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NOV. 6-12

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BE IN AMHERST FOR
THE WINTER FAIR

**TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS
CONNECTED WITH
Silver Fox and
Mink Farming**

The rancher's thoughts will soon be turned to pelting and it would be well to look over equipment and have everything in readiness. Around about the first of November it is a good plan to go over your adult foxes and decide on the ones that should be pelted right away and fix later dates for others. Many of the pups, particularly the darker ones, can be pelted in mid-November and thereby have the pelts a good color and quite well advanced in fur.

Our first venture in buying foxes for pelting was in 1916. About the first of November we purchased two beautiful foxes from F.G. Kennedy, Southport, had them pelted and cleaned by J.B. Rombough, who was an artist in that line, and they were magnificent specimens. We had paid \$300, or was it \$1,000 for them, we cannot just remember, but they brought \$1,125 when sold to Chester McLure, and one of them was pronounced about the finest pelt that year.

Mr. McLure paid big prices that season. To Captain J.E. Ellis he gave a cheque for \$725 each for six pelts and must have paid an average close to \$250 for all he bought. Foxes were kept in the open then but the color was usually pretty good unless it was a rainy fall, then they would deteriorate and develop a brownish cast in many instances. A great deal depended on the breeding of the fox. Some like Dalton's, Oulton's, Tupp's, Lin's best strains would hold their color well but if any Newfoundland blood got into the pedigree a brownish cast was sure to result.

One of the finest collections of pelts we ever saw was those from the Roger-Paton ranch in 1927. It was then under the management of the late W.K. Rogers, and I believe Mr. McLure would agree with me in the above statement. We would give much today if we could have these silver types for breeding purposes. Of course there was also the beautiful dark-colored foxes which Peter G. Clark likes so well and which we also have an admiration for. It looks as though they may be back again particularly if the Labor government in England ever relaxes restrictions on the purchase of furs. English women like the dark necks and also many on the continent, so rancher friends if you have some of these nice types, keep them, they will certainly make a comeback and our friends to the south do not possess good quality three-quarter or halves.

Heartening news is gleaned from the fur journals from time to time. For instance the largest purveyor of furs in San Francisco, I. Maynin, is featuring blue fox, silver fox and pearl peltina fox in stoles, capes, jackets and coats, and Lord & Taylor show flaring, fitted and wrap-around styles in jackets. Fremont Bros. have had one of the greatest Parisian coutouriers developing styles for them and we

understand they are going to carry on a heavy publicity campaign during the spring and winter months of 1948. This will be accelerated by contributions from Canadian and American fox ranchers and will no doubt help the drive to bring fox furs to the attention of my lady.

There are rumors circulating that the Hudson's Bay Company, oldest trading company in the world — established in 1670 — may transition business to Montreal. This, however, has been denied but it is a fact that the Company has recently purchased a valuable property sufficiently large on which to build an auction house and show place. The restrictions placed on trading in London may make it more satisfactory to a larger part of their operations in Canada. In the United States, of course, they are represented by Lamson, Fraser & Ruth in which they own a controlling interest.

It seems odd to us that both Canada and the United States should be buying vast quantities of furs, from Russia when at the same time the rulers of that country are making every endeavor to undermine the prosperity of our countries. We cannot ship any furs to Russia or any of the satellite countries she controls, so why should we give them free entry into our country?

Many friends will remember Gavin Harding whose fox ranch was situated on St. Peter's Road. Gavin is now at the Colpitts ranch, R.R. 4, Calgary, and is as interested in foxes as ever. He is also engaged in mink breeding and we are glad to say has been very successful with them, particularly with the popular Silver-blue. Mr. Harding was kind enough to state that he depends on these notes largely for information and prices on silver fox and mink.

George A. Clibbe, Manager Fur Marketing Department Canadian National Silver Fox Breeders' Association, and Peter C. Clark, President P.E.I. Fur Pool, Ltd., both of Summerside, left today for Montreal to attend the Canadian Fur Auctioneers' Company, Ltd., sales of silver fox next week.

We have received from the New York Auction Company the following report on the October sale of mink: X-Verblu—Selected, light, average \$38; to \$74; Ordinary, \$32 to \$56; Medium, light selected, \$51 to \$58; ordinary, \$35 to \$52; Medium, selected, \$72; Ordinary, \$50 to \$55; Dark, selected, \$55 to \$78; Lewis and 11's, \$19 to \$30; \$18; Pastel—Breath of Spring, Good \$38; Ordinary, \$41 to \$47; Royal; Koh-I-Nur, Light, clear, \$16 to \$18; Ordinary, \$14 to \$15; Medium, light and medium, clear, \$16 to \$18; Ordinary, \$12.50 to \$16; Bluff—Choice, \$18 to \$19.50; Good, average, \$15 to \$17; Ordinary, \$11 to \$13; Lewis, \$4 to \$5; 11's, \$1.50 to \$2.50.

Fly TO

**MONCTON
SUMMERSIDE
NEW GLASGOW
HALIFAX**

Leave Charlottetown
For Moncton
6:05 A.M., 11:35 A.M.,
5:05 P.M.

For New Glasgow
7:01 A.M., 8:20 P.M.

For Halifax
2:00 P.M.

For Reservations
PHONE 231 - 540

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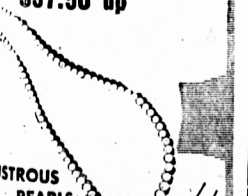
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JEWELERS SINCE 1868

- NEWSY NOTES -
By Agricola

THE CANADA GOOSE

"The best known and most widely distributed of our geese," says Reed. Yet from a variety of causes it is not nearly as plentiful now as it was forty years ago. Shooting was less restricted in those days, and when game birds are decimated, it is long before they recover their numbers, even when protected. Then again, while the birds are inclined to diminish in numbers, gunners, especially in the U. S. A. have progressively increased. But the greatest blow fell on the wild geese when the red-grass (zostera) died out. This was their principal food, and it first began to disappear from the Atlantic seaboard of the U. S. about 1930. By 1934 only about 1 per cent of the geese remained alive in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. In 1935 it was reported that the whole crop from Labrador to North Carolina had disappeared. The birds then took to feeding in the stubble fields. However, a little red-grass was washed ashore in the fall of 1946, and it is now said that this plant is "coming back." It is believed that some bacterial or fungoid parasite killed the red-grass.

It may seem unnecessary to describe such a well-known bird, but to complete the series here are a few notes on its plumage: Canada Goose, Wild, or Gray Goose, AQU, 172, Migrant. Head and neck black, a white patch on the throat and cheek extending upwards behind the eyes. Upper parts grayish-brown; underparts generally grayish; rear of belly white. When flying a white V-mark is displayed over the tail. Length 36 inches or more; weight 8 to 12 lbs.

It is possible that a darker subspecies may yet be recognized by ornithologists.

Our geese breed in the Labrador, and migrate as far south as Mexico.

AN EYE STONE

There has just come in a most interesting letter from Mr. Paul McLaughlin, of Peake Station, P. E. I. It reads: "Being a constant reader of your 'Newsy Notes' I thought you might know something

about eye stones. A neighbor here has one that has been a family possession for over 100 years, and is probably many times that age.

It is a whitish stone, the size and shape of a half pea. It is kept in a bottle of brown sugar. When its use is required to remove foreign matter from a sufferer's eye, it is taken out of the sugar and placed in a saucer containing some vinegar. In a few moments it seemingly comes alive, and moves about in the saucer. It is then taken and placed in the affected eye. It continues to move all around the eyeball, and moves the offending object. I have seen it remove a piece of steel from a sufferer's eye.

I was greatly intrigued with the whole performance and would like to know more about this strange thing. Have you ever read anything about such stones? If so you might share your knowledge through your column. I always read your Notes first when I get the paper, "Yours."

I am sorry that I cannot add anything of note to this excellent account of the eye-stone, but perhaps other readers may have something to say. On a visit to whom I gave particulars of the stone, immediately asked "Where do you get them?"

However the only stone that I have read of as having curative properties, is among the possessions of a noted family in Scotland. There is a small poisonous snake, called a viper, in Great Britain. If one is bitten by a viper, the snake-stone is laid on the wound to draw out the poison!

An Estancia in Argentina (2)

It will be recalled that the peons had rounded up all the cattle in one spot (called the rodeo) and had secured fresh horses, since the real work of the day was about to commence.

those he thinks fat enough for market. The selected novillo (bullock) is at once tackled by three foremen, who, one on each side and one behind, drive him at full gallop, confused and terrified by frantic yells and the cracking of whips, up to where the tame oxen stand. There he is left and the men ride back for another. Some times the harassed animal stops short while the men shoot at him, then he gallops back, doubtless thinking he is safe once more. Not so easily are his dusky pursuers baffled. The lassos are uncoiled, the nose of tough green hide drops over the fugitive's horns and he is dragged struggling, belching, and half-cocked, up to the required spot, by the hardy little horse not half his own weight.

So goes the day's work, the monotony scarcely relieved by accidents or casualties. The brief account reveals a scene that would not be permitted on any cattle ranch today. No cowboy or peon would be allowed to "run the flesh off the cattle's bones," before turning them over to the tropero. And the narrator falls in this, that he gives us no information of the fate of the cattle after they leave the Estancia. Possibly they are destined for Buenos Ayres, the capital, a city of 250,000 people at this time. If so they have 250 miles to travel and no railroads.

Now our author has time to take us through the Estancia house. His survey is brief. The household furniture is limited to a few chairs, tables, and camp beds, and there is no servant except a native woman to cook. The garden, he says, is surrounded by an impenetrable cactus hedge, and contains maize (corn to us), pumpkins, mink and water melons, mandioc, and tobacco, sheltered from the sun by peach, nectarine, fig, orange and quince trees.

The remainder of Mr. Clerk's pamphlet is taken up with an account of the wild animals and

birds of Argentina. This was not done to further the knowledge of natural science, but to indicate the kind of sport awaiting hunters and gunners from other countries. He himself had a wonderful time!

Amperсанд.

When I first attended school I was put into Standard (Grade) 5 for Reading — though I was about Grade 1 in everything else! I was with some curiosity to hear the Primer class learning the alphabet and finishing their chanted version with—
—X, Y, Zed and Percy Ann!
That evening, at supper, I told my mind after I read, in the Farmer's Advocate, that amperсанд was one of the 5,000 signs invented by Marcus Tiro, a Roman, about 63 B.C.

Who was this Tiro and why did he need 5,000 signs? His full name was Marcus Tullius Tiro, and he was a slave owned by the famous orator M. T. Cicero, after whom he was named. He was a man of amiable disposition and cultivated intellect. Cicero, who always looked on him with affection, made him a freeman, and he not only became an amanuensis of the orator, but invented the art of shorthand writing in order to take down his speeches. The 5,000 signs were doubtless the forerunners of our "grammalogues" but only one, the

amperсанд, has survived; it is however recognized as the sign for "and" in all written languages.

On the death of Cicero, Tiro brought a farm in the neighborhood of Puteoli. He died there, after attaining the age of one hundred years.

Careless Shooting

The "Huns" and other imported game birds, have drawn quite a crowd into the ranks of our sportsmen. Some of the newcomers, however, seem to know little about the range and power of their weapons, while others are careless of the safety and rights of their neighbors and others.

An example of this careless shooting came under my own notice recently. One morning about 11 o'clock a car came down the road, a gunner got out, and came into the front field. He had got within 50 yards (as near as I could judge) from the house when he flushed a covey of Hunt and fired. As it happened two young men were in the yard and heard the shot strike the pumphouse door, just about two yards from them—"pattering like rain," as one of them said. The sportsman must have sensed something was wrong, for he got to his car and drove off. I examined the door and sure enough found half a dozen indentations. The men were very cross about the incident and no wonder.

I happened to tell this story to a visitor and he said that last year, while working in the woods, he had been in danger from a careless shooter in very much the same fashion. "It's time these lads had a lesson," he said.

Furthermore, once an agreement has been reached the Company and the employees can work together again with better co-operation, greater efficiency, and higher morale.

At no time did we refuse to bargain. Collective bargaining negotiations were carried on before and through the strike. We were willing to bargain, and did bargain, at all times when the Union wished to bargain.

We did refuse to arbitrate. We think it in the public interest to oppose this because it might well lead to industry-wide, nation-wide control of the Canadian meat industry.

We feel we were justified in adhering to the principle of collective bargaining. Despite the distraction of proposals for arbitration and pressures for third party intervention, which served to delay the strike settlement, we held to the straight path of collective bargaining and reached an agreement satisfactory to both parties.

We feel sure that with all pulling together in harmony we can accomplish the big job ahead of us. WE ARE GLAD TO HAVE OUR EMPLOYEES BACK TO WORK.

SWIFT CANADIAN CO. LIMITED

RESUMES OPERATIONS

WE WELCOME the return of our employees to process the livestock and other products of agricultural producers; to supply our customers and consumers, and to help us do our part in feeding the hungry people overseas.

The new agreement under which we are working was arrived at by collective bargaining directly with the representatives of our employees, which we feel is the only sound method of working out an agreement satisfactory to all concerned.

Swift Canadian Co. Limited has responsibilities to conduct its business in the best interests of employees, livestock producers, consumers, and the Company. These responsibilities are best fulfilled by direct dealing between the Company and representatives of the employees.

The business of processing and distributing farm products is a complicated one, requiring years of special knowledge and experience. And negotiating officials who know the complex meat business, and representatives of our employees, are better qualified to work out an agreement than is a third party, no matter how well intentioned that third party may be.

SWIFT CANADIAN CO. LIMITED

J. H. TAPLEY, President

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