Bryenton, Kensington; J. H. Campbell, Alliston; J. Harry Green, Central Bedeque; George Muirhead, St. Eleanor's; Francis B. Trainor, Vernon River; T. Taylor, Springfield; or Charles E. Worth, 226 Great George Street, Charlottetown.

- CONSERVATION -

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

"UFAW" Victory In England

Since its inception "UFAW" has taken a great interest in the work of the various animal welfare societies to abolish the gin trap—a cruel toothed trap popularly used to exterminate rabbits, especially in those centres of the commercial rabbit-trapping industry, Devon, Cornwall and So. Wales. Since 1933 this work has been amongst its foremost endeavours and in July of last year the eleventh attempt since 1918 met with success in the passage through Parliament of the Prevention of Damage by Rabbits Act.

This Act requires the occupier of land either to destroy his rabbits or fence them in so that his neighbour's property will be protected. The penalty for non-compliance is steep. Farmers will therefore be encouraged to destroy their rabbits in the spring, rather than sell them to trappers in winter.

The Act imposes a severe fine for using or permitting the use of spring traps for rabbits elsewhere than in rabbit holes. As the law stands at present, owners of land—not tenants—may place gin traps in the open to the great danger of domestic animals.

The Act legalizes the use of cyanide fumigation for the destruction of rabbits. "UFAW", after long and hard work, has convinced the public that this method of dealing with the rabbit pest is not only humane but also efficient and relatively cheap. The next step towards the complete abolition of the gin trap in Britain will be the introduction of a "Mutilated Rabbits Bill" which will prohibit the sale of rabbits which have been mutilated by gin traps or snares

Two Links In The Chain of Branches We Hope To Establish Across Canada

Last August a member of our executive, Mrs. W. Greenberg, journeyed far afield in the interests of the Association, spending much time during her vacation for the purpose of organizing, in the very stronghold of the Fur Industry, two branches of the A.P.F.A. at Port Arthur and Winnipeg.

Mrs. John Kelly, of the Thunder Bay Humane Society, the only woman in Ontario holding a police inspector's badge, was elected President of the Port Arthur branch. In Winnipeg Miss Helen A. Sturrock of the Great West Life Insurance Co., a charter member of the Association, was elected Secretary, and Mrs. K. M. Reeve, President.

As these new branches were opened at a rather inauspicious time—on the eve of the outbreak of war—and have since had a hard struggle for existence, they need all the help and encouragement possible. We would therefore urge all members and friends of the Association who know of any prospective members for these branches in the West, to send us their names and addresses, so that we may communicate with them.

We wish these branches the best of luck and would like to express our warmest thanks to Mrs. Greenberg for her noble work.

Plan to Give Territory to Trappers And Their Heirs Forever

According to a recent editorial, this is what may actually take place in Northern Ontario after a two-year survey, involving thousands of square miles, has been made. Every free township north of the French and Mattawa rivers to the distant transcontinental railway line will be allocated on a nominal rental basis to trappers upon application. North of the Trans-Continental Line as much of the territory as possible will be reserved for Indian trappers. South of the line the applications of Indians and white men will be given equal consideration.

If this plan goes into effect it will be the endeavour of the Association to induce these "potential fur farmers" to adopt more humane and economical methods of trapping than the wasteful steel trap.

Across The Miles

And now a word to you who reside at some distance from headquarters. We in Toronto are striving in every way possible to advance the cause to which we have dedicated ourselves. This is far from easy but, little by little, we are breaking through the hard crust of public indifference. The half-expected ridicule is surprisingly non-existent, due partly to the fact that actual proof of atrocious suffering implicating the majority of citizens cannot be sneered away, but also because societies and groups high in public esteem have allied themselves with us. The primary duty of your executive then is to gain prestige for the A.P.F.A., but we look to you for action in those sections which we cannot personally contact.

If you can interest a group and elect capable officers—no matter how modest the beginning—you will constitute yet another branch of the Association. A branch in every town and city throughout the Dominion would be none too many for the tremendous task to which we have set ourselves. Every possible assistance would be given from Toronto.

The next issue of the Bulletin will contain a list of what books and magazines you may borrow from our small library—information and facts you should have, whether working in a group or alone. Begin filling a scrap-book now with everything that comes your way relative to our work. Strongly organized we must eventually succeed.

Better Late Than Never

If you have not yet sent in your subscription for this season, the Secretary or Treasurer would be very glad to receive it. If you are not yet a member, you are invited to join. We need all the members we can get. Minimum annual subscription fee 25c.

Miss L. A. Ridley, Secretary, P. O. Box 342, Toronto, Ont.

Miss E. D. MacKay, Treasurer, 1924 Yonge St., Toronto, Ont.

NO FAVORITISM

Union Jack and swastika fly side by side in this street of Sofia, Bulgaria, during celebration of the national Bulgarian festival, while Bulgarian tanks rumble through the streets.

NOTES ON ISLAND PLANTS

The Thymelaeaceae

This is a small family represented in Canada by two genera of one species each. On the Island we have but one species, the Mezereon, **Daphne Mezereum.** This plant is abundant near one of the roads leading down into Hunter River, and it is said to grow at points on the St. Peter's Road. It is a native of Europe and is used as a garden shrub in Britain; probably we owe its presence here to the sentiment of some British settler. In England it grows three to four feet high; at Hunter River the tallest specimens stood about half that. The leaves are lanceolate and smooth, and the attractive "berries"—really drupes—are a brilliant red, and are disposed in lateral clusters. The flowers appear in early spring before the leaves; they are pinkish in color and have an agreeable fragrance which is the more appreciated because the rest of nature has scarcely awakened!

But all the parts of the shrub have an extremely acrid property, especially if chewed. This produces long-continued heat and inflammation of the throat and fauces. The berries, which are eaten with impunity by birds, act like a corrosive poison on man, and on dogs or other quadrupeds. Like most other plants of strong or violent properties, mankind has not hesitated to use the mezeron in medicine—on the principle, I suppose, that "desperate disease demand desperate remedies." In France the bark was used to produce what was called a perpetual blister: in England parts of the plant were used in case of eye-trouble, toothache, difficulty in swallowing and to cure some kinds of tumors.

CROP REPORT

WINNIPEG, Man. June 7—Except in isolated districts weather has been showery throughout the three Western Provinces during the past week. Crop conditions continue to improve particularly in Central and Northern Saskatchewan where heaviest rains were received. With seeding completed in Manitoba and Saskatchewan and only a small percentage of coarse grains to finish in some sections of Alberta, appraisal of western crop conditions at this time becomes clarified. Insect pest damage reported from several districts is just in the initial stages and is being closely watched by farmers and provincial departments according to the weekly crop report of the Department of Agriculture, Canadian National Railways.

SUN ROOM FORMS A WINTER RETREAT

A sun room—inclosed in glass—is not really appreciated until winter comes along. When weather conditions make it unsafe to let the children play outdoors, a sun room provides a place for recreational activities and at the same time promotes health.

Decorated with growing flowers, plants and vines, the sun room provides delightful surroundings for entertaining guests and for the enjoyment of the family.

Seasonal floor coverings and furniture, available especially for sun rooms, make possible the fullest enjoyment of this type of room during all seasons of the year.

HOLLYWOOD, June 6 —(AP) — Eleanor Powell of the films underwent a major operation today. Her physician said she "came through" successfully.

GAY'S PLANTS

For more than fifty years our plants have been distributed throughout the Island and Maritimes, and we have always planted the best seeds procurable.

The following annual bedding plants at 20c per dcz.

Petunias, all colors, mixture, Flaming velvet, Enchantress mixture, Rosy Morn, Blue Wonder, Dwarf Erect, etc. Asters, Phlox, Stocks, Verbenas, Portulaca, Zinnia, Giant Dahlia flowering, Snapdragon, Kochia, Cosmos, Corn Flower, Salvia Scarlet and Blue, Larkspur, Argeratum, blue and white, Lupins, Marigold, African, tall and dwarf, Signet, Dwarf and Sunrise Marigold, Alyssum, Chrysanthmum, Verginia Stock. For edging Lobelia white and blue, Lobelia Tenuir, Viscaria, Gamolespis and very dwarf Marigold, Alyssum, white and Lilac color. Seedling pansy and Carnation 40c doz.

Our all double Petunia seed cost at the rate of $416.00 per oz. at 50c per doz. and Ruffled and fringed Petunias cost $48.00 per oz at 25c doz. The all double petunias make grand pot plants to carry over the winter.

Perrenials and Biennials:—Pansy and English Daisy (in bloom) 10c each, $1.00 per dcz. Hollyhocks and Delphinium Larkspur 20c each, $1.00 for 6, $1.75 per doz. Digitalis or Fox Glove, Sweet William, Shastas Daisy, etc. 15c each, $1.20 per dcz.

Vegetable Plants:—Extra early Cabbage, Cauliflower and Celery $1.40 per 100, 20c per doz. Extra early Tomato (will produce lots of ripe tomato 40c per doz. Late tomato 30c doz. Cucumber, Lettuce and Peppers 25c doz. Late Cabbage and Cauliflower not ready before 15th June. Cabbage 30c per 100, Cauliflower 20c doz. 75c per 100, if by mail add 10c per 100 for postage.

Carter & Co Seedsmen have our plants for sale and we deliver plants to them daily.

We are always pleased to have our customers call at our gardens and personally select their requirements. If you bring flat boxes we can give you better service, and we also make a substantial discount on large orders. All orders for mailing or express must be accompanied by cash, money order or check with bank commission. Please write very plainly full address and sign your name.

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Will stand at — HUGH WALKER'S Barn, Charlottetown.

Manager — HUGH M. WALKER
Owner — EARLE C. BAKER
PHONE 1399

TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH Silver Fox Farming

The Dominion Fur Auction Sales Limited, Winnipeg, Manitoba, are marketing for the Manitoba government 126,000 muskrat pelts from the great Summerberry project on the Saskatchewan River. This is a 140,000 acre tract of marshland in the Saskatchewan River Delta about fifty miles east of The Pas. The project was commenced in 1936 as a joint relief work by the Federal and Provincial governments in an area that was practically depleted of muskrats. A system of dams and sluices was built which retained the Spring flood waters of the Saskatchewan on the big marsh areas, thereby creating suitable breeding and feeding grounds for the muskrats throughout the year.

The work was completed in December, 1937, and patrols and game wardens were appointed to prevent poaching on the preserves. These men acted also as repair men watching the dikes and operating the control outlets while in winter they kept poachers away.

A muskrat colony quickly increased from practically nothing. In 1937 they were estimated at 20,000 and in the fall of 1938 their numbers had risen to over 60,000. A rough census was taken last fall and the estimate was 200,000 muskrats on the project marshes. The Manitoba government then issued permission to permit trapping for the Spring of 1940. Upwards of 400 trappers were given permits, each man being allowed a maximum number of 300 rats. The pelts taken were turned over to the Government for grading and marketing, the returns to each trapper being based on the average pelt prices of the entire catch. They will be remitted to the recipients in eleven monthly installments thus providing an income throughout the year. The Government will retain a small percentage from the sale of the pelts as an offset to the cost of construction.

The Dominion Fur Auction Sales Company has advanced to the Government a cheque for $50,000 on the 126,000 pelt shipment and the balance will be paid to the Government as trustee for the trappers when all the sales have been completed.

Claude C. Holman, (brother of Mayor B. Roy Holman) Secretary of the Canadian Platinum and White Face Fox Breeders' Association, is active in promoting registration of the new breeds and proper plans for marketing pelts, etc. Mr. Holman is a man of considerable energy and is highly thought of by his fellow fox breeders in the West.

Fur of Canada, May number, published in Winnipeg, has an editorial entitled "Courage," from which these are extracts: "War clouds may look black with the enemy hammering at the gates, but at this date and time the human race is not going to be battered back into serfdom again. There will be many defeats and reverses before the world is at peace. In the meantime no man should doubt what the true and instinctive urge of the human heart is, or doubt the strength of that heart. The liberty of man was gained in the slow travail of the centuries. It cannot be destroyed over night by any exercise of lightning brutality.

"The fur rancher sometimes wonders what place he has in the picture, what he should do in the face of the terrors and uncertainties of the moment. He should carry on. He should carry on until his nation should demand some other service from him. We who are not privileged to carry the guns in this war can do our part by continuing the task we have to do with courage. Actually there is a better outlook for the production of fur ranches than there was at this time last year. People continue to buy and wear fine furs and they will continue to do so until the end of time. So let us keep the chin well up and go ahead planning for the future as usual."

William W. Brown has been ranching his foxes in his Dad's ranch, Mount Edward Road and has a very fine crop. None of them were very early arrivals, most of his pups being born after the eighth of April, but they are well developed and coming along in great style. Will has been successful in getting a mating from a female fox that he has carried for three years. The writer had the pleasure of looking at her a few evenings ago and her pelt seemed as good as in December, the black was blue black and the silver sparkling. Mr. Brown has been culling for several years concentrating on the progeny of his prize winning strains.

W. H. Leonard, Manager of Purina Mills, St. Louis, Mo., paid a short visit to the Province this week and called on a large number of fox ranchers and dealers in company with Guy Kennedy, Purina's representative. Mr. Leonard had some interesting photographs taken at the Company's experimental laboratory, St. Louis. There they go in for research, spending a large amount of money to find the why and wherefore of our fox and mink troubles.

Mr. Leonard was greatly taken with his visit to Raoul Reymond's ranch where he saw the lightest platinum fox that he has ever seen, much lighter than those he had looked at in American ranches. He believes that Mr. Reymond has something worth while in the whole litter. From 21 females mated to his high-class white face platinum male 19 had litters totalling 84 pups. 43 of which are marked pups. This looks as though Mr. Reymond's platinum fox is tops as a sire.

Mr. Leonard also thought that Jimmie Milligan at Northam had done particularly well as from 104 females there are 360 living pups. Spillett Brothers too, came in for comment as 40 of their 45 females whelped 182 pups. Mr. Leonard hopes to pay a visit to the Province during fox show week this fall.

Last week in these notes we urged our fox ranchers to look over the adults and pups for earmites and not to make a superficial examination either. If you see brown scale in the ears you can suspect, in fact be quiet sure, that it is evidence of earmites and take measures to cop with it accordingly, using the earmite lotion formula we gave or one of the many good preparations on the market. Just to show you that we know what we are talking about we may mention that a fox rancher friend of ours had a very unfortunate experience recently, losing quite a number of very valuable foxes through disease brought on by neglected earmits. Don't stop at treating the earmites, also thoroughly clean out the sheds or coops the foxes are in, using a good strong coal tar disinfectant with plenty of odor. Burn the straw and litter that is removed as the earmites and fleas which develop may cause you future trouble.

Anent the treatment of foxes for earmites, some authorities believe that each Spring foxes should be treated once a week for four weeks for earmites, but we believe this is not applicable in this Province except in extreme cases. In warm countries it is probbaly necessary.

The Toronto and York Mink Breeders' Association have announced a 1940 live pelt show to be held in November. All animals will be judged alive by an expert and awarded prizes as to their value as breeding stock, after which all animals shown will be pelted and rejudged as pelts wherein they will be awarded prizes as to their value as pelts.

At the annual meeting of the Illinois Silver Fox and Breeders' Association held at St. Charles, Illinois, recently, W. R. Callaghan of Geneva was re-elected President. A pelt show and fur fashion show was held in connection with the meeting. Mr. Callaghan is a son of W. P. Callaghan, Summerside.

Robert Mutch, representing Ross-Miller Fox Food products, has returned from an extended visit to the western part of the Province where he called on dozens of fox ranchers. Mr. Mutch believes that there is at least a thirty-three and one-third percent decline in the fox population as compared with a year ago. He has had a nice demand for Vita-Crumbla.

Mr. P.G. Delaney, representing the Prince Edward Island Fur Pool Ltd., Summerside, passed through here yesterday on return to Summerside. He had been to East Point and through all sections of King's County and reports that results vary considerably in different localities. At Gaspereaux and Peter's Road they have a good turnout of pups, particularly at Wendall Graham's, Peter's Road, who had such good success last year with his pelts. Quite a number of ranches around Montague show good averages, particularly H. W. Davison, whose pelts have been frequent prize winners. Mr. Delaney will visit almost every fox ranch in the Province in his tour of duty and carries for his firm all the popular feeds such as Purina, Sun-Glo, Master Feeds, Wheat Meat, Silver Tip, as well as a line of disinfectants and fox accessories.

And now we have something to announce that is really news—namely, that C. M. Lampson & Co., Ltd., (to our old time fox ranchers the ne plus ultra of auction houses) is to cease as an entity and will in future be amalgamated with the Hudson's Bay Company of London, England. We have known for many years that the H. B. C. had a controlling interest in Lampson's but it was a more or less remote control with Manager S. H. Murley operating largely on his own initiative.

The matter was referred to at the annual stockholders meeting of the H. B. C. in London. Governor Patrick Ashley Cooper said that it was no longer a practicable proposition to operate the Lampson business separately. Steps would be taken to enable the amalgamated business to offer the same service as before and to maintain the Lampson name as far as possible. The war he said has seriously affected Lampson operations, particularly American consignment business which had practically ceased with the introduction of the United States neutrality act. The extension of hostilities to Norway, he added, seriously dislocated the Lampson business that had been built up there and in other Scandinavian countries. The above will not affect the firm of Lampson, Fraser & Huth, Inc., New York, who will carry on as usual.

What a shock it would be to a pioneer fox rancher to hear that C. M. Lampson & Company, London, had ceased to exist! From our earliest recollection of the fox industry that name was associated with the marketing of fox pelts. It was through them that the old pioneers such as Sir Charles Dalton, Robert Oulton, the Tuplins and the Rayners sold their pelts sixty years ago and the results they obtained must have been astonishing when one considers how scarce money was then.

It was through some casual sales to Lampson's of furs from trapped silvers that Charles Dalton first conceived the idea of raising foxes in captivity. He talked the matter over with his sportsman friend Robert Oulton and then went on the lookout for wild-caught pups. Between them they figured out the necessary means of securely keeping Reynard in captivity. As the business grew they had more and more pelts to offer for sale and their neighbors, who had edged into the game, marketed through the same source. The highlights were reached in 1910 when Dalton sold 33 pelts in March of that year through C.M. Lampson & Company Ltd., for an average of over $1,300 with the top pelt bringing £545 stirling, said to be a world's record price.

Latest advice from London is that Sydney H. Murley, who is Director and General Manager of the C. M. Lampson Company, Ltd., will continue in his connection after the Lampson business is amalgamated with the London Fur Department of the Hudson's Bay Company. This will be good news to Mr. Murley's many friends in this Province.

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