

# FOR FARMERS, STOCK BREEDERS AND GARDNERS

## NEWSY NOTES

BY AGRICOLA

### STUDIES IN COOPERATION (2)

There are in the pages of Hansard many speeches which for rather obvious reasons are not brought before the public by the press and one by Agnes C. MacPhail, M. P., deserves greater prominence in that it is directly connected with the subject under review. Miss MacPhail, after pointing out that machinery and money are enslaving the greater part of the people, continued: "There is one orthodox way of approaching this matter, and that is the co-operative method. I should like to take just a minute or two to tell the house how very successful the British consumers' co-operative has been, even in these days of depression. Through during the depression they have increased the number of people they employ and have increased their wage scale. In 1931, in Great Britain alone, they employed 5,546 more people than they did in 1930. In 1931 they employed a total of 863,937 people. Not only that but they had the best wage rates of any group of industries in Great Britain. One may ask: why is it that the consumers' co-operative can employ more people at better wages than any other industry? I think the answer is simple and clear, that the co-operative movement divides its surplus, its profits, among its members by participation dividends in accordance with the amount of business done. So they themselves sustain their own purchasing power. The money goes round and round, and instead of letting the purchasing power go back in great profits on one side and great poverty on the other, they sustain it. The amount of this increased purchasing power of the masses in Great Britain, because of the consumers' co-operative was in one year \$30,000,000. That amount is in participation dividends alone. It is becoming big business. The consumers' co-operatives in Great Britain have a capital of \$1,828,147,385. Sometimes I think if only we had a little more time that this would be the happiest way of arriving at the new state of society towards which we are all striving." This last sentence should not lightly be passed over, for the world generally appears to be heading for momentous changes.

Unluckily for the good name of co-operation, when the system was first introduced into Canada it was seized upon by certain groups and individuals as cover from whence to advance their own interests rather than those of the members, who nevertheless were made responsible for a business over which they had no control. This was the effect of a liability clause in the bye-laws, and it must be well on to twenty years ago since we experienced the lamentable effects of such a "society" in our own Province. Had the members studied what is called "Scottish Co-operation" and insisted on carrying on their society under its rules, it would undoubtedly have saved them some thousands of dollars.

The United Farmers' Co-operative of Toronto is owned and controlled by Ontario farmer-shareholders and in spite of dull times they have distributed a net profit of \$10,976, and have assets amounting to \$917,209. This establishment handles all that a farmer needs in house, barn or field, and takes all manner of produce at various local stations, including nine creameries. This is a highly successful showing and demonstrates the value of co-operation to the farmers as a class.

In Western Canada, I am given to understand, there are several concerns carrying on as "farmers cooperatives," which ought rightly to be classed as joint stock companies; in such cases the members and officials of the firm absorb the profits which in a real "co-operative" would go to the producers.

It is also interesting to note that Chatham, Ont., is to have a co-operative factory for soy-bean products—the first in Canada for this specific purpose. It is, no doubt, a limited liability firm: indeed the press account alludes in one instance to the company. While wishing the new venture every success one could wish that those inaugurating it did not make use of the term "co-operative" unless the producers actually run the business.

### ODDS AND ENDS

Eels are being captured in fair quantities in our neighborhood these days. According to the observation of the writer the fish are

small, immature and deficient in fat. The former condition may indicate over-fishing, but the thinness is due to some lack in the food supply. It would be interesting to know if these conditions are general, all over the Island.

Curiosities of the language. It was pointed out in these notes, last year, that if readers would put on record any peculiar idioms or sayings, or even odd or mistaken uses of words, which they might run across, they would ultimately have the foundation of an instructive article on our language and literature. The writer took his own advice to the extent of jotting down unfamiliar words as he came across them, and these are composed in the list subjoined.

**Thesmothee.** In Thomas Hardy's "Far From the Madding Crowd"—a work worth half-a-dozen of the modern books that pass for fiction—Bathsheba (the heroine) after paying her hired help on the farm, and giving them instructions, is termed by the author a small thesmothee. The word means lawgiver or legislator.

**Bombinate.** A journalist says that certain politicians "bombinate in a vacuum." This expressive word is onomatopoeic, and comes from a similarly constructed term "Bombus," the Latin for a genus of humble-bees. Nuttall's dictionary gives *mobiles*, to make a humming noise. Bombinate is better.

**Furunculosis.** Further, as a result of the discharge of domestic sewage (that is, into the rivers) I have often seen serious outbreaks of furunculosis amongst adult fish. Proceedings of Commission of Conservation, Nov. 1915. A furuncle is a boil, and furunculosis is the condition of being covered with boils.

**Chillast.** A believer in the millennium: one who believed that the end of the world would take place one thousand years after the Nativity, that is in A. D. 1000. Article on Eschatology, Encyc. Britannica.

**Anfractuosity.** Referring to Dr. Johnson, Lord Macaulay says: "And it is but just to say that our intimate acquaintance with what he would himself have called the anfractuosity of his intellect and of his temper serves only to strengthen our conviction that he was both a great and a good man." The word means "windings and turnings."

### ROMAN BRITAIN, A.D. 120-138

It was during his visit to Britain that Hadrian caused that formidable barrier—the "Roman Wall"—to be built across the island from the Solway to the Tyne; a massive structure nearly 70 miles long, and fortified with a series of twenty-three military camps or towns with intermediate mile-castles and watch-towers for sentries every quarter of a mile. The "Wall" is everywhere accompanied on its southward side by a deep ditch and an earthen vallum or rampart, and a well-made military road connected its fortified legionary camps. Stupendous as the work is, it must have been finished in a comparatively short time since indisputable signs show that it was erected in sections which were carried on simultaneously. Although this structure has been used as a quarry whence stone has been taken to build houses, churches and even villages, for the last 1500 years, enough remains to excite our wonder and admiration. It is thought that the Britannic "Wall" is only part of a system of circumvallation adopted by this far-seeing emperor, for remains of similar walls are found on the distant frontiers in Germany.

We must not hastily suppose that the territory north of the wall was abandoned, for inscriptions show that the towns and forts within the lines set by Agricola, were occupied till the decline of the empire. The immediate purpose of Hadrian's wall seems to have been the protection of the richer and more highly cultivated country to the south. We know from medieval history how far, without a barrier of this kind, the ravages of the Scots might be carried, and what damage could be done before a sufficient force could

## Horse Memoirs

(C. E. MacKenzie)

### LATER THOROUGHBREDS

Later additions to the list of Thoroughbred horses imported to the province were "Sleight of Hand," described as a golden chestnut of good size and conformation that won ten races in his three year old form, being sired by "Uncas" a son of "Lexington," his dam being by "Stonehenge" a son of "Blair Athol" and traces through both sire and dam to the celebrated Bay Middleton, sire of Saladan. It seems a pity that this horse was not more widely used as he must have had sufficient breeding to enable him to improve our carriage horses.

"June Day" imported to this province by Thomas Robbins, Bedouee, was bred in the purple, his sire, Falsetto, was a wonderful runner while Virgil the maternal sire of June Day, was the sire of probably the fastest and most successful two year old in America.

"June Day" was a handsome brown horse standing sixteen two hands with white star and ankle. As a race horse he won as a two year old three quarter mile sweepstakes in the fast time of 1.15 1-2 and later the same year lowered that record to 1.13 1-2—later meeting with an accident which ended his racing career.

As a breeding horse "June Day" sired many beautiful carriage horses.

"Woodburn" imported to Prince Edward Island in 1902 by Messrs Stanley and Horne is described as

gathered to drive them back.

The visit of Hadrian to Britain was commemorated by the designs on his coinage, where for the first time in history, we meet with the conventional helmeted female figure, seated with a spear and shield, which, as it is surrounded by the word Britannia, is supposed to have been intended for a personification of Britain. After his departure the island seems to have enjoyed a period of profound tranquillity, and we learn from the historian Xiphilinus, that the legate, as the propraetor was now called) one Julius Severus, was able to carry away some of his best officers and troops for service against the revolted Jews.

After a reign of 21 years Hadrian died in 138 A. D. and was succeeded by the emperor Antoninus Pius. He appointed as his legate Lollius Urbicus, a man of undoubted energy and talent which he was soon called to exercise in meeting a new irruption of the Caledonians into the Roman territory beyond the wall. At the same time, as we learn from Pausanias, he was faced with an insurrection to the south of Hadrian's wall. The remains of the Brigantes, who had preserved for long a sort of independence in the wild and rugged country from Lancashire to the Lake district, seeing the legate occupied elsewhere, attacked a small tribe (called the Genuii) who were living under Roman subjection. Lollius was equal to the occasion, and falling upon the insurgents suddenly, almost the whole of the once powerful tribe was destroyed. His arms were equally successful in driving back the Caledonians to their mountain fastnesses.

It will be remembered that Agricola had erected a line of forts across what has been termed the "upper isthmus" from the Forth to the Clyde; on the same site Lollius Urbicus erected a new line of forts and connected them by an immense and continuous earthen rampart, which was then called the wall of Antoninus, and in modern times Graham's Dyke. From inscribed tablets found along its course we learn that besides the numerous foreign troops employed, all the three legions then in Britain, the second, the sixth, and the twentieth were withdrawn from their southern headquarters to take part in his campaigns. Antoninus, whose reign was thus signalized, had medals struck bearing on the reverse a figure of Victory surrounded by the single word Britannia.

The Brigantes whose intractable spirit proved their destruction, were almost certainly an aboriginal Gaelic tribe. Pressed northward and westward by other Gaelic and Celtic incursions, part of this tribe crossed to Wexford in Ireland, and gave rise to other and dependent clans. One of these, the Scotti, again crossing the narrow sea, invaded the regions occupied by the Caledonians and established a kingdom afterwards known as Scotland. This, in part, accounts for the fact that the Irish and Scottish Gaels speak a very similar language.

a rich bay with black points, sixteen one hands high and weighing 1250 pounds. This horse had a wonderful race and show record, having started in almost one hundred races and a winner of premium honors no less than fifteen times at major shows. Being a son of King Alfonso made Woodburn a valuable horse, as the sons of this noted sire were winners of over one hundred thousand dollars in two seasons.

The province of Prince Edward Island is indebted to the late Hon. John Richards for the importation of "Haphazard" another richly bred thoroughbred, a son of Leonatus and Nettie Howell, he traces through both sire and dam to such noted runners as imported Eclipse, Pochontas, imported Glencoe Buttery and others. Above breeding gave this horse leadership and had he not been injured when a two year old would have been a wonderful race horse even in his two year old form he made no less than fifteen starts and was many times a winner, the most noted of which was Morris Park five and one half furlongs over a soft track in 1.08 and was a close second in another race in 1.02 1-2. Haphazard is described as a large handsome and highly finished horse with plenty of substance and high quality and remarkably good tempered, standing sixteen hands one inch high and weighing about twelve hundred pounds.

These four horses, I regret to say were not used as extensively as they should have been for breeding purposes, but any one having daughters of any one of them have brood mares that may be successfully mated with horses of any breed when crossed with standard bred they produced a class of road horses that cannot be beaten for road endurance and when crossed with either Clydes, Shires or Percheron sires they produce a real general purpose animal that will fill the bill in any capacity he may be used. Such brood mares as they have produced such horses as Farmers Glory, New London, Blue Noble and others well known to our older horsemen.

In the opinion of the writer more extensive importations of real English thoroughbreds would greatly benefit our whole horse industry. It is in just such periods as the one through which we are passing now that the importance of our horse industry is most noticeable. Motor power may be all right in large areas when prices of products are good but when everything is at rock bottom as at present, cheap horse power is the mainstay of the whole farming power of the country.

Many thanks to friends who have assisted the writer in supplying additional facts that helped to make memoirs more interesting to the reading public, also thanks to the many Guardian readers that have expressed their pleasure to the writer. I am again reminded that Prince Edward Island had still other sires that have not been mentioned. "Ball Hornet" was a thoroughbred that did service in northern Queen's; he was a handsome horse, chestnut in color and at least one of our speedy horses, namely, "British Ginger," traces directly to "Ball Hornet."

"St. William Wallace" was imported from United States; he was a handsome seal brown horse that was principally used in King's County. While not a large horse his stock were real good road horses that proved their worth as general purpose and road horses. "Lambert King," a son of Royal Lambert, was brought to the Island by Tryon parties. A bright chestnut he carried much of that quality that brought the descendants of "Daniel Lambert" into prominence as road horses and speed prospects. If I remember rightly this horse did not live long, hence we have only a limited number of colts.

I know that I have not mentioned every horse imported here but during the course of the winter of 1933 I hope to gather more information that may be of interest to the horse fraternity as I expect to have access to records of Maritime races in the nineties.

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## Fur Industry Of Canada Holds Strong Position

(By M. McDougall, Ottawa)

About Canada's most ancient industry, the fur trade, is woven the bright thread of romance. The words "fur trading" naturally arouse in the mind pictures of traps laid in the snow under the evergreens, of dog sleds laden with furs driven to the gates of trading posts by dusky natives, of schooners loading furs at the forts of Hudson's Bay. Through the pages of early Canadian history run the trap line of the Indian and the paddle of the voyageur. Not long after the French explorers first landed on the banks of the St. Lawrence the fur traffic began, pelts taken from the animals captured by the Indians being bartered for merchandise brought in sailing boats from France. Furs were shipped to Paris to bedeck the costumes of gallants and ladies at the court of the Bourbons. Monopolies in fur trading were granted to St. Malo merchants; stockaded trading forts arose at Tadoussac and other strategic points on the river. Coureurs de bois seeking new rich fur fields paddled up the forest-flanked rivers of the St. Lawrence watershed; the cross followed close in the wake of the trader; behind the coureur de bois and the priest came the fleur-de-lis, and the dominion of the Bourbons spread quickly westward. For a time the beaver skin was the unit of currency in New France.

Had it not been for the beaver, the marten and other furry denizens of the forest and tundra, it is questionable if this country would ever have come under the sway of the British Crown. In the latter days of the sixteenth and early days of the seventeenth century, English navigators sought the line of the Northwest Passage which would lead them to India. The voyages were unsuccessful, but they had led to an accurate charting of Hudson's Bay and had disseminated the knowledge of the rich fur resources of the Northern Territories. Following a visit of Radisson, a famous French voyageur, to the English court, King Charles II granted in 1670 a charter to the Hudson's Bay Company, the first governor of which was the Cavalier leader, Prince Rupert. Forts were raised at the mouths of rivers about the littoral of Hudson's and James Bays, and trade was carried on in an ever increasing scale with the natives of Rupert's Land. In later years another great fur trading organization came into the picture, the Northwest Company, which had as one of its partners Sir Alexander Mackenzie, whose name is given to the great river of the Northwest Territories. The history of this company is the story of exploration and pioneering through the far western lands, across the prairies to the fringe of the Arctic seas. For many years there was bitter struggle between these two companies for mastery in the fur trade, but finally in 1801 they amalgamated under the aegis of the Hudson's Bay Company. In 1859 the monopoly of trading in Indian territory expired, and a few years later the great fur company, in consideration of a payment in cash and in Western lands, surrendered, all rights and privileges, leaving the field of fur trading open to all.

### GRADUAL CHANGE

In recent years the fur trade has suffered a gradual change. The advance of civilization and the prosperity of the fur trade are antipathetic. The intrusion of settlement towards the North drives the fur-bearing animal from his old haunts. All creatures of the wild avoid the smoke of the settler's shack, and make for themselves new lairs deeper in the forest. The lumberman, the pioneer farmer, the prospector, the railway builder are all the involuntary cause of the curtailment of the roaming grounds of the fur-bearers and other creatures of the wilderness. The fur industry has also suffered from the invasion of the trapping trade by the white man. The Indian is an improvident trapper, but he is content with a modest harvest from his trap line. His white brother is much more efficient; he uses the latest types of traps and of firearms, and all too frequently succeeds by the efficiency of his trapping methods in denuding good fur areas of their resources.

These changes, serious though they are, do not by any means point to an early extinction of the fur trade. The ancient industry is still very robust, despite conditions that have prevailed during the past two or three years, and Canada will long retain its proud position as one of the two great natural fur reserves of the world. Even with settlement moving farther and farther into the Northland, there will still remain vast areas unsuitable for cultivation which will harbor the fur-bearing animals. Aside from the National Parks, the Canadian Government has set aside great areas as game preserves. One of these, the Arctic Island preserve, has an area of over 500,000 square miles. On these islands only the Eskimos, who supply the Arctic fox pelt to the fur market, are allowed to trap. Other sanctuaries are the Yellowstone, Peel River, Thelon and Slave River preserves.

## Fur Industry Of Canada Holds Strong Position

(M. McDougall, Ottawa, in the Montreal Gazette Annual Review)

It is the fur ranch, however, that is Canada's most important contribution to the preservation of the world's fur trade. About fifty years ago a few farmers in the Province of Prince Edward Island attempted with some success to raise foxes in cages. From this small beginning a great industry has developed. In the season 1920-21, pelts taken from ranch bred animals represented about three per cent of the total value of furs produced in Canada. A decade later the ranches accounted for twenty-six per cent, and from present indications it is not at all unlikely that in the course of a very few years the fur farm production may equal or even exceed that of the forest and tundra. In the year 1930 there were 6,324 fur farms in operation in the nine provinces and the northern districts of Canada, compared with 5,513 in the year previous. Of the number, 5,070 were fox farms, 793 mink, 301 raccoon, 274 muskrat, 43 badger, 13 beaver, 8 marten, 7 coyote, 5 fisher, 4 rabbit, 3 chinchilla rabbit, 2 lynx and 1 fish. These figures, however, do not present the complete picture, as in many instances a variety of different species of fur-bearing animals are raised on the same farm. A late addition to the animal population of one or two of the farms is the nutria, a native of South America resembling the beaver. The total inventory value of the fur farms of Canada in 1930, including buildings, equipment and the fur-bearing animals, was estimated at \$24,781,000, compared with \$30,350,000 in 1929. Except in the case of muskrats and badger, the number of fur-bearing animals on the farms in 1930 was greater than in the previous year, but the difference in the aggregate value was due to the slump that had taken place in the prices of the pelts.

On Canadian farms, compared with 10,436, worth \$765,333, in 1929. Fur-farming is far from being a single track industry. Each animal presents its own problems, and while a fox can be raised under conditions of semi-domesticity with comparative ease, this is not the case with a number of the other furbearers. The problems of mink farming are, however, being successfully mastered, and this branch of the industry seems destined to develop.

It is regrettable that the beaver which is Canada's national emblem and which for many years represented the main production of the fur trade of Canada, is disappearing. From being first, the beaver now holds sixth place in the list of Canadian furs from the point of view of value of output. The silver fox is now the king of Canadian fur bearing animals. In the season 1930-31 there were 51,313 beaver skins marketed, and this was slightly in excess of the previous year, but with this exception there has been a distinct diminution year by year. Close seasons have been inaugurated and fur trading companies have been endeavoring to preserve the valuable little animal. These efforts at preservation are meeting with some success. There are also 1,112 beaver on Canadian farms, according to the last figures available, but the problem is not yet solved. There is still grave danger that the beaver will ultimately disappear from Canadian forests and streams.

One of the most interesting experiments in the fur ranching industry has been the founding of beaver and muskrat farms. These little water animals cannot be cooped up like foxes in cages. Wide marsh lands are set aside; both animals are kept in their native element and while their roaming areas are curtailed, they are allowed to carry on their customary activities, the muskrat to gather his food from the margin of lake and stream, the beaver to build his dam. According to a recent announcement, a new muskrat farm of over 50,000 acres will shortly be located at the delta of the Saskatchewan river.

Instead of, as in former years, sending a great many of their furs to be marketed abroad, Canadian producers are now marketing their furs in their own civic centres. Markets are located at Winnipeg, Edmonton and Montreal, the latter having now acquired a position of considerable importance among the fur markets of the world. On December 6th, 1932, a new market for fox furs was opened at Moncton, N. B.

From the point of view of volume of output, the fur export trade of Canada has been keeping up remarkably well. During the fiscal year ending last March there was, compared with the previous year, a numerical increase in the export of pelts of fox, marten, beaver, mink and muskrat. Prices of all furs had, however, declined, and the total value of fur exports fell from \$15,094,000 in 1931 to \$12,218,100 in 1932. A corresponding decline was shown in the export figures for the six months from April to September, 1932, compared with the same period of 1931. It is interesting to note, however, that while fur export values to the United States have declined drastically during the past few months, the export to Britain has increased in volume and in total value, even with reduced prices, has remained fairly constant.

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### FOX FARMING

The silver fox, to which the genesis and growth of fur-ranching are primarily due, is still the mainstay of the industry. The silver variety, a phase of the red fox, was first raised with conspicuous success in Prince Edward Island, later spreading to the other provinces. Silver fox farming is a highly specialized industry; the greatest care and most careful study are given to the diet and housing of the animals; provincial and national fox breeders' associations seek the advancement and improvement of the industry, and in addition to the fox show at Charlottetown, winter fairs throughout the country are no longer complete without an exhibition of the beautiful little silver-tipped animals. At the end of 1930 the number of silver foxes on the various ranches throughout the country was 105,894, the aggregate inventory value of these animals being \$13,385,171. The number was nearly 9,000 greater than at the end of the previous year. Prices of furs have of course suffered in the general decline of commodity prices, and fox pelts have not been exempt. The popularity of the fur, is however, undiminished. During the two-year-month ending last September, 91,528 silver fox skins were shipped to the British market, as compared with 70,606 in the previous year.

An outstanding feature of the fur-ranching industry in the past two or three years has been the rapid increase in the number of mink ranches. Just as the Russian fur market is renowned for its sable and one or two other species, the Canadian mink, silver fox and beaver stand pre-eminent among the fur-bearing animals of the world. The crisp air of the Canadian winter breeds good furs. Each year more farmers are taking up mink ranching. At the end of 1931 there were 20,726 mink, valued at

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