



NEWSY NOTES

By AGRICOLA

ON MANY SUBJECTS

From the extreme East of the Province comes a letter whose writer prefers to remain incognito, and who wishes for information on several subjects. Here is the letter: "Dear Agricola—I am enclosing herewith leaves and flowers from a plant the owner of which would like to know its botanical name and its popular name. The plant in question was raised from seed obtained from an Ontario firm in a mixed packet of houseplant varieties. It has grown to a height of two feet; a thick bushy plant in a two-inch pot; and it blooms profusely practically all the time, summer and winter. The blossom resembles that of the perennial geranium more than anything else, though it may be a shade larger. The stems of the plant are quite firm, almost woody in the older parts, and when they are broken the colour resembles that of cherry bark. It has not been found possible to slip this plant in the ordinary way. Perhaps you would be able to give us a tip as to making such slips grow.

"Did you ever hear of potatoes growing from sprouts taken off the tubers in the Spring? I am not referring to sets, but actual sprouts without any skin or flesh of the tubers attached. Some potato men say it is impossible yet I heard of well authenticated instances of it. This Spring when sand from a potato shed was used in a hot bed there was a good growth of potato plants, to the detriment of seedlings which found it hard to keep up with their sturdier competitors. This would be on a somewhat similar line to taking cuttings from dahlia tubers, would it not? I think that a piece of the skin of the tubers is generally taken with the sprout:

"Would potatoes with their sprouts removed two or three times and used as cuttings, still make acceptable crops? Here might be the answer. I would sell your potato sets and still have them to plant.

"I have a hardy rose which we call a Scotch briar. It has grown to a very thick mass and both this year and last it has failed to have more than a dozen of its small shell like semi-double flowers on it. It was some years ago it used to be smothered with bloom. Would you have any suggestions as to what would cause this? I am sure that it is perfectly hardy.

"For the last two winters I have used rhubarb in the cellar with moderate yields. I have found however that the roots when put out in the ground, I wonder why this should be so?"

"What plants would you recommend for a garden corner devoted to sweet briars? I enjoy the fragrance of southernwood, the pungent smell of tomatoes being pruned, the rich odour of currant bushes when being worked among, almost as much as honeysuckle at night, or stocks or hollyhock. Is there any rose to equal the fragrance of the old Provence or cabbage roses? I have a small dianthus to which one would give first place for color, hardiness, and perfume? . . .

"Thanking you in advance for any information you may furnish in answer to the numerous questions of this letter—Yours very truly, etc."

"Now, the first answer is that I don't know the house plant at all; it is a well prepared and pressed up green cardboard, I sent you a specimen of it. I refer to this in my question again, I don't receive his answer as to what the cuttings or slips, when a plant appears to be difficult to grow in a cool dark place (beyond the reach of frost) all the year round. I used it again with great success. A chart and full directions with the bottle. A handsome one as described by my correspondent, deserves to be propagated. It should be cut off just before a leaf joint for best results.

"Question 2. A potato is really a thickened underground stem, in which a stock of food is stored up for nourishing the buds (eyes). A potato 'set' puts some of this food to the disposal of the growing sprout enabling it to root quickly. The sprout alone is in effect a developed form of the bud or eye and if broken off with a little soil to the base as may be, it will root just as any other 'set' would, but would not make the 'set' that a 'set' would, since it has no access to the stored food. Of course if the soft base of the sprout is used or injured it will set in, and give rise to the 'rot' that it is possible to 'hemp' potatoes. However, growing them from sets is the most practical way of getting a crop in your short season. The dahlia tuber grows somewhat the same way; the sprout with a piece of the tuber is planted, and a good plant and a fine one as well. The Dutch, an ingenious people as far as plants are concerned, have found out another way. They make cuttings from the tubers; these cuttings will root in the soil, and give rise to respectable plants that give fine little tubers about the size of a walnut or so the first year.

Weekly Live Stock Market Report

SUMMARY

With harvesting operations becoming more general, particularly in western Canada, cattle receipts have been moderate and orderly and prices held steady throughout the country. Calves, also, held their previous price levels but hogs eased from 15 cents to 25 cents and lambs were again seasonally lower.

EASTERN CATTLE MARKETS

The only change in the cattle market at TORONTO was a reduction of 25 cents in the price of bulls. All other grades held steady. Heavy steers sold at \$8 to \$9.25, threeheads at a top of \$9.50 and butcher material made \$7.50 to \$8.85 and an occasional \$9. Cattle offerings were ample for the demand at MONTREAL and steers sold steady to 25 cents lower in some cases. The top of the steers was \$9.25 and butcher cows ranged between \$4.75 and \$7, with an odd \$7.25. Prices also held steady in the MARITIMES, with good to choice steers quoted at \$8.50 to \$9.50 under extremely light receipts.

WESTERN CATTLE MARKETS

All killing classes moved in the west under a reasonably good demand and prices were well maintained considering the quality and condition of arrivals. A few dried steers were eligible for \$9 to \$9.50 at WINNIPEG, while good support was given the cow division on export account with the better grades going at \$6 to \$3.50. Fleshy feeders were also taken to fill southern orders at \$7.50 and above. CALGARY was active, and steady with best dry-fed steers at \$8.50 to \$9.50, while EDMONTON was also steady with last week up to a top of \$9.25. The high at PRINCE ALBERT was \$7.85 on steers, MOOSE JAW and SASKATOON \$8.50, REGINA \$8.75 and VANCOUVER \$9.

UNITED STATES MARKET

Sales of Canadian cattle at Buffalo also were light in the past week, steers averaged around \$10.20 to \$10.50 with some still unsold at the close. St. Paul quoted medium quality Canadian steers at \$9.50 to \$9.75, good cows \$8.25, good bulls \$8.75, and good to choice veal calves \$10.50 to \$12.50. Live stock shipments to the United States during the week totaled 4,675 beef cattle, 489 dairy, 1,513 calves. Exports to date this year, with corresponding figures for 1940 in brackets, were: beef cattle 74,220 (65,782); dairy 10,856 (9,950); calves 48,045 (54,106); hogs 34,032 (41,2). Exports of beef cattle from July 1st to August 7th, under the third quarterly quota, were 24,021 (8,446).

VEALS STRONGER AT TORONTO

About the only change in the calf market situation was an advance of 50 cents on veals at Toronto and a corresponding decline on grassers. Veals were strong at \$11.50 to \$12.50 for choice. Montreal veals ranged up to \$11, with some of the best \$11.50 and Winnipeg was steady with good to choice at \$9 to \$10. The high at Calgary, Regina and Vancouver was \$9, Saskatoon \$10 and Edmonton, Prince Albert and Moose Jaw \$8.50.

HOG PRICES EASIER

Hogs closed a little lower at practically all centres. The close at Toronto on grade B-1 dressed was \$14.60, Montreal mostly \$15, Winnipeg \$13.60, Calgary was \$13.10 to \$13.35 for the week and Edmonton was steady at \$13 to \$13.15, with some coast shipments up to \$13.40. Prince Albert finished at \$13.40 to \$13.60, Moose Jaw \$13.30, Regina \$13.45 and Saskatoon \$13.25 to \$13.40. Vancouver paid \$14.25 to \$14.35.

LAMB PRICES AGAIN LOWER

The usual seasonal decline in lamb prices continued and all markets were sharply lower. Toronto closed down 50 cents at \$12, while Montreal ended the trading session at \$11 and Winnipeg was also down with good lambs at \$9.50 to \$9.75. Calgary also dropped 50 cents closing at \$10 and Edmonton was decidedly lower with good handy-weight lambs at \$8.50 to \$9.50 but most of the top sales \$9. Prince Albert closed at \$9 to \$9.75, Moose Jaw at \$8 to \$9 and Regina with few sales over \$8.50. Saskatoon was down \$1.50, closing at \$9 and Vancouver was on a basis of \$10 to \$11.

THE WOOL MARKET

There has been little activity in the buying and selling of Ontario wool during the past week. Prices for graded wool at warehouses were nominally the same as in the previous week, viz., Medium Staple 29 cents to 30 cents, Low Medium Staple 30 cents to 31 cents; Low Staple 30 cents to 31 cents; Black 20 cents to 21 cents; Seedy 18 cents to 19 cents; Cotls 20 cents to 21 cents. At Western warehouses the graded men had almost forgotten their native tongue after their solitary sojourn, but our hero was not one of them! "You see," he tells his shipmates, "I was a young fellow, and young fellows take things cheerfully and make light of what would break them down when they get older," with which excellent observation we take leave of Joe Culver for another week.

TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH

Silver Fox Farming



Ollie McNeill, (brother of Well formerly of Southport, P. E. I. but now one of the leading ranchers of the Dominion and the first breeder to really publicize white-face, ring-neck or platinum foxes, is visiting this Province and being warmly welcomed by friends. Ollie has a fine connection in the United States.

Omar Brager-Larsen, who published the Norwegian platinum fox in the United States and really started the boom for that type, and was as well a potent salesman and authority on Norwegian silver foxes, gave a talk at the Fur Consultants Course in N. Y. City, and was interesting to those present, and as there is so much interest taken here in the new types we quote: "Few industries can show such astonishing development as the breeding of fur animals. It started in Canada in 1883 when Mr. Charles Dalton (late Sir Charles Dalton) whose name will always be remembered by fur breeders bought two captured wild foxes from a poor fisherman named Thompson for presumably 5 silver dollars, a cow, and a calf. Many years passed, and it was not before 1908 that the breeding of foxes in Canada became an industry. From there it spread all over the world. First to Japan in 1912, and to Norway in 1915. The first World War stopped its development, but between the years 1920 and 1930 many other countries went in for this business, including Sweden, Finland, England, Germany, Switzerland and Soviet Russia. . . an even countries on the southern part of the globe—Argentina and Chile—obtained breeding animals.

In 1939 there were approximately 2,000,000 Silver, Platina and Blue Foxes on about 55,000 farms scattered throughout the world. The trade was receptive to any good killing cattle and a few dry-fed rated \$9 to \$9.50 and other slaughter steers made \$7 to \$8.50. Desirable fed yearlings brought \$9.50 to \$10, the better grades of cows \$8 to \$8.50, lower grades \$4.50 to \$5.50, fleshy feeders \$7.50 and up, best stockers \$6.75 to \$7.25 and plain to medium light stockers were drabgy.

CALGARY sold 1,964 cattle on an active and steady market. Best of the dry-fed steers were weighed up at \$8.50 to \$9, medium to good grassers \$7.50 to \$8.25 and common down to \$5.25. Good cows were \$5.75 to \$6.25, some tops \$6.50, common down to \$4.50. Good stockers sold at \$7 to \$7.50, fleshy feeders \$7.50 to \$8.50, best stockers \$6.75 to \$7.25 and plain to medium light stockers were drabgy.

EDMONTON was generally steady on an offering of 1,525 cattle. Best fed calves brought \$8.85, heifers \$6.25, good light cows up to \$6.50, while stockers were in fair demand with best steers \$6.75. Heifers were \$6 and cows \$4.50. PRINCE ALBERT was steady with a few good steers \$7.65 to \$7.85, fat cows \$5.50 to \$5.75, feeders \$6 to \$7.25 and stockers \$4 to \$5.75. MOOSE JAW had a steady market with odd fed calves up to \$9, top cows \$8 to \$8.14, good stockers \$6.50 and plain around \$4.75 to \$5.25. REGINA had top steers around \$8.50 and good cows and bulls \$6 to \$6.25. SASKATOON cattle market was firm on the better grades of butchers and stockers but slow on common. A few dry-fed cattle sold at \$8 to \$8.50, best grass steers from \$7.50 to \$7.75 and common down to \$4.50. Cow demand was good at \$5.25 to \$6 for good quality. Stockers and feeders were \$4.25 to \$6.50. VANCOUVER was active at steady prices with good grass steers at \$8.50 to \$9, mediums \$7.25 to \$8.25 and good light cows \$6.50 to \$6.75. MARITIMES prices held steady with good to choice steers \$8.50 to \$9.50, others down to \$5, butcher cows \$5.25 to \$7 and canners and cutters \$4.50 down.

OUT OUR WAY

By J. R. Williams

IT WON'T WORK! YOU MUST HAVE RUBBER LIPS LEATHER LUNGS RIBS IN YOUR CHEEKS, AND A THIRD SECOND WIND!



OUR BOARDING HOUSE

With — Major Hoops

OH, SEBASTIAN! THE BOAT IS GOING OVER! I CAN'T SWIM! MY HERO! SAVE ME!



CONSERVATION

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

BIRD MIGRATION STILL RIDDLE TO SCIENCE

There must be an almost spiritual quality about the migratory instinct of birds. The most minute dissection has failed to discover any organ that could possibly be the seat of this faculty. A popular theory of the origin of migration is that invasions of ice from the north during the ice ages drove the birds south, and as the ice retreated the birds returned, and this coming and going became a habit. Another suggestion is that the lengthening of the days in spring and the shortening in fall puts the instinct into operation. If the first suggestion be true, there were a number of tropical visitors who decided never to return home, gradually adapted themselves to unaccustomed cold and, and became permanent residents. The plumed woodpecker—old 'cock of the woods"—and his cousin, the hairy, the downy, the Arctic and the three-toed woodpeckers, all tap their meals from trees; the Hudsonian chickadee can stay up here in winter because he knows how to find sleeping insects and their eggs in the bark of trees. Canada jays and ravens survive because they will eat just about anything. They often get caught in fur traps when they go after the bait. Another year-rounder is the nuthatch, the little fellow who runs busily down—seldom up—the trunks of trees searching for insects and grubs within the bark. Birds have a body temperature which would be high fever in man—105 to 106 degrees. That, along with the insulation of feathers, enables them to withstand considerable cold. But it also means that with a rapid metabolism, they have to eat quite large quantities of food to keep alive. So in winter when food is scarce the life of a bird is one round of sleeping and hunting meals.

SPINNING AND WEAVING

Send me your wool to be spun into yarn and woven into blankets. The charges are: 23 cents for single yarn, 25 cents for double yarn. Blankets cost \$2.00 per pound. It takes five pounds of wool per blanket. Wool must be well washed, all burrs and dirt picked out. The size of single yarn medium, and double yarn is fine, medium and coarse, also hocking yarn. Full spinner's name, address, owners name and instructions inside all parcels. Send by mail or freight. Freight will be paid on order. Highest price for well washed dry picked out wool. Auto robes, blankets and fancy Bed Throws for sale. WM. CONDON & SONS F. O. Box 395, 65 Queen Street, Charlottetown

Auction Sale

AT NINE MILE CREEK ON MONDAY, AUG 18th. AT 2 O'CLOCK. STANDARD TIME. I am instructed to sell by public auction by Mr. Wesley MacQuarrie the following stock, crop and implements: STOCK—1 work horse, 1 colt, 1 1/2 year old, 1 cow with calf, 1 calf, 4 spring pigs, 50 chickens, 24 hens. CROP—Quantity of hay in barn, six acres standing oats, half acre potatoes, half acre turnips. IMPLEMENTS—1 binder, (Frost & Wood), 1 mowing machine (Deering), 1 sectional seeder (Massey Harris), 1 single plough, 1 spring tooth harrow, 1 spike harrow, 1 disc harrow, 1 roller, 1 driving sleigh (all new), 1 driving wagon, 1 wood sleigh, 1 box sleigh, set of scales (Dayton), 1 grind stone, 1 separator, (Magnet), 1 Daisy Churn, hay fork, rope and blocks, light harness, work harness, forks, shovels and hose and other articles too numerous to mention. Reason for selling Mr. MacQuarrie has joined the Forces. Terms of sale, all sums up to \$100 cash, over that amount, 7 months credit on approved jacking. W. H. BEATON, Auctioneer. L-313-8-12-31.