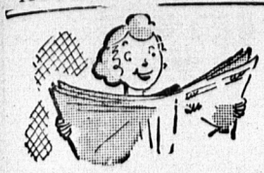

A Page for the MODERN FARMER

CONSERVATION

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

AN EAGLE AT MURRAY RIVER

In the month of November last, an eagle was seen soaring over the fields at Murray River, Prince Edward Island. The unusual occurrence attracted the attention of a number of people. While hunting, a boy of 15 had baited a trap with fish which he placed in a field. The result was that the eagle was captured unhurt, both his feet being held securely in the jaws of the trap. With the aid of a pair of fox tongs with which he clasped the bird's neck, its captor was able to protect himself from the bird's beak and its claws being held firmly in the trap, Willie brought his prisoner home in triumph. It was at first placed in a temporary fox pen, but when it was found that the width of the pen, six feet, did not permit the bird to stretch its wings fully, the bird was removed to an enclosed shed where it remained for the winter. In the spring a hay barn became empty and Willie removed his captive to the barn where it had room to fly about when not roosting on the rafter ties. An opening or passageway existed between the hay barn and the shed. This it was found necessary to keep closed to prevent the eagle from returning to its former quarters. It preferred the shed, where it had spent the winter to its better lighted, more spacious and better ventilated quarters in the barn. In this is exemplified a trait of eagles, which is well known to naturalists, namely, that of attachment to a particular location. Many eagles spend their lives in one location, roaming over large territories it is true, but building their nests year after year in the one spot. Eagles are known to build their nest in the one place every year throughout a long lifetime, the nest being added to yearly until some nests become from six to ten feet thick. The preference of Willie's eagle for its home in the shed rather than for the cleaner and better quarters in the barn subsequently led to its escape, as will be related.

A large and full-grown eagle has a rather healthy and voracious appetite and as Willie had no intention of letting the bird go hungry, a good deal of his spare time after school hours was occupied in providing his guest with enough to eat. On one occasion Willie reported "He ate 15 smelts, half a gallon of water, a piece of beef and a hen." Fortunately Willie's father, who has a knowledge of fishing as well as of farming, was kindly disposed towards Willie's adventure, and in due season provided an ample supply of fresh herring of which the eagle was fond.

Patience Required

But herring and meat, to say nothing of smelts, require patience and some resourcefulness for a continual supply, and as the eagle showed no let-up in its appetite, Willie began to cast about for a way out of the difficulty, and still to preserve "peace with honor." He offered the eagle for sale to anyone who would buy him as a live bird. It was found, however, that the local market in Prince Edward Island for live eagles was rather dull. It was found, too, that the continental press was not interested in advertising eagles for sale on a percentage basis, and since the cost of advertising was almost as great as the amount Willie expected to receive for his bird, Willie decided that he would advance the interests of science and of bird lore and cooperate with the Biological Survey Departments of Canada and the United States, and would have the bird released. To this end arrangements were made that the bird should be banded and classified. Communication was opened up with the Chief Federal Migratory Bird Officer of the Maritime Provinces, and through his kind assistance a metal band, duly inscribed was received from the National Parks Bureau of Ottawa. This band was to be placed on the leg of the bird or its tarsus, as it is called, before giving the bird its freedom. Its future history, if it were ever again captured, could then be duly recorded. Apparently co-operation exists between Canada and the United States in this respect, since the band which was received from Ottawa, bore the inscription, "Notify Biological, Department, Washington, D.C." A number was stamped on the band for identification purposes. Information as to the date of banding and release, and as to the species of Eagle was asked to be fully forwarded to Ottawa so that the Canadian officials, and probably the officials of the United States also might have a complete record. A date was set for setting the eagle free and plans were arranged to have the school children and other of the neighborhood invited to be present at the liberation. Before the date arrived for setting the bird free an accident took place which was not on Willie's program, and which caused a postponement of the ceremony.

The Bird Released

On the 14th of June, the day celebrated as the King's Birthday, Willie had taken charge as usual in the morning, giving it an ample breakfast. It was Willie's custom to feed the bird twice a day, morning and evening. After giving the bird its breakfast, Willie thought that as the time was getting near when the bird would have to be caught to be banded, it would be advisable to re-open the passageway leading to the shed so that the bird's capture and banding in the smaller building might be effected more easily. The passageway was accordingly opened. Some hours later the bird was seen at large in the neighborhood. Upon investigating, Willie discovered that his eagle had found a partially loosened board which it succeeded in displacing, thereby effecting its own freedom. Great was the disappointment of its captor, since the bird had escaped without being banded. But Willie's care and the regularity of his attentions to his huge captive while it was in confinement were not without their effect, for the eagle did not wholly depart from the neighborhood. It was shortly afterwards discovered in the woods, about a quarter of a mile from the place where it had been imprisoned. In the evening Willie led two friends to a place a short distance from where the eagle was perched. The light was not then very bright but the dark form of the eagle could be made out on the far side of the trunk of a white birch tree perched about 20 feet above the ground. The bird seemed enormous. It stood erect, nearly as straight up as the tree itself, and seemed to be fully four feet tall from its beak to its tail. At the distance from the observers, however, and in the poor light, it was impossible to judge its height accurately. It was noticed that the bird moved its head several times as if seeking a better view of its observers. An eagle is noted for its keenness of sight, and the visitors, who were then only about 100 yards from the great bird, stood for several minutes silently watching the magnificent creature being reluctant to approach nearer lest the bird should take flight. The eagle undoubtedly recognized one of its visitors as a friend, for it soon uttered a most peculiar call which Willie recognized as the call he sometimes heard in the barn. The sound was one which it is impossible to describe or for the human voice to reproduce. The sound of the bird's call lasted several seconds. After a short interval the bird repeated the call. The fact that the bird did not fly away, and that the call was given and repeated, seemed convincing proof that the eagle was not unduly alarmed by the near presence of its human visitors, but that this was more probably its way of trying to tell Willie to bring along the evening meal. The eagle was left to its own devices for the night, its guardian, Willie, remaining in charge of the commissariat or food supply and planning to return in the morning. Next day Willie succeeded in recapturing the bird and in transporting it to its place of imprisonment in the shed. This he did without assistance, a rather remarkable feat. It then became necessary to determine the species to which the bird belonged.

Two Species In Canada

There are two species of eagles known in Canada and the United States. These are, the Golden Eagle and the Bald Eagle. It is said the Golden Eagle is a rare sight in Canada, except in the mountains of British Columbia or on the Prairies in the autumn. There is no record of a Golden Eagle ever having been taken in Prince Edward Island and there are but two different records of a Golden Eagle having been taken in Nova Scotia. If the bird Willie Miller captured could be shown to be a Golden Eagle, it would establish a record and be a matter of some considerable interest and importance to bird lovers and students of bird life. Some years ago a pair of Bald Eagles are said to have nested near Elmira in King's County in this Province but the nest is reported to have been destroyed and the birds shot or driven away.

Before deciding upon the classification of the Murray River specimen, a short description of these two species may usefully be given.

The Bald Eagle is not really bald, as its name would suggest, but its head and neck are covered with white feathers, giving it an appearance of wearing a white hood. At a distance this gives the impression that the head is bald, hence its name. The tail is also white. This white plumage does not appear however, until the bird has reached its fourth year. After that its color and markings do not change throughout its life. Before it reaches its fourth the bird goes through some remarkable transformations. These changes have in the past caused the same bird to be regarded as of two different species, but with fuller knowledge this error has since been corrected. When hatched, the young bird, like the young of the Golden Eagle, from which at that age it cannot be distinguished, is covered with a white down. Until it is two weeks old the mother feeds it carefully with small pieces of soft meat from which all feathers, hair and bones have been removed by the talons or claws of the parent. After about two weeks, the bird having by that time increased in size very considerably, the mother bird feeds the young with meat from which the hair or feathers, as the case may be, and the bones, have not all been removed. These feathers or hair, and bone, are not digested, but remain in the bird's stomach or crop overnight and form there a pellet called a casting, which the bird vomits up next morning. Rather curiously the health of the bird, whether young or adult is said to require that this indigestible matter be taken into the stomach and afterwards expelled.

Weekly Live Stock Market Report

SUMMARY

OTTAWA, Aug. 22—Only a few minor price fluctuations occurred in the cattle market during the past week. Except for some medium grades of slaughter cattle and plain stockers, which were a shade lower, the trade absorbed a much heavier run of cattle than in the previous week without the price structure being seriously disturbed. Calves proved strong sellers and gained 50c to $1.00 at major markets. There was also some upward adjustment in hog prices, but lambs closed from 25c to 75c lower in most cases

Eastern Cattle Markets

On the TORONTO market, butcher cows, bulls and fed calves gained 25c, while steers and heifers held steady and stockers lost 25c. Early sales of choice weighty steers reached a top of $8.75, and others sold from $8.60 down, while butcher steers and heifers made up to $8.25, with early tops at $8.40. Steers were around 25c lower at MONTREAL, but quality was also lower. Cows, on the other hand, held steady to strong. The best of the steers offered brought $8.25, and good cows from $5.50 to $6. The market in the MARITIMES continued steady, although beef sales were slow due to hot weather. The best of the steers were quoted at $7.50 to $8.

Western Cattle Markets

Cattle receipts were stepped up rather sharply in the west but the supply was well taken care of, with trading as a rule brisk. A good demand centred on the better grades of stockers and feeders at WINNIPEG and these moved out at $8 to $7. Buyers, however, were a little more cautious in their purchases of the plainer variety of stockers. Slaughter steers were in line with last week, with medium to good kinds at $6 to $7.25. CALGARY was active on a heavier supply at steady to firm rates and disposed of good grass butcher steers at $6.50 to $7 and an odd $7.25. EDMONTON likewise was active at unchanged prices, quality considered, and paid as high as $7.75 for good steers. PRINCE ALBERT has good grass steers at $6.50 to $6.75 and a brisk market, while MOOSE JAW paid $6 to $6.50 for best steers. The top at REGINA was also $6.50, and SASKATOON benefitted from orders for outside packers and disposed of the good grass steers. VANCOUVER was also steady, with good butchers at $7.50 to $8

United States Markets

Sales of Canadian cattle at Buffalo looked about even with, or slightly better than comparable sales at Toronto. A number of loads of steers from Ontario sold between $10 and $11, with a few down to $9. At St. Paul, Canadian cows were quoted at $5.75 to $7, and bulls from $6 to $7.

Shipments of Canadian stock to the United States during the week consisted of 2,924 beef cattle, 676 dairy, and 1,455 calves, making the totals to date this year 71,660 beef cattle, 9,016 dairy, and 57,236 calves. These totals compare with 123,750 beef, 8,304 dairy, and 67,942 calves in the corresponding period last year. Exports of beef cattle, under the third quarterly quota from July 1st to August 22nd, were 13,670 head, compared with 40,403 in the same period last year.

The latest release by the United States Treasury Department showed imports of calves from all countries from January 1st to August 3rd inclusive totalling 83,020 head, out of annual quota at the reduced tariff rate of 100,000 head

Calf Market Higher

The principal markets experienced a firm demand for calves and prices moved to higher ground. Toronto was up 50c, with choice veals at $10.50 to $11.50, while Montreal was also higher up to a practical top of $10, with several lots bought for export to the United States. Winnipeg was firmer, with the best of the veals at $7.50 to $8.50. The high reached at Calgary, Moose Jaw and Saskatoon was $7, Edmonton $7.50, Prince Albert $6.50 and Regina and Vancouver $7.50.

Hog Prices Firmer

The dressed hog price held steady at Toronto at $12 for the basic grade, while live sales were up 10c at $9 for bacons off trucks. Montreal was strong, with bacons at $9 f and w, and $12 dressed. Winnipeg held a level of $8.25 for bacons f. and w, and $11 dressed. Calgary closed with bacons at $7.90 off trucks. Edmonton $7.85, Prince Albert $7.85, Moose Jaw and Regina 8, and Saskatoon $8.05. Slaughter hogs at Vancouver made $8.25 to $8.75.

Lambs Lose Last Week's Advance

The gains made in lamb prices last week were pretty well wiped out during the current trading session. Toronto lost 25c to 50c, good ewes and wethers selling at $10 to $10.50. The bulk of the good lambs made $9.50 at Montreal, while Winnipeg declined to $8, after opening at $8.75. Calgary mostly paid $7.75 to $8 for good quality lambs, and Edmonton held steady up to a top of $8. The high at Prince Albert, Moose Jaw and Regina was $7.50, Saskatoon $7.25, and Vancouver $9. Prices were off 50c in the Maritimes at $8.75 for good lambs alive and $19.00 on the dressed basis

- NEWSY NOTES -

By AGRICOLA

A correspondent sends in a leaf from an oat stem with markings on it, but which had dried up in the mail, so that they were not at all distinct. I understand from the accompanying letter that they were in the form of the letter "B", and the writer asks if such marks appear every year on oats and barley, and says he has been informed that in 1918 the letters "B.V." (for British Victory) were seen distinctly. However, he thinks this is a fable.

It is certainly true that "B" shaped marks occur sometimes on the leaves of oats: a very good specimen was brought in for the writer's inspection during the second week of August. Another neighbor solemnly assures me that he saw a leaf of oats with the "B. V." marks on it in 1918. So that there is no doubt about that part of the matter. I sucpect the B was plainer than the V; which may have been more "subjective" than "objective."

There have been several references to this phenomenon in the newspapers and magazines, and in all cases it is supposed to be of prophetic significance. One of my acquaintances suggests that it stands for "Blitzkreigh"—not a bad shot under the circumstances! But the phenomenon is biological in the broad sense, rather than prophetical. It is probably caused by some pressure or obstruction while the blade is immature and which causes it to wrinkle into that particular form and others as well. Since the specimen was brought in I have examined a good many leaves without finding anything out of the way. The probability is that odd leaves are marked in this way every year, but when not under emotional stress we don't look for them "There is nothing to it," says one authority: which of course goes without saying.

I have purposely refrained from giving my correspondent's name, since he sent a stamped envelope as if for private reply. I am always glad to reply through this column, so no stamp is necessary.

THE ANGLO-ISRAELITES

"I read your note upon the Anglo-Israelites," said a visitor the other night. "I never heard of them. Are they some new kind of religion you're leading up to?" Perceiving that he was guying me, I answered: "Indeed not; don't you think we have all the new religions we can handle right now? The Anglo-Israelite idea is a theory that the British race is descended from the lost ten tribes of Israel, and I suppose you might believe that whether your religion is old or new." "Do you believe it?" said [illegible] reserve my judgment," said I.

Then I went on to explain the theory, as far as I understood it: I have read of it here and there, but unfortunately have no good book on the subject. After the death of King Solomon B. C. 975, his kingdom split into two small sections, one of which, the house of Judah, embraced the tribes of Benjamin, Levi, and Judah. These tribes (about B.C. 588) were conquered and carried off to Babylon; but after a short captivity, they were allowed to return and revive the Jewish nation. In the time of Christ, the nation existed as part of the Roman Empire, but on account of perpetual insurrections the Romans destroyed it in A.D. 70, and dispersed the people. Their descendants are the Jews of the present day.

The house of Israel included the other ten tribes—the larger portion of Solomon's kingdom — and is sometimes styled "Ephraim" from the leading tribe. The kingdom of Israel lasted till B.C. 720, when it was overthrown by the Assyrians, who removed the whole population to Media, a district lying to the south-west of the Caspian Sea. Here they disappeared from history as completely as if the earth had swallowed them up.

This is where the Anglo-Israel (or British Israel) theory starts from. Ephraim was to be cut off "from the people" (Isaiah 7,8), but not destroyed; for there his destiny was to become a multitude of nations (Genesis 48, 16-19).

The supposition is that these Israelites lost their name as well as many of their peculiar customs, in Media, and so in a way conformed to the Gentiles by whom they were surrounded. (Hosea 8,8;-9,17).

After a time they were to be sifted from among the nations (Amos 9.9) and taken to a place of safety (2 Samuel 7,10). in the north (Jer. 16,15) in an island home Jen. 31,10).

They would increase so that their home would become much too small for them, (Isa. 49.20), so that they would break forth on the right hand and the left (Isa. 54,3) becoming a nation and a company of nations (Gen. 35,11). They were to colonize the wild places of the earth making them to blossom as the rose (Isa. 27,6 49.8). They will possess the gates of their enemies (Gen. 22.17) Gibraltar, Suez, Aden, Perim, Socotra, Penang, Singapore?). Balaam says Israel is to be a great maritime people (Num. 24.7) and Psalm 89.25, also speaks of this.

Many more passages of Scripture might be cited, to uphold the views of the Anglo-Israelites: they are a kind of "circumstantial evidence" which readers may hunt up for themselves.

Some British historians, long before the Anglo-Israelite theory was profounded, found the first trace of the Saccae (Saxons) on the shores of the Caspian about B.C. 648, which is a few year's after Israel's exile. The subject is a very interesting one, whether we agree with the theory or not.

Along with these Scriptural "proofs," the Anglo-Israelites (or some of them) rely on traditions to prove that the British monarchs are in direct descent from King David (Queen Victoria firmly believed this); that the Stone of Destiny in Westminister Abbey is the very stone Jacob used for a pillow (Gen. 28,11); and that the passage in the Great Pyramid indicates (by its measurements) events yet to be fulfilled. I believe books or pamphlets have been published dealing with these matters, but cannot say where.

"CANADIAN NATURE"

The Sept-Oct. number of "Canadian Nature" is just to hand. This little magazine keeps up the high standard of excellence which characterized all previous issues. The colored pictures are very fine, being replicas of works by noted artists: the subjects chosen are a group of Blue Geese on the shore of Baffin Island; the Pitcher Plant; and a quartet of smaller pictures representing the Meadowlark, the House Wren, the White-Throated Sparrow, and the Eastern Kingbird. There are several pages of photographs and line drawings of various natural history subjects. The School Page conducted by a practical School Inspector in Ontario, continues to make the helpful suggestions so much needed by those who teach nature study, and a teacher contributes another page headed "How I Make Natural Science Interesting." There is a good paper (fully illustrated) on the Canadian Eskimos. These are only a few of the good things to be found in the current issue.

VOWLS IN ORDER

So far as we can determine," says The Open Book, Cleveland," there's only one word in the English language which contains all the vowels in their correct order.. "Facetiously," know of any other?" (Notes by the Way. Aug. 24th). Yes; and a better one: it is the word "Abstemiously!"

NEWS FROM ENGLAND

A farmer in Yorkshire, who lives about six miles from a coastal town, sends a letter giving me some news of farm life under difficulties." German bombers come over almost every night, but up to now I think their damage has been non-military. Of course we don't know particulars unless we are in the area where bombs are dropped. However we had a little experience on the 5th July. About 6 p.m., a plane flew over—our people were milking, and my wife had been feeding the ducks, etc. and had put the tin away and was going out of the barn, when an awful crack, like thunder, sounded. Will shouted from the cow-byre: "Get back, mother, and stay in." Then we saw the bomber make a smoke screen and he was off: but our Spitfires went after him and brought him down. He had machine-gunned some of our neighbor's sheep; killed six and lamed six more, which had to be put down." (slaughtered).

"Bombers have been over Newcastle several times. My niece was in town when a bomb dropped near the Central Station: she was making for an Air Raid Shelter and glass from the shop windows flew all about; she said she just covered her face with her hands and stood still, and she escaped all injury."

"We are finishing our hay-time (Aug. 5th) and have a little corn (grain) this year, 5 acres barley and 2 1-2 acres oats (Note: the Govt. ordered all farmers to grow some grain, which explains why this man who is a dairyman, plowed up nine acres of his pasture land). Hay crops are very light but our corn seems to be good. Prices for grain are about double now. Wheat, oats, and barley run about 14 shillings and sixpence per cwt."

"There is not much milk needed in town this year, as being on the East Coast it is in the Defence Area and visitors are not allowed. Milk is 1 shilling and 4 pence wholesale and 2 sh. 4d. retail Eggs are about 2s. 6d. per dozen."

We sold a heifer, due to calve, yesterday and she brought £25 10s. ($80.00 or over). We think it a fair price for a little heifer as she has not been tied in since she was a little calf." (That is, she had had never been stabled in her life.)

"This man wishes to send his grandchildren to P.E.I., but finds that transportation is difficult to obtain.

SEED POTATO EXPORTS

The total shipments of the 1939 cerified seed potato crop in Canada exceeded 2,900,000 bushels. This is a record, exceeding the previous highest total of 1937 by more than 400,000 bushels. Exports amounted to 2,548,000 bushels, of which approximately 1,250,000 bushels went to the United States, 500,000 bushels to Cuba, and 200,000 bushels to South America. Domestic shipments totalled 565,000 bushels, about 100,000 bushels more than the previous highest of 1938. Seventeen carlots were shipped from Prince Edward Island to the Prairie Provinces.

THE KIDNEY VETCH

Two years ago a friend in Wiltshire, Engd., sent me some seeds of the Kidney Vetch, Anthyllis Vulneraria. I knew it was a British wild plant, but had never come across it, because it is rather "local" in its choice of a situation. However I planted it in the nursery bed, and later transferred a plant to the rock-garden where it throve well and bloomed this year. It threw up a stem over a foot long, encircled at intervals with rings of yellow, pea-shaped flowers, and looked so interesting that I determined to find out more about it. So I wrote up to the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, and Dr. Harold A. Senn, Associate Botanist sent a reply giving the information that the Kidney Vetch is grown in Europe as a forage plant, much like red clover. The name "Vulneraria," he said," is suposed to relate to its usefulness in stopping the flow of blood from wounds. The calyx of the flower is downy and persistent after the flower has faded; and a handful of these were probably applied as a pad, to check the bleeding. The plant seems to be deep rooting, and to like lime.

MARSH HAWK TRAPPED.

A hawk had been ranging about the fields near my house lately, for about a week; as I identified it as a marsh hawk I was not greatly disturbed, because it is a common belief that this species will not attack poultry. However in this case common belief was wrong, for this bird—a female—attacked and killed one of my best and oldest chickens. It was seen and frightened off, and a muskrat trap was placed by the remains of the chick. Next morning there was a dead hawk in the trap.

Marsh hawks are identified by their slender form, long tail, and a prominent white patch at the base of the tail, the white being very conspicuous when the bird is flying. The adult female and also the young, are brownish-black above, and rust colored below; the male is blue-gray above and whitish below. Both are streaked on the breast and sides.

In general this hawk is beneficial and "should not be destroyed except where it is found to be actually injurious to game," says the National Geographic Magazine. This particular bird had got the idea that here was an easy place to get a meal, and came once too often. So as King James once said, "altho" the deed was foully done, the loon was weel awa." Marsh hawks feed on mice, squirrels and other small mammals, as well as snakes, lizards, frogs and insects. (There are no lizards in P.E.I.) At times it kills game birds, and where pheasants are bred for sport it may become a pest.

THE WATER HEMLOCK OR COWBANE

This is one of Ontario's most prevalent poisonous plants, warns John D. MacLeod, of the Ont. Dept. of Agriculture. "The stems are stout, erect, hollow and jointed, widely branching, quite smooth, pale green dotted and streaked with purple;" from 2 to 5 feet high. The leaves are compound in two or three divisions. "The root is a bundle of a few fleshy, spindle-shaped tubers, like small parsnips."

Cattle are fond of the plants, especially in Spring when pasture is scarce. "A piece of a root the size of a walnut will kill a cow". "Roots are toxic at all seasons, leaves and seeds may be eaten without danger." Then follows a valuable list of symptoms, which deserves a place in the farmer's scrap-book: "Frothing, uneasiness, pain, violent intermittent convulsions in which the animals kicks, sometimes extending the legs rigidly, throwing back the head, bellowing and groaning. Death results from respiratory failure."

Antidotes: "Raw linseed oil, raw eggs and lard may be given early, while waiting for the veterinarian."

Prevention: "watch marshes and low spots for the plant, spad it out root and branch, and destroy". As previously stated we have two species of Cowbane in this Province, and a sheep was poisoned (it was supposed) by one of them a week or two ago.

Use Minard's for dandruff.

TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH Silver Fox Farming

C. C. Avard, of Sackville, paid us a brief visit this week and we had the pleasure of a chat with him on fox farming. Mr. Avard is one of the pioneers in his vicinity, and is also connected with the Nova Scotia Fur Marketing Service at Bridgetown, N.S. He says the cut-down in New Brunswick has been more than many people realize and that he doubts if there will be more than a third as many pelts this fall as two years ago. The same applies to parts of Nova Scotia. "Prices have been really encouraging of late," said Mr. Avard. "Had a chat with our Fur Marketing Manager a few days ago, and he said practically all pelts had been sold with returns better than anticipated."

Erwin Miller, formerly of Marshfield, now located near Edmonton, Alberta, is home on a visit but expects to return next week. He has made a great success of raising foxes, particularly the white face or so-called platinum variety of which he has several hundred. He says that in his locality feed is very cheap and that the cost of raising a fox is very much less than here. He doubts if the climate is more favorable as they have considerable hot, dry winds during the summer and early fall months. Of course, they have extreme cold which aids in the development of fur. Balancing the factors pro and con, with the exception of lower feed costs, he is of the opinion that a fox farmer is as well off here as in Western Canada.

Two hundred British-made fur garments are to be shown in Montreal about the third week in September on behalf of the manufacturers section of the British fur trade export group. It is the first concerted effort by Britain's fur industry to obtain an increased share of export business. 180 manufacturers are submitting models to a selection committee of six which sat in London last Monday. The delegates in charge of the show, which is principally intended for Canadian buyers, included John A. Kennedy, who was for years with Revillon Freres, Ltd., London, and has many acquaintances on this side of the Pond. The show will probably be staged at the Mount Royal Hotel and will be taken from there to Ottawa Toronto and Winnipeg.

The Hudson's Bay Company will inaugurate a fur sales in Montreal this winter, according to reliable information which we have received. The first sale will be confined to silver fox and will likely be held in November or December. It will be conducted by Lampson, Fraser & Huth, Inc., New York. Part of the H.B.C. building at 100 McGill St., is being converted for the purpose of grading, etc. The sale will likely be held at the Mount Royal Hotel.

Our readers will remember that we mentioned in these notes some time ago that Sydney H. Murley, formerly Manager of C. M. Lampson & Co., London (recently absorbed by the Hudson's Bay Company) had been appointed manager of a Hudson's Bay subsidiary in New York — Lampson, Fraser & Huth, Inc. In all probability, Mr. Murley is the driving force behind the new proposition.

The Dominion Fur Auction Sales, Ltd., had a fair attendance at their recent fur auction in Winnipeg, on August 22. Cross fox, of which there were 211 skins, was 70% sold at unchanged prices. The highest price realized was $26. Red fox was 75% sold at top price of $11.50. 621 silver foxes were offered and met with a good demand for medium and better quality skins. Prices were unchanged from last sale. 956 mink met with a good demand for wild mink, with 80% sold at unchanged prices. Prices ranged from $5 to $9.

According to Women's Wear Daily, New York silver fox and mink are the leading furs for trimming, as shown by the re-orders to manufacturers.

Dr. Alan Deakin, of the Division of Animal Husbandry, Canadian Experimental Farm, delivered a very interesting speech before the Ontario fur farmers' summer school, which no doubt many of our readers have read. For the benefit of those who are not familiar with it, we are taking the liberty of publishing some extracts.

"Not only do the hours of daylight affect the mating cycle but also have some effect upon fur priming. Mink kept in a cellar and subjected to decreasing hours of light during early summer, responded by priming out much earlier than they would have done. Subjected to decreased temperature as well as decreased hours of light caused a response by priming. This would indicate that even relatively speaking both light and temperature have some effect on priming. The hours of daylight during winter may be a factor in reproduction and quality of pelts among ranched animals. Thus fur bearers have essentially a northern habitat and the hours of daylight are fewer in winter in northern regions as compared with temperate regions."

Dr. Deakin throws out the suggestion that perhaps the use of furring sheds which considerably reduces the amount of daylight received by animals has caused the pelts to prime up earlier than they would if the animals were exposed in open pens. He believes that perhaps the furring sheds have contributed most to the quality of pelts by protecting them from rain and sun. He suggests that it might be possible to select strains that would fur out well outside and retain the black coloration without any brown tinge. In short haired animals the intense black color is frequently retained throughout the year. For example the black spots on Holsteins and the black of Aberdeen Angus. With long-haired animals, however, conditions have to be the best for the hairs to have that black coloration without tinge.

Considering the genetic factors that affect coat color that are quite varied and complicated he goes on to speak of the platinums as follows: "The platinum pattern is caused by a dominant gene, which is unusual, but makes it easy to get into producing platinums. A platinum, even if not pure, will throw about 50 per cent. of platinums when mated with silver blacks. If pure, all of the offspring would be platinums.

"There is a wide variation in the color of platinums, ranging from the white faces to the pale Norwegian platinums. One would expect a pale silver crossed with a platinum to give paler offspring than those from an extra dark silver. One would also expect blue-platinums to be lighter than those from silver blacks. To obtain these the simplest breeding procedure would be to cross a platinum with blues, then cross the platinum offspring back to blues. About 25 per cent. of the offspring from this backcross would be blue-platinums and should be easily noticed if the blue mutation was of any advantage to the platinum pattern.

"From a report of the Norwegian results published a year ago, of crossing platinums with silver blacks there were 269 offspring 140 of which were platinums and 129 silver blacks. With regard to the breeding of platinums with platinums (that is half silver blacks) of 44 offspring 30 were platinum and 14 silver blacks."

In the August American Fur Breeder is quite an interesting article on the use of tomatoes and tomato products in feeding fur animals. Summarized, it is as follows: "Tomato juice is high in water and low in food solids, but it is a good source of vitamins A and C, and of minerals. The whole tomatoes contain all the nutritive values that the juice does and in addition are somewhat higher in food solids The dried tomato pomace is much higher in food solids and is a good source of protein and fat, and a fair source of carbohydrates. Dried tomato pomace is also rich in Vitamin A activity, but lacks vitamin C, which fur animals may or may not need in their diets.

"The term 'whole tomatoes' is used with reference to fresh or canned tomatoes. Tomato juice is the liquid extracted from ripened tomatoes. Dried tomato pomace is the mixture of tomato skins, pulp and crushed seeds that remains after the juice has been extracted from whole tomatoes which have been dried and ground."

Unofficial figures from Norway place the production of silver foxes for this season at about 250,000, with 15,000 blue foxes and over 20,000 platinum foxes. The tendency was to cut down on silvers last fall and increase the production of platinums. Then there was some disturbance caused by German occupation but apparently it was not nearly as great as was expected.

The production of the Swedish fox farms this season is estimated at 110,000 silver fox, 35,000 blue fox and 78,000 mink pelts.

The latest fur auctions in Stockholm, Sweden, of which we have record, were held about April 1st with an offering of 5,000 silver fox pelts, 4,000 blue fox and 3,500 mink pelts. Nearly all of these were disposed of at prices better than those obtained in February.

A silver fox dealer who is fairly well acquainted with the world's production gives the following silver pelt estimate for 1940. The Maritime Provinces, 45,000 pelts; the remainder of Canada 55,000 pelts, making a total of 100,000. The United States, 200,000 pelts; Norway and Sweden, 350,000 pelts; other countries, 50,000 pelts, making a grand total world production of 700,000 as compared with over 1,000,000 last year. The Norwegian and Swedish pelts are expected to find markets largely in the German occupied territories or German dominated countries of Europe, with the better grades shipped to South America.

We regret to learn that Ray Carr, of Stanhope, had the misfortune to lose his Reserve Grand Champion Male Fox of 1939. He passed out suddenly last Monday and an autopsy by Dr. Croken revealed kidney trouble. Those who saw Mr. Carr's fox will remember what a beautiful specimen it was and therefore can sympathize with him in his loss. Ray's foxes we are glad to learn, are doing exceptionally well this year and as usual he has a fine turnout of high quality animals.

The executive of the Silver Fox Breeders' and Exhibitors Association met Thursday evening and made further regulations regarding the live fox show which will be held at Charlottetown commencing Monday, November 18th and the pelt show which will be held the week commencing January 6th, 1941.

The registered classes for the live fox show have been reduced to five with colorings and percentages as follows: Dark medium, 30 to 45 per cent; Medium, 45 to 60 per cent; Light medium, 60 to 75 per cent; Pale, 75 to 90 percent; Extra pale, 90 to 100 percent. There will be sections for adult males and adult females, male pups and female pups, making twenty in all. That is 16 less than last year. These are pretty well taken up by the classes in unregistered foxes, adult males and adult females, male pups and female pups, with three color divisions as given last week.

Freak foxes will be well publicized and accorded every consideration as well as unregistered foxes. It is expected that the freaks will attract a lot of attention. Entries in their classes and in unregistered classes will be confined to ownership in this Province prior to June 1st, 1940. In the case of registered foxes classes are open to all Canada. On each live fox show day the show committee will arrange to have two classes for unregistered foxes and one class for freaks judged in addition to the registered classes.

Pelt Exhibition. Several valuable suggestions regarding the pelt show were made and it was decided, and a committee was appointed, to take charge of a style show to be held in connection with the pelt show. Various silver fox and allied furs will be made up and exhibited thereby increasing interest.

A communication from the Dominion Fur Council was read asking that a delegate be appointed to attend the Council meeting at Ottawa September 19th and 20th. President Lowell Hancock was unanimously voted to represent the Association.

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ARRANGE TO ASSURE 1942 SEED SUPPLIES

While supplies of vegetables and field root seeds are reasonably well assured for 1940, it will however, be necessary to take specific action to insure that there will be no deficiency of such seeds in 1942, particularly in regard to beets cabbage, cauliflower, parsnip, radish, spinach, mangel and swede. Nelson Young, Associate Director, Plant Production Division, Dominion Department of agriculture, advised the Dominion Provincial Agricultural Conference, called by the Agricultural Supplies Board which met in Ottawa, July 18 to 20. Recommendations to obviate any danger of shortage of seed supplies for 1942 included: co-operative action in regard to production to be undertaken by Dominion-Provincial Governments; the provinces to make arrangements for the production of seed required in the necessary quantities and of the desired varieties and qualities as suggested by the Seed Supply Committee, a sub-committee of the Agricultural Supplies Board; the markets for the seed produced to be arranged by the Government; the seed produced under the direction of the Dominion-Provincial arrangement to be regarded primarily as an insurance against deficiency in supply and such seed produced under this co-operative plan to be available to the trade.

SEED LAWN GRASS IN LATE AUGUST

Many lawn owners may not realize lawns can be established in early fall. Spring seedings unless done early, frequently leads to poor results. The seedling grasses do not become established soon enough to stand summer heat or to complete with warm-weather weeds. On the other hand, a lawn properly constructed and seeded with the right kind of grasses in early fall, becomes well established and is in condition to grow rapidly the following spring Such a turf will stand bad midsummer conditions much better than one sown in spring.

Fall planting is particularly important for lawns shaded by deciduous trees since they get lots of sunlight in the fall and early spring when the trees are bare. Fall seeding is best done early enough to let the grass become well rooted before freeze-up. At the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, the usual time for fall seeding is during the last two weeks of august. Any bare and thin areas on old lawns may also be re-seeded at that time.

It is possible to start a lawn in the fall and complete all but the final stages of preparation before freeze-up. Fertilization, seed-bed preparation and seeding may be carried out with out delay, once the soil is in working shape in spring. Information on laying out and care of lawns may be obtained by writing to the Division of Forage Plants Central Experimental Farm Ottawa.

DAIRY PRODUCTS FOR U. S.

Exports of Canadian bacon and hams to the United Kingdom during the first five monts of 1940 amounted to 140.7 million pounds as compared with 70.9 million pounds for the corresponding period of 1939. Exports during May, 1940, were slightly more than the 5,000,000 pounds weekly quota of the British Bacon tAgreement. Marketings to about the end of June, 1940, have been more than adequate to meet both domestic and export demands and stocks have been accumulating in Canada.

PRODUCE EXPORT INCREASE.

Exports of Canadian agriculture products to countries other than Europe, mainly the United States, the West Indies, Central and South America have recently been well maintained in most cases. Exports of live cattle to the United States were lower the first six months of 1940 than in the corresponding period of 1939 but shipments of live poultry increased. Exports of concentrated milk products to the West Indies substantially advanced in the months under review and exports of potatoes to the United States during the 1939-40 season were considerably above those of 1938-39 while shipments to other markets were maintained.

"watch production costs. Be prepared to sell at a price the Empire can afford to pay."—Dr. E. S. Archibald, Director, Dominion Experimental Farms Service.

Stocks of raw cattle hides held by tanners, packers, and dealers in Canada at the end of June, 1940, amounted to 650,075, of which 569,726 were of domestic origin. There were also 625,743 calf and kip skins, 54,723 dozen sheep and lamb skins, 7,894 goat and kid skins and 16,725 horse hides.