

TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH Silver Fox Farming



The New York Fur Trade Review for August says: "No one knows exactly how many silver fox skins were sold to the American trade during the past six months, but we believe it would be safe to estimate a total of about 200,000 skins. We base this estimate on the quantities made available through the various auction sales, the amount of skins imported from foreign sources, and the number of skins that still remain in the ownership of the fox breeders and dealers. We can say that by the end of July fur dealers and fur manufacturers were keenly interested in further supplies of the desired silver and three-quarter and all types of skins."

Silver fox is really one of the most amazing furs because, although the supply has increased steadily year after year, the popularity of the article seems to grow as it becomes more abundant, especially in its better colors. The favorite classifications of course in this country are the full silver and three-quarter silver, although the clear half-silver have also been in excellent demand. We must attribute this popularity to the fact that the fur is unique in its beauty, it cannot be imitated and it is undoubtedly one of the richest looking and most becoming furs available. It ranks high in the minds of all women as a desirable article, and the supply large as it is, still falls short of world requirements.

Silver fox is fashioned today with originality and seems to find new uses constantly. The manufacturers have acquired amazing skill in the working, cutting and manipulation of this fur so that it is now utilized in the making of every style of garment. It will be tremendously popular during the coming fall. It will be worn for day and evening wear as a short cape, a medium length cape and long cape. It is being worn now in the form of dainty little bolero jackets. It will be worn in a variety of new scarfs. It will be worn as a short boxy coat of the sports type, as a sweater coat and as a long fitted evening coat and, withal, compared with other of the precious furs, it is not excessive in price.

Before next December arrives the supply of desirable silver fox skins will be thoroughly depleted and we will import further quantities of Scandinavian and Canadian skins to fill the demand. For the first half of 1937 we imported over \$1,000,000 worth of silver fox fur from foreign sources. This was necessary in order to supplement the American supply which in the more silvery grades was short of the demand.

Ten million American women will use fur apparel and fur trimmed garments worn by movie stars in the releases now scheduled by Hollywood studios for the country's picture houses during the next few months. Coats and capes, jackets and boleros, wraps and scarfs, hats and muffs, collars, cuffs, bands and borders, all of fur, precious and more so, are being made and long hair, flat and sleek, curly and bushy.

Fur—it will be everywhere—and luxuriously will be the motif of those famous studio designers who add to the beauty of the glamorous movie stars. What they wear ten million women will note and want.

Style experts interviewed on the subject of fall fashion trends and the place of fur in the fashion picture express themselves as followed: "Luxurious long-haired furs are an integral part of the costume as entire borders of seal, kolinsky and sable, and in some of the daytime costume add some-times covering the evening frock. One of the most interesting fall furs is the fur jacket—tiny, flapping boleros developed in silver blue fox, kolinsky or sable."

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics

tics, Ottawa, has released its advance report on fur production of Canada for the year of 1935-36 (twelve months ended June 30th, 1936). The production was valued at \$14,039,729 and was valued at \$12,843,341 for the previous fiscal year. The total is higher in value than any season since 1928-29, when the figures were over eighteen million. The most valuable fur produced was silver fox, 142,814 pelts valued at \$4,728,562. The second fur in value was muskrat with a total value of \$2,149,695. The third was mink with \$1,791,577. The report shows that the average price for silver fox dropped from \$36.05 to \$33.11; muskrat advanced from 90c to \$1.32 and mink advanced from \$8.41 to \$11.03. Of the 154,279 mink skins marketed 30,856 were produced on farms.

The New York Fur Trade Review's London letter which gives a review of the fur trade says with reference to silver fox: "Taking a close-up view of this market, business is a little brisker than when I last wrote, but not a great deal. Silver fox is still the great standard. One merchant described his day sales as ten of silvers to one of anything else. Personally I think his case is rather exaggerated. I should put the proportion at four to one, but even that shows silvers well in the lead. There is a limited inquiry for both blue and cross fox and also for the best grades of white."

The Soviet Republic's fur sales held at Leningrad July 11th, had a large attendance and there was a good demand for merchandise. American, English and French merchants were the largest buyers. Blue fox averaged \$29.48, white fox \$35, Russian sable \$94.96 mink \$11.50, stone marten \$16.00.

Up to the end of May the imports of silver fox skins into the United States were 21,585, valued at \$946,976. This number of foxes is nearly four times the number imported during the same period a year ago. It is certainly an extraordinary fact that the United States can absorb such quantities when one considers that there is a prohibitive duty of 50%. It must be that the Norwegians and Canadians are producing large specimens of the clear silver skins or there could not be such a demand for the product. It will be noted that the imported skins average about \$44 per pelt; with 50% duty—which is \$22—the landed price in the market is \$66.

There will be a silver fox and mink show in connection with the Royal Winter Fair, Toronto. The dates are November 16th to 24th. Those desiring a Prize List should write to W. A. Dryden, Manager Royal Winter Fair. In this connection it was pointed out by the writer that with distemper raging in certain parts of New Brunswick and Ontario, it would be problematical whether breeders from here would exhibit there or not.

The representative of the Norwegian Government who is visiting Canada and the United States with the object of becoming better acquainted with our fur industry and comparing it with Norwegian enterprises, states that silver fox exhibitions are held in great numbers in his country and are used as a means of education for the breeders. They are not held as late as we hold them in this country, in fact the Norwegian seems to have arrived at the conclusion that early furring of foxes is desirable because they sell better in the market. "Are they prime?" I asked. "Yes," he said, "they are and they are good color too."

Perhaps we are on the wrong road and our friends in Norway have us buffaloed because we are all endeavoring to hold back foxes and try to see the stock. The cold weather arrives in December. By so doing we take the risk of rains which discolor, and other factors which deteriorate the pelt.

I am quite confident that the date suggested for our silver fox show at Charlottetown is absolutely a wrong one—belonging to the outmoded past. December is no time to hold a silver fox show in this country, because roads are generally impassable except on the improved highways, and then there is lack of interest because attendances are small. The object of most breeders who are exhibiting is to sell live foxes and they cannot make sales if the people are not there to see the stock. The great advertising advantage which the Charlottetown show had is lost when the date is set back.

Pur production in Canada is on the up and up. About 15% of Canada's total comes from the Maritimes according to the following figures released by Dominion Bureau of Statistics:

Table with 2 columns: Province and Value. Rows include P. E. I., N. B., Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, B. C., N. W. T., Yukon.

The figures for the provinces and territories for the last two trading years were as follows:

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The Control Of Raspberry Mosaic

(Experimental Farms Note)

Raspberry mosaic is a virus disease. Raspberry mosaic is caused by a virus present in the sap of diseased plants, even in the roots. The symptoms are visible only on the leaves, and therefore only during the growing season. The leaves are mottled and often more or less dwarfed and crinkled. The diseased plants are usually stunted, and the crop is small and of poor quality. The disease is spread by sucking insects (aphids).

The Use of Certified Nursery Plants

The first step necessary for controlling raspberry mosaic is setting out a new plantation with mosaic-free plants. Certified raspberry nursery stock, which has been inspected by a competent Government Inspector, is the best stock obtainable, and the only one that can be recommended for planting.

Isolation of the New Plantation

The new plantation should be set out at least 200 feet away from all other non-certified raspberries, including those across the neighbour's line and wild raspberries. If the new plantation is set out adjacent to raspberries affected by the disease, it is certain that the disease will spread into the new plantation.

Requing the New Plantation

The new plantation should be carefully and periodically inspected during the first two years, and any plants found to be affected with mosaic should be dug up and destroyed. The vacant space should be kept free from suckers during the rest of the season. Reputed plants must not be left in the plantation, otherwise the aphids will leave the willing plants and go to the unwilling ones. At least 300 feet away from the plantation, or be completely destroyed. Care should also be taken in roguing out diseased plants not to shake off the aphids. After the plants touch each other in the rows in a new plantation, it is no longer practical to rogue out diseased plants.

The Use of Resistant Varieties

Although varieties will be chosen largely for hardness, yield and quality of berries, some consideration should be given to resistance to mosaic. Some of the varieties commonly planted in recent years are here listed, those being the most resistant being first: Heron, Newburg, Adams, 87, Viking, Latham, Cuthbert, and Newman.

H. N. Radeoff, Plant Pathologist, Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa

cause the breeders from Ontario, Quebec and the Maritimes—no to speak of those from Great Britain—will be elsewhere. They have attended the shows in other Provinces and made their selections. Those who have an eye to the welfare of the industry as a whole should get on their thinking caps and remedy a situation which is only playing into the hands of promoters of other shows.

P. J. Williams, of the Canadian National Silver Fox Breeders Association, Summerside, has a leading article in the August Canadian Silver Fox and Fur, that is well worth reading. It is headed, "Slowly Rather Than Not at All," and contains suggestions for introducing new blood into the silver fox herd with a view to improving quality. These are just a few little extracts from it. "As we have in previous writings remarked a good plan is to get acquainted with breeders who are generally winners at shows of registered foxes. By attending a show a rancher has privileges of personal contact with various breeders and of examination of their live stock not otherwise readily obtainable.

As fashion yet favors the pales and naturally go to their display in the different phases one must not neglect to examine the distinctive beauty of the darker foxes. A well-bred fox of good make-up showing from 20 to 40% silver and having qualities seldom equalled by even the best silver foxes, is occasionally picked at a price around half of that required to buy a silvery fox. Good foxes in which glossy black necks form a pleasing contrast with the silvered portion of the body are beautiful animals and it does not seem unreasonable that the price changes on the recent London auctions of silver fox skins were in favor of halves and quarters, silvers while others showed a decline in price. There is a chance too that this price trend may yet be greater."

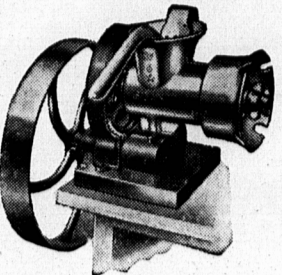
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ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

THE ROUNDHEADED APPLE TREE BORER

Apple trees, especially young trees between three and ten years old are frequently attacked by this borer, the most pronounced symptoms being the retarded growth of the trees and the yellow foliage. On examination, fine reddish sawdust-like castings will be seen sifting out through small holes made by the borer and closer examination may reveal a marked discoloration of the bark over the new burrows. Should any tree be found with the foregoing symptoms, all neighboring trees should be examined and if found infested, should be given immediate attention.

The adult insect is a conspicuous "long-horn" beetle about 3-4 of an inch long. The color is light-brown above with two broad white bands running the length of the body. It emerges in early summer and about a week later commences to lay its eggs in slits in the bark, continuing to do so for forty or fifty days—adults have been taken from July to September in some places—each female laying fifteen eggs or more. The beetles do not usually move far from the place of their emergence, consequently a tree in which one borer is found is likely to have several and clumps of infested trees are the general rule. Most of the eggs are placed in the tree only slightly above the level of the ground, though rarely they are more highly placed.

The young larvae tunnel chiefly in the inner bark their first season, though some of them may penetrate into the sap-wood, working down towards the base of the tree. As they feed they may make small holes in the bark through which they thrust the surplus castings. The first winter spent in their burrows near the ground, the bark over these burrows often cracking the next spring, allowing the castings to sift out. The larvae extend their circular tunnels next season deeper into the wood, those being of seven, those who have an eye to the welfare of the industry as a whole should get on their thinking caps and remedy a situation which is only playing into the hands of promoters of other shows.

Worming, or seeking out and destroying the borers with a strong pocket knife and a piece of stout wire bent into a hook at one end and a ring at the other is one method. The bark is cut away with the grubber and the wire is reached, a piece of cotton wool soaked in carbon bisulphide is thrust into the burrow and the opening is plugged with wet clay. Protections of various sorts are sometimes used where an orchard is permanently infested to protect wood protectors are used and are tied tightly to the trunk just below the crotch and extending two inches below ground. Wire netting should be held out from the tree with a layer of cotton.

Sweet Clover

(Experimental Farms Note) Sweet clover offers considerable promise as a supplement to the red clover crop in Prince Edward Island. While it is inferior to alfalfa in nutritional value, quality and palatability, it is more easily grown and gives a good yield of valuable hay. At the Dominion Experimental Station, Charlottetown, heavy yields of sweet clover have been obtained on rich land low in lime, and on land of medium fertility where 1-2 ton of ground limestone per

CONSERVATION

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

The following essay was written by Dorothy Gibson, aged 19, of Grade IX Marshfield School for the recent Junior Audubon Essay contest for which she received second prize:

SHOULD WE PROTECT HAWKS

We who have lived in an agricultural section of the country have no hesitation in saying, "Yes we should protect hawks, because they are protecting us." The Royal-legged hawk has been almost every day from May until November in this section of Prince Edward Island. This beautiful bird, soaring so easily across the meadows, then almost like a flash dropping into the tall grass for a very unlicky little creature, after some brief pause we see him soaring away, ever on the alert for meadow mice, rats, and other small creatures.

We liberty loving Canadian people are proud to say that a proven on trial is innocent until proven guilty, but we do not carry this principal into our thoughts when we think of our birds of prey, who as a class are blackened by the reputation of a few species. To my mind no person is better qualified to speak with authority than our skilled biologists as they carefully examine the contents of a bird's stomach and mammals constitute about 38% of the total food of Hawks, 36% insects, 20% game and other birds and 12% miscellaneous. Mr. J. D. Smith of the Boston Science of Natural History illustrates the possibility of errors in unskilled observations, for he once saw a Marsh Hawk feeding on the carcass of a Buffalo Head Duck. Some people would immediately accuse the hawk of kill-

formerly attracted toward shore by the small marine creatures which they knew to live among the grass and seaweed, to be just the very thing for a salmon dinner. When the fish came shoreward in search of this food they also came net-waded, which was lucky for the fishermen but a mistake for the salmon. Now the officer believes the appearance of the eel grass or a good deal of eel grass meant also that the "small feed" that used to be abundant near it has been so scattered that the salmon go foraging elsewhere and fewer of them reach the nets set in the shore waters where the grass used to thrive. As one point in support of this view the inspector reports that, although salmon were apparently more abundant in Chaleur Bay in 1936 than they had been for a number of seasons before that, in his district the "inside" nets were taken in the "inside" nets.

It is a theory, nothing more as yet for positive conclusions in cases of this kind can never safely be stated until thorough study has been made of the facts. The inspector concerned, like everybody else who has had experience in the fisheries matters, knows it is never wise to speak quickly in domestic explanation of fish behaviour. But this particular case, and for example, another case in Cape Breton where the fishermen believe that an increase in smelt catch in 1936 was due to some improvement in eel grass conditions, indicates why it is that fisheries research scientists both in Canada and the United States have been giving some time in the past two or three years to studying the eel grass case.

Less Eel Grass Salmon Stay Away

Cause and effect are hard to pin down sometimes but it is possible that there may be something in the theory of the federal fisheries inspector in northern New Brunswick that there is relation between diminished abundance of eel grass and lessened catch of salmon in his district. Certainly, when some eel grass, but very efficient parasite destroyed the eel grass on many parts of the Atlantic Coast several years ago it also accomplished other things. It caused brant and geese to go hungry for parts of the grass are one of their foods and the cupboard was bare in many places. For another thing, lack of this marine grass checked the operations of manufacturers who had been using it in making insulating blankets.

However, there is no obvious relationship between birds and blankets and eel grass; and salmon so how does the inspector work it out that absence of the grass affected salmon catch? Lack of the grass has done two things in his Clouster County district, the of the Dominion Department of Fisheries. In the first place it has allowed continuous sharp currents to flow and eddy in shore waters where salmon trap nets are used, in the result that it has not been possible to fish the nets steadily during the season—the inspector's reference was to the 1936 season specifically—and less fishing time has meant fewer fish caught. In the second place, so the theory goes, the salmon were

NEWSY NOTES

BY AGRICOLA

GARDENING NOTES

Here is a further contribution to the study of "Blossom-end Rot" that destructive malady which has taken such a large toll of my tomatoes. I have over 100 plants, staked and trimmed in orthodox-fashion; and these have suffered terribly. Some had not a single sound fruit, and I should suppose the loss to be nearly 50 per cent. of the total crop. By chance there was a small patch of new ground vacant, and having a flat of tomato plants left over from the main planting, I filled them into the new patch. Seeing that I'd done such a lot of staking I decided to let these run on the ground, pruning them to two stems and removing all side shoots as usual. So far the fruit is ripening almost without mishap. I have found less than half-a-dozen spotted tomatoes. Another gardener had had the same experience, and we have decided to quit staking the tomatoes in the future. As our soil is sandy it is no trouble to get the fruit clean.

The cooler weather and the welcome rainfall, will I think give my pompon dahlias a new lease of life. The recent hot weather wilted the more tender varieties, and their buds turned black and grew no more. The coarser kinds bloomed "off-color"; for example the amber-colored "Doris" was a crimson this year. There is usually a good showing of Dahlias at the Exhibition, but this year there were few, due to the cause above-mentioned. The Columbine Leaf-miner has been abundant this summer. This is the maggot of a fly of the genus Phytomyza, and "It makes conspicuous white serpentine mines in the leaves." The remedy we are told, is to hand-pick the infested leaves and burn them. Some gardens that I noticed in town the other day, were so badly infested that every single Columbine leaf would need to be picked! I should be inclined to try "poison bait" for the adult flies in the early part of the season. Such a bait should consist of one-half gallon of water, one quart of molasses, and one quart of kerosene, with a fine spray can. This applied as a fine spray has been found effective against other leaf-miners; it kills the adult fly before it lays its eggs in the leaf.

Some time ago I wrote a short note on the Japanese Chrysanthemum, I, at the same time, procured eight or nine cuttings of selected varieties from a specialist in Vancouver, and they arrived in good condition after a week's travel. Two of them are just coming into bloom, and having been disbudbed, the single blooms promise to be large. For those who do not take the trouble to disbud, the Chrysanthemum will throw tufts of smaller flowers. This plant is destined to come to the front in Canada, but the trouble will be to preserve the cuttings over the winter. Possibly the solution is to send for rooted cuttings each spring; unless you are a fortunate owner of a glass-house. The dry summer is going to affect the quantity and quality of locally-grown gardenias.

Through the kindness of a valued friend, I was enabled to visit "the event of the year"—the Provincial Exhibition. There is, I noted, a considerable improvement in the lay-out of the grounds, since my last visit, for which the management are to be congratulated. The main building, too, looked speck and span inside and out, a good idea to remind us of the great Empire to which we belong, by inscribing the names of the "British Possessions" round its walls.

Of course I made to the floral part of the Exhibition first. In spite of all the handicaps this year (too much sun and too little rain) there were some really excellent exhibits of cut flowers. The gladioli dominated the scene, and I surmised that "Beechwood Gardens" was well represented in this class. To get such massive straight spikes meant that some body had been carrying the water-buckets! My gladioli, left to Nature for their water-supply, have revenged themselves by producing wry-necked spikes.

What is a cactus? The term has been very loosely used in the past, and plants used to be exhibited as Cacti that had no other relationship than that they were of a succulent character. "Partridge-breast" or variegated Aloe (A. variegata) is a case in point. It is a succulent fleshy plant, with sharp-pointed, fan-shaped leaves, mottled and striped with different shades of green. In previous years these plants were allowed to be entered as Cacti, but this year they were labelled "Not Cactus" and (I suppose) disqualified. The judges were scientifically correct in this; and their action had an educational value. It would appear that the prize list might be amended to read: (1) for the best specimen Cactus; (2) for the best succulent other than Cactus; thus giving the "partridge aloe" and the like a chance.

As to what is a cactus, botanically, the best distinction lies in the floral structure. The flowers are often very showy, and have numerous sepals, petals, and stamens, the filaments of the latter being long and threadlike. The plants themselves are succulent shrubs with stems which may be angular, two-edged, or "leafy". The latter, with fattened stems—which some believe to be leaves—usually have brilliant scarlet flowers, and are fairly common as house-plants. They belong to the genus Phyllocactus, whose name may be translated as "leafy-cactus". Cactus leaves are, however, in most cases, very minute; being mere pointed scales growing just below the

groups of spines, and soon falling. The Echinocactus (Apocynac) is a trailing plant with rose-colored flowers; I saw a specimen last year in Mrs. Gordon MacMillan's glass-house at Cornwall. The Guardian of Aug. 5th, 1930, contained an account of a Night-flowering Cactus probably Cereus Nycticalis, owned by Mrs. Holden Mills, of Summerside. The flower opens at 7 or 8 p.m. and lasts but a few hours, filling the air with a heavy vanilla perfume. There was one Opuntia in the Exhibition, and it was marked "Not the Christmas Cactus." The branches of the Opuntia may easily be mistaken for leaves, since they are flat, oval and green; but one sprouts from another, which leaves never do. The leaves are the little pointed scales already referred to. Opuntia often have names or initials scratched on them! I have eaten the "prickly pear" the fruit of C. vulgaris, it was a fruit with a sub-acid taste, and slightly refrigerant properties.

The little globular cacti probably belong to the genus Echinopompon dahlias, the jointed "Christmas Cactus", well represented by several exhibitors, is now named Zygocactus truncatus, though it was once classed as an Epiphyllum. But let's change the subject, since there are said to be 800 kinds of Cactus species! There was a good display of oil paintings and water-color sketches. Among them was a painting of the famous "Singing Tower", which I believe to be the most exquisite piece of architecture on this continent. It is a tall campanile, 205 feet high, containing a carillon of 71 bells, the smallest 12 lbs., and the largest about 12 tons. This lovely tower is built of corquina stone and up it's sides run mistresses of pink marble. It has been compared to the Taj Mahal of India, but that is on a much greater scale. The "Singing Tower" is situated near Mountain Lake, Florida, and is a gift to the American nation by a Mr. Bob who came to the country "as a poor Dutch boy."

We have it seems a goodly number of juvenile artists who go in for portrait painting. One or two I note, leave the background white; their efforts would be improved by a shaded background fading out at the circumference, as we see in good photographs. All to whom I talked, regarded this year's Exhibition as better than that of 1936.

GENES MAKE THE DIFFERENCE In the old story the Quaker tells his wife, "Everybody's queer, Rachel, but me and thee; and sometimes I think thee's a little queer!" Though rather ungallant, Reuben's remarks were logical when he considers that nature never produces two people exactly alike, and that taking any one at all, all the rest will appear more or less "abnormal." And we ask what makes this difference when every individual commences life in the same way, by means of a fertilized cell. Why should one brother be fat, short, and dark, and the other thin, tall and fair? Why is one man a philosopher, another a philosopher? The answer, says M. Demerec, of the department of genetics, Carnegie Institution, lies in the small word: genes. "Now the definition of a gene, is a minute organic particle, capable of reproduction, located in a chromosome, and responsible for the transmission of hereditary characteristics. The biologist insists that this definition is a statement of fact only, supported by experimental evidence which cannot be doubted. All living cells, whatever their size, are alike in that they are filled with water, through which moves a substance called protoplasm; and in the protoplasm is a denser spot—the nucleus. The nucleus, under the microscope, resembles a tangle of threads. When the cell is about to divide the threads shorten and thicken into rod-like segments called chromosomes, whose number is characteristic of the cell," again quoting M. Demerec; all human cells for example have 48 chromosomes. And in the chromosomes, the little genes form strings, like strings of beads) held together by some unknown force. It is these minute particles which answer all the questions we asked at the beginning of this note, and determine whether an individual shall be white, brown, yellow or black; a genius or a fool, a man or a woman.

There used to be, in the Public Library, an interesting book called "The Third and Fourth Generation", which treated this subject more precisely than is possible in a newspaper. I recall that it gave diagrams of the cell, with chromosomes. Many books have been written lately on the characteristics of racial and other characteristics, some of which are in the Library.

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