



NEWSY NOTES

By AGRICOLA

"CLAUDIUS THE GOD"
A historical novel, by John Graves, now in the Public Library, Charlottetown. This is that Emperor Claudius, who a century after Caesar's abortive invasion of Britain, completed the conquest of the southern tribes under Caractacus, in A.D. 50. The great battle in which Caradoc (to use his British name) was defeated, is depicted by the novelist as an encounter in which the Emperor's army, with elephants, camels, and something very like gunpowder, played an important part.

As all good historical tales should be "Claudius the God" is based upon contemporaneous writings; hence it may hardly be termed fiction. The character of the notorious Messalina wife of Claudius, so well known to students of ancient history, need not be considered overdrawn; for Rome especially amongst its ruling classes, was decadent and in a moral bankruptcy. Messalina for ten years deceived the unsuspecting Claudius (who seems on the whole, to have been a rather decent Emperor for those times) and when the truth comes out, is slain by his order. Whereupon Claudius married his widowed niece Agrippina, who not long after poisoned him to help her son, Nero, to the throne (A.D. 54). Far away, across Europe and the Channel, the Bishops of Colchester built a temple in the Emperor's honor and worshipped him as a God.

That is the briefest history of Claudius; it has been expanded by the genius of author Graves into a fairly long story told—except the finale—by the Emperor himself. There are many passages in it which are "strong meat" and cannot be quoted in a newspaper; but they are given in such a matter-of-fact way that they are free from any emotional bias. Sharecroppers in a New York Sunday News. Some of my readers may recall the film (or the story) of "Tobacco Road," which is, among other things, intended to show the degradation and degeneracy brought about by the sharecropping system of farming. In the story the sharecroppers—represented by the worthless old Jeeter Lester—scrape along in a state of semi-starvation, by growing the money for fertilizer and seed and giving up a share of the crop to repay the debt. A bad harvest or two of a bad market leaves the unfortunate sharecropper in a state of bondage from which it is next to impossible to escape. Here again a moral bankruptcy follows, and makes possible the incident so startlingly narrated in "Tobacco Road." And the worst of it is that the average Canadian farmer is taking the very first step down that road, as a very little consideration will disclose.

"MUSIC HAS CHARMS"
Music is supposed to soothe the savage beast, according to the old saying, and it is generally accepted as an enjoyable and peaceful art. In my youth I sang in several church choirs organizations where one would expect to find the pacifying qualities of music in their greatest perfection; but sad to say the choristers seemed to have more than their share of jealousy and uncharitableness. In that remote but interesting era I had heard of choirs going on strike and otherwise "kutting up," but our choir only showed a little insubordination when the funds at the Vicar's disposal were not enough to provide for the annual choir picnic. Tipped the others broke down the door and rushed into the choir, slaying some of the monks and wounding others "so that the blood came from the altar upon the steps, and from the steps on the floor." Three there were slain by death, and eighteen wounded.

And then, as often happens in these old-time stories, the narrative ends abruptly, leaving us in the dark as to the ultimate result of the energetic music-teacher's efforts.

One of my first acts on coming to the Island was to join a church; and when I was requested to join the choir. It was a country district some distance from town, but the folks were very neighborly and we had some very pleasant choir practices. Then for five years I played the organ. In fact till I left that part of the country. We had some good concerts too, with popular music such as Gounod's "Soldiers' Chorus" from Faust, and so on. I had however to be very cautious in introducing new hymns; I found, they preferred the monotonous old tune called "Martyn" for "Jesus, Lover of my soul" for whom I would have liked to teach them Dyke's "Holliside," a much superior composition. But I reflected, they, and perhaps their parents before them, had sung this tune and it had acquired a sentimental value that I must not disturb. In the same way they sang the tune "Coronation" to the words "All hail the power of Jesus' Name," whereas I thought "Miles Lane" (by W. Shrubsole) a much better tune. Rather than raise a dissident by removing my neighbor's sentimental landmark, I taught the newer and better tunes to the children for Sunday School use, with the hope that one day they would sing them in church.

In place of the "Antem" of the English choirs, our choir sang a "selection" from one of the numerous "Gospel Hymn-books," etc., that poured from the commercial printing houses in a ceaseless stream. I had an intense dislike to that class of music, but felt that when one is in Rome it is good policy to do as the Romans do! These books as a rule had one or two tuneful pieces included, but the rest of the tunes were mere "padding" with a trifle of something like fugue thrown in for the refrains. It was the tuneful piece that sold the book, but the rest had to be used up by that thrifty generation! These books retarded the growth of musical culture in the rural districts and their influence had not yet died away.

And now here is a spot of trouble in the choir that happened a long time ago, to wit, in 1883 A.D. "This year," says the monkish chronicler, "arose the tumult at Glastonbury betwixt the Abbot Thurstan and his monks. It proceeded first from the abbot's want of wisdom, that he mis-governed his monks in many things. But the monks meant to show him and told him that he should govern them rightly and love them and they would be faithful and obedient to him." The abbot however would not listen to them, "but evil entreated them and threatened them worse." One day he called them into the chapter-house (a sort of council chamber) and after what we should call "bawling them out," he attempted "to mislead them in the service. A footnote makes it clear that he was trying to introduce a new-angled chant, brought from Feschamp in Normandy, instead of the Gregorian chants to which they were accustomed. When the monks refused to sing the new music, the abbot sent after some laymen, who came, fully armed, into the chapter-house. The monks (who did not like the way things were going) "shot forward into the church; and locked the door after them." A fearful thing happened on that day, says the chronicler, "the Frenchmen (i.e., Normans), broke into the choir, and hurled weapons upon the hapless monks massed round the altar. Others (they were said to be knights) mounted to the open gallery in the upper story of the choir, and shot arrows incessantly downwards, "so that on the crucifix that stood above the altar they stuck many arrows." The wretched monks lay about the altar and some crept under, and "earnestly called upon God, imploring his mercy, since they could not obtain any at the hands of men." Then the others broke down the door and rushed into the choir, slaying some of the monks and wounding others "so that the blood came from the altar upon the steps, and from the steps on the floor." Three there were slain by death, and eighteen wounded.

"BENNETTS' A LORD NOW," said a friend to me the other day, and he said it as if Bennett had committed a heinous crime against society. Another friend, who never had a good word for Mr. Bennett when he was in Parliament, said of him (to my surprise) that he was the best statesman Canada had produced in recent years. That was after he had gone to England, of course, when party politics did not matter.

Men like to be rewarded for their efforts; most set up the possession of money as the goal of their ambition. Mammon is their god, and in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred he leads them by "shady" ways to his temple. Some men seek for power, a dangerous possession as all the world knows. Others crave a fickle matter at best, and too easily diverted. But if a man sets his heart on his supreme goal, with a title as the insignia of it; if he works for his country without thought of money, power, or vain applause; and thinks the title sufficient reward, then it him have it. Of all rewards it is the only one with the motto "Noblesse Oblige."

CONSERVATION

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

REPORT FROM PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND TO CANADIAN CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

Submitted by (Prof) Wm. A. Reddin, Prince of Wales College, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island

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Mr. David Schurman, Experimental Farm. Mr. W. R. Shaw, Provincial Dept. of Agriculture.

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Review of Prince Edward Island Problems Regarding the Conservation of its Natural Resources: "Soil and its Relation to Natural Resources"

When the first white settlers, three French families, came to Prince Edward Island (then Isle Ste. Jean) in 1720, the Island was covered with virgin forest to the water's edge. These and succeeding French families cleared a small amount of land along the rivers and bays. After the Island came into the possession of the English in 1763, a slow but steady immigration of English, Scotch and Irish settlers took place until in 1830 the population had reached 30,000.

From 1830 to 1900, approximately the population rose steadily to a figure of about 100,000. During all this time (1830-1900) more and more of the primeval forest of birch, maple, cedar, spruce, pine, was cleared away. During this period three main industries were actively carried on—fishing, farming and logging. (At one time there were one hundred sawmills in Prince Edward Island, twelve at St. Peter's Bay alone.)

At first and for some years all of the land was successful and the Island flourished and was prosperous. Nature here had been overly generous. The rivers, bays and coast-waters simply teemed with fish, and the sky was at times lit with the swarms of wild-fowl. Carloads of lobsters, mackerel, etc., sled-loads of geese, brant, etc. were taken. Great quantities of grain, particularly oats, were grown with the aid of fertilizer. The forests of beautiful pine were stripped away to build schooners. Absolutely no attempt at reforestation was made. Hundreds of schooners built on the Island, notably along the Brudenell River, sailed for England and other places, both ships and grain never to return, either directly or indirectly.

Throughout all this time the "appreciation of the situation," little thought was given. Perhaps it was too much to expect. Everything was too plentiful. Nature had been perhaps too generous. It was a case of "Everything is here, but a very few people the supply seemed inexhaustible." But by 1900 the tide had turned. Fish and birds from then on became year after year less plentiful. The loss of soil elements, particularly phosphorus, through the export of grains, began to show itself through a reduced yield, and through a consequent lessened ability of the land to support livestock with resulting drop in the humus content of the soil, and a still further reduction in the fertility and productivity of the most of our soils. A considerable part of the land which had been cleared was now being used for farming and should have been left in forest. To cite an instance, the southeastern part of King's County, which at one time in the days of wooden ships was the "breadbasket" of the Royal Navy, is today an area of largely "sub-marginal" farmland, and there is left only one small stand of pine (in the vicinity of Murray's Bay).

In short our natural resources of fish, game, soil fertility and pine forests have been, sad to relate, to a great extent "mined out." We have today several hundred abandoned farms, abandoned in most cases due to a loss of soil fertility. We cannot afford through neglect of our basic industries to further weaken ourselves and so lose the war at home.

What have we done about it here in our Island, "garden" province, what are we trying to do about it, what can we do about it? Well, we have done "something," we are trying to do more, and God willing, we shall do much. First we must try to arrest and reduce present destructive practices, and secondly we must try to convert, through more and more of our people to the conservationist philosophy of living and attitude of mind. Some corrective measures, government instituted, have been: size limits and seasons on fish and game, game laws, fish etc. Also the establishment of a Dominion Government Oyster Experimental Station at Ellerslie, Prince Edward Island. This latter has done remarkable work towards re-establishing the important Malpeque oyster industry. Attempts have been made by societies and individuals to make easier and cheaper, through improved harbor facilities, the importation of feed grains so as to re-establish by way of manure rather than commercial fertilizers our soil mineral content and our soil fertility. Those who are interested are prepared to do all our feeble strength will permit to enlighten our people with regard to the importance of humus in the soil, of its prime function as a sponge, a retainer of soil moisture, and to convince in time rural people that the continued loss of humus will in a short while create on our Island more than one "Mud-bath"!! Well, we can't!

E. I. Fish and Game Protective Association with Agriculture Dept. of Prince of Wales College, and a number of private individuals are directing their efforts, with, we hope, some effect, towards "getting" to the general public the primary idea that "Soil is inseparable from a number of other things, not only farm crops and pastures, but fish, game, wild life in general, and forests; that the indiscriminate and unmanaged cutting of "fire-props" is bound to destroy the soil, and the destruction of forests and the neglect of forest growths is a serious situation, and has been resulting in, a d will continue to result in, the drying of our watersheds and river basins, and the disappearance of our springs and streams, and our native flora and fauna. Forest Conservation means more than that trees are cut and replaced; it means also that we should not make a clean sweep of the bushes along our fences. By not clearing these all away we afford shelter for birds and protect our fields against cold dry winds. We must protect our forest growths.

At Tea Hill forty years ago there were nine springs, today there is one. In the vicinity of Hartsville the drying of our watersheds has been considerably "mined out." We have been going back. We must stop and advance. In the district of Culladen, much land that should never have been cleared must be re-forested and made to grow timber, as Nature intended it to do. Many of our farms are, from an Agricultural standpoint, worthless, but they could be made to grow excellent crops of timber. The lands which forty years ago were covered with grey scrub birch have never been productive, and should be at once restored to their former condition. The scrub birch is not of itself of much value, but would serve to hold snow, to retain moisture, and to afford protection for our wildlife. Many of our mill-dams have in the spring of the year great areas of willow scrub, which they practically go dry—all due to the unnecessary loss of our watersheds. It has been suggested that the swamp areas at Wellington could be drained and planted to cedar, a tree which is still quite plentiful on our Island west of Summerside (not indigenous to the rest of Prince Edward Island.) Much of the farm area of south-east King's County, previously mentioned, could be replanted with pine, and this, we think, would be economically wise. Likewise our largest wooded area, namely the area loaded with timber, never cleared for farming but today nearly all destroyed by forest fire, should be reforested.

Formerly Prince Edward Island had more brooks and streams, per square mile than any other province. Whether we have today is doubtful. In short the loss of our forest areas though negligence, selfishness, or lack of intelligence has reduced the number of brooks and streams. Consequently many of our mill-dams have gone out. Our streams have become more shallow, our smaller rivers and harbors are being with sand so that many of them are no longer navigable to boats of any size, nor are they as suitable as spawning-grounds for trout and salmon. The loss of many of their natural habitats has reduced the number of our birds and also of our animals, such as muskrat and mink.

Some of our most beautiful scenery has been spoiled by the dam and the cutting of trees. At Bolger's Park on the Williams River formerly every bend in the river meant a surprise ahead, the trees hiding the landscape just beyond. Now in place one can see a mile ahead, and the water is a straight stream with its shady banks is lost. All these things are no stimulus to our important tourist industry.

All this may seem like the "blue" side of the picture. But we believe the first step towards the solution of any problem is an understanding of the problem itself. And we are confident that our people are ready, at last, becoming conservation minded, and that there is a new spirit abroad in the land. Our Experimental Farm has been doing important work on "Soil Erosion" for several years and has done much to educate the public in re its prevention. They suggest that the flood of water in spring and fall (and in summer after thunderstorms) with consequent washing off of soil can be checked by winter manure which adds fertility to the land and by the use of fall rye the roots of which help to hold the soil in the fall and spring.

Mixed farming means more livestock, more humus, more trees, more sod (pasture), no erosion. The occurrence of erosion is clearly indicated where a better yield is obtained from the flat land, at the foot of a hill than on the slope itself. Where on the other hand (as Thomas Jefferson many years ago recommended), poor land is left in trees, steep slopes are left in pasture and contour plowing is practised on the slopes, the soil will hold the water, the water goes down into the

DE-LOUSE FOXES With



ground, and the silt or precipitate settles where it is. Our Provincial Department of Agriculture has done in the last year or so splendid work in the matter of "improved Wood-lots," proper thinning, the avoidance of clear-cutting, etc. They are contemplating a Forest Survey, and they have initiated an attempt to establish a soil survey and a soil analysis service in the province. A provincial Forest Nursery in our New National Park is also being considered. Economic conditions on Prince Edward Island certainly are improved by a program of reforestation. They have in fact successfully established on the Island several thousand Hungarian partridge and a number of ring-necked pheasants—added attractions for tourists. They have in mind the introduction of ptarmigan from Newfoundland. They feel, also, that some plan should be formulated so that the excessive "run-off" of surface moisture can be reduced to a minimum. They believe that the solution is partly educational, partly legislative, and that legislation and the appointment of good "men" gets the quicker results. There are at present, unfortunately, no adequate facilities or service for this work.

The P. E. I. Fish and Game Protective Association have this year been instrumental in having a licensing system for fishing and shooting introduced. All the revenue will be devoted to improvement in our fish and streams, such things as the re-establishing of old mill-dams, etc. They are also attempting to get the interest and cooperation of our boys and girls in preserving our wildlife.

The Agriculture Department of Prince of Wales College has been endeavoring to arouse a new interest in the subject of Agriculture among our teachers and teachers-in-training. They have likewise been attempting to get into the hands of more and more of our youth visual education, more stuffed birds and specimens of insects, woods, leaves, etc., as well as pictures. They hope, also, to have the help of the next generation, and they believe that in child-education, they have the best field and the greatest opportunity for future rehabilitation of our former prosperity that there is.

Incidentally we have at hand one Entrance student's essay on "The Conservation of Wild Life" part of which we should like to quote: "The wild life is not a good life to live as people have something to be talking about, you can enjoy yourself if you live a wild life. The wild life is all right for animals and not for human beings."

Mr. Ludlow Jenkins, Marshfield, has been doing some particularly good work in our rural schools, especially with regard to our beneficial hawks and owls. I enclose a clipping from a letter to the press by Mr. H. K. S. Hemming of Charlottetown which summarizes many of the ideas here advanced.

In closing, may we offer a suggestion. It is this: Let us all teach our children the Chinese idea of ancestor worship so that their children will cherish their memory with gratitude for their broadly unselfish spirit, and at the same time let us remember that we ourselves are the ancestors-to-be of children whom we are attempting to teach.

Death came suddenly to Norman Sommerville, K.C., at his Toronto home on July 4. He was in the act of dressing when he suffered a heart seizure. Until a short time ago Mr. Sommerville was chairman of the central council, Canadian Red Cross, and held that post for 11 years.

TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH



The first Field Day of the season held by the Silver Fox Breeders' and Exhibitors' Association in collaboration with the Provincial Department of Agriculture took place at Summerside last Monday afternoon and was an unqualified success. The upwards of 100 visitors enjoyed themselves thoroughly and had the pleasure of seeing at some very fine specimens of platinum and silver fox pups at the ranenes of George A. Calbeck and Stewart and Lewis. The LaPorte and Burroughs types—the Burroughs being from the McNeill strain—were most interesting and their difference from white face silvers was remarkable. Both ranches evidenced good care and good feeding and everything about them was in tip top shape.

The ranch of Peter G. Clark was next visited and many good foxes and well developed pups looked at there. Sanitation is a strong point with Mr. Clark and it is certainly carried out in a most praiseworthy manner. Excellent addresses were given by Dr. C. K. Gunn of the Fox Experimental Station, George A. Calbeck, Peter G. Clark, Walter R. Shaw, Secretary of the Association and Deputy Minister of Agriculture, also others. Refreshments concluded what may be termed as a very profitable day for those who were fortunate enough to be present, which the writer regrets he could not be.

The recent auction of pelts by Herbert A. Nieman & Company, (cousins of the Fromms) and second largest silver fox breeders in the world, held in New York the first week in July was most successful. 97 per cent of the full silver were sold with an average price of \$43.45, the top price being \$96. The total collection of skins was 12,000 and 10,000 of these were full silvers. Prices were considered 10 per cent higher than for similar merchandise in mid-March. The balance of the offering consisting of three-quarter silvers (957) sold at an average of \$34.16, half-silvers (133) averaged \$29.57 and the remainder, miscellaneous, sold at an average of \$29.02. These were considered to have advanced 15 per cent over the last Nieman offering. Altogether the demand was keen throughout for all types with particular strength evidenced in the medium and cheaper priced merchandise. The next offering of Nieman silver foxes will be made in the early fall, probably early September.

According to Women's Wear Daily New York, authoritative fur publication, raw fur prices generally will continue to rise during this month and next. This prediction is based on the fact that the raw fur market has been very active, prices having advanced from 10 per cent to 20 per cent on almost all articles during June. Supplies of most wanted articles are actually somewhat scarce and consequently manufacturers are seriously looking around for other articles with which to finish out their season. The sole disturbing influence in the fur market at present is the uncertain tax situation.

Were it not for this uncertainty, according to a broker, a speculative boom in prices would seriously materialize for the balance of this summer and into the fall. Said he, "Further prices on all furs are sky-rocketing not only because of demand but of scarcity in certain types. All goods that you bought a few months ago are worth at least 20 per cent more money according to this market today. Before Russia entered into the war prices were exceedingly strong and since Russia's entry prices have advanced considerably because of the fact that there will be no furs sent out of Russia or only in small quantities. It is quite apparent that there will be very little foreign merchandise sent into this market for some time, because those countries engaged in this conflict or occupied by the Axis powers, either do not have facilities for shipping or are not in a position to have trade relations with this country. Chinese goods are scarce because of the conflict with Japan, and Japanese merchandise is scarce because of a natural shortage and her war with China.

It is the opinion of many men in this industry that we will see much higher prices than those to date. If August fur sales are successful—and there is every indication that they will be—furs will certainly go higher and you will

find it impossible to purchase certain types of furs." The above statements refer more generally to furs such as Persian lamb, mink, martens—in fact what is known as general furs, but it is also applicable to silver fox and explains why Herbert Nieman's silver fox sale quoted in these notes registered a 10 per cent to 15 per cent advance. We think it wise to keep our readers as well informed as possible with the trend of fur values in all lines and thus give them an opportunity to judge of future market tendencies. In our humble opinion this will be a favorable fall for silver fox pelts and prices should improve through 1942, providing no serious setbacks occur in the war. The disappearance of Russia as an ally of Germany means more to us than the simple statement that no furs will come out of Russia. It means a tightening of blockade by the United States and Great Britain in concert, so with that blockade in force it is unreasonable to expect that any silver fox pelts will come out of Norway or Sweden to be dumped on the London markets or to find their way to South America. We should thus have a continent for the disposal of a large number of our crop and a certain amount of trade from South Africa, Australia and Great Britain. We would look to see at least a 10 per cent rise on the average for silver fox pelts and we need it, because there will be at least that much rise in expenses this year between high costs of feed, taxes, labor and repair material.

WOOL WANTED



Ship your wool to CONDONS WOOLLEN MILLS Charlottetown And receive highest market price. Money paid on receipt of wool. Wool must be well washed, all burdocks and dirt picked out. Freight paid on 100 pounds.

of summer and they will soon be causing plenty of worry among foxes throughout many ranches throughout the country unless the ranchers take precautions to control or eradicate them. Can injure pelt... Infested foxes scratch themselves too, wherever the itching caused by the flea bites, and in cases where infestation is heavy the animals may become unthrifty due to the annoyance caused by fleas. Fleas also cause anemia in foxes, they have been known to actually kill pups. Infested pups will appear unthrifty and the coat may be rough, the skin may lose its tone and the fleas become very numerous and in the fall they will ruin the new pelt by matting the fur around the neck to the point where it cannot be combed out without pulling out the fur.

Infestation can be determined by examining carefully the head region, the neck and belly for the fleas themselves and the small pin points on the skin as well. Use one of the good flea powders on the market and dust quite thoroughly. Robert Quinn of Neilsville, Wisconsin, has made a special structure for dusting foxes. It consists of a frame of wood covered with heavy canvas. There is a bit of sag to the canvas and the fox is held in this sag or trough and dusted thoroughly with the powder. The excess powder falls off on the canvas or adheres to the pelt of the fox. There is no waste—no powder thrown around on the ground—and the job is done very thoroughly and the cost of construction is practically nil.

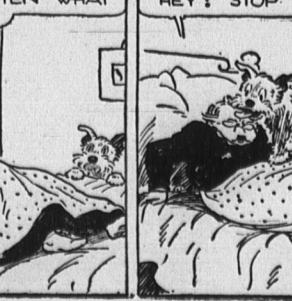
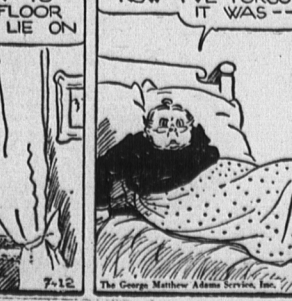
There is an article in the same journal headed, My Experience with Tularemia. This is a disease which affects rabbits and it is possible for humans to contract it by handling rabbits or rabbit meat. The author of the article describes his experience with it, which was very terrifying. It is in many cases a fatal disease and our studies of it decided us some years ago to import no more western rabbits. Just a final tip—go over all your nest boxes and clean them thoroughly of all straw and refuse, burning same. Then mix up a good strong disinfectant solution and either wash them with it or paint it on with a paint brush and leave them to dry in the sun for a week or more. You will have no fleas in the fall.

Silver fox farming has made very little progress in the Argentina although they have areas in Patagonia very suitable and the meat supply is cheap. At present there are only eight fox farms with a total of 484 animals: 401 are silver foxes, 19 are blue foxes, 10 are gray foxes and 2 are red foxes.

A decree has just been issued reopening the Argentina markets to American furs, the importation of which has been suspended for several months. Among the principal American furs in demand in Argentina are silver fox, blue fox, mink, ermine and Persian paw. The ladies of the Argentina are among the best dressed in the world and were great buyers of fashions and furs in Paris pre-war. The resumption of trade to this wealthy country will mean a broadened market for silver fox, hence benefit to us.

Furs are selling in Hawaii—that's news! Because it has been considered in the past the same achievement to selling refrigerators to the Eskimos. However, an up-to-date firm in Honolulu is doing a wonderful business with silver fox made up as neckpieces, capes and capettes. Fleas can cause a lot of trouble and may ruin your pelts, is the heading of an interesting article in the American Fur and Market Journal for July. Fleas, fleas, fleas what mean, pestilent and noxious little creatures they are, especially from the point of view of a fox. They love the hot, moisty weather

TIPPIE AND "CAP" STUBBS



By Edwina