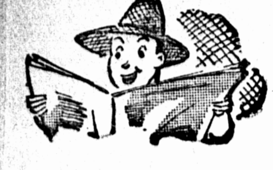

A Page for the MODERN FARMER

- NEWSY NOTES -

By AGRICOLA

HISTORY OF THE POTATO

The introduction of the potato as an article of diet forms a very interesting chapter in the history of the human race. The story of its introduction into the British Isles has been variously told, but the balance of evidence seems to connect the coming of the potato with one Thomas Heriot, mathematician and explorer. Queen Elizabeth, in 1584, sent out colonists "to discover and plant new countries not possessed by Christians." Heriot was one of the adventurers; he returned to England after an absence of two years, bringing seeds and roots of plants that interested him, and amongst them the potato. Sir Walter Raleigh who headed the expedition, returned later, with potatoes that he had brought from Virginia; he planted them on his estate at [illegible] in the County of Cork, Ireland. [illegible] did he know or care about [illegible] valuable tuber, that his gardener having gathered the fruit or potato balls which he called "apples" and found them unpleasant, Raleigh ordered the plants to be rooted out. The gardener obeyed, and in doing so found a large quantity of tubers, and so the plants were not discarded. This story quickly got round, while little was heard of Heriot's adventures, so that historians have given Raleigh credit for bringing in the potato.

It appears that the potato was brought into Southern Europe by a different channel and very probably at an earlier date than that of the introduction of the tuber from Virginia into Britain. Clusius, the botanist, during his residence in Vienna in 1598, received tubers from the Governor of Mons, in Hainault, who had received some in the preceding year from Italy, under the name of "Taratoufli."

For some time after its introduction into Britain the potato was planted in the gardens of the nobility as a curious exotic vegetable; by the reign of James I it was considered a delicacy, being provided in small quantities for the Queen's household. We are told that the Queen paid two shillings a pound for the tubers; which would represent a present value of about twelve shillings or [illegible].

The potato remained extremely scarce during the succeeding reign, and during the Commonwealth, and not until nearly one hundred years after the discovery of Virginia by Raleigh, did its cultivation begin to spread. A letter to the Royal Society from a [illegible]shire gentleman a Mr. [illegible], drew attention to its value as a protection from famine; [illegible] consequence was that from [illegible] did its best to encourage potato cultivation.

But though their utility as an article of food was beginning to be [illegible], potatoes bore no very [illegible]. Books on gardening [illegible] about the end of the seventeenth century speak rather [illegible] of them. One author writes: "They are much used in America and Ireland as bread, and may be propagated with advantage by poor people." Another wonders if they could be used as food, not for humans, but for swine and cattle. [illegible] the famous Evelyn —he of the "Diary"— regarded them with no favor. "Plant potatoes," he says, writing in 1699, "in your worst ground [illegible] up in November for winter spending (i.e. using); there will enough remain for a stock though ever so carefully gathered." [illegible] enough will remain in the ground to start another crop. In "The Complete Gardener" (1719), the well-known nurserymen of that period, Messrs. London and Wise, completely ignore the potato. Another work published about that time says that potatoes are inferior to radishes.

Nevertheless, the excellent qualities of the potato were gradually recognized, and the use of the tuber spread. By the middle of the eighteenth century potatoes were generally grown in England, and since that time have been extensively cultivated. In Scotland little attempt was made to grow the potato in gardens till 1740; if we can believe old tales, this was because potatoes are not mentioned as food in the Scriptures! As a plant for field growth they received no attention for twenty years more.

About the same time (1761) field cultivation of the potato was introduced into Savoy and some parts of Germany; the German Government took a hand and aided its culture by compulsory enactments. In the latter part of the century the potato made its way into the fields of France.

The potato reached Sweden in 1720, but the exertions of Linnaeus in favor of its culture were little regarded; in 1764 a royal edict was published for the encouragement of this branch of agriculture, with immediate success. In Switzerland the value of the tuber was discovered about the time it was first taken to Sweden; and in a very few years the Switzers were not only growing potatoes in abundance, but likewise had learned the art of drying them, grinding them into flour, and making them into bread. Two incidents have come down to us from that country. A travelled in 1730 relates that the miller of Untersen ground scarcely anything but potatoes; and in 1734 a peasant was so well aware of the profit from growing this plant that he bought a small field situated near the Swiss mountains and paid for it in two years by the produce of his potato crops.

Shakespear used the word potato in his comedy of "The Merry Wives of Windsor," Act 5, Scene 5: "Let the sky rain potatoes." This was, however, the Sweet Potato, which was brought into England long before the introduction of the common potato. It was still grown to a limited extent in Spain and the South of France a [illegible]eration ago.

In Ireland the potato at length became the staple food of the people, and owing to the m[illegible]s of the climate, and the general absence of frost, it was customary to leave the tubers in the ground and dig them as required. This car[illegible]ess brought calamity, for an exceptionally cold winter froze most of the potatoes in the ground, and a famine followed.

A more serious famine, from a very different cause, struck Ireland in the years 1846 and 1847. A "potato disease" had been noticed in Germany, and had assumed a serious character at Liege, France, in 1842. Two years later it invaded Canada and at once proved very destructive. In 1845 it was observed in the British Isles, and during that year its ravages were very considerable. It reached its height in 1846, when the Irish famine was the consequence. After 1847 the disease gradually diminished, but it still breaks out almost yearly in certain localities. Before leaving the subject it must be recorded that it was many years before the disease was recognized as of fungoid origin; and it is equally worthy of record that the British Government and public did everything in their power to relieve the distress in Ireland. "More than 3,000,000 rations, generally cooked, were distributed," says the Encyclo. Brit., but as roads were few and ill made, and as the means for carrying, distributing and preparing food were lacking, between 200,000 and 300,000 perished of starvation. "An exodus followed which necessary as it was, caused dreadful hardship;" and illogically left a current of hard feeling against the British who, in this instance, had done their best in relief.

East School May 5th. Ice Cream

A PYRETHRUM SUBSTITUTE

Research at the University of Delaware and the Kansas State College of Agriculture have shown that a new insecticide made from Southern Pine, is at least as effective as pyrethrum when used as a fly spray, and has the additional advantage of being independent of foreign sources. Sold under the trade name of Thanite enough of this material was manufactured in 1842 to make 2,000,000 gallons of fly spray.

Sprays with only 2 per cent of the chemical will kill flies, mosquitoes, roaches, moths, ants, spiders, and centipedes. However 2 5 per cent is recommended as being equivalent to AA-grade insecticide; while a 5 per cent concentration rates 41 points as against the 16 to 20 points for the AA insecticides.

Tests reveal that the material is not poisonous to animals or humans when used properly. As a fly repellant on cattle its effects are shown to last as long as six hours after application.

This appears to be a valuable contribution to the war on these pests, and shows once again that we have not yet made the fullest use of material growing in our own fields and forests.

AS OUR FOREFATHERS SAW IT

In the year 926 "there appeared fiery lights in the northern part of the firmament; and Sihtric departed." "Northern lights," recollect are much scarcer in the Old World than they are here, and to the old historians they were a more awful visitation. Sihtric, who departed (died), was King of Northumbria, and had slain his brother Neil five years before. It was half a century and more before the Aurora was again recorded;" A. D. 979; this same year was seen a bloody welkin oft-times in the likeness of fire; and that was most apparent at midnight, and so in misty beams was shown; but when it began to dawn, then it glided away." To the amazement of the chroniclers nothing of any consequence followed.

England was still in great distress from the ravages of the Danes, and natural phenomena were neglected in consequence. In 1032, however, there occurs the entry." This year appeared that wild fire, such as no man ever remembered before, which did great damage in many places. The same year died Aelfsige, Bishop of Winchester" . . . Wild fire was the ancient name for lightning, because it seemed to fly "wild," without guidance.

Ten years after that, 1042, "all that year was the season very severe in many and various respects, both from the inclemency of the weather and the loss of the fruits of the earth. More cattle died this year than any man ever remembered, either from various diseases, or from the severity of the weather. At this same time died Alefsinus Abbot of Peterborough." These calamities, coming ten years after the record of many electric storms, point to the maimum sunspot cycle, whose normal period is eleven years. A scanty harvest, in these times of primitive agriculture, always meant starvation and death to man and beast. This was shown four years later: "And in the same year (1046), after Candlemas, came the strong winter, with frost and with snow, and with all kinds of bad weather; so that there was no man then alive who could remember so severe a winter as this was, both through loss of men and through loss of cattle; yea fowls and fishes through much cold and hunger perished." Two years after, the record is as bad: "1048. This year also there was an earthquake, on the calends of May, in many places; at Worcester, at Wick, and at Derby, and elsewhere wide throughout England; with very great loss by disease of men and cattle over all England; and the wild fire in Derbyshire and elsewhere did much harm." The disease was probably influenza, which is known to have a partiality, so to speak, for sunspot years. It was twelve years before the Chronicle records further disasters.

Leaking Roofs

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United Builders Liquid Asbestos Fiber Roof Cement in Black, Red and Green, in any quantity from one gallon up. Used on Corrugated Iron, Tin, Felt, Composition, Shingle, Gravel and Concrete Roofs. This is not a roof paint. It is a tough adhesive rubber-like compound made from Canadian Long Asbestos Fiber combined with durable elastic, weather and waterproof oils, that will not crack or "alligator" under our Maritime climatic conditions.

One coat of U. B. Liquid Asbestos Fiber Cement will change an old leaky roof into a one-piece waterproof roof that is practically as good as new and will last for many years.

Look at the condition of your roof today and if it needs a new surface coating do the job now.

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CONSERVATION

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

REGIONAL TYPES OF RESPONSE OF WILDLIFE TO THE SUNSPOT CYCLE

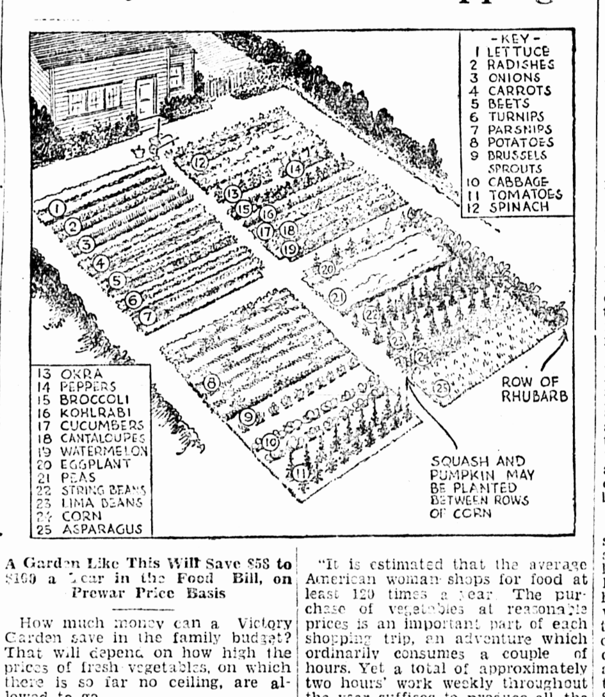
(By Ralph E. DeLury and John L. O'Connor, Dominion Observatory, Department of the Interior, Ottawa, Canada)

Fluctuations in the weather in response to the 11-year cycle in the numbers of sunspots vary with the nature of the geographical region. In general, temperatures are higher when sunspots are scarcest than when they are most numerous, with the range during the 11-year cycle depending on the region; near bodies of water it is usually smaller than at inland positions, reaching as high as 4 degrees F., for example in Alberta. In precipitation, however a complete reversal of phase occurs. At oceanic points, such as Madras, Batavia, and St. John's, Newfoundland, about 20 percent greater rainfall occurs at sunspot maximum than at minimum in the mean cycle; while inland points, such as Montreal, Quebec, and Edmonston, Alberta show, respectively, 16 percent and over 50 percent greater precipation at sunspot minimum than maximum. Other places such as the British Isles and Anticosti Island, show two pulses on the mean 11-year cycle, while still other regions, such as Halifax, Nova Scotia, show little variation in the cycle when the yearly precipitation is considered, but in this case 6 months of the year are similiar to the oceanic effect and the other 6 months resemble the inland-region type. Thunderstorms, a frequent cause of forest fires, with the attendant destruction of wildlife, are in general more frequent at sunspot minimum than at maximum, the range in numbers depending on regional temperature and other factors.

It is to be expected that such regional weather types of response to the sunspot cycle would be accompanied by fluctuations of similiar types of various forms of wildlife. The annual growth rings of trees reveal these types in striking fashion: For example, maximum growth at sunspot maximum in trees at New Westminster, British Columbia, maximum growth at minimum of sunspots in trees from Pentecost River, Quebec, and a double pulse in the mean cycle for trees from Matamek River resembling the precipation cycle at Anticosti, nearby. Unfortunately numerical records of animals, birds, and insects are too scarce to permit as thorough a test as the trees afford, but such as are available show similar regional types. Thus in the records, kept by the late Norman Criddle at Aweme, Manitoba, 1895—1929, we have found the inland type—that is, maximum numbers at or near times of sunspot minimum—in grasshoppers, sharp-tailed grouse, and rabbits. In the British Isles, the double pulse occurs inn the mean cycle in grouse numbers (killed on the Scotch moors and revealed in the investigation of the grouse disease) in harmony with the double-pulse type of precipation following the sunspot cycle. Dates of arrival of birds at Montdidier, France (Chandon records), are later at sunspot maximum than at minimum in harmony with the oceanic type of greater precipation at sunspot maximum revealed in the March—April rainfall at the same point.

It would seem advisable, therefore in plans for the conservation of wildlife that such regional differences in response to the sunspot cycle should be considered

Victory Gardens Take Less Money Than Food Shopping



A Garden Like This Will Save $58 to $100 a Year in the Food Bill, on Prewar Price Basis

How much money can a Victory Garden save in the family budget? That will depend on how high the prices of fresh vegetables, on which there is so far no ceiling, are allowed to go.

Even before the war, careful tests and studies made by the School of Living of Suffern, New York, established that a vegetable garden can save the average family from $58.48 to $100 11 a year, at the same time providing over 400 pounds more vegetables than are consumed by most city families.

In a bulletin detailing its studies of this subject the following statements are made:

"A century ago home vegetable gardens were the rule. Today not only city families but millions of families living in suburban and country districts buy their vegetables in retail stores.

"This habit was acquired presumably because the public had been led to believe that it is cheaper as well as more convenient to buy vegetables than to grow them. But careful studies show that this is not true; that shopping and marketing not only take time and energy which might be used to grow them, but that purchasing vegetables is an expensive luxury.

"The studies of the school show that the quantity of vegetables now purchased by the typical American family, including canned, bottled and dried, can be grown and harvested in less than two weeks' time per year. Actually the total amount of time necessary for planting, caring for and harvesting a vegetable garden is less than that commonly occupied in shopping in the retail market.

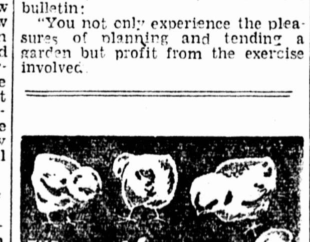
"It is estimated that the average American woman shops for food at least 120 times a year. The purchase of vegetables at reasonable prices is an important part of each shopping trip, an adventure which ordinarily consumes a couple of hours. Yet a total of approximately two hours' work weekly throughout the year suffices to produce all the vegetable needs of the family home."

As to the quality of home grown vegetables, compared with those obtained in the market, the bulletin states:

"You learn what really fresh vegetables taste like. Peas, corn, lima beans, string beans and the rest of the vegetable family lose more than half their delicious flavor a few hours after picking. 'Half an hour from vine to pot' is a wise saying of country folk whose meaning has been entirely lost to the modern race of city and country buyers of so called 'fresh' fruits and vegetables."

Details of the tests upon which these statements are based are given in the bulletin. To produce 1,747.7 pounds of fresh vegetables required a total of 94 hours and 17 minutes work. The total cost, including taxes and interest but not labor was compared with the market cost of the vegetables, and showed a saving of $58.48, which figured out as 62 cents for each hour's work required; and besides, says the bulletin:

"You not only experience the pleasures of planning and tending a garden but profit from the exercise involved.



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TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH Silver Fox Farming

Dr. C. K. Gunn, Superintendent, Fox Experimental Station, Summerside, visited us the early part of the week, and we had the pleasure of a short conversation with him. The Doctor is working on an experimental fox ration formula to be used this season. The idea is to secure a satisfactory replacement for 50 per cent of the raw meat up until August 1, or September 1, or somewhere between these dates. He is going to considerable trouble and thought, to work it out, and we feel confident that he will be successful.

The Doctor states that the production in and around Summerside is much the same as other years, possibly litters may be smaller in quite a number of cases, but, to offset this, there are breeders who have some real valuable Platinums. Included in the types which have found their way to the capital city of Prince County may be mentioned: Cody, La Forest, Norwegian, MacNeill, and possibly one or two other strains of Platinums. They are also experimenting with Pearl Platinums and Pearlatinas. This is all to the good,—most commendable, in fact, and we congratulate our friends in Summerside. While we are passing out congratulations, we must not forget the achievements of our fellow fox-man, Lowell Hancock, in being Commander-in-Chief of "Back the Attack" forces that placed the town of Summerside in the van of all towns in Canada by having the largest percentage of their objective the first day, and reaching its objective ahead of all others. This is splendid work and we know that a great many other fox men were associated in the achievements.

This week has been Fur Sale Week in Montreal, and somewhere in this paper today, if not previously, will be found information regarding May Sales of Montreal Fur Sales Limited, on whose auction May 3, 3,500 silver foxes were offered. The following days, May 4 and 5, the Canadian Fur Auction Sales Company Limited, offered 2,000 silver fox and 10,000 silver fox respectively. These would also include, no doubt, quite a number of new types. If the quality of the offering is as good as last month, there should be an advance in average prices, and it would not be surprising if a figure close to $30 is reached.

All auctions in the United States and Canada have shown a strong demand for all types of furs, with Beaver setting an all-time high record. Mink has had a startling jump in price with 100 per cent sales at some Auctions. Muskrat has had a great price advance and is strongly sought after,—in fact there is not a fur in the catalogue that cannot be disposed of at advances of from 10 to 100 per cent over early last Fall. It is natural, therefore, that Silver Fox should improve in price, but the improvement is not nearly,—no, not anywhere like the improvement in the prices of other furs. This is probably due to the ceiling imposed on it in the United States and certain restrictions in Canada. However, it looks as though there will be a clean sheet when the December Sales roll around, and the pelts that will be marketed then, will, unlike other years be those grown the same season.

Kenneth Parker, who has made so much money, and worked up such a great business out of Parker Mountain Pens and whose home is in Janesville, Wisconsin, has quit fur-farming. We note where several other ranchers in the United States have gone out of business. No doubt, the high cost of feeds in certain sections, and the low prices for pelts have taken their toll in the United States, probably as much as in Canada.

Professor Sedgwick E. Smith of Cornell University, has gone to a great deal of trouble to decide the digestibility of some high protein feeds by foxes and his results are published in the American Fur Breeder for April. The foods that he tried out were horse meat with accrued protein percentage of 37 per cent, meat scrap 32 per cent, fish meal 32 per cent, liver meal 34 1-2 per cent, blood meal 37.71 per cent, soy bean meal 35.27 per cent, linseed meal 31 per cent. He found that horse meat had the highest percentage of digestibility, with fish meal, second; liver meal, third; meat scrap and soy bean meal fourth, and linseed meal last. His summary is as follows: By means of digestion trials with adult foxes, it has been shown that the protein of blood meal, linseed oil meal, meat scrap and soy bean oil meal is less digestible than the protein of frozen horse meat, the former two being less digestible than the latter two. Under the conditions of this experiment, the protein of linseed meal and fish meal were not significantly in digestibility than the protein of frozen horse meat. As a partial substitute for raw meat in the diet of foxes, liver meal and fish meal, and to a more limited extent, meat scrap and soy bean oil meal are worth our further consideration.

Hats off to the Mink Breeders of America, who, by combining together and using their brains and energies, succeeded in lining up fur market houses, fur auctions, manufacturers and retailers in a nation-wide boost that sent mink pelts out of the doldrums into prices as high recently as averages obtained two years ago!

It is also predicted that the mink market will be bare of pelts before November rolls around and that there will be a further "up" in prices. Almost every paper you pick up in the United States has advertisements of furriers, featuring mink scarves.

The O.P.A. rationing plan for meats which went into effect in the United States at midnight, March 28, makes no provision for pet rations, such as dogs and cats. None of the rationed meats, therefore, may be used in the manufacture of dog food. Among the meats listed we do not note horsemeat, so probably, the United States pets will be able to get some of it.

Out in Los Angeles, there is an enterprising Italian, who has built a plant for slaughtering horses, and plans to sell the meat for home consumption. Another plant has been opened up in Portland, Ore. and their horse-flesh roasts are being sold at from 12 cents to 14 cents per pound with round steaks 16 cents and loins 14 cents per pound.

A new strain of Alaska foxes has been developed. It is the Silver Blue or Platinum Blue, cross between a Blue and White fox. All of the experiments have been made at the Government Fur Farm at Petersburg, Alaska. We understand that the new strain was obtained by crossing the White fox with the Blue fox and then breeding the offspring back to the White. The second generation ranges all the way from one-half White and one-half Blue to all White and all Blue, and the third generation usually brings out the Platinum Blue Fur. It is expected that the fourth generation will finally fix the color phase.

In the United States, a great many ranchers are experimenting with fish as a replacement for meat in the diet. In some sections, small flat fish are used, particularly the kind known as fresh water fish. Care has to be taken, however, when feeding these, that Vitamin B. 1 in the shape of Brewers Yeast, or something similar, is added to the diet, otherwise there is a danger of partial paralysis of the hind parts.

W. Chester S. McLure gave a very interesting and informative address before the Rotary Club, at their weekly meeting last Monday. It touched on the story of the fur trade, history of fur farming, and its past, present, and future possibilities. There are few, if any, who can handle such a subject as well. Mr. McLure was a "Knight of the Road" when, Dalton, Oulton, the Tuplins, Raynors and Champions were, more or less, secretly carrying on their experiments in fur farming. He early sensed the possibilities of it. In 1911, he, with others, formed the Royalty Company with four pairs of foxes. This Company was one of the great big dividend payers in the years 1912 and 1913, and continued in operation for years afterwards. Mr. McLure was one of the originators of the Fur Association of Prince Edward Island, which set up the first Fur Consignment Organization here, with headquarters at Charlottetown, Mr. E. R. Brow also being connected with it, as President.

It was Mr. McLure who introduced ranch-bred silver fox pelts to the United States markets in 1917 and 1918, securing some wonderful prices,—quite a number over $1,000.00 for consignors. One pelt, a perfectly coal-black, was sold for $1,000.00 in New York. It was raised and owned by Thomas Metherell of West Cape.

Afterwards, Mr. McLure went into fur farming with Mr. Lewis of Michigan, and later became associated with the McLure & MacKinnon Silver Fox Farms, Limited, as President. During the years 1926 to 1931, inclusive, Messrs. McLure & MacKinnon were Purchasing Agents of silver fox pelts for the Hudson Bay Company of London, England. They were the first people to interest this great concern in ranch-bred silvers, which was during a trip to Europe in the summer of 1926. That fall, Governor Sale of the Hudson Bay Company and a staff of experts visited this Province and the oldest Company in the world became interested in the formation of the McLure & MacKinnon Silver Fox Farms Limited, retiring from it in 1938, their interest being taken by another company.

When Messrs. McLure and MacKinnon prevailed on the Hudson Bay Company, in 1926, against the advice of its manager, to buy ranch-bred silvers in Prince Edward Island, the Hudson Bay Company handled some two or three thousand wild-caught pelts, taken at their posts. Ten years afterwards, they were handling between fifty and one hundred thousand pelts annually, and finally they became the world's largest distributors of silver fox.

The advent of the war closed the European markets and with the exception of a few shipments by the Prince Edward Island Fur Auction Company Limited, nothing of importance in the line of silver fox has been sent from this Province to the Hudson Bay Company in the past few years. When the war ends, no doubt this Company, as strong as the Rock of Gibraltar and as fair and honourable as the best of British traditions can make any body of men, will be again to the fore-front, handling our product and shipping it to all parts of Britain's great Dominions.

We acknowledge, with thanks, a calendar received from the Prince Edward Island Fur Pool Limited, Summerside. It is an exclusive hand-tinted reproduction of an actual photograph taken on the porch of President Roosevelt's Hyde Park home, of Their Majesties, King George and Queen Elizabeth. Mr. and Mrs. Roosevelt, and the mother of the President, the late Mrs. Sarah Delano Roosevelt. It is hand tinted by a special process. This calendar will be much appreciated as time goes on, because, after it has fulfilled its duty as a chronicler of the passage of time, the photograph can be framed.

George H. Mayers, well-known auctioneer of Lampson, Fraser & Huth, New York, had a very tough time of its last week, when the three-day sale of raw furs of the Hudson Bay Company were auctioned by him. The trouble was with "ceilings." There was no trouble to sell the goods, the demand for the merchandise was so insatiable that buyers were willing to take the goods, seemingly at any price. Mr. Mayers pointed out, from time to time, through the sale that the allocation of goods was "not governed by whim or choice," but that persons with a past history as exculsive or large buyers of any particular article were given preference in a desire to be "fair to everybody." Almost all the furs were 100 per cent sold. Mink No. 1's and 2's brought $40.00 each, and other furs correspondingly high prices.

As predicted in this column last week, the Canadian Fur Auction Sales Company Ltd. Sale of 12,000 Silver Fox pelts and some Specials or new types was a very successful one. The offering was almost 100 per cent sold, and prices advanced from 21 to 33 per cent. The average price was $30.91.

The following telegram from George A. Callbeck shows the figures for each type:

"Montreal, May 5th. Canadian Fur Auction Sale prices as follows: Selected 1-2 to 3-4 Silvers 99 per cent sold, average $37.35, advance of 32 per cent. 929 Regular Full Silvers, 88 per cent sold at an average of $28.94, advance of 21 per cent. 677 Selected Full Silvers 100 per cent sold, at an average of $57.52, an advance of 33 per cent. 2,921 regular Full Silvers all sold at an average of $29.85, an advance of 30 per cent. Inferior types numbering 6,034 were 97 per cent sold at average price of $23.16, advance 25 per cent. Low grades numbering 1,114 were 99 per cent sold at average of $11.76, advance 25 per cent. Total offering of 11,995 skins was 98 per cent sold at average of $30.91. 123 Specials consisting of white marked, white faced, with a few full platinums averaged $86.00.

In telephone conversation with Mr. George Callbeck last evening he informed us that most of the demand comes from Mexico and South America, orders being placed through American buyers.

Start right with HEXITE

● Weaning time is the critical time in the fur bearers development. With the meat shortages, labor shortages and other difficulties that ranchers may experience in 1943 it is especially important that the cereal fox ration be of the highest quality.

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Weekly Live Stock Market Review

Steady to strong prices prevailed on cattle markets during the past week. Western centres were especially strong under the influence of sharply reduced offerings, and the further advance to ceiling prices for beef. The result was that nearly all of last week's price losses were regained. Winnipeg was 50 cents or more higher and other markets followed a similiar trend. The calf market was a mixed affair with Toronto losing 50 cents, Montreal gaining 25 cents and Western markets steady to firm. There was no change on the price level on hogs, sheep or lambs.

EASTERN CATTLE MARKETS

Toronto had a moderate cattle run and cleared the offering generally steady except for some easiness on canner cows and bulls. Good to choice weighty steers were bought at $12.25 to $12.60, some prime heavies at $12.75 and butcher steers at $11 to $12.15. Trading was fairly brisk at Montreal, prices about steady and good steers making $12, to 12.50 and a small lot $12. 75. Good butcher cows were $10 to $10.25 and a few $10.50. In the Maritimes prices were up 25 cents under extremely light receipts and the top of the steer market was quoted at $11.25, with medium to good kinds $10.50 to $1075.

WESTERN CATTLE MARKETS

Cattle markets in the West made a good comeback and recovered most of the previous week's losses, and all slaughter classes at Winnipeg advanced fully 50 cents with some prices showing at even a further advance. The best of the steer offering moved out at $12 to 12.25 and the remainder of the lighter steers were sold mostly at $11 to 11. 75. There was a strong demand in the replacement cattle division and suitable kinds of stocker steers were taken at as high as $11. Calgary was also stronger with a good demand for all killing classes and the best of the butcher steers sold at $11.50 to $12. Edmonton had some top steers at $11 to 11.50 and as high as $11.75, Prince Albert, $11, Moose Jaw, $11 to 11.15, Regina, $ 11 to an extreme $11.50, Saskatoon, $10.75 to $11 and Vancouver, $12 to $12.50.

UNITED STATES MARKET

Shipments of dairy cattle to the United States during the week totalled 1,036 compared with 219 head in the corresponding week of last year. Exports to date this year are 10,958 as against 5,599 in the corresponding period of 1942.

VARIABLE CALF PRICES

With a heavier calf run the Toronto market was 50 cents lower with choice veals closing at $15 to $16. On the other hand Montreal was 25 cents or more higher under a good demand and good veals were mostly $14.50 to $15. Winnipeg was also firm with top veals at $14, while Calgary paid as high as $13, Edmonton up to $13. 50, Prince Albert, $13, Moose Jaw, $12, Regina, $13.50, Saskatoon, $12.50 and $12.75, and Vancouver, $13.

NO CHANGE IN HOG PRICES

The Dominion Hog run for the week ended April 24th was 138,153 and in the same week last year was 132,006. Gradings to date this year are 2, 011, 474 compared with 2,091, 543 in the same period of 1942.

Toronto paid $16.65 to $16.85 for the basic hog grade, Montreal, $16 75 to $16.85 with an odd sale up to $17, Winnipeg, $15.75 to $15.85, Calgary, $15.40, Edmonton $15.40, Prince Albert, Moose Jaw, Regina, and Saskatoon, $15.50, Vancouver $16.5[illegible] to $16.60 and Moncton $17.25.

Prices paid for sheep and lambs during the week remained constant with the previous week's level. Toronto had good Western lambs at $ 16.25 and some $16.35 and some local feed lot lambs up to $16.2[illegible] while Montreal had spring lambs selling by the head as high as $1[illegible] each. Winnipeg had a few good ones at $14.50, Calgary some at $1[illegible]