FOR FARMERS, STOCK BREEDERS AND GARDENERS

FUR FARMING and ITS ACTIVITIES

WHEN AND HOW THE INDUSTRY STARTED

Fur Farming has a romance all its own, not alone because of its industrial possibilities but to a large extent for its great attractiveness as a profit-making enterprise, and in this regard fur farming stands out pre-eminently. The history of fur products traces back into the dim past and merges with the activities of the Indian trapper and the white man's trap lines in the early colonization of the North American Continent. Even in those early days the true value of furs as a commercial fur trade and barter commodity, was fully realized and trading on a very large scale was developed and progressed rapidly to a point where new methods of trapping and disposal of valuable furs of all kinds had to be devised, Thus it was that these extended efforts on the part of trappers brought about the almost complete depletion of wild fur life, and traders and those engaged in the trapping of fur bearers were compelled to turn their attention to other means of maintaining production.

And just at this point was born the idea of producing fur from animals in captivity. It is commonly ascribed to the enterprise of Dalton, Tuplin, Oulton, and others, the credit of being the pioneers in this respect but if we are to believe history the extensive farming of the Blue Fox was carried on in the Pribilof Islands, Alaska. It is reasonably clear, therefore, that the business of raising fur bearing animals in captivity really had its inception in that far flung northern territory. In the course of time the industry became very extensive, spreading into and including the entire northern territory known as the Aleutian group of Islands. At first it was found more convenient to allow the foxes the freedom of the Islands, a method which the owners found worked very advantageously and resulted in large litters of sturdy and vigorous pups.

Northern Alaska was also the natural habitat of the much sought after and valuable Silver Fox which had for years roamed these wild regions of the north, enriching those engaged in the trapping of the beautiful animals.

Eventually, (after the success of the Dalton-Tuplin experiment) pen breeding was resorted to and while this method developed many difficulties at first, new methods of housing, breeding, the services of qualified veterinaries and government supervision has done much to place the industry on a stable basis so that now fur growing in these territories is successfully competing in the great fur centres of the world.

Coming nearer home we find fur farms scattered all over the country. All varieties of fur bearing animals are now raised in captivity and with profit to the rancher. The beauty of them all, of course, is the Silver Fox—next we have the black, the blue, white, the red and the cross foxes and in the smaller fur kingdom is the Martin —Mink— Musk-rat —Beaver —Otter —Lynx and the humble little rabbit.

Many people are engaged in the business of fur farming and each and all for what they can get out of it—none are in it for their health. Some are adapted by temperament and inclination to make it a success and these are making it pay. Others again are only round pegs in square holes, and the difficulties and problems connected with fur farming doom their efforts to failure. The sooner the unsuccessful are eliminated the better for the fox industry—if they continue they're a real menace to its future success. The active participation in any line of endeavor of those adaptable to it will generally ensure success, and in no other business is this more evident than in that of fur farming, and for this one reason alone this is the class of people who will make for substantial progress in the industry. If this is so then I think we can reasonably hope for a great future and a profitable one to all those engaged in the breeding and raising of silver foxes and all other fur bearing animals.

THE FUTURE OF SILVER FOX PELTS

Recently a letter appeared in this paper from a gentleman who, having doubts as to the future demand for silver fox pelts wrote a well known fur dealer in London. The reply to this inquiry was reassuring. There was a time when we did hear a lot about an over supply of Silver Fox and a possible glutting of the markets by this particular fur. But that time is far behind us and instead of a likelihood of the fur markets of the world being over stocked, we find the demand increasing. There are two main reasons for this—First, the wide publicityy through newspaper and magazine advertising given the industry, and Second—The scientific research work carried out in recent years, which has greatly aided in the proper breeding, raising, and the feeding of these valuable animals.

The publicity popularized the fur and today we find that Silver Fox is regarded by the women of the world as the ultra fashionable fur, and that it will so continue is the general belief.

One feature of the industry must not be lost sight of, namely, that it is the fine pelt that controls the markets—the poor pelts do not affect the markets for good skins, and it is in this particular, broadly speaking, that Prince Edward Island has excelled all her competitors. With the fur farmers of this, the centre of the industry, good silver fox pelts have come to assume almost the same relative stability of value as diamonds or the precious metals.

A leading fur magazine in the United States has the following,—"There are some fifty million women in the United States and while not all of them can be counted as prospective customers of the fur farmer, many of them can. The retail demand has yet been merely scratched. The Silver Fox breeds but once a year and it is estimated that it would take thirty years at the present production rate to catch up with demand from New York City alone."

The above is also typical of the great European fur markets where the demand for the right quality of skins is usually in excess of available stocks.

Your guess is as good as mine and if you are engaged in fox raising for profit and will supply the required standard of skins demanded by those who can afford to buy them, we need have no worries over the future demand for Silver Fox pelts.

Many ranchers have asked me the question:—"What are the characteristics of a first class fox?" My reply to them was—"A Background of Scientific Breeding, Beautiful Fur, Prolificness, Sound Health, Abounding Vigor and Freedom from Defects and Parasites.

If you are a rancher and interested in securing foxes of this type, the future demand for silver fox pelts is absolutely assured, and at profitable prices.

BUSINESS CONDITIONS ON THE UPGRADE

Over on the other side of the Atlantic in Great Britain we read of a big revival in commercial trade. Over half a million unemployed have gone back to work on full time and many thousands of others on part time. As all foxmen are aware London, England, is the great centre of the Fur Auction Sales associations so that any improvement in economic conditions in Great Britain will naturally be reflected in more distant parts of our empire. Our product—the product of the Silver Fox, being a luxury article, has suffered as well as other commodities of lesser value.

A revival of business will be the only influence naturally benefiting fox pelt values, creating a larger circulation of money, and enabling those in a position to do so to purchase our products at profitable figures.

BUSINESS COMES TO THE MAN WHO GOES AFTER IT

And he started after it in this way:—He mated forty-seven pairs of foxes of the best strains of breeding possible to secure, bought from an experienced rancher of undisputed integrity and one whose word was as good as his bond. Two hundred and five pups were raised to maturity from the forty-seven pairs, an average of more than four and one-third pups for every pair of fox on his ranch. The average production for the industry is less than one pup per pair so you can readily see that this rancher got away to a good start. Furthermore this same foxman carried on his business on standard ranch practices, which had been developed and tested out by others in the fox industry and found thoroughly applicable in most cases. This rancher proved to his own satisfaction—and you can do the same—that proper breeding, mating, culling, housing, feeding and care are what is required to make a success of the fur farming business.

This rancher had the foxes and he had the pelts—what more could he expect? To conclude this article, let me quote from a Charlottetown foxman of long experience in the business:—He says, "The fox rancher of today must keep his eye on the pelt situation for it has an important bearing on the financial future. The Silver Fox rancher who is breeding good stock will have nothing to be afraid of. He will at least make as much money as can be made in any other enterprise under present economic conditions."

IMPERIAL FOX FOOD

Regularly fed throughout the winter season is

The Best Guarantee

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Assured Results in Reproduction

The largest litters born last season and also the highest average of pups raised to maturity were in fox ranches where IMPERIAL COD LIVER OIL FOX BISCUITS comprised a most important part of the foxes' daily winter diet. Line up with the world's successful ranchers and insist on having "IMPERIALS", the best fox food obtainable.

Imperial Biscuit Company

LIMITED.

Charlottetown, P. E. I.

NEWSY NOTES

BY AGRICOLA

THE BIRDS AT MOUNT ALBION

Here is a nice little letter from Mount Albion: "Dear Agricola, I am sorry to say I did not write thanking you for my copy of The Birds of Eastern Canada. It was not that I did not appreciate the book, for I certainly did, and have shown it to a great many people in our district.

"We have a great many birds around here, both Chickadees and Woodpeckers, and we have fat out on the clothes line, also on both kitchen windows, and we have a dish of oats nailed up on the verandah for them. They come to get the fat and the oats and are quite tame.

"I also received a book, 'Jack Miner and the Birds' last year and I am very much pleased with both books, and I wish to thank you and Mr. Tufts for the last book. Sincerely, Ruth Jenkins."

I am pleased to hear that Ruth likes her prize, and more than pleased with the way she is looking after the little feathered folk.

—And at Hunter River.

By the same mail (Feb. 14) I received a letter from an esteemed correspondent, who it will be seen is not afraid of a little work to further the cause of the birds. I have great pleasure in putting it before my readers: "Dear Agricola: Just a line re the Hungarian Partridge. I read your Notes about them and the hard tiime they are experiencing getting food. I called upon several teachers in this vicinity and asked them to encourage their pupils in putting out feed for these poor unfortunate exiles. I was pleasantly surprised to find that some of the boys were already feeding flocks about their barnyards. One boy said that his flock even flew up on the shed roof to get some grain that had blown there. From everywhere around us I have been getting reports of flocks being fed: some even go right into the barns and pick like hens. I know you will be pleased to hear of the efforts made by the young people!

We have a regular family of Blue Jays visiting us. I heard a Chickadee last Saturday, perched in an old apple tree, singing merrily despite zero weather. My children saw a Downy Woodpecker on Saturday also. Apart from those mentioned, bird-life is practically nil around here.

We are looking forward to Mr. Tuft's visit in May, as he promised he would come to us again in Hunter River. When the date is fixed I will undertake to notify all the teachers in the surrounding districts. Trusting you are having a good winter, Sincerely, Mrs. F. Bagnall."

I certainly am pleased, and I know that other naturalists and sportsmen both, will appreciate what has been done for the partridges at Hunter River. There has been a heavy mortality amongst these birds—that is the story on every hand.

I, too, heard the Chickadees spring song on Saturday, Feb. 12th: "The Chickadee has another song composed of only two notes of rather high register, clear and whistle-like. The first is prolonged, and the second shorter, about two tones lower and has been translated as "Spring's here." (Taverner.)

The little fellow, I heard was giving three notes which I put into notation, thus: E, half-note, followed by C, C, quarter-notes each, in the upper spaces of the treble staff.

FLODDEN FIELD (4)

On receiving this message Surrey immediately advanced to his son's aid but was attacked by the Scottish centre, gallantly led on by James himself. The battle was now raging in every direction, and when the Earl of Bothwell came up with the reserve to the support of the King, the victory was for a while inclined to the Scottish side. But the scale was turned in an unexpected fashion. The English left wing, assailed by the Highlanders under the Earls of Lennox and Argyle, met the half-naked clandsmen with such a terrible discharge of arrows, that they lost all discipline. Flinging away their shields and targets they rushed on the ascending ranks, plying their broadswords furiously. The pikemen and archers, from Cheshire and Lancashire, were staggered by the fierce onslaught, but quickly closing their ranks drove back their assailants with great slaughter, and forced their way to the top of the ridge. The Scottish cause was lost! Elated with his victory Stanley gave orders to charge the Scottish centre in the rear, and a terrible carnage took place at the southern base of Piper's Hill. Hemmed in on every side, the King and his nobles—the very flower of his army—struggled with desperate courage against the combined forces of Surrey, Stanley, Howard and Dacre. In the fading light every inch of ground was furiously contested, till at length, with his hands hacked to pieces, his head gashed with a bill, and his body pierced with arrows, the gallant King fell dead, amid the bodies of thirty of his devoted nobles.

The historians of both nations find it difficult to explain the conduct of Lord Home, at this crisis of the battle. According to Pitscottie, the Earl of Huntley, with whom he was associated in the command of the left wing of the Scottish army, urged him to go to the assistance of the King. He is said to have replied: "He does well that does for himself. We have foughten our vanguards, and have won the same, therefore let the lave (i.e., the rest) do their part as well as we." There is also an English tradition that the Earl of Huntley, with his men, left the field while the battle was still in progress.

Night fell and separated the combatants, but under cover of the darkness Home's wild Borderers, along with marauders from Tynedale and Teviotdale, stripped the corpses of friends and foes alike, and plundered the baggage of both armies. At dawn the remnant of the Scottish centre was found to be occupying a hill in front of Surrey's forces as if prepared to renew the struggle, while Home's banner was hovering on the left flank of the English. Surrey at once brought his artillery to bear upon them, and they were dislodged: but even then they retreated very deliberately, and Lord Home's people carried a rich booty and a considerable number of prisoners across the Tweed. Not until the scattered bands of Scots learnde of the death of their King, was the issue of this hotly-contested battle no longer doubtful.

The loss of the Scots, according to a moderate calculation, amounted to 8,000 or 9,000 men; Sir Walter Scott says 10,000. But this included the very prime of their nobility, gentry and clergy. Besides the King, there fell twelve earls—Crawford, Montrose, Lennox, Argyle, Errol Athole, Morton, Cassils, Bothwell, Rothes, Caithness and Glencairn; and to this list must be added fifteen lords and chiefs of clans, among whom were Sir Duncan Campbell of Glenorchy, Loughlan MacLean of Dowart, and Campbell of Lowers. Conspicuous in the list of the militant clergy who perished are the names of James's natural son, Alexander Stuart, Archbishop of St. Andrews; George Hepburn, Bishop of the Isles; William Bunch, Abbot of Kilwinning; Lawrence Oliphant, Abbot of Inchaffray; and the Dean of Glasgow. La Motte, the French agent who must bear a good deal of the blame for this ill-fated invasion, was among the slain, as were most of his countrymen who had come to assist the Scots. Well might Sir Walter Scott say: "Scarce a family of eminence in Scotland but has an ancestor killed at Flodden, and there is no province in Scotland, even at this day, where the battle is mentioned without a sensation of terror and sorrow."

The loss on the side of the English was heavy enough and Surrey was in no condition to follow up the advantage he had gained. The number of Englishmen who fell could not be less than 5,000, but it is interesting to note that there is hardly a name of any consequences among the slain. A great number of the dead were buried on the west side of Piper's Hill, and the spot is now marked by a monument erected by a prominent Northumbrian of last generation. It is fittingly dedicated "To the Brave of Both Nations."

Lord Dacre, who, it will be remembered, commanded the reserve of mounted men, busied himself in cleaning up the battlefield on the Saturday following the fight. He found the Scottish artillery, seventeen pieces of cannon, deserted on the hillside, and amongst them were the seven fine culverins from Edinburgh Castle, which were known as "The Seven Sisters." The body of the King was also discovered by Lord Dacre, and identified by his Chancellor, Sir William Scott, his sergeant-porter, Sir John Forman, and other Scottish prisoners. It was conveyed to Berwick where it was embalmed, lapped in lead, and sent secretly (amongst the baggage of the army) to Newcastle. Here Surrey took charge and removed the coffin to London, where he placed it in the Monastery of Sheen, near Richmond.

THE ORDERS OF INSECTS (14)

I had intended in this article to give directions for preparing and mounting Lepidoptera for the show-case, but in looking over my literature on the subject I came across a pamphlet, which goes into this matter very thoroughly, and as it is issued by the Dominion Entomological Division, Ottawa, teachers and others interested are advised to write for it. It is listed as "Circular No. 12, Directions for Collecting and Preserving Insects" from the pen of Dr. McDunnough, who was at the time of writing in charge of the National Collection of Insects.

This pamphlet is particularly valuable since it gives an illustration of a spreading board with an insect in situ. Spreading boards may be bought from dealers in entomological supplies, but with the illustration as guide the collector can easily make the "board" himself. The dimensions are given; and the wood recommended is soft pine. I made my boards with the thin wood from an orange crate for the top layer, as the entomological pins stick into it quite readily.

The best pins for insects are the double japanned black steel pins; any other kinds are liable to corrode and snap, from the action of the juices of the insect. Entomological pins cannot be procured in Canada, I am informed, but may be had from Ward's Natural Science Establishment, Rochester, N.Y., and "the most serviceable sizes are Nos. 1 to 3 inclusive." They used to run at 28 cts. per 100.

A well illustrated book (with nearly 200 figures) is issued by the Government Printing Office, Washington, U.S.A. It also is entitled "Directions for Collecting and Preserving Insects" by Nathan Banks and is Bulletin 67 of the United States National Museum. The pictures give a wonderful range of specimens from all the Orders of Insects, interspersed with every variety of equipment necessary to the collector. One could not have a better book as a guide to preparing insects for exhibition, and I believe the price is nominal.

A well arranged collection of Lepidoptera is undoubtedly the most attractive of all the groups of insects, but if the specimens are not labelled with their names, dates, and place of collection, half of its value is lost. The student will be able to name his butterflies with ease if he has Dr. Holland's "Butterfly Guide," which pictures 250 species in their natural colors; this is published by Doubleday, Doran and Co., Garden City, New York. The same firm publish a volume entitled "Butterflies Worth Knowing," with illustrations in color and in "black and white." The moths are more difficult to name, as (to my knowledge) no complete work dealing with all the species has been issued. The National Geographic Magazine for July, 1927, has 16 plates of Butterflies and Moths in natural colors, representing perhaps 200 species. Our great moths, the Cecropia, the Polyphemus, and the Luna, are among them.

Interest in these "fragile creatures of the air" is growing and we may, I think, look forward to the day when some enlightened publisher will do for Canada what has already been done for Britain in this regard. I have in my library a British work called "Our Country's Butterflies and Moths," with colored plates of one thousand species, and a short description of each —and the complete work cost only six shillings! (about $1.50). Cheap literature of this kind has made hosts of collectors in all branches of natural history.

In examining the more minute structure of insects in general, a watchmaker's glass or lens is a very convenient part of the student's equipment. Fixed in the eye it allows the hands the utmost freedom in making dissections.

Finally, for those who are in a position to consult it, Howard's Insect Book, at the Public Library, Charlottetown, will be found valuable as a guide to equipment, and (to some extent) as an aid to identification. The next article will treat of the Trichoptera or Caddis Flies.

ODDS AND ENDS

Belgian—The little country of Belgium has had the eyes of the world turned to it in sympathy since its heroic king met such a tragic fate. There is, on the part of some writers, a sort of looseness in using the proper adjective for anything pertaining to the country, and I read about "the Belgium royal family" and so on. The proper adjective is Belgian.

Hanged or hung?—The solemn words of the judge, as he puts on his black cap, are: "The sentence of this court is that you are—to be hanged by the neck till you are dead, and God have mercy on your soul." It is quite a common error, I note, to use the word "hung" in this connection, but "hung" ought never to be used in referring to an execution, though correct enough for other occasions and things.

The latest earthquake—Did my readers notice that the earthquake which shook Chili from Concepcion to Valdivia occurred on March 1, the date of full moon? The terrestrial globe, as it whirls through space, is subjected to all kinds of strain, and is probably "quaking" all the time; but when its two powerful neighbors, the sun and the moon, are pulling in opposition, if there is a weak spot, look out! There was the usual fall of the barometer after it, with bad weather on the 3rd.

Fat in trees—One reason for our trees withstanding the cold of the Canadian winter, is the presence of fat in their structure, says Professor John Adams, of Ottawa. "In some trees, such as birch and white spruce, the starch which has been formed in summer becomes transformed into fat during winter, which in turn reverts to starch on the approach of spring." And this again indicates why some of our native birds are fond of the buds of trees.

What You Should Know About Houses

By Mr. B. Evan Parry, F.R.A.I.C.

Last week two examples of the abodes of primitive man were described and illustrated. The Spanish style was also discussed. This week the instalment on "Style of Home" concludes with a presentation of the Georgian, French Renaissance, Tudor and Modernistic.

With the Georgian style, (See Sketch No. 1), of which our Colonial style is an offspring, brick, stone and frame were, and are being constantly used. The roofs were pitched generally at an angle of 45 degrees to 47 1-2 degrees and finished with classic cornices. Dormers are common in this style and the chimneys built in straight shafts with molded caps. The windows are geometrically balanced with pedimented caps. The doorways are also pedimented with columns all of classical detail.

The French Renaissance style, (See Sketch No. 2), more popular perhaps in Ontario than Quebec, curious to relate, was built with stone or stone and brick in combination for the wall. The high pitched roof, generously pierced with dormers, is one of the most pleasing characteristics of this style. As a contrast to the Spanish style the chimney stacks are lofty. The Gothic influence to be found in French Renaissance work may be noted in the interior panelling of the rooms, as also by the decorated doorways.

The Tudor, of which the Cotswold style is an outstanding development, (See Sketch No. 3), is characterized by slaty stone walls or cobble. In the technique of laying the stone there is a freedom not to be found in other styles. The thatched roof was the forerunner of the slate roof of today and the lines of the roof were unbroken. The projecting chimney on the outside wall is a very charming feature of this style and is carried up well above the ridge.

This brief review of styles would fall short of its purpose were not the Modernistic style referred to. Sketch No. 4 gives a very good idea how design has progressed upon utilitarian lines. Today, owing to the materials now being used in construction, the whole foreground of our forebears is wiped out. With the use of steel, concrete, sheet metal, aluminum, wall boards of all description, gypsum insulating materials, roof coverings, horizontal and vertical treatments, color schemes and planning, in the modernistic house, it richly deserves the term given to its style as the 20th Century development in Architecture.

After reviewing briefly styles of house architecture, it will be apparent to most people interested, how necessary it is to have the trained professional advice of the architect before with confidence labelling a building as being of ... or that style of architecture.

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We now have on hand a limited supply of the following—

Bran—Shorts—Middlings—Oil Cake — Cornmeal — Cracked Corn — Beet Pulp — Feed Wheat—Rolled Oats—Oatmeal and the well known brands of Blend and Hard Wheat Flour, all of which we are selling at very close prices.

WANTED — Good quality of Oats and Pressed Hay, for which we are paying highest market prices — Call and see us.

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Jack Miner And The Birds

By Jack Miner Himself—A History

The following four letters all explain themselves.

The Hudson's Bay Company,
James' Bay District Office
Moose Factory,
June 15th, 1918

Dear Mr. Miner,—

The enclosed metal band, No. 18 S, was brought here today by an Indian, by name Andrew Butterfly, who killed the goose carrying the band while hunting in Hannah Bay, south-east of James' Bay.

Andrew informs me that the goose was killed on April 28th, 1918.

We are all very much interested in your experiments down here, and make a point of returning the bands we receive. If you require any further particulars about the geese killed, please let me know, and I will try to give as much information as possible.

Yours faithfully,
GEO. WATSON

Mr. Jack Miner,
Box 48,
Kingsville, Ont.

The Hudson's Bay Company,
Great Whale River Post,
via Cochrane, Ontario.

Dear Mr. Miner,—

I have delayed answering your letter of Sept. 4 until I saw some of my hunters from the north, so as to get as much information as I could about the nesting place of the geese, etc.

The Esquimaux tell me that a good many birds nest at some large islands, about north-west of this Post. The islands are called the north and south Belchers, and some of them are fairly large. One of them has a large lake extending nearly the whole length of the island and this is the place where a good many of the geese nest. I have received two tags from the natives who stay on these islands, and I enclose them herewith.

The hunters from the far north told me that quite a number of geese nest about 300 miles north of this place; and I have let them know that if they kill any geese with tags on, to bring them in to the Post, so very likely I will be able to send you some next spring when the natives again visit the Post.

I don't know what has happened to the birds and animals this season; I have never seen it so poor for all kinds of game since I have been up in this direction, and I am hoping that we have an early spring so that perhaps we may be able to get some of your geese or other game.

I have been showing your pictures of the geese in the pond to some of my hunters, and they tell me that they wish they were only eating some of them; and of course I have to tell them that the spring will soon be here and that they may kill some of the geese they have been looking at in the pictures.

Well, I see the war is now over, and every one up at this place was very glad about it. The natives have had some funny ideas about what the war was really about, and as each man held that his idea was the correct one, there have been some lively discussions about the matter, and this controversy has helped to pass the time at this isolated place.

Well, trusting things are going all right with you and that your geese are well and fat, I remain,

Yours sincerely,
L. G. MAYER.

The Hudson's Bay Company,
James Bay District,
Moose Factory, May 8th, 1919
Refer to No. 308.

Subject: Two goose bands returned.

Jack Miner, Esq.
Kingsville, Ont.

Dear Sir,—

Whilst making a trip last winter up the east coast of James Bay as far as Great Whale River on Hudson Bay, two of your goose-bands came into my possession, and I beg to return them herewith.

The band marked 17 was on a goose that was killed in October, 1918, about thirty miles north of Eastmain by Charles Shashawaskum, a Cree Indian.

The geese that was carrying the band marked 18 was killed last fall near Cape Jones by Richard Fleming, an Esquimaux.

One dollar has been forwarded to each of these men out of your fund, held by Mr. Nicolson of Rupert's House.

Yours faithfully,
WM. C. BACKHAM,
District Manager

Adress: C-o The Hudson's Bay Company,
Moose Factory,
Clute Post Office, Ontario.

Rupert's House, Clute P.O.
Ontario,
20th June, 1918.

Mr. J. Miner,
Box 48, Kingsville, Ontario.

Dear Sir,—

The enclosed tag No. 18 S was handed to me the other day by an Indian who killed the goose to which it was attached about thirty miles north of this Post. I believe two or three other tags were procured by some Indians who do not deal with me, but no doubt they will be forwarded by the trader to whom they were delivered. As far as I can ascertain your interests seem to be pretty well looked after around the bay generally.

Yours sincerely,
A. NICOLSON

During my correspondence with the Hudson's Bay Company I have received from them several interesting snapshots (as the book shows.)

The old lady photographed in the book was reported as the oldest woman around Hudson Bay, but she actually did not know how old she was, and I think one glance at the photograph will convince you that both statements are apt to be true.

Reverend J. W. Walton, the missionary from that quarter who visited me last winter, smiled all over his face when I showed him her picture. "Why," said he, "she was the dearest old lady you ever met, always wanting to help others carry their load; but she died about eighteen months ago."

Now it is a fact that thirty-six of my returned goose tags have come from Hudson Bay. Yet it would be well for us to remember that over eighty per cent. of these birds were tagged in the spring, and they

(Continued on page 14)

Varieties of Summer-Flowering Sweet Peas

(Charlottetown Experimental Farm Notes, March, 1934)

Sweet peas have not always existed as we know them today. While seed was offered for sale as early as the year 1724, much of the improvement with this flower has taken place within comparatively recent years. The origination, in 1904, of the Spencer type of sweet pea was probably the beginning of the superb waved and frilled varieties now grown. The recent introduction of the new ruffled type has been still another advance and well worthy of note.

To the already large number of varieties in existence, many are being added each year. In 1933 the National Sweet Pea Society of England tested one hundred and thirty four new varieties and in addition grew some ninety odd varieties for comparison.

The task of the amateur in selecting a dozen or so good varieties from such numbers is no light one. In an endeavor to be of assistance to such growers the Experimental Station at Charlottetown has undertaken a special study of sweet pea varieties. The test plots at this Station are admirably situated for such work in that the climate is particularly well suited to growing this flower. The late Dr. Macoun, who travelled from coast to coast in the course of his duties, was of the opinion that conditions in Prince Edward Island for growing sweet peas could not be surpassed.

The following is a list of recommended varieties for garden planting:

White:—Model; Cream:—Matchless; Light Pink:— Supreme; Deep Pink:— Pinkie; Cream Pink: —Magnet, Idyl; Light Cerise:—Bestall; Deep Cerise:— Mrs. A. Searles; Scarlet Cerise:— Flamingo, Fire; Scarlet:— Captain Blood; Crimson:— Crimson King; Rose:—Brilliant Rose, Damask Rose, Ruffled Rose; Light Blue:—Gleneagles; Blue:— Reflection; Purple:—Olympia; Mauve:— Chieftain; Maroon: —The Sultan; Picotie:—Sunkist.

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