

MODERN FARMER



MELELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH Silver Fox Farming

The 16th Prince Edward Island Live Fox show opens at Charlottetown next Monday morning November 18th and that day upwards of 400 foxes will pass through the hands of the veterinary in charge, Dr. George Bishop, to the classifiers who will assign them to the sections to which they are eligible. It will be a really busy day but one that is full of interest to the onlooker as the best breeders will be bringing in their foxes and placing them in the show pens ready for the judges' decisions. On Tuesday morning at nine o'clock or at latest 9:30, George A. O'Neill, who has been appointed judge of the show and who has been judging the Ontario fox show at Brampton will officiate at Charlottetown. He will have a splendid opportunity of comparing the foxes of Ontario with those of this province where they were first bred in captivity.

This year there will not be so much emphasis on silvers it is true, but to make up for that there will be white faces, platinum, pearl platinum and gladiolus. These last two strains have been increased to quite an extent in the past two years and some really worth while animals will be shown. No one who is really interested in the fox industry as a breeder should miss the opportunity of seeing the best type of foxes compared daily in the competition of the next week. But for exhibitors such as it there would be very little progress made in breeding. That is clearly shown by the way white faces, platinum and gladiolus and gladiolus have developed through exhibits of recent years which caught the fox breeders' fancies and made them decide to raise similar types.

A pleasing feature of the show will be the foxmen's banquet at the Charlottetown Hotel at seven o'clock Wednesday evening. Upwards of 150 guests are expected and a program has been arranged that will make the evening a most enjoyable one, not the least part of which will be an excellent dinner served by the Hotel management. All fox farmers are especially invited.

An innovation this year in the show building has been the provision of frames on which the steel show cages will be supported. Instead of straw being placed in the crates, shavings and sawdust will be in the receptacles. It has been found that straw is not so clean and this causes indigestion and that at every show there are fatalities. As Amherst has grand champion one of the first prize winners died from fits caused by eating straw. Noting this the Exhibition management went right to work and at considerable expense installed the new support which do away with the use of straw entirely.

Last year some foxes escaped from their crates during the night because the wire in the doors of the cages was not strong enough. Recently new wire doors were received from Montreal and each of the 100 cages equipped with one so there will be no trouble on that score. As usual the Secretary will be Walter R. Shaw, Deputy Minister of Agriculture who has a most efficient staff which is a guarantee that everything will move smoothly.

Ollie McNeill, noted fox and mink rancher, of Fort Qu'Appelle, Sask., arrived last evening from the west and brought with him the largest shipment of live minks ever brought to this province. The total number is unavailable but unofficial estimates place them between 100 and 200 minks. They are of the natural color as well as darks and Royals. Kohinur, Fables, Silverbush, etc. Part of the shipment is for Summerside, but

Abegweit Mink

Your chance to get into Mink Ranching with the right start. OUR RECORD SPEAKS FOR ITSELF. At 1946 Maritime Winter Fair: IN YUKON STANDARDS ALL First Prizes in ALL four classes ALL Yukon championships. IN ROYAL KOH-I-NUR 2 Firsts Champion Female. Information freely given.

B. B. JONES BUNBURY

The Original Mutation Mink Ranch On P. E. I.

Large Shipment of Maritime Potatoes

MONCTON, N. B., Nov. 15.—The largest shipments of potatoes from the Maritime Provinces in some years are now under way, reports the Canadian National Railways car service department. Since the movement of this year's crop began recently 3,300 carloads have been transported. Before the last car is handled it is expected that at least 10,000 cars will have been required for the transportation of 6,000,000 bags.

Mainly from Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick, the 450,000,000 pounds of potatoes are going to all parts of eastern Canada for table use and to the United States. From Maine all the way to the Red River Valley district of North Dakota, for seed. The sending of the potatoes to the United States will reciprocate for the large supplies sent to the Dominion last winter and spring when none were available in Canada because of a poor crop. Prince Edward Island is making particularly heavy shipments. As many as 70 CNR cars, carrying 42,000 bags, are being handled daily from the island to the mainland on the car ferry.

DuFallo fur store is reported to have produced an excellent response and manager Parsons firmly believes that silver fox has possibilities for many seasons to come. It is still the glamour fur, said he, and we had excellent results from the window which holds silver fox as the reigning queen of glamour furs. Mr. Parsons contends that there has been a rebirth of interest in silver fox in his locality in the last few months, and says that it fills the gap between the \$800 and \$2,000 price lines in other types of jackets.

Quebec with its population of well over three millions, has the most fur farms of any province of Canada. By actual statistics furnished by the provincial government there are 2,071 fur farms there. A great many of these are mink farms exclusively and some foxes and minks and some foxes only. There are some very large mink farms also quite small ones. The mink population of Quebec must run to over 150,000 and a recent year has been a source of quite a lot of revenue to fur farmers there.

We wish to very sincerely congratulate Lowell V. Hancock of the November number of the Maritime Fur Breeder which has just made its appearance. His cover design is very striking and there is an illustration of a window showing models bedecked with furs that are most attractive. The whole set up is very creditable indeed to Mr. Hancock's artistic ideas and business efficiency.

A statement issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics states that the fur catch of Canada for 1944-45 was valued at \$30,646,000. This includes both wild caught and ranch skins and of that amount a little less than \$10,000,000 worth came from fur farms. Silver fox pelts from ranches totalled 111,617; platinum silver fox pelts 4,700; white marked silver fox 19,877; blue fox pelts 3,053; ranch mink 218,438; mutation mink 1,467.

The latest sale in Europe that we have record of was held at Helsinki, Finland, October 3rd. It was strongest in silver fox of which 40 percent, sold with blue faces selling 36 percent. Average prices remained unchanged and with silver fox No. 1 quality \$37.50; No. 2's \$35.37; blue fox 1's \$79.28; 2's \$48.96; platinum silver 1's \$68.83; 2's were withdrawn. Red fox 1's \$12.00; ranch mink 1's \$52.06; 2's \$33.46.

The Canadian Fur Auction Sales Company, Ltd. will hold an auction in Montreal next month. The exact dates have not been given but it is understood that the total number of fox pelts undipped in Canada number approximately 35,000. With a bit of an upturn in demand these pelts will sell out of the way before the first of January and we devoutly hope they will be. However if not the market may be a bit longer in getting straightened out but it is our belief that within six months silver fox will be moving freely and the present depressed feelings which we have will have given place to others of a much brighter hue.



General view of the Kelly right standing on the bigger attachment. The Kellys prefer horses as power for digging operations, claiming they can be controlled at a better advantage than a tractor.

NEWSY NOTES - By Agricola

These Walking-Stick Insects

I was very pleased to have a letter from Rustico a few weeks ago, telling me that the walking-stick insects are required at the Banning Institute. "Dear Agricola," it begins, "about two weeks ago you asked what are the walking-stick insects used for? In the family I had some time ago (I can't find it just now) there was an account of the insect mentioned. The eggs of these insects are used in cancer research. I have never seen these creatures, but the account said that if the hairs on their bodies were broken they would not last. Wishing you health and happiness—Interested Reader of Agricola's Notes."

My thanks and best wishes to my unknown reader. A cutting enclosed, says that the Institute had received 40,000 "walking sticks", but required 60,000 more! Another insect dear to the researcher, is the little Fruit-fly, Drosophila. This common insect is taken in hand for the study of its genes, the hereditary factors in the germ cell.

A generation ago insects were so little thought of by Canadians generally that anybody who studied the creatures was believed to have "a bee in his bonnet!" Times have changed!

Finland's Reparations

Years ago, when I lived in New-Orleans, I was acquainted with a native of Finland, one John Aspegren. He was probably thirty years old, a short, stocky, Russian-looking young man, with a heavy nose and rather pale complexion, the last feature being frequent among northern nations. He spoke a broken English, and it was this that induced me to suggest to him to Newcastle to learn the language in proper fashion. It was essential that he should learn some grammar, and he did; but it was the practice of conversation that he needed even more, so I encouraged him to talk. I found him realistic and serious; like other northern men he "joked" with a diffidence. But when he talked of his native Finland he became quite animated and a little sentimental.

At that time the chief product of Finland was timber in its various forms, and Mr. Aspegren was destined to be a travelling salesman in that commodity. I could hear of no man very striking and I pictured a country as overgrown with forests, sprinkled with marshes, and with a number of seaports on the south coast.

In due time Finland became an agricultural country wherever the forests were cleared, and a few manufactures developed, but the timber trade still remained Finland's main industry. Of all Russia's neighbors, Finland was the only one whose ideas was practical, were closest to western civilization. Politically, economically and culturally Finland is further from the Soviet Union than any other of the neighboring states, and perhaps this accounts for the astonishing difference of Russia's policy towards her. Finland has never been occupied by the victorious Russians. The handful of Russian troops in her territory today," says an English observer, "are well-behaved and unobtrusive." And a remarkable thing—the country has not been subjected to the cruder forms of Soviet propaganda!

When the armistice was signed in September 1944, it was of course a Russian victory, and Russian policy then developed on three lines. First, there were territorial annexations; secondly there was exaction of reparations; and thirdly a degree of indirect political control came into being. By annexing Petsamo the Russians cut Finland off from the Arctic sea routes. They "leased" Pork-Kala, and thus gained a base near the Finnish capital, while cutting the railway between the two chief Finnish cities. By taking the Karelian Province, they gained Viiipuri, cut the Salma canal—the main artery of the timber trade—and deprived the victim of land that grew 12 per cent of her cereals. One

Control of Thrips on Gladiolus Corms

If gladiolus plants were infested by the gladiolus thrips in the summer of 1946, this does not mean that the corms rendered completely thrips-free, says Alan G. Duran, Division of Entomology, Dominion Department of Agriculture. The gladiolus thrips is not able successfully to pass the winter in the open anywhere in Canada. Only those thrips survive which are carried into storage on the corms. If every grower of gladiolus in Canada would treat his corms before replanting with one or other of the approved methods, these insects would practically disappear.

Island Family Names

There were seven families (35 persons) in Lot 59, according to the census of 1798. William Creed's household accounted for 8 persons. Wm. Ervin was equally blessed in numbers. He had a brother, Dav. Ervin, Esquire, living near, and we must suppose him to have been well off, or the Deputy Surveyor, who compiled the census, would not have given him a title. Ervin, however, appears to be a phonetic attempt at Irvine or else Irving, probably the latter. Are there any Irvines on the Island?

In Lot 54 were 27 persons (9 families) all Gaelic. Duncan McEwin heads the list, and it was one of his descendants that published the first classified list of Island ferns and flowering plants. Duncan and Farquhar Campbell retained ferns, but they were Campbells in other Lots too, so that any attempt to trace descendants now is likely to be complicated by that fact. Lot 55 was entirely occupied by King families. Are there any Irvines on the Island?

Donald and Angus McCormick are the first heads of families in Lot No. 56. This name also occurs elsewhere and is once spelled McCormack. I have recently seen it in The Guardian as a surname which is perhaps the original and correct way. We recognize today the descendants of Angus Walker, Joseph Brown, and William Dingwell, all in the same Lot.

Lot 50 and Lot 43, were strongholds of the Acadian French, though there was a Gaelic contingent in Lot 43. The Deputy Surveyor furnished French names, as usual. Levi Longapee, Sr. and Jr., and John Longapee, are notable names, for they mean "long-sword." In Norman times William Longapee was a valiant warrior, half-brother to King Richard I and King John. He died in 1226, and a beautiful effigy of him is still to be seen in Salisbury Cathedral. The family of "Longapee" has been mentioned before, but now we read of some remarkable Christian names: Brazil, Lemong, Rustie, and German names: Babist, Lauder, and Naurie Mashell are represented by Landry and Marshall today.

The Black Guillemot

The Black Guillemot or Sea Pigeon is one of the commonest birds of Eastern Canada, says Dr. Taverner. It breeds on the Atlantic coast from Maine northward, and in winter goes south, farther than Long Island. Like our Black Duck, it has a subspecies, but since this variety seems to have no winter to us than the coast of Labrador it may well be left undescribed. A nest of the typical Black Guillemot was found at Campbell's Cove, by Mr. T. W. Stewart, in June, 1925; and these birds were observed nesting at Rawling's Beach, Rustico, on July 11th, 1937, by Mr. T. W. Stewart. The nest is a mere matter of form, since the bird lays its two eggs on the bare rock, or gravel, or in the shelter of boulders. The eggs are top-shaped and therefore not liable to roll off into the sea. In color they are greenish white mottled brownish.

Rural Beautification

In a well-known farm paper there was once an account of a venture that deserved to succeed. A small group of men formed a company to travel round and whitewash farm buildings and the like. They did not propose to do this by hand, but by means of machinery: compressor spray-gun and the rest. This was in Western Canada, and they did very well till the war broke out, when the men were diverted to other work. While there is need of rural beautification it is not easy for the farmer to find the time and the labor for it, now-days. Labor is scarce, very scarce, and

... A Floor Under the Egg Market Until Jan. 31, 1949

THAT is the official description of the new British egg contract. You have already read and "digested" it, no doubt - - - fall premium period extended to Jan. 31 in each year; fall price raised 2c per dozen, rest of year 1c; an assured market at assured prices for every egg Canada is likely to be able to produce.

FALL CHICKS

If you want fall chicks for broilers, or laying house replacements, or an extra-early start on 1947, get in touch with us. It's an opportunity. Make the most of it. Make sure of your feed. Make sure of your floor. And make sure you get really good chicks.

"THE BRAY CHICK DOES THE TRICK!"

The Bray Chicks of 1947 will be good chicks. That's another solid "floor" you can count on. We are putting into their production all the know-how accumulated in many years of extensive experience. Better find out what we are able to offer!

Write FRED W. BRAY, LIMITED

120 John Street, North - Hamilton, Ontario



Professor J. C. Steckley, Director of the Ridgetown Experimental Farm, inspects part of Ontario's first crop of white hybrid corn. Approximately 750,000 bushels have been grown by 1,376 farmers, under contract.



Villa Nova Vanna, champion Ayrshire cow at Simcoe Fair and Reserve grand champion at Rockton for Stansell Bros., Aiymer.



J. M. Ladner 177 KENT STREET

This year get a NEW Renfrew CREAM SEPARATOR. Also RANGE, TRUCK SCALE, WASHING MACHINES.



Combine outfits are the backbone of Western harvesting and are common in other places as well. They represent a sizeable chunk of capital. Care of such equipment will save a good deal of money.