

NEWSY NOTES

BY AGRICOLA

REMINISCENCES OF LONDON

(7)

In traversing Greater London, say from Walthamstow in the North-east, to Wimbledon in the South-west one is within easy distance of not less than 41 High Streets. This has come about by the City having flowed, like a huge Amoeba, towards many little towns and villages and engulfed them, as they lost their identity and remain merely as districts in the 700 square miles of Greater London. Each of them had its High Street which had nothing to do with height but savored of importance on this continent they would have been Main Streets. As the lesser of two evils the names were allowed to remain, and for distinction a postal direction was appended. So we have "No 7 High Street, Barnes, London, S. W. 13."—the latter being the postal district. For the same reason there are town halls all over the place—being inquisitive, I made out 38 altogether.

As the last census (1931) this Greater London had a population of 8,202,818, as against 4,766,000 fifty years ago. The original London, that square mile known as the City, has a population of half a million during the day, which shrinks to barely 11,000 after work is done—the latter being mainly caretakers and their families.

There is an old saying about the folly of having all the eggs in one basket. London can boast of the biggest population of any city in the world, but it is also the most vulnerable to enemy air-raiders, civic employes' strikes, and street riots. The two historic Revolutions began in great cities, where society had always a fringe of "les misérables."

"Small towns and plenty of them" is the best slogan for any country now-a-days.

An amusing incident fixes the date of one visit that I made to the British Museum. This building houses a bewildering array of antiques and books. Nowhere else in the world can collections so diversified and so fabulously valuable be seen. Readers may remember how the Museum authorities recently bought the "Codex Sinaiticus" Bible for \$500,000! Manifestly one could not, in short space, describe a title of the treasures gathered under this one roof; nevertheless there were certain things which must be men-

tioned. An attendant showed me the historic Magna Charta, sealed by King John in 1215. There were autograph letters of almost all the English Sovereigns, statesmen, warriors, men of letters and poets—a marvellous collection of manuscripts. In the Library there was a public reading-room, with, it was said, three million books to choose from. A copy of every book, periodical and newspaper published in the United Kingdom must by law be deposited in the British Museum.

The Egyptian collections were particularly fine, some of the specimens of Ancient Egyptian art going back to 3000 B. C. The mummy room was rather a weird place, with its rows of tall mummy cases, with their carved and painted faces gazing with cold and expressionless eyes at the puny mortals before them. Rather "creepy!" In sharp contrast was the charming Cretan Room where statuettes, pottery, etc. from the island of Crete showed up a more elegant civilization. The lips of the little statuettes were all moulded in the shape of a "V," rather pointed. The feature did not look objectionable at all, but I have not come across it in any other race.

There was a splendid collection of Ancient Greek sculptures, mostly "marble" shall we say? By Lord Elgin at the beginning of the 19th century. His Lordship was a go-getter of the most vigorous type, for he shipped over the glorious frieze—attributed to Phidias—which once adorned the Temple of Athens, on the Acropolis. He couldn't have got away with it now, for all the nations of any consequence are forming their own museums.

In a sort of basement-room, approached by a wide flight of marble steps, were the colossal remains of the tomb of King Mausolus of Caria, erected by his wife Artemisia, in the 4th century B. C. This is a wonderful group of horses, chariot, and driver, in white marble and much larger than life size. The "action" of the group was so vivid that I determined to take a picture. I had with me a camera, a black boxlike affair, that one had to use without hurting its "innards," and I put this down on the top step, while I looked for the best position from which to take the quarter-plate. An attendant rushed up, grabbed the camera and was making off before I realized the position. "Hey! Hey!" I shouted, "what's happened?" The man explained that the previous January the Irish extremists had made an attempt to blow up the Houses of Parliament and the Tower of London by means of clockwork "infernal machines" or time-bombs. Seeing me put the camera down and leave it, he thought he had come on a modern Guy Fawkes whose object was to blow up the Museum. I managed to make him understand that I was not a Home-ruler in disguise and succeeded in getting a fine picture. The Londoners were very jittery for a long time after "Dynamite Saturday" as they christened it. January 24th, 1885, when the attempts were made. Incidentally these outrages were afterwards found to be the work of the Clan-na-Gael, an Irish Fenian society, which was founded in 1870 at Philadelphia, U. S. A. to secure "freedom" for Ireland by terrorist methods.

The lesson I learnt on this occasion was that it was policy to ask permission before taking a camera into any public building in London. Most authorities are agreeable, but a few, for reasons of their own, will not permit photographs to be taken.

"NEW PLANTS" (4)  
Professor J. Adams' list of Island plants continued:—  
Carex rostrata Stokes. Beaked Sedge.  
C. rugosperma Mack. Rough fruited Sedge. (Not in Manxvals.)  
C. scabrata Schwein. Rough Sedge.  
C. silicea Oney. Sea-beach Sedge. At Tracadie Beach according to J. R. Churchill (Rhodora, vol. 4, p. 31-6, 1903, Feb.)  
C. stipita Mühl. Awl-fruited Sedge.  
C. tonsa (Fernald) Bicknell (Not in Gray nor Britton).  
C. trisperma Dewey. Three-fruited Sedge.  
C. viridula Michx. Green Sedge.  
Scirpus Sphenolobos (L.) Kunth. Wool-grass. Carleton (L. H. Mut-

Mink Breeders

If you want the right start with the right stock, write for PLANS and PRICES.

ALL STAR RANCH  
R. R. 1 — Winnipeg.

(start) Summerside (J. Adams)  
A list of eight new grasses will be given in next Notes. Our list of native plants, originally published as a supplement to "Sproton's Botany," comprised 414 species; it is now in the neighborhood of 680 species!

DISEASES AFFECTING GLADIOLI

The Gladiolus has come into great favor as a cut flower in recent years and some growers are justly noted throughout the length and breadth of the Island for the magnificent blooms they stage at local exhibitions. The Gladiolus, like most other plants, is subject to fungoid diseases; which growers are well advised to attend to before they become epidemic. To "Canadian Horticulturist" magazine for November, Dr. L. Drayton, of the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, contributes an article dealing with three common diseases of the Gladiolus and the methods of preventing their spread. The article is well illustrated with photographs of affected corns, which will be most helpful in making a diagnosis. I am led to believe that copies of this article, in the form of a bulletin or circular, may be had from Dr. Drayton at the address quoted. In the meantime here is précis of the symptoms in detail:  
The Dry Rot of the Gladiolus (Sclerotinia Gladioli, Drayton) is confined to the parts below ground, and 4 to 5 inches of the leaf-sheaths. Later the leaves become yellow, then brown and dry, as the fungus penetrates deeply into the base of the leaf-sheaths. When corns are lifted notice that (1) the base of the leaf-sheaths are not the usual clear white or reddish and bright-looking; (2) that the corns are similar; (3) that both are unevenly or wholly brown; (4) that the new corns are small, the roots poorly developed, and the corns few and poor or absent; (5) the minute black dots on the diseased leaf-sheaths are the sclerotia of the fungus; and (6) there are slightly shrunken or black to reddish-brown areas on the flesh of the corn. The disease is progressive and unless kept at 40 deg. F., the corns may shrivel entirely.  
Hard Rot of the Gladiolus (Septoria Gladioli Pass.) is widespread and destructive. In July and August brown or purplish areas, more or less circular appear on the leaves. Later the centres of these areas turn light grey, with numerous minute black bodies scattered over them. These are the spore-bearing bodies of the fungus. The plants are dwarfed, fail to bloom, and die prematurely. On the corns the lesions are large, more irregular in outline, and more deeply sunken than in dry rot; water-soaked in appearance, and of a reddish brown color, usually on the sides and lower part of the corns. The corns mummify in storage.  
Scab or Neck Rot of the Gladiolus is due to Bacterium marginatum M.C. The first signs of this mummying agent are tiny specks of bright reddish-brown color on the leaves and especially on the lower part of the leaf-burns. Later the spots look like burnt places and their edges look like charcoal. In moist weather a general decay sets in, and on pulling the leaves apart there is found a considerable soft rotting. The upper part of the leaves becomes brown and dry, and at last the plant topples over. On the corn—scales there are brown patches and streaks later becoming black; the scale splits and rots where it joins the corn. On the corn the lesions are shallow, rather circular in outline, and with a definite raised margin. A gummy exudate is often present, which dries brittle and shiny like varnish.  
All plants or corns showing any of the above symptoms should be burnt at once.

NATURE NOTES

I was puzzled, on Nov. 12th, when a small duck was brought in for identification. After some re-

TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH

Silver Fox Farming



Congratulations to the promoters of the Alberton Fox Show, which was such a grand success in quality of foxes, entries and every other particular. Miss Grace Warren has the honor of owning the Grand Champion fox of the show a rather unusual accomplishment for a young lady but one which she must be very proud of.

The worst kind of weather could not materially dampen the enthusiasm of those conducting the King's County Fox Exhibitors Association's first Educational Live Fox Show at Montague, which opened on Tuesday morning with classification and closed Wednesday. Torrential rains on Monday Tuesday put the roads in bad condition making travelling difficult, so the entry list of 135 foxes by 34 breeders was very satisfactory. The greatest enthusiasm prevailed, spectators being keenly interested in every particular of the judging, and as a result of the show great educational interest has been generated in silver fox farming in Kings County. The group system of judging was for the first time, was very satisfactory.

For a considerable time we have been advocating the holding of a pet show in Charlottetown believing that the effort involved would be well worth while. Now we learn that prominent furmen and foxmen in this city are behind the move and plans have been formulated with the object of holding a pet exhibition here, probably on or about the 28th and 29th of December. That is a period when there is a lull in the activities of the fur consignment houses, leaving available for judging purposes some of their best stock. In fact, the time when the fur farmers have pretty well fixed up their ranches, pelted their foxes, and settled down for another season. Pet shows have been very successful in Toronto, being conducted there by the Ontario Fox Breeders' Association. There is no reason why they should not be equally successful here.

Ed Fromm of Fromm Bros. gave an address entitled, "Looking Ahead in Fur Farming," at the held some weeks ago at Watouska, Wisconsin, in which he spoke of the toll that disease takes on their ranches, in the following words:—"A factor that can seriously affect the market value of our pelts of every color is disease. Foxes that die before August have, of course, no pelt value. The loss is complete and after that period the pelt value will remain materially below normal if the fox dies of a disease which the world has not yet fully recognized. Even if the disease like distemper will decrease the value of the pelt by as much as 50 per cent, I think I am not over-stating the true facts when I say that fully 25 per cent of the entire pup production of America is annually killed by disease and parasites before there is any pelt value to them.

Fromm Bros. have experienced staggering losses by one or another disease for many years. As early as the 1920's we saw the necessity for disease research, and enlisted the help of different people and different laboratories, but did not attain much progress until we worked with Dr. Robert Green of the University of Minnesota, who is today beyond a doubt, the highest authority on fox disease in the world. Under his tutelage we have the most able and best equipped research laboratory for foxes in the United States. Our records show that during the past fifteen years we have saved \$500,000 for disease research. We

search it turned out to be a female Ruddy Duck; a migrant rather rare now, according to our records. It is the male white is "ruddy"—the female does not go in for showy plumage. It comes to seasonal "suits," for summer and for winter wear. Also, however, a very good guide is the silvery color of the under side of the female's wings: "They look as if they'd been coated with aluminum paint."

My late Chrysanthemums—house plants—are now in full bloom and have been for the last three weeks. The one I like best is called Pink Rayonnante, with Blanche du Poiteau a good second. I tried Rayonnante both as a single flower and as a spray, and see that the former is preferable. The flower is made up of numerous long narrow quilled petals of the softest pink imaginable, and if properly attended to, will measure eight or nine inches in diameter. It is no trick to have O'Moms for Christmas if you have a frost-proof room.  
When I dug my pompon Dahlias I came across two hollow tubers. That was the work of the little brown garden ants. They had, during the hot weather, eaten a hole in the side of the tuber for the sake of the sap and kept on till it was quite hollow. On opening the tuber there was quite a number of ants inside.

LOCATION OF CHARLOTTETOWN  
In today's Guardian (Nov. 13) the geographical location of Charlottetown is given as 40 degrees 10' North latitude. This is evidently a type-error, for the correct location is 46 degrees 13 minutes 55 seconds North Lat., and 63 degrees 7 minutes 23 seconds West Longitude. Position is determined by Angulus Measure, as I hope to show in next Notes.

propose to continue the fight until we get them completely under control.

Breed improvement disease research and marketing are the three most important subjects confronting fur farming today. The industry will prosper and grow in direct relationship to their intelligent consideration. Marketing, in my opinion, represents the most involved subject. It embraces the matter of production, prices and advertising. What prices can we expect in the future for our silver fox furs?

To get a better perspective on this subject let us turn back say to thirty years ago, and at ten year intervals see what happened. Back in 1908 the world supply of silver foxes totalled probably 250 pelts. Silver fox was then only a legend with all people except a few of the O. d. Nations' Nobility. In the raw state pelts were then sold at around \$1,000. Ten years later, in 1918, silver foxes were being raised on small farms and the annual world supply of pelts had probably increased to 2,000 and the average price for quality pelts was about \$600. By 1928 silver fox raising was becoming an industry. It was firmly established with a good supply of suitable breeding stock, and was successfully carried on by a number of ranchers on the pelt basis. The pelt crop of the United States that year totalled probably 40,000 pelts and sold at an average price of \$135 per pelt at the auction. In fashion and trade it had become an important factor and the women of America were becoming style conscious about silver fox.

Taking another ten years period jump we find ourselves at the door of 1938, facing our next season's pelting and marketing operations. Let us see where we stand then we may be able to vision ten years into the future. The past season's United States pelting totalled probably 60,000 silver fox pelts. These were brought in the neighborhood of \$11,000,000 or about \$44.00 average per pelt to the ranchers. World supply in this thirty year period from 1908 to 1938 has increased from almost nothing to about 700,000 pelts with an average value change from \$1,000 per pelt down to less than \$40.00 per pelt.

We ask, what is in store for the future? Our conclusions on this subject are measurably at a glance. In only thirty years we have seen the supply of silver fox pelts increase from practically nothing to 250,000 in the United States and 700,000 in the world, and most of this expansion has taken place during the severe depression of modern history. We have seen the price drop from \$1,000 per pelt to an average of \$35.00 for the whole world. It is my belief that silver fox farming has not arrived at its greatest peak, but by many millions of dollars in the advertising program in the United States will increase many fold and that by 1948 we may expect to see one million pelts raised annually in this country.

What will the prices be then? There are two factors that will determine the price of pelts for us. They are supply and demand, and there is only one factor that will determine supply or quantity of pelts that will be produced here and in the rest of the world. That factor is the difference between the cost of production and the selling price or what is commonly called the margin of profit. As soon as it becomes unprofitable to raise silver fox pelts in line with our expanding production we are destined soon to rest at a point where it will be unprofitable to raise silver foxes.

From there Mr. Fromm goes on to point out various methods and means which may be used to develop new markets for silver fox and fur products, then, illustrating the holding of style shows and advertising such as carried on by Fromm Bros. for their own "Bright with Silver" foxes, and Federal Foxes—which are those consigned by other ranchers to them to sell. These advertisements are running in fashion magazines and ladies journals which have a wide circulation.

Commenting on the position which Fromm Bros. occupy in the industry—that of leading role in the United States—the writer would point out that it is no sinecure. Their company is no doubt quite heavily capitalized and maintains numerous fox farms, furting grounds and establishments with large staffs that create a large overhead. Taking Mr. Fromm's own word for it that the mortality loss prior to the pelts being of value averages about 25 per cent, it would cut down his monthly large production—said to average four to the pair—to three to the pair. Then

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Are used by leading breeders and prize winners such as George A. Callbeck, Stewart & Lewis, Brenton, Stewart & others. They contain remedies for hookworms and round worms, together with a castile oil to expel the dead matter within 48 hours. Price \$1.50 per box of 50 capsules. Sold by H. J. Mabon, Montague.  
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CANADA'S FIRST SILVER FOX BREEDERS' EDUCATIONAL DEMONSTRATION WEEK  
SUMMERSIDE  
Nov. 29th to Dec. 3rd



All Fox Ranchers of Prince Edward Island are invited to bring in a selection of Silver Foxes of all types from their breeding herds. Each fox will be examined in detail by the judges—Messrs. W. F. Burke, Fox Fieldman of the Provincial Department of Agriculture of Prince Edward Island, and George Mayers, Representative of Lamson-Fraser & Huth, Inc., New York. A description card showing full details of each fox, with the weak and strong characters of the animal included, will be given owner, together with remarks as to the advisability of using the fox as a breeder.

No entry fee or charges for foxes, owners or attendants. Feeds of all kinds available during the week for foxes—free. Foxes insured at appraised pelt value against loss by fire. Foxes protected by watchmen continuously. Attendants and helpers supplied free. Not necessary that foxes remain until end of Demonstration Week.

Fox Judging School conducted each morning. Pelting Demonstrations. Educational Moving Pictures. Open Forum each day. Fox Educational Booths. Fur Cutting Demonstrations. Foxmen's Entertainment Night. Lectures by Leading Agriculturists and Fur Men. Discussions on all phases of the Fox Industry by Prominent Authorities.

Entries Close November 25th. Write for Entry Forms and other Particulars to:  
Information Bureau  
Office G. R. MacQuarrie, Summerside

In relation to the expense factors of feeding, overhead referred to there has to be added the expense of disease prevention and disease treatment, which I have been told equals about \$5.00 per pelt, and the advertising program which runs into tremendous figures. Of course that is offset somewhat by the fact that Fromm Bros. conduct their own auction sales, and the savings in commissions which would amount to thirty or forty thousand dollars a year or more, help very considerably in their advertising campaign. The amount charged as commission on the sales of Federal Foxes—that is those consigned to them by other ranchers—is also used to carry out a national advertising program such as the page appearing in PhotoPlay Magazine of December—a silhouette of a lady wearing a beautiful silver fox cape.

Now with all these costs it seems unreasonable that Fromm Bros. can produce a pelt at anything like a price comparable to the Prince Edward Island silver fox rancher. I would roughly estimate \$35.00 as a minimum for them, while ranchers here can do the trick and allow for depreciation, at around \$25.00. In neither case have I taken into consideration interest on the capital invested, but it must be remembered that Fromm Bros. with their protective market—the American duty on silver fox pelts is 50 per

cent—and the large skins which they produce, probably secure an average price for their some 15,000 skins in the neighborhood of \$50.00, or some \$750,000.

Assuming this to be correct, the difference between the \$35.00 per pelt and the \$50.00 per pelt, would leave a margin of \$15.00 per pelt, or \$25,000 to pay interest on an investment that must run into the millions; but at that they would be doing very well for themselves. Of course the above is purely speculative, as the Fromm Bros. have not taken me into their confidence.

Borden will be the scene of fox enthusiasm next week when the annual fox show will take place there. From all indications it will be the biggest yet, more entries, better foxes and finer program in every way. With the excellent highway to Borden, and probably favorable

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**FOX FOODS**

weather, the attendance will be large, and deservedly so.

The Fox Educational Committee of the Summerside Board of Trade deserve every praise for the trouble they have gone to to make the big

(Continued on Page 12)

Nicholson's Fox Health

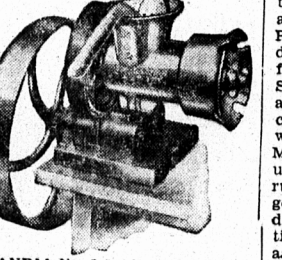


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