TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH Silver Fox Farming

The 13th annual silver fox show of the Silver Fox Breeder's and Exhibitors' Association of Prince Edward Island will be held in the Main Building at the Provincial Exhibition grounds, Charlottetown, the week of November 9-10-11-12-13. That means that just one clear week remains for the fox breeders of Prince Edward Island to select foxes and make their entries with Secretary Walter R. Shaw, Department of Agriculture, Charlottetown.

It seems a long time ago when we hark back to 1929 when the first Provincial Fox Show took place. The intervening years have been tough ones for the industry, more filled with sadness than with joy. The first two veras, 1929 and 1930 were exceptionally good, although the big depression and stock market crash had occurred —yet somehow their full affects had not reached Europe and silver fox was enjoying a wonderful boom on the London markets. The average price realized in the spring of 1929 for peltries must have been around $125, and 1930 saw just as good prices with some exceptional amounts paid for top skins. The writer is familiar with those prices because I attended Hudson's Bay Company's sales both years with W. Chester S. McLure and enjoyed that happy feeling which is engendered in one when things go well.

In December of 1931 the blow fell. This was due not only to the bad economic conditions but because the production of silver fox pelts in Norway and Sweden had reached tremendous figures. Those of you who can think back will recall that prices that December in Charlottetown and Summerside reached an average of something around $27 per pelt or even less. There was a big improvement in March, however, and prices commenced rising again until they culminated in a very fair average —close to $40—in 1937. Then they started on their downward career again until they were arrested in 1941, taking another downward slide in March and succeeding months of 1942.

With the above picture of the pelt market in your mind let us get back to the Provincial Fox Show. Prior to 1929 almost all the first line breeders planned attending the Royal Winter Fair Fox Show at Toronto, which was held in November. They had started going there in 1922, there having previously been a Montreal show held in November, 1920. Island breeders invariably carried off all the top awards at Toronto, having set the pace at Montreal and the crumbs went to the then amateur fox breeders of Ontario.

However, there were many here who could not afford the time or the expense of going to Toronto and due to the efforts of Major A. S. Robertson, J. Walter Jones, to mention two, a new organization was set up to hold a fox show at Charlottetown the fall of 1929. The idea caught on immediately and over 500 entries were ready to be looked over by the judges when the big opening day arrived. The show was an immense success, although the facilities for judging were not adequate.

Emboldened by the success of the first show, another show was arranged for in 1930 and the new Paton Pavilion, specially designed for judging foxes, with proper seating arrangements for onlookers, was built. Some 700 foxes which took up practically all the available space down stairs and upstairs in the immense building were required to house exhibits and the judges were very busy men for the week.

Offhand I can recall Robert Stewart, E. H. Monkley and J. R. Taylor, Little Shemogue, who officiated as judges, and I can also recall the packed audiences who watched their progress with eager eyes. We could not put our hands on the records of 1929 but believe that it was George E. Brown who captured the championship that year.

At the 1930 show we notice among the winners of firsts D. Sterling McLean, F. G. Kennedy, Cheekers Court Fur Farms, W. W. Brown, J. W. Jones, C. C. Baker, George E. Brown, Edwin C. Johnson, McLure and McKinnon, J. D. Jenkins, John A. Lee, W. K. Rogers, Walter S. Brown, Robert Baker, Joseph Curley. Other names that occur as prize winners include Alice Hunter, George D. Warren, William Trainor, P. A. Farquharson, L. J. McDonald, Douglas Bell, Frank Hamm, H. G. Judson, T. B. Rogers, Arthur drew, William Duffy, L. H. Cofmutch, Arthur H. Roper, Fred Anfin, Albert Drake, Samuel Kennedy, A. B. Cutcliffe, A. L. Rogers, A. G. Kennedy, Wellington McNeill, C. B. Rogers, Walter Gregor, M. P. McLeod, Gordon MacMillan, Albert S. Robertson, Charlottetown Silver Black Fox Company, Brown Bros., Arthur Dawson, John A. Allen, W. E. Johnson, M. W. Wood, Hooper Bros., O. D. McGregor, Woodside Silver Black Fox Company, D. H. Court, Alfred Webster, Fred L. Robertson, Alfred Pickard, J. R. Lockerby, Gordon McDonald, I. W. Jordan, W. H. Tidmarsh, Keith Boswell, A. E. McLean, J. Solomon Mutch, Stewart McEachern, Brenton Clarke, W. A. Jenkins, W. J. Robinson, E. S. Coffin, A. Ford, A. E. Holland, A. F. Campbell, Dewar and Stewart, and others

At the conclusion of the show, November 3rd, 1930, the prizes were presented by His Honour, Lt.-Governor Frank R. Heartz, and the New Brunswick trophy for the Grand Champion adult fox was won by Robert Baker of Bedeque.

The next show was held in 1932, that of 1931 having been cancelled because of an epidemic of distemper which commenced at Summerside a week or two prior to the date set for the exhibition. From 1932 shows have been held continuously every year until the present one, with varying numbers of foxes. The grand total reached at any show was 735 exhibits.

Changes have taken place in the types of animals that have been judged worthy of top awards. When the first show was held foxes as dark as mediums were quite eligible if they had the quality to win the grand championship. The types of silver displayed were quite different from present day types, the bar was shorter and what is known as the white or sheepy variety of fox was looked on with disfavor. It was the George E. Brown fox that revolutionized the shows. The product of Bonnie View 42B and other near relatives when placed on the table caught the limelight and the judge's eye, their clear black necks and wide bar, flashy silver invariably pushing them right to the top. They were beautiful indeed and the darker ones too in these classes had such sheen and beauty that others known as the old-fashioned foxes were nowhere. The new types had their defects too, but this was not noticed at the time and these defects were a lack of underfur which caused their pelts to exhibit a flat appearance.

There was not much change in the kind of foxes that were shown from 1934-35 onwards until 1940 when new types were admitted to the sacred precincts of the show ring. These included the offspring of western white faces, the parent stock of which had been obtained from the Ollie McNeill ranch at Fort Qu'Appelle, Saskatchewan, the progenitors of which were a pair of foxes purchased from the McLure and McKinnon Silver Fox Farms in the fall of 1927.

Few who saw the comparatively small number of exhibitors of the new types two years ago realized what a potent new trend was in the making. We venture to say that when this year's show is formally on its way one of the most arresting parts of it, if not the most arresting, will be the new types which will include white faces with or without ring necks, platinums and pearl platinums.

Showmen come and go and a glance at the list of names of those who were in the van in 1930 will find many who have passed on from life's cares and responsibilities. Then others have given up fox ranching for one cause or another, but new faces and new foxmen have constantly appeared to take their places. The trend of winners from 1936 onwards went in the direction of Summerside, where the shrewd breeders there had been quick to recognize the value of new types of silvers and fortify themselves with good specimens of these. Among the foremost have been Stewart and Lewis, Hillard Muttart and Sons, J. R. Lockerby, W. B. MacArthur, Roy Woodside, L. W. Hancock, Layton Rogers and near Charlottetown we may mention W. W. Brown, Ira Carr, Ray Carr, Walter Gregor, Sam Johnston, Raoul Reymond, Dr. A. Wylie Allan.

The onerous duties of judge, which calls for concentration, a keen eye, good memory and a knowledge of furs and foxes, have been performed for many years by George A. Callbeck of the Canadian National Silver Fox Breeders' Association, Summerside, and it is a pleasure to record that in all these years Mr. Callbeck's judgment has met with the approval of exhibitors. Mr. Callbeck will not be operating this year as his duties will take him clear to Vancouver and he will not return home until the latter part of November. His responsibility will fall on the shoulders of Brenton Clarke, Summerside, who has had years of experience in fox ranching and who as fur grader of the Canadian National Silver Fox Breeders' Association, has been accorded a topmost rank.

Assisting Mr. Clarke will be officials selected for their efficiency in carrying out the duties assigned to them. The Classification Committee will consist of three men who are graders for the three fur pools. Every effort will be made to have the arrangements such as will be convenient and comfortable for exhibitors and spectators, and we heartily recommend to all the worthwhile benefits to our province and to our industry of the big show at Charlottetown the week of November 9th.

The Prize List is now being sent out to former exhibitors, but if you have not received a copy please write Secretary Walter R. Shaw, Department of Agriculture, Charlottetown, and one will be mailed to you at once. Briefly there are five classes for Standard Silvers, medium up to 54 per cent, light medium up to 69 per cent, light silver up to 84 per cent, extra light silver heavy veiled up to 100 per cent, and extra light minus veiling up to 100 per cent. Standard White Marked Foxes include classes for extra light silver 84 per cent to 95 per cent, full silver 95 per cent and over silver. Standard Platinum silver classes will include medium, light and extra light. Standard Platinums, medium, light and extra light. Standard Pearl Platinums, medium, light and extra light. There will be four sections in each class, for adult males, adult females, pup males and pup females.

The ranks of our fox breeders have been further lessened in the past weeks by the death of our esteemed citizen, R.E Spillett, who became connected with the industry in 1912, and who was deeply interested in it up until his demise. Mr. Spillett was a man of exceptional character, honored and respected by all, and his passing caused universal regret here.

In Summerside another of almost the originals among breeders has passed away in the person of Capt. Fred W. Peters. Mr. Peters raised some notable foxes and secured as reward excellent prices for pelts and live animals. He was one of the earliest admirers of and connected with a pure Canadian strain of foxes, and was on hand at the early shows in 1920, 1922 and 1923 in Montreal and Toronto when these fine foxes made great inroads on the prize list. The Captain was a good sportsman too, and as will appear in another part of these columns, made his contribution to the harness horse sport. Capt Fred was big, hearty, wholesouled, cheerful, and made many friends who will sadly miss him when gatherings of fox-breeders are held.

Weekly Live Stock Market Report

Decidedly heavier offerings of cattle than have been experienced in recent weeks met a fairly active trade during the past week. Prices however, weakened to the extent of 25 to 50c in some cases by the close of trading, and some cattle were left unsold. Calf markets eased off at most centres, but hogs were steady to firm. Lamb prices dropped again for the second week, with price mostly down 25 to 50c.

Eastern Cattle Markets

Heavy run of cattle met an active trade at the opening on the Toronto maket, but closing sales were slow and a few hundred head remained unsold. The top on weighty steers was $10.90, but the close was at $10.75 with butcher steers and heifers $8.50 to $10.25. At Montreal steers ranged all the way from $7 to $11 from medium down to common, and good cows sold from $8 to $8.50. In the Maritimes receipts were a little heavier, a reflection of the increased prices. Medium to good steers were quoted at $9.50 to $9.75.

Western Cattle Markets

All killing cattle declined early in the week at Winnipeg to the extent of 25 to 50c. One outstanding load of heavy steers sold at $10.75, but this was a shipment far above the average offerings. The general run of the best slaughter steers made 9.75 to $10.25 Calgary had a steady market with good choice butcher steers at $9.50 to $10.00 with odd sales $10.25 and $10.35. Edmonton was active throughout with prices generally steady and had some steers up to $10.25. At Prince Albert prices closed weaker with good killing steers $9.25 to $9.35, while Moose Jaw had best killing steers within the same range and Regina paid up to $10.00. There was no change in prices at Saskatoon where best steers and heifers ranged from $9.25 to $9.50. At Vancouver the trade was steady with good steers making $9.50 to $10.00.

United States Market

United states markets were fairly steady during the past week with little change shown in prices.

There were no exports of beef cattle across the line during the past week but 477 dairy cattle were shipped south. Exports under the fourth quarterly quota totaled only 176 head of beef cattle as compared with 21,059 in the same period last year. Exports to date this year with corresponding figures in brackets for 1941, were: beef cattle 121,196 (123,346); dairy 19,758 (16,692); calves 53,879 (57,771).

Need To Breed More Gilts

(Experimental Farms News)

To meet the growing demand for bacon for both Britain and Canada it will be necessary to use an increased number of gilts each year for breeding. Well developed gilts are profitable breeders provided a few essential precautions are observed in their selection, feeding and management, says R. M. Hopper, Dominion Experimental Farm, Brandon, Man.

To insure strong, healthy litters, gilts should not be bred before they reach an age of seven and a half to eight months. Those that have been reared on heavy feed with the market pigs should be turned on pasture for six to eight weeks where they will obtain exercise and forage. The number of pigs farrowed per litter is influenced by the condition of the sow at breeding time. To obtain the best results the sows should be gaining in flesh at the time they are bred. A changs to better feeds and more generous feeding for two weeks prior to breeding are required to bring about this condition.

Gilts carrying their first litters require to be fed more generously than the older sows during the period of pregnancy. An allowance of two to two and a half pounds of feed per hundred pounds of live weight will take care of their needs. This amount should be slightly increased during the last two months of pregnancy. The feed mixture should contain an allowance of a quarter pound of bankage daily, or one half gallon of skim milk per day.

Immature sows or gilts have a greater need for minerals than sows that are mature. A cheap and efficient way of supplying minerals is to provide a mixture of slack coal fifty pounds, ground limestone 30 pounds, and granulated iodized salt 20 pounds. Such a mixture should be kept in a shallow box where the sows have constant access to it or suitable minerals may be mixed with the grain. Leafy alfalfa or clover hay is relished by sows during winter. Such feed is excellent in safeguarding the health of sows and is best kept in a rack placed in a sheltered location.

- NEWSY NOTES -

By AGRICOLA

(Continued)

OUR NATIVE MAPLES

A correspondent, who lately sent me some leaves of the mossewood Maple, wishes to have information on the differences between the species of Maples found on the Island. In this case I cannot do better than point a key to the Maples which I constructed a few years ago, in the hope that it would be useful to students of Botany. It is well to recall that the older botanists (Grey and Britton) are sometimes confused in the botanical names of the Maples, but the student can rely upon the names given in the Key.

(A) Leaves simple, palmate, lobed. Flowers racemed, terminal, unfolding after the leaves.

(1) Striped Maple, Moosewood, (Acer pennsylvanicum Linnaeus). Racemes drooping, petals abovate Leaves finely serrate, lobes taperpointed. Fruit large, 2.5 con. long, with widely divergent wings. A small tree, its rather whitish-green bark striped with darker lines. Leaves distinctive.

(2) Mountain Maple, (Acer spicatum Lamarck). Racemes erect, petals linear-spatulate. Leaves coarsely serrate, lobes acute or acuminate. Fruit smaller, up to 2 cm. long, wings more or less "parallel". A shrub or small tree with greenish unstriped bark. Leaves not unlike those of Red Maple.

(B.) Leaves simple, palmate, lobed...Flowers in umbellate corymbs, lateral and terminal, unfolding with the leaves.

(3) Sugar or Rock Maple, (Acer Saccharum . Marshall). Flowers without petals, long-pedicelled, drooping Leaves paler beneath, lobes acuminate, irregularly sinuate, the sinuses rounded. Fruit large, to 3.75 cm. long, the wings broad and slightly divergent. A large tree with very distinctive leaves.

..(C)...Leaves.. simple,. polmate, lobed...Flowers in dense. lateral, umbel-like, sessile clusters, unfolding before the leaves.

..(4) White or Silver Maple (Acer saccharinum Linnaeus. Flowers without petals, on very short pedicels which coelongate in fruit. Leaves silvery white beneath, deeply lobed, lobes rather narrow, coarsely dentate, sinuses rather acute. Fruit wooly when young, large, to 7 cm long, wings to 2 cm. wide, divergent A large tree found along riverbanks; the cut-leaved form planted as an ornamental.

(5) Red or Swamp Maple (Acer rubrum Linnaeus). Flowers with red or yellow linear-oblong petals; on short pedicels which elongate in fruit Leaves rather variable, broadly ovate to suborbicular, sharply 3 to 5-lobed, irregularly dentate, whitish underneath. Fruit smooth, up to 2.5 cm. long, wings incurved. A medium-sized tree, twigs reddish, bark flaky to smooth. Our commonest Maple.

(D) Leaves pinnate. Flowers strictly dioecious; disk none.

(6) Box Elder or Manitoba Maple (Acer Negundo Linnaeus.' Introduced and occasionally seeding itself. Flowers very small, clustered, drooping, appearing before the leaves. Leaves with 3 to 5 leaflets oval or ovate pointed, toothed or entire. A small, handsome but short-lived tree, rare as an escape from cultivation.

The names Linnaeus, Lamarck, and Marshall are those of the botanists who named the plants; they are appended to make certain of the trees' identity.

The winged fruit of the Maple, (and of some other trees), is known as a "samara." The pedicel referred to, is the flower-stalk.

SUGAR BEET MOLASSES, ETC.

It was an ingenious idea which led to the use of sugar-beet juice in pickling, as related in The Guardian lately. I recall that, many years ago, when the late Mr. Fraser was Librarian, in the Provincial Buildings, Charlottetown, he was interested in the sugar-beet cultivation which was being tried out in Canada. I had grown some on the Island with fair success, and at his request I took him a sackful of the roots. He turned them into molasses and gave me a jar of it: it was good. He washed the roots, cut them into slices, put them into an enamel pan, covered them with water, and boiled down to half the quantity. Then the syrup was strained off and boiled till of the proper consistency. There is a kind of acid in sugar beet, which he neutralized by adding a little lime while boiling. I forget the proportion, but it was small. An iron or tinned pan must not be used.

While I am about culinary matters, I may mention that a correspondent writes me that she once made rowanberry jam, taking the precaution of steeping the berries first, to draw off the bitterness. Enough of it persisted, however, to make the jam "only fit to eat with game." I suspected that there was some reason for the scarcity of rowanberry jam on the Island!

Another lady sends in a sample of coffee, which the messenger said, was compounded of bran and molasses. I could get no details but I judged that roasting the bran was one operation in making it. The taste, when chewed was little different from that of coffee, and I hope to enjoy the infusion in the near future.

The duck season is on, and the following, from that old cook-book, is apposite, new, and with a touch of humor.—"A duck boiled is a duck spoiled" is an old proverb, but had the originator lived in the north of Wales it never would have been uttered. There they boil ducks often and well, but they salt them first, and serve them smothered with onion sauce. Time to simmer gently, thirty to forty minutes. Probable cost 3 to 4 shillings. Sufficient for 4 or more persons."

(To be Continued)

Winter Program

(Experimental Farm News)

Now that the bees are all packed away for the winter and require little or no attention for the next five or six months, the beekeeper has plenty of time to clear up any odd job resulting from the past year's activities and then preparing for 1943 says C. B. Gooderham, Dominion Apiarist, Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa.

The price of apiary equipment has increased considerably since the outbreak of war and some of the items are no longer obtainable, so the winter programme should begin with the care, repair, and storage of all available supplies. Drawn comb is perhaps the beekeepers most valuable asset, and unless properly cared for it may quickly be rendered valueless by mice or moth. Sort all combs carefully discarding those that are broken or deformed and storing the good ones in supers. Stack these supers with an inverted hive cover beneath and another one on top of each pile to keep out the mice. Store the combs in a cold building for the winter to stop all moth activity. Should moth larvae already be present, fumigate the combs with carbon bisulphide, one ounce or two tablespoonfuls to every five supers of combs. As this chemical is poisonous, highly inflammable, and highly explosive, care must be taken when using it. Later on all other equipment can be cleaned, painted and repaired where necessary. If additional equipment is required for next summer, order it early so that it may be assembled and made ready for use before it is needed in the spring.

Wax is now an important commodity and there is no better time to salvage it than during the winter months. The scraps accumulated during the summer, the cappings saved at extracting time, the broken and distorted combs culled from the general stock and the scraping from hives, supers, and floorboards, all contain more or less wax which should be recovered and placed into the regular channels of trade as promptly as possible. You may need some of it in the form of foundation next spring.

The winter's programme would not be complete without plans to attend as many beekeepers' meetings as possible. If there is no local association in your district it would be a good idea to organize one, even if there are only a few beekeepers within easy range, and even if the object is only for discussion and exchange of ideas and experiences. Organization and cooperation were never so sorely needed as now.

"I'm amazed at what mileage you can actually get out of a tire. In the good old days I'd turn them in after 20,000 miles, but now they have to go far over that. Right from the start I put the care of my tires in the hands of my nearby Firestone Dealer. First thing he did was to take them off the rims and give them a *complete* inspection. Luckily, there were no major breaks . . . only a few nicks and a few embedded nails and pieces of glass which were soon fixed up.

"Then my tires were 'rotated' . . . changed around to different wheels . . . to even up the wear. 'Now it's up to you,' I was told. 'If you make it a point to drive in and have your air pressure checked every week . . . and observe a few common-sense driving rules . . . you will get many more thousands of miles from those tires.'

"My Firestone Dealer was absolutely right. I have already got thousands of extra miles and the tires look good for plenty more. No matter what make of tire you have, I suggest that you, too, place them in the care of your nearest Firestone Dealer. See him today."

NOTHING ELSE MATTERS BUT VICTORY... Buy VICTORY BONDS

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A Little Care Means Longer Wear

McKinnon's Fox Worm Capsules

These reliable capsules which have been used by many ranchers with the very best results are again obtainable. They are the surest remedy for hookworm and round worms and all foxes should be dosed with them. Foxes kept over should be dosed again not later than the latter part of December. You will find your pelts will bring more money if the foxes are treated with these capsules.

Sold in Charlottetown at Jenkins Pharmacy and P. E. I. Fur Traders, and in Summerside by International Fox and Animal Foods. Price $1.00 per box of fifty capsules.

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TRAPPERS

This is my forty-second consecutive year purchasing Raw Furs on Prince Edward Island.

The open season for Mink, Muskrat, Red Fox, Coon and Skunk begins November First.

Besides the bounty on Skunks you should dry and scrape all Skunk skins and realize extra money on the pelts.

Be sure and have all mail and express parcels properly addressed to

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The Royal Packing Co.

Charlottetown, P. E. I.

10-27-51.

DENTISTRY ON RAND

JOHANNESBURG — (C P) — A new dental school and hospital, one of the most modern in the world, has been opened here at the University of the Witwatersrand by the mayor of the city.

Dorothy Dix Says—

(Continued from page 8)

and it takes all of the pleasure out of the thing and I sit down and cry. Now what shall I do? Shall I still take my night off? Or shall I stay at home because my husband doesn't want to bother with the baby?

A DISTRACTED MOTHER.

ANSWER—Now is the time to stand pat and resist your husband's selfishness instead of giving in to it. Don't let anything make you give up your night out. You are entitled to it. It gives you needed diversion and makes you a better and more cheerful wife and mother. And your husband will respect you far more if you stand up for your rights than if you lay down and let him make a doormat out of you.

Remind him that the baby is just as much his as he is yours, and it is just as much his duty to take care of him occasionally as it is your duty to take care of him all of the time. And if two or three hours of nursing the baby wear him out, how does he expect a poor little kid of a girl to stand twenty-four hours of it?

But it is your fault that the baby is hard to take care of. If you were bringing it up properly, you would put it to bed in a room by itself and shut the door, and it would go to sleep and be no trouble to anybody. I know dozens of wise young mothers who are rearing their children that way. After their babies are tucked in their little beds at seven o'clock, they are never heard of until the next morning.

If you have the firmness to do it, you can break your baby into the habit of going to sleep by itself and of lying quietly in its bed if it does wake up. If you will do that, your husband will not object to staying at home with it. What gets on his nerves is having to deal with a spoiled youngster. And I don't blame him for that.

* * * * * *

WISE WIFE KEEPS THE PEACE

DEAR MISS DIX—I have been married a little more than a year and find that when my husband and I have a spat I have to do all the making up and apologize all over the place even when he is at fault. Otherwise he pouts and sulks. I am sick of always being the goat. What shall I do?

ALICE W.

ANSWER—Well, the easiest way out is to keep on being the goat. It will save time and wear and tear on your temper and nerves just to kiss and make it up instead of fighting it out.

After all, what does it matter? Every woman has to keep the peace, if it is kept, in the home, and let her husband blame his faults on her and hold her responsible for his mistakes. The wise wife is she who lets him save his face that way, and who isn't too proud to say: "I'm sorry, let's make up and forget it."

Help the Young People To Health - Happiness

What a common sight to see a young person whose bloodless face and feeble frame are evidences of poor circulation and weakness where bounding health and rosy cheeks should reign.

Young people in such a condition are generally of an anaemic nature and require a preparation containing iron to improve the blood content.

Milburn's Health and Nerve Pills meet this requirement, as they contain three concentrated forms of iron of an easily assimilated nature together with other valuable ingredients indicated for building up the system and helping to improve the blood content.

Price 50c a box, 65 pills, at all drug counters.

Look for our trade mark a "Red Heart" on the package.

The T. Milburn Co., Limited, Toronto, Ont.

OUT OUR WAY By J. R. WILLIAMS

OUR BOARDING HOUSE WITH MAJOR HOOPLE