A Page for the MODERN FARMER

- NEWSY NOTES -

By AGRICOLA

KERGUELEN ISLAND (3)

We left Joe Culver on his berg—for like Crusoe, his right there was none to dispute'—drifting towards what he suspected to be an island on the horizon. For a couple of hours he stood watching; at the end of that time he was sure that it was a big island lying right across his course, but still a considerable way off. He must have been a very intelligent young fellow, for he knew that icebergs were "two or three times as deep below the surface as they were above it," and prepared his plans accordingly. As the berg was between 200 and 300 feet high, with thrice that depth under water, he believed that it would run aground some time during the night, and while it was a good way off the island. Before it got too dark, he relates, "I went over to the other side of the berg (away from the island), for I had sense enough to know that when she grounded, all the pinnacles would go toppling down towards the island." He was desperately hungry but saved his half-biscuit for next day, to give him strength to swim. In the night he dozed off for a bit but was awakened by a deep grating noise followed by a sound like thunder, as part of the berg crashed forward into the sea. He felt the berg swing over, lifting him high in the air; then it tilted back, but kept the tilting motion up all night. Perhaps the rocking helped to put him to sleep; for he avers that he dosed off and slept till daybreak.

Daylight showed him that the berg had grounded at the entrance to a big bay, and that the shore—mostly sheer cliffs—was fully half a mile away, a longish swim in cold water, he thought. He now ate his last half biscuit and made his way down as near as he could get to the sea. Then he took off his clothes, folded them, put them in the middle of his oilskin, and wrapped it round them, tying one of his stockings round all, to keep everything together. (I may be permitted to digress here in explaining the word oilskin. Even when I was a schoolboy there were no rubberized raincoats; such articles sailors wore against the weather, were formed of cloth treated with boiled linseed oil (paint oil) which, on contact with oxygen, forms a film or "skin" that resists water. The modern application of this process produces "Linoleum"—which is another way of saying "linseed oil". Notice too, that one stocking acted as a strap: nobody wore socks then, and the long, heavy woollen stockings that all men wore, were re-footed several times ere their earthly careers ended.)

Throwing the bundle into the water he jumped in after it. "The water was too cold to be idle in" so he never stopped swimming till he got ashore, at a point where the cliffs were broken by a little ravine. As he was swimming he thought he heard a noise of barking, and sure enough there were lots of seals lying about on the rocks. Here was plenty of meat but no weapon by which to take it. He quickly opened up the oilskin, found the contents perfectly dry, and at once dressed himself..

Who can estimate the influence of Memory in the evolution and preservation of mankind? Most animals make a fresh start, as it were, every day; and those with any kind of memory exercise it on few and simple things. But man is able to recall the experiences of his fellows as a basis for his guidance, and (as in the present case) to instinctively grasp the policy of his prehistoric ancestors. Culver had seen a young seal lying not ten feet away; and he remembered his former shipmates saying that "the way to kill a seal is to hit him on the nose". Seizing a pointed stone he crawled cautiously towards the beast and smote it between the eyes", and there it lay dead."

Raw seal's flesh does not seem appetizing food to you or me, reader; but our hero was too hungry to think of cooking it, and reveals that he made as big a meal as ever he made in his life. Up to then he did not think he had any chances of surviving all the perils that crowded upon him—shipwreck, exposure and hunger: now he took heart again, and knelt down and thanked God for bringing him safely ashore. Then he climbed the ravine, to the top of the cliffs. It was hard work, but at the summit he found that the berg had luckily grounded at the only spot where he could have got up on that side of the island, for in most cases the cliffs rose nearly straight up, four to five hundred feet above sea level.

Now he could see something of the island he had reached: it was "a dreary country, rocky and desolate," with thin tufts of grass growing in the crevices of the rocks. The ground sloped in great terraces, to where snow-capped mountains bounded the view; the rock was hard and black, and evidently volcanic. Wherever a little earth had gathered the vegetation was more abundant and he noticed a plant "for all the world like a cabbage" which he resolved to try with his seal-meat, when he got the chance.

Our hero, being an intelligent young fellow as I have said, always carried matches; and what is more always carried them as they should be carried, in a metal box. His was a screw-cap brass box, and the matches were quite dry despite wreck and other mishaps. The fatal trouble was—there was no fuel! How he managed to get round this difficulty he relates further on.

The essential thing at this junction was to find a place to shelter in. Next day he began a systematic exploration of his domain. He walked for four to five hours disturbing hosts of penguins, which merely hissed and made an angry noise at the intruder. He kept away from the seals; it was poor policy, he thought, to frighten them. For two days he sought to find a cave, without success. Finally he selected a spot on the lower terrace in the face of the rock. The lower stratum was softer than the upper, which was black and hard like glass; and the action of the elements had fretted away the softer part to a depth of nearly six feet. This recess was only four feet high, and rather irregular in length, so he chose a spot where the opening was eight feet long and proceeded to close it in, just leaving a hole to crawl in and out by.

In doing this he showed considerable ingenuity and foresight. First, he collected some big stones and built a wall before the recess; then he filled up the crevices of the wall with tufts of grass. Next he carried up smaller stones and piled them against the wall, and as he piled he threw among them sand from the beach, until he had constructed a solid bank, four feet thick, all along the front of his shelter. The floor was now levelled, covered with sand, and spread thickly with dried grass. So passed his first week on his island, and here we shall leave him for a little space.

ODDS AND ENDS
Price of Eggs

Two interesting letters on "The Egg Situation" have lately appeared in the Open Forum; the one from the Department of Agriculture, and the other signed simply "Mary." Mary complains of eggs selling at 14 cents a dozen; now I keep a small flock of hens as a necessary evil, and believe it or not, when they began to lay early this spring, the eggs brought ten (10) cents per dozen! The British demand for eggs raised the price to 17 cents, just when I thought they must have come down to zero or lower! On July 3rd, (later still) there was a slight improvement: I had sent in a small batch which graded 42 per cent A, at 26 cents; 50 per cent B, at 18 cents; 4 per cent C, at 13 cents; and 4 per cent C (another C?) at 24 cents. But adding the money and dividing by the number of eggs, the result is 20 cents per dozen—which, after all, is nothing to write home about, as the saying goes. There were no cracked nor rotten eggs in the batch—so the slip says.

Now it is very questionable whether 20 cents per dozen will pay for the feed and the labor and care required to raise the chick to the laying stage, and at the same time allow any profit for the farmer. Grading is necessary to put a good article on the market and to keep the producer on his toes; but the weakness of the present system is that the grading is done by, or through, the dealer, a state of affairs which leaves the deal open to suspicion. This was tenor of both letters.

Denmark's rehabilitation. After the war of 1864 when Germany took the provinces of Scheeswig-Holstein from Denmark, the Danes were left with the fog-end of their peninsula—between sixteen and seventeen thousand square miles of the worst land in Europe, if we except the Russian Marshlands. On this half-barren strip there lived (in 1876) 11,902,000 persons. says the Encyclopaedia Britannica; which is roughly 116 people to the square mile. Their situation might look tragic and hopeless, but the Danes rose to the occasion. They had two valuable assets: first, a stability of character which carried them along till their object was attained, not overflowing with enthusiasm in trying new plans only to flop before they could mature. The second national asset was good leadership, more particularly towards co-operative farming. Luckily, too, the British market for agricultural and especially dairy produce was expanding rapidly, and the Danes supplied it so well that they became the most prosperous people of Europe. So well did they organize that (using our money as a standard of comparison) out of every dollar that the Britons sent to Denmark, at least 70 cents found its way to the Danish farmer's pocket. By 1921, (the last figures at hand the population had risen to 3,289,195 souls; or about 190 per square mile. Before the German invasion last year the percentage of automobiles to population was greater than that of any other European nation; surely a highlight on Denmark's prosperity.

Area of P. E. I.

The Canadian Natural Resources Intelligence Service, in a bulletin published in 1926, says that the area of P. E. Island is 2,184 square miles. Our worst land is better than what the Danes had to begin with; which seems to favor the view that it could support a much greater population than at present exists. Its area is about one-eighth that of Denmark, but its population is only one-over the 90,000. The same bulletin says 78.5% our people live in the country while 21.5 per cent are town dwellers; which is not so very different from my estimate of 3 to 1.

"Not attained by sudden flight." I speak from experience when I say that farm rehabilitation can only be effected after years of hard work. The little farm taken over by your scribe many years ago, was not at all in good shape. The first year the hay was almost a nonetity, yet it was necessary to keep two horses for working the fields so only one cow could be kept. That limited the manure produced, and without manure there could be little improvement. Here you see is a kind of vicious circle: no manure, no crop; no crop, no manure. Sometimes the hay would run short, and more would have to be purchased; and the soil had to be fed with fertilizer—another expense. When there was anything to sell the prices received were generally discouraging. I have known years when potatoes sold for 6 cents, and other years, "when you couldn't give them away." I have known years when little pigs came back from market for nobody was buying; and the big pigs sold for 6 cents a pound and old sows 2 to 4 cents "Plain living" marked those days, but I am not sure that "high thinking" followed. The most irksome thing that I found was the inability to make sufficient money to make repairs on the buildings, etc. Now this place gives fair crops, and with the greater demand and better prices for produce there is a little more satisfaction in farming—but there is still room for improvement in marketing conditions. But all the same it has been an interesting experiment.

Control Of Weeds On Lawn

(Experimental Farms News)

There are times when most home owners wish that some easy way could be found of killing weeds in lawns. The almost miraculous results which have been obtained in the control of certain weeds in grain crops has possibly led many people to expect equally good results in the eradication of weeds in lawns, says George Knowles, Division of Field Husbandry, Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa.

In a lawn, however, there is usually a mixture of weeds, some of which are annuals, some perennials. It is difficult therefore to find one herbicide which is equally effective against all weed species. Nevertheless, progress has been made toward the objective of eradicating weeds from lawns without killing the grass.

The results of experiments conducted at the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, show that the growth of many species of weeds can be definitely checked by applying calcium cyanamid dust at the rate of approximately 5 or 6 pounds per 1,000 square feet of lawn. It is essential that this dust be applied uniformly, otherwise permanent injury to the grass is likely to occur where the dust is applied at an excessive rate. For this reason it is advisable to use some type of duster which blows this chemical on the foliage. It may also be applied by shaking the dust through a cheesecloth. One may also punch a number of fine holes in the lid of a convenient sized can and shake it on. It is well, however, to experiment with the application of this herbicide on a small area and observe the results before risking this treatment on the entire lawn. Cyanamid should be applied when the foliage is wet with dew or by sprinkling.

This herbicide is quite caustic and may cause injury to the skin in applying, but the burning can be prevented by covering the hands with a thin film of oil before handling the dust.

Cyanamid is a fertilizer as well as a herbicide. It checks growth by burning the tops, but later it stimulates the growth of grass and enables it to compete more effectively with weeds.

It is well, therefore, to repeat this treatment a number of times. Early spring and early fall are suitable times for the application, although good results may be obtained if applied any time during the growing season.

Dandelions and plaintain are more effectively controlled by spraying with longtime burning oil at the rate of 5 gallons per 1000 square feet of lawn. Best results are secured from this treatment when the oil is applied in cool weather.

All herbicidal treatments to control weeds in lawns scorch the grass to some extent. This scorched appearance remains usually for about ten days. After that period the grass assumes its normal colour except where excessive amounts of the herbicide have been applied.

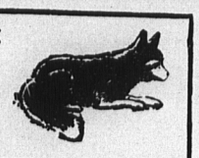
WATCH STRAPS MATCH FROCKS

Made in the same Chinese legendary prints as summer dresses are the new wrist watch straps. They come in a variety of colors and can be worn with solid color as well as print dresses.

After your delphiniums have finished blooming stalks may be cut back which will encourage them to bloom again later in the growing season. If you do this you must be sure that there is plenty of plant food in the soil to encourage such growth. If you dont want your delphiniums in bloom again by fall, dig them up, divide them and transplant to new locations.

LEEDS, England —(CP) — In spite of night raiding and the hum of airplanes the nightingales have not ceased singing in the English woodlands at night.

TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH Silver Fox Farming



Women's Wear Daily, New York, July 24th, states: "In the millinery fashion show this week when simple little black dresses were worn to show off the hats, furs starred as an accessory in muffs. The fur of the muff matched the fur of the hat. Huge size was the feature of the fur muffs in furs of silver fox as well as black fox. Furs of course are considered of major importance in fall millinery. In the show mink is by far and above the most widely featured fur in high priced hats Silver fox rates second to mink." Thus a new field of activity is opened up for silver fox furs.

We beg to acknowledge receipt of an address given by Dr. C. K. Gunn at the recent Summerside Field Day. It is so important that we are publishing it in full in two parts, part 1 which appears today and part 2 next Saturday. We would advise our fox farmer friends to read it very carefully, clip for future reference from time to time. Dr. Gunn has had a very splendid scientific education and has spent years in research work, therefore any observations by him must be treated with the greatest consideration.

SIZE IN FOX PELTS

By size in fox pelts is meant the length and girth of the pelt, that is we measure the length from the snout to the root of the tail and the body girth by measuring the animal around the chest regions. The size of fox pelts is determined chiefly by three factors,—heredity, environment and handling. By the last we mean the manner in which the pelt is stretched on the boards at the time of pelting. Upon looking at the subject of heredity it is quite evident that we cannot expect to obtain large size progeny from small parents. No one would expect to be able to produce a Clydesdale horse from the Shetland pony breed. In short, heredity is the most important and fundamental factor in determining the size of foxes.

It might be asked just what is inherited From our knowledge of genetics and embryology it would seem that rate of growth and duration of the growth period are the two factors that ultimately determine the size of an animal. Growth is directly controlled by the endocrine glands, such as pituitary, thyroid and testis. These produce internal secretions which control the building up of the various tissues in animals. The pituitary gland controls chiefly the growth of bones or the skeleton, while the thyroid gland determines the differentiation of tissues. If the pituitary gland happens to become diseased it may produce more of its secretion than the normal animal requires, with the result that giant forms occur. However, this occurs only under diseased conditions. As an example of the action of the thyroid gland, you probably remember the experiments carried out at school in which tadpoles were made to assume the adult frog form or undergo a premature metamorphosis by treatment with iodine or thyroxin. Again we are all familiar with the effect upon growth of the internal secretion of the testis. In castrated animals size is usually affected, with the result that such animals may be larger in size than the normal male adults. The important thing to remember about growth, however, is that it takes place only throughout a definite period of the life of the animal. That is, there is a time limit and beyond that time the animal does not grow. Therefore, it is very essential with pup foxes to feed them all they will eat of a well balanced ration during the period of growth because growth is limited by ossification of the bones. That is, many bones are made up of three parts, the epipithyses or knob-like ends of the bone, the shaft or diaphysis and the cartilaginous plate between the former two members. This last is the growing point of the bone. The cartilaginous plate becomes bone at a definite age in the animals' life and once this process of ossification takes place growth ceases in that bone. This is an important factor in determining the ultimate size of a fox

How is size inherited? Size is inherited by a non-Mendelian blending type of inheritance. If we mate a small strain of animals with a large strain we would expect to get progeny of an intermediate size. If the latter animals are again mated among themselves we would be likely to obtain both as large and as small as the grandparents. Therefore from the mode of inheritance of this character, it would seem that the best method to employ in order to get maximum inheritance for size in foxes, would be to select and mate large foxes to large and discard any small animals for breeding purposes, for if the crossing of large with small animals or even with foxes of intermediate size is continued, the progeny from these matings tend to drift back to the average size of the race. It is important, therefore, in selecting animals for size that you measure the length from the snout to the root of the tail, and the girth (taken around the chest regions) rather than to estimate the size by general appearance. These measurements are the most economic important in determining size of fox pelts.

Another means of obtaining increased size by breeding is to mate together two different inbred strains of foxes. Usually from such matings increased size is obtained by what is known as "hybrid vigor". This is a physiological condition which gives rise to a larger and a more virile strain of animals than either of the two original parent stocks. It is a well known system in cattle breeding. However, such hybrid (mongrel) animals do not make good breeding stock because they give rise to progeny which have the original parent characteristics with respect to size and vigor.

Environmental factors play a part in determining the size of fox pelts. These may be sub-divided under those pertaining to feed, parasites, disease and housing conditions. With respect to feed, two important points should be kept in mind. They are the quality and the quantity of the feed. By quality of feed we mean a feed which has good variety, containing an adequate amount of all the essential ingredients required in that particular feed for whatever purpose it is to be used That is, it should have a good variety of proteins, carbohydrates, fat, mineral salt and vitamins. With respect to quantity of feed, it is essential that the animal receives enough feed for repairing the wear and tear of body conditions and for any other metabolic processes which require further nourishment or energy, such as, the growth of fur, the normal development of the foetus during the gestation period and the nursing of the young foxes.

Quantity of feed is also very important during the growth period of the pups. During this time the pups require feed to overcome the wear and tear of the body processes as well as for body growth and the almost continuous production of new fur. It is possible even with a well balanced ration, to stunt the growth of a perfectly healthy fox pup by giving it less feed than is actually requires for the above processes of repair and growth. Therefore, it is very important to feed pups "ad lib" that is to say, all the feed they will nicely clean up. This is the only way to be sure that you are getting the maximum growth from your pups.

Now we might make a few remarks about the different constituents of feed, such as protein, carbohydrates, mineral salts, and vitamins with respect to their part in the process of growth of the animal. In regard to the proteins in the feed, it is very essential that they be of sufficient variety to supply all the essential amino acids which are necessary to support life in the animal. That is, different proteins are derived from different sources, chiefly from meat, meat offal and the cereal portion of the fox ration. Many of the proteins are made up of different groups of amino acids, therefore it is essential to get a good variety of proteins into the ration in order that all the essential amino acids will be there in an abundant quantity.

In reference to the carbohydrates, which are broken down to simple sugars by the digestive processes, and absorbed as such, it is essential that they be in an assimiable form so that foxes can break them down and use them. When these are in the right proportion to the protein portion of the ration, proper stimulation of growth of the underfur and guard hair results. An important point to keep in mind with respect to the cereal portion of the feed is that it is unwise to water down a well balanced cereal ration with some such constituent as dry bread, which narrows the variety of substance in the cereal with the result that it detracts from the balanced variety of ingredients offered by the original commercial cereal. This procedure is false economy when carried too far.

Certain mineral salts also play a very important part in the growth of animals Three of the most important are calcium, phosphorus and iodine. Calcium and phosphorus require particular mention because they are very essential in the building of bone and teeth in growing fox pups as well as in the prevention of milk fever and other metabolic disturbances in lactating vixens. Calcium and phosphorus are abundant in bonemeal and this should be added in generous proportions to the diets of vixens during the gestation and lactating periods as well as to the diets of growing fox pups.

Vitamins also play a very important role in stimulating growth. When carrying out vitamin experiments one of the most noticeable characteristics is the fact that in the cages of the animals receiving a deficient diet the feed is left uneaten to such an extent that they can be thus distinguished from their control animals receiving the complete rations. This loss of appetite occurs to such an extent that some emminent nutritional authorities feel that one of the most important factors in the "modus operandi" of vitamins is their effect upon the appetite.

Cod liver oil is a rich source of vitamins A and D. However, this should be procured in a fresh state, free from rancid fatty acids which have a tendency when fed during the furring season to cause fox fur to go off colour. This should be as rich as possible in the particular vitamins for which purpose the oil is being supplied. A good grade of standard cod liver oil contains 2000 units of vitamin A and 400 of vitamin D per gram . Cod liver oil should be fed to foxes, especially to pups which are kept in sheds and not exposed to sunlight.

Vitamin B is really a complex substance containing some twelve different ingredients. Rich sources of feed stuffs containing vitamin B are wheat germ and yeast. Of these yeast which is readily obtainable and low in cost contains the whole vitamin B complex, as it is called.

Although the evidence is not complete with respect to the requirements of vitamin E, it is generally thought to be necessary in the diet of breeding animals and wheat germ or it's oil which is rich in this vitamin are therefore added to fox rations during the breeding and gestation periods.

Vitamins A, B and D are known to be very essential factors in a fox ration to produce maximum growth of the animals Their cost, when considered in conjunction with their effect, is very small and every fox ration should be checked to se

(Continued on page 11, Col 8)

NEWSY NATURE NOTES

By Stuart L. Thompson

NATURE'S HUMBLER FOLK

Some summer morning when you step out into your garden you will find all about you, in the flower, bed or in the grass, little heaps of earth in curly piles. They were not there the evening before, and you wonder what creature has been astir during the night at work thus.

These little heaps are called worm-castings. They are but one evidence of the activities and toil that goes on nightly among the world of nature's humbler folk. The lowly earth worm is a good example of these little-known myriads.

Almost everyone knows the earthworm. The schoolboy hunts for it eagerly as bait for that long-planned fishing trip. The schoolgirl dreads it as a crawling object to be left alone. Even in Shakespeare we find caustic references to "he who needlessly sets his foot upon a worm." But to most people, the humble creature is simply a worm, and very little further thought is bestowed upon it.

It is to the great scientist Charles Darwin that we owe much of our knowledge of the earthworm, and to his tireless patience and long experiments with the creature that we have an appreciation of its place and value in Nature's scheme. By observations which lasted over a term of years Darwin calculated that tons of earth were moved annually by earthworms in their building of the curious little curly piles we see each morning in the garden.

All through the day worms lie hidden deep in their burrows, but when the dew-laden air of evening settles down over all, by some supersensitive means these blind helpless creatures hidden below ground sense the change, and bestir themselves and crawl forth. All through the night they creep and crawl about devouring food in the form of vegetable matter which comes in their way. The warmth of the rising sun warns the lowly foragers it is time to again seek their retreats and as the creatures crawl hand-first into their burrows. they leave behind the remains of their digested food in the form of the castings referred to above. The combined toil of hundreds of worms thus depositing soil night after night and year after year over any given area resuts in the richest of soil being laid on the surface. Nor is th's all. The open burrow is a direct channel by which air and rain can find a way deep down into the lower reaches of the ground, and to the many rootlets waiting to be thus nourished.

Denied by nature the senses of sight and hearing as we understand these blessings, worms are, nevertheless, probably the most sensitive of all creatures. They feel keenly. The slightest vibration of the earth such as a football gives the worm warning to withdraw into its burrow. Though sightless, yet it highly sensitive skin can detect the change in the intensity of light caused by a moving shadow and undoubtedly in the same way a change in the humidity of the atmosphere is conveyed to the worm. Thus by simply watering the lawn often worms can be induced to crawl forth. The sound and the moisture simulating a shower.

Some thousand different species of worms are known, being found in all regions except the driest and coldest. Some casually spoken of as worms are not worms. Many insects in the immature stage are creatures which creep, crawl or wriggle and so are spoken of as "worms". Grubs, maggots, caterpillars and slugs all are so named erroneously, although they are in no way related to the earthworm. But this is only one case in which the popular error might well be corrected.

CONSERVATION

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

MOURNING DOVE

While open seasons are provided on the mourning dove in several States, the bird is important as a game species only in California and the South, particularly in the latter region. Doves are difficult because they are multi-brooded and subjects for proper administration because the number of broods in the southern part of the range increases with a breeding season that extends from March or February to October. In fact, eggs are laid every month in the year, with the possible exception of November.

For many years it had been the practice to open the season of mourning doves on September 1. Investigations at the cooperative research station in Alabama, and elsewhere in the South, furnished abundant evidence that this early opening date was the poorest kind of management, since nesting is active during this month over most of the southern region. Pending completion of investigations in the northern part of the section, it appears that the shooting season should not open before October 1 for all areas south of the 36th parallels.

Studies of the movements of the species show that, while large numbers of western mourning doves regularly migrate well into Mexico, the eastern form does not leave the United States in winter but is heavily concentrated in the Southeastern States. This being the case, it will be readily understood that these birds were particularly vulnerable when the severe weather conditions of January struck deep into the South. Actually, mourning doves were affected as severely as any other species, much more so than most birds. Literally thousands of dead doves were found, apparently victims of starvation and cold.

Field personnel were accordingly instructed to survey and report on the situation in their respective districts. The study was nationwide in scope, and more than 150 reports were received for analysis. As expected, these showed the greatest dosses to be in the Atlantic and Mississippi Flyways, the number reporting decrease being 27 as against only 8 noting even a small increase. The situation in the Central and Pacific Flyaways (western subspecies) was much better, the populations being about normal, with a slight gain reported in the Pacific Flyway.

On April 23, 1940, at a conference, S. C., with the heads of conservation departments of most of the Southeastern States, the Bureau made arrangements for regulatory action that will probably greatly improve the management of the mourning dove in the Southeast. In a few States to the north and west, the situation needs improvement and this will be attended to as soon as adequate information is available.

Coot

The lowly coot, or "mudhen," should be a more popular game bird. When properly prepared it possesses good flavor and when fairly on the wing it has a flight speed that will test the skill of the marksman. Ranging from coast to coast, laying large sets of eggs, and suffering less from hunting, this species continues to increase at a rate that is disproportionate to that of the more generally preferred types of waterfowl.

Sora

The problem of obtaining precise information regarding the population status of any of the rails is difficult. It is known, however, that in recent years great areas in the habitat of the sora have been destroyed through drainage, chiefly for the control of mosquitoes. This cannot help having an adverse effect upon the rails as well as upon other forms of life dependent upon marsh associations.

Wilson's Snipe

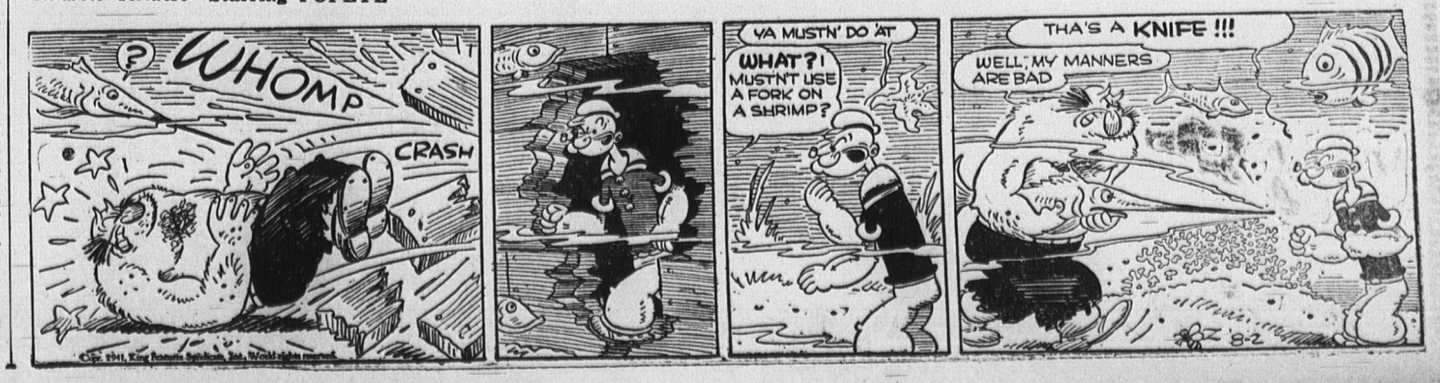
At the time of the January freeze in the Southern States, it was feared that the "jacksnipe" also was being severely affected, and a few birds were found that had apparently succumbed to the prevailing adverse weather conditions. All field personnel were, therefore, instructed to watch the spring migration closely and report any deviations from normal. The Wilsons snipe has an extensive breeding range, nesting northward to Alaska, MacKenzie, Labrador, and Newfoundland. With the exception of the Pacific Flyway, for which available information indicates an increase, reports of decrease exceed those of increase for the entir country. Analysis of the data does not, however, indicate that the situation is at all serious, but it is one that must be closely watched. Drainage has destroyed much habitat of the jacksnipe also and the bird is by no means so abundant as in the past.

White-winged Dove

The white-winged Dove is a subtropical species that is found commonly in the United States only in the lower Rio Grande Valley and in the Southeast, where two subspecies (eastern and western) are represented. The birds came under Federal jurisdiction with ratification of the treaty with Mexico for the protection of migratory birds. As game, they are of interest only in Texas and Arizona.

Early open seasons, once nearly in midsummer, were formerly permitted in the belief that these doves had an early migration, because of storms, that took them out of the country. During the past three years the problem has been intensively studied in Arizona by Johnson A. Neff, a biologist of the Survey, and more recently it has been possible for George B. Saunders, the biologist of the Central Flyway, to make investigations in Texas.

(To Be Continued)

Hanoi, French Indo-China:—Admiral Jean Decoux (left), Governor-General of Indo-China, and Major-General Rashiro Sumita, head of the Japanese military mission, are shown in recent meeting at an air port. On July 23 they were once more in conference, the result of which decides the fate of French Indo-China. Japan is demanding military bases and economic concessions, with the threat of full military occupation, if these demands were not satisfied.

Thimble Theatre—Starring POPEYE