



NEWSY NOTES

BY AGRICOLA

THE RABBIT GRACE

Most of my Scottish readers will have no difficulty in recalling various unrecalled "Graces" uttered by their national poet, presumably "be-cause" of his contemporary Robert Burns, and also many more attributed to him on doubtful authority, and not to be found in his collected works. Hobbie was not the Scottish poet, and I remember that his contemporary Robert Burns, and also many more attributed to him on doubtful authority, and not to be found in his collected works.

THE RABBITS YOUNG AND FOR RABBITS

The rabbits young and for rabbits are hot and for rabbits cold. The rabbits tender and for rabbits tough. We, thank Thee, for we've had enough.

AS I LOOK BACK

Before parting with Mr. Wilson, I felt that he had explained the term "running amok." I had supposed it to mean an indiscriminate attack on innocent bystanders by a Malay in a state of delirious intoxication. To my surprise Mr. W. said that it was a Malay word, and called "Amok Fever." The Malays, he said, were normally indolent but courteous and gentle; but when under the influence of religious excitement, gambling losses, jealousy or other "domestic" troubles, they get the "fever" and rush through the crowded streets, cutting down with their sharp knives (swords) all who get in their way. The attack generally, terminating in the shooting of the victim in the interests of the public safety. And so we dismiss these tales of the Malay States.

NOTES ON ISLAND PLANTS

The Labiate (2)

The Red Dead Nettle (Lamium purpureum) has usually cordate leaves with serrulate edges, and purple-labiate flowers in axillary and terminal clusters. It was common in England, but I have seen it only once on the Island. It was found in a garden at Summerside, by Dr. W. L. Holman. The "Dead" in its common name only means that it does not sting like the Common Nettle (Urtica dioica), from which it is further distinguished by its square stem, the flowers being tubular, and the leaves being opposite. In Sweden it is called "Pulstern" and is used in spring as a "greens."

There are two species of Stachys

There are two species of Stachys in the March Woods. The March Wood (S. palustris) appears to reveal a portion of the rootstock, which is a simple tuber, and becomes a best cultivated ground. It is a perennial spreading rapidly by means of a running rootstock. Its leaves are opposite, and the flowers are small, and long-pericled oval leaves with crenate margins. This plant was recorded by Mr. Campbell, of Campbell's Farm, New Glasgow, two or three years ago.

VALUE OF POTATO CROP, 1940

Figures released by the Dominion Department of Agriculture put the value of the potato crop in 1940 at \$35,169,000, an increase of 10 per cent over the 1939 crop. The average price per cwt in 1940 was 84 cents, compared with 76 cents in 1939. From these figures it may be gleaned the total produce in tons, or cwt, if you prefer it.

SUGAR TOMATO

First of all Tomatoes to produce ripe fruit. Think of it, a sweet tomato with many fruits exceeding 12% Sugar. Nothing like it ever before. Note the beauty and symmetry of the long two-foot in length. Smaller than regular tomatoes, but their superb sweetness and appearance make them the finest vegetable introduced in years. Bears enormous crops. Distinct class for dainty dishes, salads, soups, and their superb appearance makes them the finest vegetable introduced in years. Bears enormous crops. Distinct class for dainty dishes, salads, soups, and their superb appearance makes them the finest vegetable introduced in years.

CONSERVATION

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

THE STEEL TRAP

MENACE TO CONSERVATION

(Published by The National Anti-Steel-Trap League, Inc., Washington, D. C., M. S. Edward Breck, P. President.) There is no doubt among informed persons that our wild mammals are approaching extinction. A special Committee of the United States Senate, created to investigate the conservation of wild-life resources, beginning its labors in May, 1930, submitted its initial report on January 21, 1931. Under the heading "Evidence of Decrease in Wild-Life," the Senatorial Committee says: "Your Committee finds convincing evidence of a rapid disappearance of wild-life. The evidence supporting this conclusion comes from every source. It is not disputed. Both national and state sources of information agree, and substantiate the conservationists' and sportsmen's organizations; from manufacturers and dealers; from search bureaus and statisticians; from the alarm of the conservationists; from the reports of the Game and Fish Commissioners of the various States. A statement made in 1931 by the then State Game and Fish Commissioner of Minnesota that an open season that year would result in the extermination of muskrats in that State is a prophetic warning. The trapping regulations of 1938-39 limit the catch of muskrats to a season of not more than 20 days in the State, and a trapping trap for a long time to come was prophetic. The trapping regulations of 1938-39 limit the catch of muskrats to a season of not more than 20 days in the State, and a trapping trap for a long time to come was prophetic.

TERMINATION OF THE FUR-BEARERS

These are days when most silver fox farmers you meet have their chins up, particularly if they consigned their pelts and are now receiving returns for those sold on the auctions. Prices have risen anywhere from 25 to 50 per cent since the beginning of the season last November, and in some cases shippers say that they are receiving 100 per cent more than the value placed on the pelts by them. It is not in mink it is not surprise to learn that the returns for the "Show Pelts" consigned to the Canadian National Silver Fox Breeders' Association and sold in New York by Lamson, Fraser & Huth, Inc., Wednesday, March 5th, are so good as to be reminiscent of the years 1936-37.

RAPID DECREASE OF MAMMALS

It is no longer true, as was said in an earlier edition of this paper, that rabbits and muskrats—the lower end of the fur-bearing scale—found in abundance. Rabbits are protected in some states as the national food of foxes. Muskrats have dwindled from over-trapping and from the plans for their disposal and went to New York to attend the auction, that requests have been received for photographs of Island foxes and ranch scenes for window displays to be used by buyers in featuring Prince Edward Island peltries. Below we are giving a detailed account of the fur market and more particularly the New York sale, furnished by George A. Callbeck.

SLAUGHTER CONCEDED

Dr. H. E. Anthony, American Museum of Natural History has said: "The fur trade extends to a close the Age of Mammals which began three million years ago." Dr. Anthony, in this statement by the distinguished Curator of the same Museum, the late Dr. Henry Fairfield Osborn, "Unless the slaughter stops," says J. M. Johnson, "there will soon be no mammals on this Continent larger than rats."

THE BEAVERS GREATEST VALUE

The Conservation Department of Wisconsin believes the beaver is the most valuable animal in the State. The beaver is not only one of our most interesting and intelligent mammals but, alive and active, it safeguards man, life and property.

GOVERNMENT ADMITS INTERESTS

There is ample evidence that a large proportion of this waste is attributable to the steel-trap. The United States Government Survey of the trade in Raw Pelts and the cause of the fur-bearing animals and their fur-bearers assures us that: "Trapping too early and too late and failing to care for skins properly has resulted in a loss of approximately 21 per cent of the catch. Receiving houses are responsible for much of this waste by sending out early price lists containing quotations on prime skins not obtainable at the time—a forcible invitation to the trapper to begin operations at once." That many trappers have been allowed to ply their trade out of season and to gather pelts to the point of ex-

WASTEFUL AND CRUEL

The steel-trap is responsible for the greatest mass cruelty of all these we perpetrate upon the innocent creatures over which we hold dominion. But before its invention in the middle of the 19th Century, the fur trade had been built up by the Indians on the use of dead-falls and snares—comparatively humane methods of death. It remained for a white man to invent the bone-breaking device which has since been used successfully to sever the bond of kinship with our so-called "fellow-beings." These we have maltreated, hated, and destroyed. "Vermin" and "predatory" are the terms that have become serious.

TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH

Silver Fox Farming

Table with columns for date, quantity, and price for Silver Fox pelts. Includes entries for Jan. 20, 1941 and Feb. 18, 1941.

These are days when most silver fox farmers you meet have their chins up, particularly if they consigned their pelts and are now receiving returns for those sold on the auctions. Prices have risen anywhere from 25 to 50 per cent since the beginning of the season last November, and in some cases shippers say that they are receiving 100 per cent more than the value placed on the pelts by them.

Two of the pelts brought \$100 and \$102 each; 50 of them realized an average of \$75.56, while one lot of six well matched three-quarter skins fetched \$75 each; 100 were sold at an average of \$64.88. This means a net average to the shipper of more than \$50 per pelt in Canadian funds. That the pelts created a sensation in New York is admitted by their class and quality was very much above the best pelts consigned by American fur farmers and sold the two days previous.

INNOCENT VICTIMS

The story of the trapline is replete with evidence of maimed dogs, dead song and game birds, useful hawks and owls and even larger game as in the case of moose and deer caught in bear traps. The New York Audubon Bulletin No. 43 is a complete history of the pole-trap and its undesigning catch. W. E. Clyde Todd of the Carnegie Museum and research biologist, New York, has written in his pole-trap is highly undesirable in his opinion. The useful birds of prey are more often taken than the harmful birds. Julian K. Potter, member of the Ontario Ornithological Club, condemns it roundly. "Even if the pole-trap fulfilled its intentions and caught nothing but birds detrimental to game, it should never be used. The University of Toronto is of the opinion that the pole-trap is a standstill of extreme cruelty alone. There is absolutely no excuse for using such an abominable catch-trap."

NATURALISTS DEPLORE EXTERMINATION

In 1930 an open protest was signed by many of our most eminent natural scientists who are connected with the University of Toronto. It is relative to the present dangerous program of wholesale destruction of several important species of our mammals by federal agents. Among the naturalists who presented are the following: The California Academy of Sciences; The Field Museum of Natural History; The Museum of Natural History, New York; The University of California and Michigan; The San Diego Natural History Society; The Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, and many others. These well known naturalists have asked that no extensive or general destruction of wild-life, by trapping or poisoning, by the U. S. Biological Survey, be permitted until the Department of the Interior, American Trappers' Association on the fact that the use of poison has been decided, forgetting that trapping is also included in this program. If it is thought necessary by a formidable array of scientists to ask such action of the Government, the matter has become serious.

THE AMERICAN NATIONAL FOX & FUR BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION

The American National Fox & Fur Breeders' Ass'n had an offering on March 3rd and 4th of 10,000 fresh skins, of which 91% was sold, with full-silvers selling free-ly, the highest price being \$76.00. The best price for three-quarter silvers was \$48.00, half-silvers—\$34.00, quarter silvers—\$26.00, eighth-silvers and darks—\$17.00.

THE AMERICAN FUR TRADE

The American Fur Trade has evidently become Canada conscious. By letter received March 11, from high class New York furrier, who purchased quantities of our Show Pelts in the March sale, as well as by telegram received on the following day, our assistance was solicited in furthering the exclusive advertisement of our Show Pelts by supplying prizes for a number of the pelts, and also supplying suitable photographs to assist in making an attractive window display in a high class Fifth Avenue retail store.

THE CHIEF CRITICISMS HEARD AGAINST OUR CANADIAN PELTS

The chief criticisms heard against our Canadian pelts were their lack of size and the color of the belly fur as shown in numbers of our skins. These are defects that in many cases can be avoided. If pups are fed generously during the months when they should grow in size, up to (say) five months of age they should by that time have attained nearly full size; but if they are given only stunted allowance of food during their early months, when they should be growing, more generous food allowance later on will not fully make up for the retarded growth of the first four to six months of their lives.

THE MATTER OF POOR-COLORED BELTIES

The matter of poor-colored belties is largely an environment handicap. Clean dry well-ventilated quarters out of sunlight and unfavorable weather conditions, especially if the foxes are kept in wire bottom pens are important factors toward the retention of good belly color.

FROM A QUALITY STANDPOINT, CANADIAN SILVER FOXES ARE THE WORLD'S FINEST SILVERS.

CANADIAN NATIONAL SILVER FOX BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION, FUR MARKETING DEPT.

Dr. Downess, formerly of this Province, addressed the York Mink Breeders' Association in Toronto recently and his remarks were very apropos and can be taken to heart by us all. He gave his opinion that the quality of mink offered this season was considerably poorer than last year, that some of the pelts might be termed "easy reds," and blamed this poor quality on a lack of sanitation as perhaps the greatest contributing factor, claiming that many ranchers do not pay sufficient attention to cleaning out the nest boxes during the summer months.

Weekly Live Stock Market Report

SUMMARY

Only the moderate volume of offerings saved eastern cattle markets from lower prices during the past week, while a small increase in arrivals in the west brought about a more or less general decline of 25 cents. Further price declines on United States markets has partially shut off exports and domestic markets are very sensitive to supply at present. Further well regulated receipts are necessary if additional price cutting is to be prevented. The Montreal calf market was active and steady but other major centres were down 50 cents to \$1. There were some price changes in hog markets mostly in an upward direction, and notably in Alberta where west coast buyers were bidding steadily with good choice steers steady to stronger.

EASTERN CATTLE STEADY

The small volume of supplies allowed the TORONTO trade to clear the cattle market at steady rates. Weighty steers sold at \$8 to \$9.50 and a few choice, with butchers going \$7 to \$9.50. FORTY-ONE REAL was very slow on steers, good kinds selling at \$9.25 to \$9.60 and one load topping at \$9.75. Choice steers were ready sellers at \$4.25 to \$6.50, with an odd top up to \$7. Receipts were heavier in the MARITIMES but quality showed improvement and prices held steady with good choice steers bracketed at \$8.25 to \$9.25.

CATTLE LOWER IN WEST

A small increase in the cattle was all that was required at WINNIPEG to take the keen edge off the market and most killing classes worked fully 25 cents lower. The trade was again mostly of a local nature and while one outstanding load of steers was bought for export at \$9, most of the arrivals went to local buyers at \$7.50 to \$8.50. There was a fair demand for \$9.75, at \$10.00 from \$6 to \$9.75 and some good feeders moved from \$7 to \$7.50, under a limited enquiry. CALGARY closed steady to 25 cents lower with good butcher steers at \$8.50 to \$8.75, after some early tops had made \$9 to \$9.50. Choice steers made \$8 to \$8.25 and extreme tops at \$8 to \$8.25. The best price paid at PRINCE ALBERT and MOOSE JAW was \$8, REGINA \$8.50 and SASKATOON and VANDERWATER \$8.75, with supplies meagre at all points.

UNITED STATES MARKET

As there were no sales of Canadian cattle at Buffalo or St. Paul during the past week quotations are not available. Exports of beef cattle to the United States during the week totalled 1,240 head. Shipments from Ontario were light as consignments of bulls, while the bulk of the total movement went from Alberta to Pacific coast points. Dairy cattle exports were 289 and calves 591. Exports to date this year include 18,953 beef cattle, 2,289 dairy, 7,761 calves and 549 hogs compared with 4,701 beef, 1,705 dairy and 8,093 calves and hogs last year.

CALF PRICES STEADY TO LOWER

Montreal was about the only major market where calf activity in calves and prices there held steady. Toronto, on the other hand opened 50 cents to \$1 lower and ranchers stretched their pelts too much, so much that there were actually gaps in the fur. He further stated that the average price of mink pelts was \$11.00. The Montreal sale and gave his opinion that ranchers must average \$10.00 or more for their pelts if they want to be successful.

SPEAKING OF LINE BREEDING

Speaking of line breeding he used the blackboard to illustrate his points, saying—"If we have two animals, a male and a female, and allow 10 points to be a perfect animal, and the male has 8 out of 10 points, he is very much better than average animal, and if the female has 6 points she is a good animal. The progeny from these two animals mated together may not be better than both, but may be 7 points, which is not so good as the male but better than the female."

THEN DR. BOWNESS ILLUSTRATED

Then Dr. Bowness illustrated on the board how, by mating daughter to father, a son to mother, brother to sister, and so on, could improve and step up his stock year by year. He discouraged outcrossing, stating that the minute you bring in a stranger to the herd you undo the work you have been doing in line breeding, the whole thing falls apart as the genes are unlike. He urged the breeders to keep to line breeding and to keep a line pure saying—"As long as your selection is good you are improving." He also urged the members to cull rigidly and stated in conclusion that the most important feature in breeding is sanitation, good care, good management and good food.

A FREAK TYPE OF CROSS FOX

A freak type of cross fox, having a silvery appearance with white markings brought \$400 at Lamson, Fraser & Huth's sale in New York this week.



JOHN E. MCINTYRE

John E. McIntyre, recently appointed Agricultural Agent for the Canadian National Railways with headquarters at Moncton, N. B. Mr. McIntyre has been associated with agriculture all his life, having been born and brought up on a farm. He was born in Campbellton, N. B., and first took up the intensive study of agriculture at the Agricultural College in Ste. Anne de Pontieres, Que., and from there went to the Ontario Agricultural College at Guelph, Ont., graduating in 1921 with the degree of Bachelor of Scientific Agriculture, conferred on him by the University of Toronto. Previous to his appointment, Mr. McIntyre was engaged in agricultural work for the provinces of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. He was one of the organizers of the Maritime Fertilizer Council and has been its Secretary since 1934.

maintained a level of \$12.50 for top veals throughout, while Montreal paid \$12.50 as a rule for good veals and up to \$13 for some Winnipeg was around \$11.50, with best veals up to \$11. Calgary paid up to \$10.50 and an odd \$11, while Edmonton topped at \$10. Prince Albert and Moose Jaw \$9, Saskatoon \$10.50, Regina \$11 and Vancouver \$10.

STEADY TO STRONG HOG PRICES

Toronto hog market opened steady and then gained the 15 cents which was lost last week to close at \$11.35 to \$11.50 for grade B-I hogs dressed. Montreal, on the other hand was lower on a basis of \$11.50 while Winnipeg maintained its range of \$10.25 to \$10.45, according to zones. Alberta markets were stronger. Calgary paying \$10 to \$10.25 for grade B-I dressed, Edmonton \$10.25, with west coast buyers bidding \$10.40 and other markets were unchanged. Prince Albert quoting \$9.80 to \$10.10. Moose Jaw \$9.50, Regina \$10.00 to \$10.05, Saskatoon \$9.85 to \$10 and Vancouver \$11.10.

LAMB PRICES FIRM

While market for lambs was slow at Toronto last week's closing level of \$11.25 held for good westerns, and common to medium locals brought \$9 to \$11. Montreal was \$11.50 and early spring lambs at \$11 to \$13 each and Winnipeg was firm on a small supply at \$10 to \$10.50. The top price at Calgary was \$9.05 and at Prince Albert \$8.50, with \$9.90 early Edmonton quoted steady at \$9 to \$9.50.



THE BRAY CHICK DOES THE TRICK

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Charlottetown, P. E. I.

Advertisement for Canadian Nature magazine, featuring a woodpecker illustration and text describing the magazine's content and subscription information.

Advertisement for Wells' Seed Book, offering the lowest prices for the finest quality seeds for 1941, with a list of various seed types and contact information for Edward Webb & Sons (Canada) Ltd.