# MODERN FARMER

## TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH Silver Fox Farming

This season has been one of the most peculiar in many years. The mild weather in the latter part of February and early March and the complete disappearance of snow from the ground has presented problems to the fox rancher difficult to solve. Many ranchers complain that they have been unable to obtain as large a percentage of matings as in other years, in fact some matings are so late in some ranches that quite a big percentage will be blanks. The disappearance of snow means that the rancher must water his foxes daily or at least every two days. If he does not do so there is a possibility of the animals becoming constipated due to lack of moisture in the system. It is easy to overlook this necessary work, but no matter if the foxes don't drink all the water that is put out for them we think it a good idea to put in fresh water every day.

Some ranchers have complained about foxes biting their fur and we have found on inquiry that they have not been using any salt in the diet. It is a well known fact that salt is a necessity both for men and animals and a percentage of say 1-2 per cent should be fed daily in the ration. We have not heard of many litters being lost, in fact those who we have met say that due to the milder weather they seem to have less trouble with litters than usual. Maybe when this is taken into account the full season's breeding operations may turn out quite as well as any average year.

What to do about the meat situation is concerning most of us. Horse meat is obtainable and most of the dealers have stocked up with it so there is no meat worry on that account. Tripe, however, is impossible to buy except locally. The packers are canning the tripe and shipping it to Europe. They get about twice as much for it that way as they would if sold to us so the prospects for tripe seem very remote indeed as this famine is liable to continue more or less for a couple of years. As a substitute and to partially tone down the stronger qualities of the horse meat we think that anywhere from 10 to 20 percent of fish can be fed. It would of course be necessary to start with a small percentage, say 5 per cent and then gradually add up to 20 per cent as the season progresses. Fish bloc put up in Halifax is obtainable in centres like Charlottetown and Summerside and many ranchers have used it for years with great success. It is of course probably more expensive than feeding fish which is obtainable from vicinities like Souris, Summerside and Charlottetown which are within easy access of fishing grounds.

The pelt situation seems to be fairly quiet at present. The next auction will be held in Montreal commencing Monday. Silver fox will be on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday and in connection with the sale there will be about 1,000 new type pelts offered by the Canadian National Silver Fox Breeders' Association, Summerside. These will comprise platinums, platinum silvers, pearl platinums and white faces with a small number of glaciers. Many of us will be watching anxiously to see how these fare off in the auction room. The silver fox pelts from the show collections of Prince Edward Island and Ontario will not be offered at this sale but will probably go on the May vendue.

The writer took a trip to New York attending the meeting of the United States Trotting Association last week and stopped at the Waldorf Astoria. Thousands of people enter its portals from two streets daily and quite a number of them are of the moneyed class, so I found it very interesting when the opportunity offered to see the types of furs the ladies wore. Platinum fox jackets were very much in evidence and some were very beautiful. White marked jackets were also quite common but silvers predominated. They looked very nice indeed and the writer felt very much encouraged by the numbers worn and the attractiveness of the silver fox jackets. We formed the opinion that it would be a long, long time before silver fox went out of the picture and the probability is that in a few years it will be back with greater popularity than it has now. For that reason I do not think it would be wise to curtail too much the production of silvers, I believe it would be wise to keep a good balance and breed in addition, platinums, platinum silvers and white faces. So far this season pearl platinums have not distinguished themselves by averaging much higher prices than silvers at auction. We have been following the various vendues carefully and $68.00 seems top in many of them. It may be that only the poorer qualities of pearl platinums have been offered for sale and that in a few years by selection and better breeding methods pearl platinums will achieve a more honored place—we hope so.

The Wisconsin Fur Breelers' Association will hold its 1946 Fur Farmers International Summer School at Milwaukee, June 19th to 21st, in conjunction with the 23rd annual meeting of the American National Fur Breeders' Association.

**SCHEDULE FOR MONTREAL FUR SALE**

Montreal, March 13 — Canadian Fur Auction Sales Co. (Quebec), Ltd., announces the following offerings and order of sales for its forthcoming auction:

Monday, March 25: 22,670 muskrat, 17,360 ermine, 390 otter, 2,845 beaver, 360 lynx, 560 lynx cat 1,410 wolf, 100 timber wolf, 2,000 Alaska seal dressed and dyed by Martin, London, 275 blue fox, 575 white fox, 10,370 red fox.

Tuesday: 8,500 ranch mink 2,500 wild mink, 960 marten, 565 fisher, 5,680 raccoon, 3,820 skunk, 29,950 Canadian squirrel, 2,325 cross fox.

Wednesday: 9,300 silver fox.

Thursday: 1,100 special collection Canadian National Silver Fox Breeders Assn., 3,000 silver fox.

Friday: 9,500 silver fox, wild fur sale commences at 10 a. m. and silver fox at 9.30 a. m. All skins will be on show from Friday, March 22, until time of sale.

**MONTREAL SALE LISTS**

Montreal, March 13 —Montreal Fur Sales (Canada) Limited announces the following quantities and order of sale for its general sale Friday, March 22, starting at 9:30 a. m.: 1,000 special foxes, 2,700 silver fox, 200 blue fox, 1,000 red fox, 2,500 ranch mink, 600 wolf, 500 badger, 1,700 dressed Persian lamb, 2,000 Indian lamb, 30,000 rabbits and a quantity of miscellaneous furs. These will be on show from Wednesday March 20, until time of sale.

Mrs. Charles H. Showers of Madison, Wisconsin, is seriously thinking about changing her muskrat coat for some other type of fur. Wearing her coat while walking near her home a few days ago she was suddenly attacked by a relative of the animals that gave their lives for her coat. The muskrat, believed by police to have strayed from a nearby marsh, bit Mrs. Showers in the leg before being driven off. Later it was tracked down and shot by a policeman.

Washington, March 11—The committee for reciprocity information is considering conflicting testimony on the question of whether existing supplemental trade agreements with Canada regarding the importation into this country of silver fox furs should be changed, terminated or allowed to remain in force as they stand.

Representative fur merchants argued against retention of the existing quotas in a hearing here last week, while representatives of organized fur farmers in the Middle West and West insisted the quotas must be at least kept—and probably reduced—and that tariffs should be raised. The tariff argument appeared to be irrelevant under the terms of the public notice calling interested parties to the committee's hearing.

Isidore Bergner of E. S. Ullman-Allied Co., Inc., New York, argued there should be no quota under present conditions—that importation of furs should be free of restraint. Answering previous arguments of the fox fur farmers that the present world market would not allow this, he said he had sold furs to France within the last 10 days. He said the fur merchants should be enabled to buy and sell freely.

Alexander T. Macleod, representing the American Fur Merchants Association, Inc., New York, took a somewhat similar position on the desirability of a free entrance into this country for pelts from abroad. Omar Brager-Larson of the Petoskey Fur Farms, Inc., Harbor Springs, Mich., said that if the quota could not be eliminated completely, Norway, at least, should be entitled to a bigger slice of the United States import market than it has at present.

Eight representatives of the fox fur farmers had presented their case for the retention—or diminution—of the quota and for retention of a tariff at least as high as the present 35 per cent. (Editor's Note: If the quota is eliminated, the tariff automatically will revert to the 37 1-2 per cent which prevailed before a quota was first established in 1939.)

Lampson, Fraser & Huth, Inc., New York, are holding a large sale of general furs, commencing April 1st, almost immediately after the conclusion of the Montreal sale. In the collection we notice 1,000 blue fox, 200 cross fox, 1,800 red fox, 5,000 silver and color phase fox 300 marten, 37,000 ranch mink, 30,000 wild mink, 250 dressed Russian sables in matched bundles as well as a large number of cheaper type furs.

Hudson's Bay Company, London, announced a few days ago that it expects to offer 27,000 silver fox and 2,300 platinum foxes in their London sales which are scheduled to begin March 25th. Anning, Chadwick and Klever announce they will offer about 12,000 skins including 500 platina.

**SPRING IN MANITOBA**

WINNIPEG, March 21 — (CP)— The first day of spring brought reports of ducks and geese heading north over Manitoba, and crows, robins and larks were also seen as warm sunshine flooded farmlands.

**ATTENTION CATTLE SHIPPERS**

EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY WE ARE RESUMING THE SLAUGHTERING OF CATTLE, AND WE SOLICIT YOUR ENQUIRIES AND SHIPMENTS.

**Davis & Fraser Limited**

3-21-3i.

## Egg Surplus Must Find Outlet in Great Britain; Prices Decline Slightly

Egg prices have declined slightly this week, it was learned yesterday from figures issued by the Dominion Department of Agriculture in Charlottetown. The decline was due to the fact that prices have been adjusted to export levels previously existing early in January. One carlot of eggs was forwarded to Saint John this week for export to Britain, with another carlot to follow this weekend.

Prince Edward Island grading stations are quoting for ungraded eggs, delivered, as follows: A-large 29-30; A-medium 27-28; B 23; C 18.

Graded shipments delivered Charlottetown (Packed for export) A-large 34-5; A-medium 32-3; B 28; C 23.

Graded shipments delivered Charlottetown (Packed for commercial use) A-large 32-3; A-medium 30-1; B 28; C 23.

Specialized producers receiving for cartoned pack: A-large 38; A-medium 36; A-pullets 33.

Poultry quotations are nominal at ceiling levels, with deliveries practically non-existent.

### Egg Market Statement

In connection with the egg market situation, Mr. F. G. Ward, poultry products inspector, issued the following statement:

"We have reached the period when a surplus exists in Maritime egg supplies, the only outlet being that of export to Britain. Eggs exported to Britain recently are paid for on a basis of 37.8 cents per dozen for A-large delivered at seaboard. This nets the shipper about .37 cents at Charlottetown. There is a considerable abount of work in connection with putting up eggs for export. The eggs have to be sized so that the extra large eggs are excluded from the shipment to Britain in order that breakage is minimized. Eggs have to be individually stamped with the word "Canada" —this stamping of eggs is not a Canadian Regulation but an order of the British Ministry of Food. All cases have to be wired both ends and stencilled. Nothing but good cases can be used in a shipment to Britain."

"It is the privilege of grading stations throughout P.E.I. to put up eggs in their own station sized, stamped and packed for export, or they can be put up for export by those firms that assemble such shipments in carlots. This work costs money and the price for export has been set at the above mentioned quotation.

"Poor grading by country grading stations results in additional works and costs at the assembling plants. It should be the endeavour of all grading stations to be exceedingly careful in the manner in which they pack these eggs, packing large ends up in every instance, excluding all dirts from the Grade AAs, using good clean fillers and flats. Such care on the part of grading station operators would do much to maintain the price to producers on a basis of 30 cents for A-large.

"If grading stations do not exercise the care above mentioned their shipments will not bring them in as high returns."

"In future, market quotations issued by the Poultry Marketing Services at Charlottetown will show prices paid for export pack and for commercial pack. Quotations for export pack should be in the neighborhood of .34c, possibly a fraction higher, whilst commercial pack eggs will probably be around 32-3 cents on a basis of A-large."

### One Carlot Shipped

"One carlot already has been forwarded to seaboard for export to Britain this week with another to follow on Saturday. It is expected that the export of eggs to Britain from P.E.I. will now be continuous until the end of the export season. The recent advance in the price of eggs which has lasted for the past six weeks was attributible to the fact that the Maritimes were exceedingly short of eggs. This period has passed and we may expect prices to be at the original level of early January, namely netting the producer 30c per dozen for A-large, to last until perhaps the end of May or at least until the end of April. These prices are comparative to those prices in existence in the corresponding period last year."

"Great Britain is the one market that we have at the present time that will take our complete surplus of eggs. It is up to registered egg grading stations on P. E.I. to do their best to create by the good quality of their eggs and pack an exceedingly favourable position there."

## Livestock

**SUMMARY**

Moderate receipts of live stock were well cleared in the past week on a generally steady to firm market. Principal interest centered on the top grades of beef-making material and while some western markets made slight advances on cattle, the over-all picture was little changed from the previous week.

Cattle deliveries to stock yards and packing plants at 30,400 were about 3,000 below the corresponding week last year. Marketings for the first 11 weeks this year total 346,700 as against 363,600 in the corresponding period last year. Calf marketings were also a little lower and the total to date this year is 82,950 as compared with 97,400 in the same period a year ago. Sheep and lamb sales continue in good volume and 13,300 were brought in to yards and plants in the past week; in the same week last year deliveries were 10,500. The sales since January 1st this year amount to 142,000 as compared with 135,000 last year. Hog gradings for the week ended March 9th totalled 106,871, making the total to date this year 1,016,324 as against 1,555,722 in the same period of last year.

**Eastern Cattle Markets**

Cattle marketings on eastern stock yards were moderate and prices generally unchanged. Early bids at Toronto were a little lower but receipts were such that it was impossible to lower prices. Weighty steers sold at Toronto at $11.50 to $13.25 butcher steers $10.50 to $12.50, butcher cows $8 to $10 and some stockers and feeders sold stronger at $10 to $11.35. Buyers at Montreal, where there was a slight increase in receipts, paid up to $13.50 for the best steers on offer, but with no choice on hand, and $11.50 to $12.50 for just medium quality. Good cows were $9.25 to $10 or a shade higher. Receipts continue extremely light in the Maritimes and the best of the steer offering was quoted at $11 to $11.50 f.o.b. country points and good cows $8 down.

**Western Cattle Markets**

Cattle deliveries in the west were in moderate volume and despite some effort on the part of buyers to reduce prices, all quotations remained steady and in some cases firmed up. Winnipeg had some selected steers at a top of $13, with most of the best slaughter steers $12.25 to $12.75 and stocker and feeder cattle, which were not sufficient to meet the needs of the trade, sold from $9 to $10 on reasonably good quality. Calgary was a little firmer on good butcher cattle and had good to choice steers at $11.75 to $12.40. Edmonton also advanced 25c on steers and heifers and paid a top of $12.60 on one load, with another at $12.50, and good kinds selling down to $10.50. Medium steers were $10 to $11.25. Prince Albert topped on steers at $12, Moose Jaw $12 to $12.25, Saskatoon $12.75, Regina around $12, and Vancouver $12.65.

**Exports to United States**

Dairy cattle shipments to the United States for the week totalled 1,060 as against 480 in the same week last year. Shipments to date this year are 7,632 compared with 4,684 in the corresponding period a year ago.

**Calves Generally Unchanged**

Calf prices remained steady at Toronto, with choice veals at $16 to $17. Montreal sold the bulk of the veals at $13.50 to $14.50, while Winnipeg was lower with goods to choice veals at $13.50 to $14.50. Calgary paid $12 to $13, Edmonton $12.50 to $13.50, Prince Albert $12 to $13, Moose Jaw up to $11.50, Saskatoon $14 to $14.50, and Regina up to $14.50.

**Little Change in Hog Prices**

There were only minor changes in hog prices. Toronto was steady to 25c higher, closing at $17.60 to $17.85 for Grade B1, Montreal finishing at $17.60, Winnipeg $16.35 to $16.50, Calgary $16.30 to $16.40, Edmonton $16.10 to $16.60, Prince Albert $16.05, Moose Jaw and Regina $16.10, Saskatoon $16 to $16.10, and Vancouver $17.10 to $17.50.

The above prices do not include the Dominion Government premiums of $3 per head on Grade A hogs and $2 on Grade B1.

**Lamb Trade Steady**

There was practically no change in the lamb market. Toronto paid $14.75 to $16 for good western lambs, Winnipeg up to $13, Calgary $12 to $12.35, Edmonton $12.75, Prince Albert $12, Moose Jaw $11.50, Saskatoon $12, and Regina $12.75.

## Police Seek Pair In Torso Slaying

HAMILTON, March 21—(CP)—Police tonight sought two men in connection with the torso slaying of John Dick, 40-year-old Hamilton street railway operator and it was learned that a third man may be linked with the case.

Arrested by police investigating the case, Mrs. Evelyn Dick, attractive 25-year-old widow of the slain man, and William Bokozyk, 24, of Hamilton, are being held in custody without bail.

Mrs. Dick is charged with vagrancy and Bokozyk with being in possession of an unregistered revolver and with vagrancy.

LONDON —(C P)— When the owner of two unfurnished flats in the London area advertised them to let he received 972 letters and prepaid telegrams from would-be tenants.

*"Did you have any trouble with smut this year, Joe?"*

"No siree. I treated all my seed with Ceresan. Had a wonderful crop. There's nothing like Ceresan for beating seed-borne diseases."

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Seed Disinfectant for WHEAT · OATS · FLAX · BARLEY

Controls Smut, Rust, Seedling Blight, Seed and Root Rot.

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## - NEWSY NOTES -

BY AGRICOLA

### "Canadian Nature"

This magazine, devoted to Natural Science, is maintaining the high reputation it has built up during the past five years. There is in the March-April issue a full-page colored picture of the American Woodcock, a bird common here as a summer resident. A smaller colored picture shows the Wilson Snipe, a similar bird whose "call" is often heard in late Spring. "A shrill quavering sound with a rising inflection, produced high in the air," says "The Birds of P.E.I." Barrie Rennie, well-known Canadian artist, contributes a fine painting of a Trillium (T. undulatum) which used to be common here but tends to disappear.

A short article on the "Giant Silkworm Moths", displays figures (in black and white) of the Polyphemus, the Cecropia, and the Promethea moths; the first two are common here, being the biggest moths we have. I have never found the Promethea moth, but that's not to say it isn't here! The scientific name of Samia cecropia has been altered to Platysamia — without any real justification. This article also describes their large green or blue-green caterpillars, which always attract our attention.

The National Museum of Canada contributes photos and matter under the title "Dinosaurs in Canada." These egg-laying reptiles, greatly diverse in size, form, and habits, once flourished in the badlands north-east of Calgary. Some of them—the herb-eaters—walked on four legs, while the flesh-eaters (who probably fed on them) hopped like Kangaroos. One big species of Gorgosaurus was forty feet long and walked about on his powerful hind limbs with his head some 12 or 14 feet above the ground." The bones (or some of them) of such a creature, were found at New London once on a time, but I suspect the animal was a "rare summer visitor" rather than a "resident." These remains are said to have gone to some Museum in the U. S. A.

There is a good paper, not too technical, on "The Sun and Eclipses," by Marian Lockwood. It is well illustrated, one of the most striking photos being the "midnight sun" at Coppermine on the Coronation Gulf — north of Great Bear Lake, on June 22, 1945.

### "The Yeomen of the Guard" (2)

Before taking up the second act of this well-known opera, let us find out something about the Yeomen themselves. The Yeomen Warders, as they are sometimes called, were first assembled in 1485, the first year of King Henry VII, to act as a personal bodyguard to that monarch. This corps is the oldest of its kind now existing, though its duties now are purely ceremonial. For instance, ever since the days of Guy Fawkes, it has been the duty of the Yeomen to search the vaults under the Houses of Parliament, on the eve of the state opening: as a rule, however the greater part of their time is spent in and about the Tower of London, where they act as wardens and guides. Vacancies in the corps, I am given to understand, are filled by veterans retired from the army, who are past the age for active work.

The uniform of the Yeomen is very picturesque and is in every respect a replica of that of 1485. The main feature is the knee-length scarlet coat, lavishly panelled with black, and white, piping. A wide scarlet belt around the Yeoman's waist is similarly ornamented, and so is another crossing over his left shoulder. On the back of the coat is worked "H.R." and on the front the floral emblems—the rose, shamrock, and thistle. Scarlet knee-breeches, long white stockings, and low shoes complete the uniform. For collar the Yeoman wears a white, crimped, Tudor ruff, and his hat is low-crowned with a wide flat brim. Bows of ribbons adorn his hat, his breeches and his shoes. His only weapon is an ancient halbert, with a tassle attached.

All the Yeomen that I have seen wore short, pointed beards, and being oldish men, these were white, giving their wearers a rather distinguished look. However, about two years ago these veterans began to kick against the regulations which condemned them to this hirsute appendage. Asked why, their reply was — "Our wives say the beards make us look like Jews!" I did not hear how the revolt ended, but no doubt permission to remove the beards would be granted.

At the end of Act I, the situation was as follows: the condemned prisoner, Colonel Fairfax, had been set at liberty by Phoebe Meryll, who thus becomes amenable to the law if and when her work is discovered. Sergeant Meryll, her father, has joined in the plot by passing off the disguised Colonel as his son, Leonard Meryll, just returned from foreign wars. Jack Points' matrimonial prospects have a severe set-back, since the Colonel is at liberty and Elsie Maynard is now his wife!

The curtain goes up and we see the Tower, from the wharf. The Yeomen are assembled and sing a chorus, while the overbearing housekeeper, Dame Carruthers, twits them in song — "Pretty warders are ye. Whom do ye ward?" In the meantime Jack Point and Wilfred Shadbolt (Head Jailor) become great pals, and the latter desires to learn how to be a bit of a jester too. Point explains: "Oh, a private buffoon is a light-hearted lune, according to popular rumor, he's cheerful and bright, and from morning to night he bubbles with mirth and good humor." But, "There are one or two rules—half a dozen, maybe,—that all family fools, of whatever degree, must observe if they love their profession." Wilfred is so pleased with his lesson that he promises to aid Point in his schemes to regain the fair Elsie and the two seal their partnership with a duet; "Hereupon we're both agreed, and all that we two do agree to, we'll secure by solemn deed".—This duet, with its lively music, was a great favorite in the Old Country.

As Point and Shadbolt move away Fairfax comes to the front of the stage. He is (as already stated) disguised as Leonard Meryll, but that doesn't stop him from telling the audience that, although free from his fetters, he is the willing captive of his unknown bride! We would prefer the Colonel in a more heroic mood, but Gilbert makes him a rather "moony" fellow, always complaining.

Now we hear what I consider the gem of the opera, an unaccompanied part-song by Kate, Dame Carruthers, Fairfax, and Sergeant Meryll. "Strange adventure- Maiden wedded to a groom she's never seen; groom about to be beheaded in an hour, on Tower green:" This is not quite a madrigal since it lacks the fugal effect, but it is almost as good as "Brightly dawns our wedding day" in the Mikado. The Lieutenant (Governor) of the Tower and others join the singers and a shot is heard Jack Point and Shadbolt come in and the latter explains that he has shot the prisoner—"Like a ghost I saw him creeping, or a spectre all-appalling," and finally, "with an ounce or two of lead I despatched him through the head, and it's very, very certain that he's very, very dead!" This is not true but is intended to revive Elsie's interest in the Jester.

There are three or four good choruses after this but the plot resolves itself something in this way. Fairfax is cleared of the charge of sorcery by his cousin's confession, and he romantically claims his bride. Phoebe is claimed by Shadbolt, and Sergeant Meryll by Dame Carruthers; and neither dare object lest their plot be disclosed to the Lieutenant. There is a doleful note as the curtain falls: Jack Point dies of a broken heart, a queer ending for a comedy.

That is as much as I recall of his opera and if Mount Allison broadcasts it, you now know the plot or "programme" as the Briton calls it.

### The Chickadees

Today, March 15, 1946, was a fine bright day with a northerly wind, and in the little valley that bounds our brook, birds were singing, their simple melody giving promise of Spring. In Solfa notation the sound would be represented by m:—:d:d; the latter notes being two tones below the first. Dr. Taverner says the melody "has been translated as "Spring's here!" This is the early song of the Black-capped Chickadee, and later it will be changed to the regular "chick-a-dee-dee-dee" that we know so well.

The Chickadee is a trusting, friendly bird, and withal of a merry, cheerful disposition that makes it deservedly popular. Our creek is somewhat sheltered and little flocks of chickadees resort to it all winter long. In the Spring come other birds which seem to join the flocks without opposition. Amongst them may sometimes be seen a Hudsonian Chickadee, the only other species known to occur on the Island.

**The Black-capped Chickadee** is No. 735 in the A. O. U. list. **Crown**, nape, and throat, black; sides of head and neck, breast and belly, white; the last, together with the sides, washed with pale buff. **Back** ashy. **Wing** and tail-feathers ashy, margined whitish. Length about 5.25 inches.

**Hudsonian or Brown - headed Chickadee.** (A.O.U. 740). Similar to No. 735, but duller and darker in general tone. **Cap** grayish brown, nearly the same color as the back. **Throat patch** present, blackish. **Flanks tinted** rufous. "A very dark chickadee with coloration diffused and pattern lacking distinctness."—Taverner. Its notes are hoarse but otherwise similar to those of the Black-capped Chickadee. Length about 5 inches.

These are most useful birds "consuming clusters of insect eggs at a gulp." They search the trees for such eggs all winter long. In spring they build nests in cavities of stumps, trees, posts, or telephone poles.

### Farming in Scotland, A.D. 1705

In Dr. G. M. Trevelyan's "English Social History", some space is given to a consideration of Scottish farming at the beginning of the eighteenth century. "It was reckoned that in 1705 Scotland sold 30,000 cattle into England: the usual price was something between £1 and £2 sterling per head. (This was $5 to $10 nominally but money was more "valuable" then —Ag.) The cattle and sheep were small, even as compared with the small English beasts of that period. Their pasture was for the most part unimproved moorland, and the cattle were shut up at night for want of fences. Of the remnant that had not been sold south to the English pastures many had to be slaughtered at Martinmas on the approach of winter, for there was little hay and no rootcrop on which to feed them. (In Northumberland, about this time, the field-growing of turnips was just commencing and huge tracts of rough land first felt the plough). During the next six months salted meat supplied the tables of the Scottish gentry; but meat seldom graced the peasant's board at any time of the year. On the return of the tardy Scottish spring, the poor beasts, mere skeletons after their winter-long imprisonment in the dark on rations of straw or boiled chaff, were led back from the byre (cow-stable) to the pasture, a pitiful procession, half supported, half carried by the farmers. This annual ceremony was only too well named the "Lifting." But mark this: within a hundred years (a short space of time in the history of a nation) Scotland had risen in almost every respect not merely to equal England in material things, but had attained an intellectual rivalry by means of her native genius.

## Home Garden Peas, Served Quickly of Top Quality

With Peas, "Garden Fresh" Means Not Over Two Hours from Picking

Not only does the sugar in peas begin to turn to starch as soon as they are picked, but the skin toughens rapidly, and within an hour or two their quality has been materially lowered.

Only the home gardener can enjoy them at the peak of their tenderness and flavor, and he must take care to serve them "garden fresh." They are not one of the "efficient" crops, since only the seed is eaten, and for the space required to grow them the yield is small. They are a luxury crop, but how delightful!

Peas thrive in cool weather, and burn up when the sun grows hot: so they must race to harvest, and do best where the ground does not freeze deeply and can be prepared in early spring; or far enough north where summer is relatively cool. In sections where hot weather comes soon after the ground thaws out, only one crop can usually be grown, and that of the earliest varieties.

The best way to obtain two crops is to sow an early and a later dwarf variety at the same time. Where the spring season is long enough to allow all peas to mature, a third crop can be obtained by sowing one of this type, which bears the largest size pods and gives the heaviest yield.

Soil well supplied with nitrogen is needed for peas; they should be planted soon after the ground has been prepared; and in new gardens it will pay to inoculate the seed with a culture which seedsmen supply for the purpose, containing nitrogen-fixing bacteria.

Edible pod peas, varieties which are grown for their pods like snap beans, and are harvested before the seeds form, are well worth trying.

Sow peas two inches deep and not closer than one inch apart in a single row; double rows, six inches apart, with brush or low fencing set between the rows for the vines to climb, are sometimes used. This arrangement requires weed pulling by hand between the rows. Even dwarf varieties appreciate something to climb, and the semi-tall and tall growing peas require support.

## Europe Making Start Rebuilding Fur Industry

WINNIPEG, Man., March 20 — Indicating that Europe is making a start in rebuilding her fur business out of the ruins of war the first shipment of live mink to Holland in six years was made today from Winnipeg. Thirty of the animals, worth more than $5,000 were shipped over Canadian National lines bound for Rotterdam via New York. Hundreds more mink and a large number of fox are expected to be shipped shortly to Europe where many owners of farms turned their fur bearing animals loose after invasion by German forces rather than see them starve or fall into the hands of the enemy. The mink are all females and were bred prior to shipment because the high quality mink of Europe have either been destroyed or the animals suffer so from malnutrition that the breeding stock is exceptionally low. The mink consist of the following types, 24 standard dark, 3 silver sables, 2 black cross and one pure white.

**SCULPTRESS GETS STRANGE REQUESTS**

NEW YORK, March 21—(CP) — Blond Alice Littig Sloans who has modelled from life hundreds of portrait heads, says her biggest problem as a sculptress has been the wives of distinguished sitters. They want flattering portraits of their husbands, and some have asked that she put hair on baldheads.

Mrs. Siems, who graduated in art from the University of Iowa, deserted painting to be her own master in a more abstract and less photographic field. But she finds some customers still put in the last word.

Scorning the usual head armature upon which sculptors model their plaster, Mrs. Siems merely begins with a paper bag on a milk bottle and quickly blocks in the basic head shape. She works fast but so conscientiously that she needs six sittings.

Because she does not require her models to remain absolutely static, she has good luck with children. In fact she finds that they usually start experimenting with the clay themselves and don't want to be taken away from the studio.

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