

MODERN FARMER

- NEWSY NOTES -

By Agricola

"Oil Out Of Flinty Rock"

Just eight years ago, if anybody had talked of oil wells in England, he would have been laughed at. A certain amount of fuel oil was produced there, but it was obtained from coal after elaborate treatment. It was, under the circumstances, not likely to be cheap or abundant.

According to a London newspaper, the unexpected has happened and there are now 400 wells in operation, more than half of them giving oil of very superior quality. Because of the shortage of equipment, manpower, and time, a new technique of drilling was evolved. Mobile drilling units on lorries (trucks) and operated by a small team, halved the usual drilling time. The borings were shallow, and since they occupied only a few square yards of land, they were often surrounded by grazing cattle or growing crops.

Today 238 of these pumps operate in the Eaking area of Nottinghamshire; others are in Lancashire, Derbyshire, Yorkshire, Hampshire, and in Edinburgh, Scotland. In 1939 the first test borings were made, in 1944 the wells produced 26 million gallons, and during the whole war period, 78,000,000 gallons. The borings also discovered many unsuspected beds of coal.

So far the flow has been used mainly in the production of lubricating oil, great quantities of which had previously been imported; much paraffin wax was also produced.

So satisfactory have proved the shallow wells, that borings down to more than 7,000 feet are now going forward and experts say that there are at least 5,000 square miles of "promising" country to explore. (It may be recalled for comparison that our boring at Governor's Island went down twice as far, viz. 14,866 feet.)

The geologists and oil experts, not content with the land, are now considering the possibility of raising oil from the sea-bed strata off the Lancashire coast. They propose to do this by fleets of floating pumps. This is a new idea and one worth watching.

The Green-Winged Teal

This is the smallest of our ducks, but its flesh is esteemed.

The first time since the marketing of mink mutations started.

The sale was better in the case of black and white type collection of 8,500 skins. These were 85 per cent sold at a top price of \$16.50. The collection of white mink was completely sold and brought a top price of \$54.00 with the bulk of the goods selling between \$25 and \$30. The last portion of the mutation mink sale included the offering of choker and miscellaneous types. This collection was completely sold, the top price being \$28, the low price \$3.00. The bulk of the offering sold between \$9.00 and \$15.00.

Next Wednesday afternoon at two o'clock the Canadian Fur Auction Sales Company, Ltd., will offer 4,400 silver fox mutations, etc. On Thursday June 19th, they will offer 811 mutation fox, special collection C.N.S.F.B.A. 441 silver fox, Ontario and P. E. I. show pelts, 8,800 silver fox and mutations. On Friday, June 20th, they will offer 10,800 silver fox and mutations.

AYRSHIRE BONUS POLICY

The Ayrshire Purchase Bonus Policy is suspended until further notice



A clean-skimming, easy-turning Renfrew is available to you now. There's no waiting for delivery! As the authorized Renfrew Representative for this district I will gladly demonstrate a Renfrew in your own dairy. There's no obligation to purchase. Get more cream and butter, with a Renfrew. Give me a call and I'll prove it to your satisfaction.

J. M. Ladner
177 KENT STREET

This year get a NEW **Renfrew** CREAM SEPARATOR
Also RANGES, TRUCK SCALES, WASHING MACHINES

since it has no fishy taste. This is because it feeds upon shellfish, insects, aquatic plants and seeds, instead of marine fish. Teal feed in grassy ponds and river margins, and their nests are never far from such places. They breed northward from the U. S. A., apparently most numerous in Alaska, and winter from Canada to Mexico and the W. Indies.

Green-winged Teal. A. O. U. 139. Large flocks, spring and fall. Male: head reddish brown, with a large iridescent green patch back of the eye, the green bordered beneath by a narrow white line; breast vinaceous, spotted black, a white crescent in front of the wings; sides and most of the back vermiculated with narrow black and white lines. Speculum green, tipped black and white. Underparts white. Female: duller generally, with the head and neck whitish, finely streaked dusky; wing as in the male. Length of adult about 14 inches.

What Price Statistics?

I keep a special record book for statistics of farm crops and their values year by year, gathering the figures for P. E. I. make good reading, as, for instance, the total agricultural income for the year ending March 31st, 1944, was \$15,920,000. These figures were given in The Guardian of May 27, 1944. It is true that things were booming at that time, but 16 million dollars is a lot of money and one would like to know just what "agricultural income" means. Did the farmers get all that, or were the statistics compiled further along the line?

About that time the number of farms on the Island had fallen to 12,240. Sixteen million dollars would give every farmer \$1300 for his share; that is, if he got the "agricultural income."

In Hansard, May 23rd, the statement was made that "you get 56 cents for a bushel of potatoes (in P. E. I.)" and of course they are the best in the world. The statement may possibly be true, but neither last fall nor this spring have we been able to sell seed potatoes for more than 75 cents a bushel. Ninety-six cents must be their value further along the trail.

Farmers need statistics headed "Income of Primary Producers in Agriculture," rather than the vague and misleading titles now in use.

A Correction

In Newsy Notes for June 7th, under "Trilliums," is a statement—"The Lily, however, springs from a short tuberous rootstock." - - - This should of course read: "The Lily springs from a true bulb, but the Trillium rises from a short tuberous rootstock that looks as if it had been bitten off below." (In former times the biting was supposed to be done by the Evil One, under ground. A British plant, with a similar rootstock, is popularly called the Devil's-bit!)

A Sensitive Plant

When I was in my late teens I often took a walk over to my great-uncle's place. He was a bachelor, fairly well-to-do, with a large house (dated 1660), and what I liked better, a glasshouse filled with uncommon plants. On one visit he pointed to a shrubby little plant, about a foot high growing in a flower-pot. "What do you call that plant?" he said. "Don't know," I said. "Never saw it before. What is it?" "It's a mimosa," he said, "take a good look at it."

I did take a good look at it but was not impressed. It had not reached its flowering stage and all that was to be seen were the leaves rather sparsely disposed on the branches. They had long stalks, well on to two inches, which, divided into 3 or 4 branches, at the summit, thickly studied on each side with small leaflets. They looked like 4 green feathers tied to a twig. "What's there particular about it?" I asked, dubiously.

"Watch," he said, and going near to the plant, he called "Shut up!" Instantly the leafstalks, which had been almost erect, fell, and slanted downward, and the "feathers" folded together in the middle. The plant drooped as if it had been touched by frost. Naturally I was astonished. "It's only playing possum," he said. "It'll be all right presently, then you try." When we came back half an hour later, the plant had recovered its poise. I told it to shut up but it didn't; "doesn't know you," said my uncle. I knew he was a joker and got out of him the true reason: he had forcibly blown his breath at the plant when he gave the command. A touch or a slight tap would have produced the same effect. This response to external disturbance has gained it the name of Sensitive Plant, botanically Mimosa pudica. I have read that the "nerve-centre" governing its movements, lies in two cells at the base of the leaf-stalk, where it joins the stem.

The Mimosa, the Desmodium or Telegraph Plant, and the Common Clover, all belong to the Family of the Leguminosae, and all exhibit movement in various degrees. The Mimosa seeks pro-

tection by bringing the leaves closer to the stem. The Desmodium has tripartite leaves, the outside leaflets of which keep up a perpetual wig-wagging; as one goes down, the other goes up. Why? On cool nights the Clover may be observed to move two leaflets to face one another, and then to enfold them by the third. This is a protection from the cold.

Nature Notes

There was little precipitation last winter, but spring has made up for it. In some respects it reminds me of spring 1917, which was cold, wet, and late. Letters from England claimed that vegetation there was a month behind-hand at the end of May. There was a good deal of rain here till June 15th, 1917, when the heat rose to 80 deg. F. in the shade and 107 deg. in the sun.

The astronomers blame a double dose of sunspots for our present unseasonable weather. I hear of Islanders who blame the position of the Moon. The famous astronomer Herschell drew up weather rules relative to the phases of the Moon; the present winter has tested these rules for the past three years, and found them utterly unreliable.

There is another hypothesis worthy of mention, though not perhaps of belief. Did not Francis Bacon, in one of his Essays, state that the weather recurred in cycles of 30 years called "Primes," according to his rustic contemporaries? Well, then, 1947 is like 1917!

The Dominion Dept. of Agriculture, Ottawa, is distributing (gratis) a pamphlet on "Lilies for Canadian Gardens," by Isabella Preston, who is well known for her work on Lilies as well as Lilies.

At the beginning of this century the genus Lilium seemed stabilized; all the lilies, though very beautiful, had become known as "old-fashioned flowers." Lilium longiflorum, and perhaps L. auratum for cut flowers, and L. tigrinum, croceum, elegans, and others were for the garden. Sometimes one might find L. candidum, with fragrant white flowers, in our island gardens but this was rare.

Within the last 10 or 15 years, specialists have turned their attention to "crossing" the old species, and have raised some striking hybrids, all described in Miss Preston's pamphlet.

It is now found that an old favorite of mine, Lilium testaceum, is a natural hybrid. This lily is elegant and its color resembles the pink that is found in some sea-shells. Its fault is that the bulbs are somewhat dearer than those of the other garden species!

Broadcasters Elect Officers

JASPER, Alta., June 12 (CP)—Directors of the Canadian Association of Broadcasters were elected today at the closing session of the annual meeting.

Directors for the ensuing year include Lt.-Col. K. S. Rogers, Charlottetown; Malcolm Neill, Fredericton.

Date and place of the next annual meeting was referred for decision by the new board.

British Films Industry In Deal With Americans

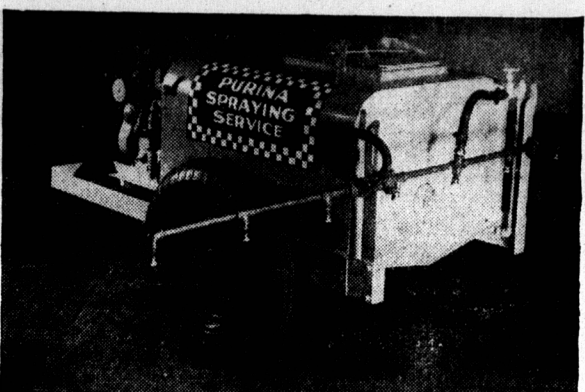
LONDON, June 12 (AP)—The J. Arthur Rank organization, Britain's largest motion picture producer, announced today that it has arranged with the five biggest film companies in the United States for British pictures to be shown in their circuits on the same terms as American films.

John Davis, Rank's managing director, described the agreement at a press conference as "the biggest opportunity British films have ever had."

FRENCH SETTLEMENT

French settlers founded New Orleans in 1718.

New Power Sprayer Here



Pictured above is the recently obtained Purina Power Sprayer, a machine that is going to prove a decided asset to farmers who take advantage of the service now being offered by the firm of Dillon & Spillett of this City.

Weighting a half ton and gasoline driven, it is used to spray barns, dairies, creameries etc. with D.D.T. and one application will eradicate flies for practically the entire summer. It can also be used as a weed killer and is guaranteed to kill most all weeds.

Cost of operation of this machine, the first of its type ever to come to the Maritimes is very low. Purina weed killer to cover 40 square feet comes as low as one cent. It can also be adapted for the spraying of whitewash.

Dillon and Spillett are to be commended on their foresight in purchasing a machine of this type. It will afford highest protection at a nominal charge and a trained operator will operate the machine for farmers desirous of making use of it.



YOU CAN STILL GET GOOD CHICKS AT BRAY'S

"Bray? O.K.!" That's what hundreds of poultry raisers say about Bray Chicks; for they have found by experience that Bray Chicks are really outstanding for vigor, fast growth, and fast full development — the characteristics that mean low losses and high returns whether you're raising layers or meat birds.

Yes — the Bray Hatcheries are still turning out chicks — chicks of the usual high Bray quality. If you want a few pullets or cockerels to supply your own table with eggs or meat — or want to raise some winter laying pen replacements — or off-season broilers, we can supply your needs. Big, vigorous, thrifty chicks. Prompt, courteous service.

Ask Any of Our P. E. Island Agents: CHARLES WORTH, Charlottetown, Phone 828-L.

Robert J. Shaw, Bloomfield. Clarence F. Haslam, Emerald. J. J. Stewart, Montague. Elmer Waugh, Wilmot Valley. G. B. Hume, Brooklyn. Winston W. Currie, Alberton. Miss Gertrude Doucet, Hunter R.

O. C. Johnson, North Tryon. Mrs. Arthur J. Enman, New Annan. H. A. Jolley, O'Leary. Charles S. MacKay, Park Corner. Mrs. Geo. Mulhead, St. Eleanor's. Garth McLean, Lot 16, South West

FRED W. BRAY, LIMITED

120 JOHN ST. N. - HAMILTON, ONT.

FERTILIZERS

Our confirmed orders being about filled we can now supply a limited quantity of:

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| Ammonium Nitrate | \$60.10 per ton |
| Cyanamid | 48.30 per ton |
| Sulphate of Ammonia | 44.50 per ton |
| Superphosphate | 27.50 per ton |
| 3-15-6 | 36.30 per ton |
| 3-15-6-38 | 39.30 per ton |
| 4-8-10 | 33.90 per ton |
| 4-8-10-1M | 34.90 per ton |
| 5-10-10 | 37.90 per ton |
| 5-10-10-1M | 38.90 per ton |

ex our Manufacturing Plant at the Charlottetown Airport. THE ISLAND FERTILIZER CO. LTD. CHARLOTTETOWN

TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH Silver Fox and Mink Farming

A turnover of 55 per cent was spent a couple of years at the McCord's Fur Sales (Canada) Ltd., of 3,900 mutation fox, 6,000 standard silver fox, 2,500 ranch mink and various other furs. Next week's Canadian Fur Auction Sales Company, Ltd., will offer a considerable quantity of mutation and silver foxes including a collection of show pelts from Prince Edward Island and Ontario marketed by the Canadian National Silver Fox Breeders' Association.

Canada's export of furs and fur products during the first four months of this year were down over \$1,500,000 on the same period in 1936. Considerable of this difference is due to lower prices for many furs, mink, etc., and to the fact that practically no silver fox or mutations have been shipped from Canada to the United States the last few months.

It was regrettable that the holding of the silver fox auctions by the Hudson's Bay Company and the Amnig, Chadwick and K'ever was asking himself identically the same questions as the queries above and that has ever been recorded in London. Practically no competition was due to the poor attendance which was answered to meet the existing situation. For one who has been in fur farming since 1919 I can say this is the toughest ordeal we have ever gone through, yet the industry is one that must be saved. Our product is a beautiful one that is only temporary in eclipse and having an intrinsic value it will eventually be back again a favorite of fashion and adornment for the ladies of the world. We must not become discouraged, we must not give up a heritage bequeathed to us by the great fathers of the industry, men like Dalton, Oulton, the Rainers, the Gordons, the Champions and others who made a name for this sold from \$14 to \$18. While such prices did not give the rancher a profit yet it is nice to see activity which some onlookers predict will be more pronounced as the season progresses, particularly if more cloth for coats is available to the trade. We do not know whether the activity is going on in Canada and the probability is that it is not as our government has turned a deaf ear to our proposal for the removal of the processing and sales tax which are the greatest handicaps to the movement of furs like silver fox.

The Hudson's Bay Company's fox farm at Bird's Hill, Manitoba, which is managed by W. O. Douglas, who it will be remembered

house nuts caused severe losses to ranchers through biting the feet. These particular lice are very common in many parts of the United States and prevention of lice is very simple, namely, to treat the mink with DDT powder on a periodic basis. Ranchers importing mink should take a careful look over them to see if there are any lice or live lice and if so to treat with DDT powder. Perhaps it would be just as well to treat the mink anyway.

Another trouble in mink ranches that is quite common in the United States is streptococcal infections and these are best determined by bacteriological examinations of mink that have died. Such mink would have to be taken to our Provincial Laboratory for examination by Dr. George Bishop.

The infections start as a localized lesion or as an abscess. In humans for example we have the "strep" throat. If these local infections do not heal the streptococci progress from there to the various body organs and are recommended for the treatment of animals suffering but they should be administered under one who is capable and has a knowledge of their dosage and effects.

Another disease very common with mink is urinary calculi. Among the causes that contribute to this condition are lack of vitamin A and D. Excess protein in the ration and a lack of proper balance between calcium and phosphorus in the ration, also the use of water high in mineral content. Successful mink ranchers are at present reducing bone in the ration to about 2 per cent level. In the past many ranchers have bought hogging machines which crushed whole carcasses of the horse and result in two much bone being fed to the animals. Treatment for the above condition consists of administration of cod liver oil high in A and D content, reduction of bone content equivalent to 2 per cent, a plentiful supply of water and the addition of 1 ounce of hydrated lime to 100 lbs. or mixed feed. Liver should also be fed in the proportion of at least 5 per cent.

Officials of General Foods Limited, Clarence J. Egl, vice-president; P. J. Carroll, secretary, and E. C. Sullivan, sales manager, paid a short visit to the Province on Wednesday and Thursday staying at the Charlottetown Hotel. They were anxious to get a glimpse of the Garden Province of Canada and spoke enthusiastically of the green fields and red soil. They were also pleased with the Charlottetown Hotel and its appointments.

While here they met some of the leading fur ranchers who had made enquiries and in fact, had ordered Gaines' Dog Food for use in feeding their foxes. This formula and manufacturing business was sold to General Foods by Clarence J. Gaines for upwards of three million dollars after it had established an unexcelled reputation as a food for dogs.

Mr. Gaines is now the proprietor of a large breeding farm in Kentucky where he aims to produce the finest brotters and pacers in the world by utilizing his knowledge of vitamins, minerals, and their balance in nutrition in preparing a formula for horses similar to that of his dog food.

FOX DISTEMPER CONTROL

The Prince Edward Island Fox Breeders and Exhibitors Association have voted a fund and appointed a committee for assistance in the control and eradication of Distemper in the fox ranches of this Province.

The co-operation of all fox ranchers in reporting any fresh outbreak of Distemper is requested by this committee. Only by such prompt action can we hope to control 100% any further spread of Distemper. Report any new cases immediately to any of the following:—

- L. W. HANCOCK, Summerside.
- L. K. LOCKERBY, Hamilton.
- R. S. HUMPHREY, Kensington.
- ANDREW JARDINE, Freetown.
- ERNEST MILL, Clermont.

WE KILL YOUR FLIES..

Our power spraying rig sprays Purina D.D.T. on all barn interiors. Kills flies all summer. Ask us about this new low-cost service.



Dillon & Spillett