

NEWSY NOTES

By AGRICOLA

REPORT ON PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

One of the rarer books housed in the Public Library, City, is entitled "Report on the Geographical Situation and Mineral Resources of Prince Edward Island, being the result of explorations conducted under authority of the Local Government by J. W. Dawson, I.D., B. R. S. G. S., assisted by B. J. Harrington, B. A., Ph.D., and it is dated 1871.

This book is evidently very scarce since I had never heard of it all these years that I have been studying the Natural History of the Province. It is a book of about 50 pages plus 3 plates of fossils and it is to be hoped that the "Local Government" will see good reprint what its predecessor had so effectively put into type.

The report in the main is designed to be useful to the student of geology, but it is of value in other directions as well. There is a chapter on the Peat Deposits of the Island; those on the north shore of Lennox Island, at Squirrel Creek near Richmond, at "Squirrel Bank," Casimique, being treated of at some length. Of dried peat Lennox Island was estimated to have about 2,000 tons, and Black Bank 1,772,218 tons. Evidence of a modern subsidence of land occurs in connection with these deposits but the authors indicate that evidence to the same effect but on a more extensive scale exists in Nova Scotia.

A few plants growing on the peat bog at Squirrel Creek, attracted the notice of the explorers; these were Pogonochloa (Ochrids); Carex, Blythe or Cloudberry, Rubus chamaemorus, rather rare, but found also at Black Bank; Juniperus communis (probably a variety) and a species of Cotton Grass which they presumed, was Eriophorum virginicum.

The Oyster Beds of "Muscel Mud" were next examined. "The common American oyster, Ostrea virginiana, and (the) var. borealis, occurs abundantly on the coast, and large quantities of its shells, with the remains of the shells, were found in some of the bays and river courses. Under the name of "Muscel Mud" this material was raised by ingenious home-made dredges and was "applied as manure to the soil with the most excellent effects. It supplied lime and organic matter, besides small quantities of phosphates and alkalies. The practice of raising muscel mud, however, is not so much in vogue at the present day as it was thirty years ago.

There are valuable analyses of the limestones at Milmington, Cape Kildare, Gallus Point (two varieties, light grey and brown), and at the Point of the Mountain. The analysis, any of these limestones, on being burned, would make good fertilizers.

The chief mud manures afforded by the Island are: 1. The muscel mud, or oyster shell mud of the bays. Experience has proved that to be of the greatest value it should be mixed with mud and swamp soil. These afford organic matter to the soil, and also a very cheap rate of seaweed, decomposed, and its value whether fresh or composted.

(4) Fish offal. The heads and bones of cod are more especially valuable. Deposited in a mud manure) and should be more carefully preserved than at present. (5) Limestone. The brown earthy limestone of the Point of the Mountain is of great value in affording a supply of this material as well as small quantities of phosphates and alkalies.

And the conclusion is, that if the land is properly dressed with the above materials, foreign aids (i. e., imported fertilizers) may be dispensed with for many years. On page 47 of this report is a "Catalogue of Specimens of Fossils, Rocks and Minerals of Prince Edward Island," and on page 48, the Provincial Building, Charlottetown. Thereupon follows a list of 124 objects about one-third of these fossils are any of these fossils in existence?

But the most remarkable fossil (says the report) is the jawbone of the reptile described by Leidy in the Philadelphia Transactions under the name of Bathynathus borealis. It was discovered by Mr. Leidy at New London, and is now in the museum of the Academy of Natural Sciences at Philadelphia. It belonged to the group Dinosaurian reptiles so characteristic of the Mesozoic Period. There is a fine woodcut of this fossil on plate 3.

That fossil ought never to have left the Province; it is happily behind the time in the matter of a museum, for in the last few years I can recall many returns in Central Canada.

The booklet ends with a list of "indulgence" (that is, shell-fish, as the word is used on the coast and in the streams of the Island. I hope to present this list serially in Newsy Notes, when I have made some further research.

A LETTER FROM YORKSHIRE
My Yorkshire correspondent, who is a dairy farmer, writes on Sept. 18th, that "harvest operations are in full swing here now, so you see we are a month later than you. We expect a tractor and binder cutting our corn (grain) tomorrow. The crops are very large, but the weather has not been good for harvesting. "Labor is very hard to get, - mostly land girls." His

son is married now, so he has to drive the milk truck to town: "I wasn't keen" he says "to be too late in life for learning to drive; but I can manage all right now, for there is little traffic to contend with."

"Your tea ration is very small - we get 8 oz. per week. We feel the sugar and fat rationing most; half-a-pound of sugar and 6 oz. fats for a week, but we manage to make it do. Jam is 1 lb. per month, but as we have a good crop of apples, plums and strawberries, we manage to make some jam ourselves. Honey is selling here at 2 shillings and 6 pence (about 60 cts.) per lb. and is in great demand."

"I don't think 'Jerry' has done much damage to Newcastle as he does not seem to have got into the houses as yet. The 'Jerry' is down, but I think it was struck by lightning a while ago. We have had a few bombs dropped near us, but without doing any damage."

"Your cousin Ted's youngest son is missing from Singapore," is the conclusion of the News.

ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL (4)

When St. Paul's was building King Charles II. in general was to be repaired work. With a suitable building for repair work, gates, door hinges, pumps, hay rakes, water tanks, stone, iron, tools, wrenches, shovels, ropes, and many other pieces of equipment can also be reconditioned.

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So far we have dealt with the actual building which by the way, was under the superintendence of one Thomas Strong, master-mason, during the long years from the laying of the foundation-stone, till the completion of the lantern in its position. Now it is time we began to examine the interior. It was Wren's idea that the dome should be lined with mosaic, that is, pieces of colored stones inlaid to form designs or pictures; whether he had any other definite plans for the interior decorations is not known. However, during his lifetime the rather sombre murals in the dome were painted by Sir James Thornhill, who was in the square yard! A story, headed "Presence of Mind," used to be in the School Readers, and read thus: "When Wren was in the finishing touches to the head of one of the apostles, began to walk backwards, so that he could see his work as it progressed. He was on the platform of scaffolding, on which he was walking, was scores of feet above the floor, and was unbalanced. Just as he reached the edge, a friend saw him, and in a moment of danger, and seizing a paint-brush, snatched it across the apostle's face! Thornhill shouted, 'Bless my soul, that's the way you do it!' and rushed forward to save his picture. 'I've only saved your life!' his friend replied. One hundred and fifty years after Wren's death, the mosaics were put into the spandrels beneath the dome, and thus part of his dream came true. The cleaning and restoration of the interior place about seven years ago.

Two other craftsmen were associated with Wren, when the interior decorations were being finished. One was the celebrated wood-carver Grinling Gibbon whose beautiful work in the "stalls" of the choir has never been equalled. (Some of the carvings found their way north to churches in County Durham.) The other was Jean Tijou, a Frenchman with a genius for ornamental metal-work, whose memory is kept alive by the many exquisite grilles and gates that he wrought.

Grinling Gibbon was one of those gifted men who rose from poverty and obscurity to position of honor and prosperity. John Evelyn, in his "Diary" under Jan. 18, 1671, relates "This day I first acquainted his Majesty with that incomparable young man, Gibbon, whom I lately met with in an obscure place by near a poor solitary thatched cottage in a field in our parish (Devon) near Saye's court. I found him shut in, but looking in at the window I perceived him carving the large Carion of Tintoret. . . . I asked if I might enter." (Some of the carvings of the date is the means of giving the carver the start on his career.

STOCKHOLM (CP) - Sweden's government is being urged to call up prospective army conscripts for periods of three months to work in the wood for home and industrial use.

HOT AND OFTEN
A volcano in the New Hebrides is generally in eruption every three or four minutes.

Repairing Farm Machinery

(Experimental Farms News)

Due to the scarcity of materials and labour farmers should make preparations for repairing their farm machines during the coming winter. Machinery must now last longer to conserve metal, and because of the delay in farm preparations now more costly due to the shortage of labour, says W. Kaldwell, Agricultural Engineer, Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa.

One of the first requirements in a winter repair program is a building for the housing of a machine while it is being repaired. Where a regular farm workshop is not available, the conditioning of a shed, automobile garage, or any other suitable building, for repair work should be considered.

Good lighting and heating with proper fire protection will make a building comfortable for work in cold weather. A repair program should be started as early in the fall as possible. By checking over machines and equipment and ordering repair parts early, the parts will be on hand when the actual repair work can be done. Many farmers have kept machines in good repair in a small shop removing parts such as wheels, chains, poles and other bars from various implements, and taking the parts to a good harness maker or a nearby town, it may be advisable to hire these men to do the necessary repair work. In many parts of the province ranchers have been preparing for this event for some weeks and no doubt there will be a large number of exhibitors and new type foxes, if not the finest, that has ever been seen at a Provincial Exhibition in Canada.

Need To Lubricate Farm Machinery

With farm machines now rationed and repair parts more difficult to get farmers would be well advised to pay more attention to the lubrication of farm machines and equipment, says the Agricultural Engineers of the Dominion Department of Agriculture. The expense and time invested in good lubrication pay big dividends. In addition to maintaining a lubricating film between the bearing surfaces the oil or grease that is on farm machines perform several other functions. The bearings are cleaned, rusting and pitting of the bearings are prevented, when the machine is idle. Exposed metal surfaces during storage periods are protected. The oil and grease used for lubricating should be kept clean so keep the containers covered to exclude dust and dirt.

For 4 different oils or greases meet the lubrication requirements of nearly all farm implements. Usually not more than two lubricants are needed for any one implement. Machines operating in the winter and may require lighter oil and grease for winter than for summer. Badly worn bearings may need a heavier oil than those shown on the label. Oil of the same viscosity or stickiness is used in the tractor motor usually is suitable for use in the tractor. Oil containing dirt and used on bearings may be harmful.

Winter Control Of Cattle Lice

Cattle lice which cause serious losses among cattle should begin before the animals go into winter quarters. The stable should be thoroughly cleaned beforehand. In winter quarters, it is estimated that one pair of lice, if brought into the stable and left unchecked, will increase to over 20 millions in the four months of November, December, January and February. Generally, there are three kinds of lice, the small reddish yellow louse, and the two varieties of blue sucking lice, the long-nosed and the short-nosed lice. There are several methods of controlling lice: by washes of drugs and dipping mixtures, dusting powders, and dipping. Dusting powders are not so effective as washes or dips, and dipping can seldom be used owing to the lack of dipping vats large enough for cattle.

Infected cattle can be economically treated with new linseed oil. Boiled linseed oil or paint oils should never be used on any living animal. Raw linseed oil should be applied freely, but without hard rubbing of the skin, with a brush at the rate of four ounces per cow and repeated at intervals of 20 days or less. After treatment the animals should be allowed to remain quietly in the stable, and should not be exposed to strong sunlight for at least 12 hours. Care should be taken to avoid oil-burns. Creolin of commercial grade applied with a woolen cloth or medium stiff brush in two per cent solution in warm soft water is an old and favored wash for the control of lice. Coal tar creosote dip may also be purchased and when used with either cold or warm water is ready for use. Applications of coal tar creosote and other solutions can be made more thorough by spraying pump than by hand.

SWEDISH LABOR SHORT
STOCKHOLM (CP) - Sweden's government is being urged to call up prospective army conscripts for periods of three months to work in the wood for home and industrial use.

HOT AND OFTEN
A volcano in the New Hebrides is generally in eruption every three or four minutes.

MUSKRATS WANTED
WANTED IMMEDIATELY 1000 MUSKRATS to fill orders. Must be received by Nov. 20. We are also buying dairy milk, raccoon, red fox, etc. If unable to bring your fur in send by mail or express. We pay all charges. Your parcel will be held one week for your acceptance of our offer and if not satisfactory fur will be returned to you prepaid. A trial shipment will convince you our prices are right. Send for new price list.

OPEN SATURDAY NIGHTS
P. E. I. FUR TRADERS
182 QUEEN ST.

TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH Silver Fox Farming

(Experimental Farms News)

Don't forget to make your entries with 35,000 tame and 15,000 dozen wild rabbit skins. They were fox skins taken off in 1941. They were of quality only a few percentage being suitable for dressing purposes. James I. to 3 qualities brought \$3.50 to \$4.00 a dozen, while brought from \$1.00 to \$1.50 a dozen.

It is estimated that the fur sales for the month of September in the New York Federal Reserve District declined 64% under the sales during September of last year. Volume for the first nine months of the year is 30% under the like period of 1941, while for the eight months period February 1st to September 30th sales are 39% lower than for the corresponding period of last year.

In evaluating the above one must take into consideration the fact that last year saw perhaps the greatest mass publicity campaign ever used to promote the sale of August and September buying. However, there is no question but that business has slackened up in the fur industry and it will take some time before it gets on an even keel. However, there is definitely an appearance of increased stability as witnessed by the spot sale of the silver fox sale in New York which shows a 10% advance over the last held sale.

Herbert A. Nieman & Company, second largest growers of silver fox in the world, will offer 10,000 silver fox pelts taken off in 1941, to be sold by the New York Auction Company November 6th. Blue fox pelts have taken quite a tumble in price. As our readers probably know, the United States government controls the output of the Alaskan fur trade. The fur sold through Fokke Fur Company at St. Louis auctions. Recently a total of 386 pelts was disposed of, from fine silver to mixed and brown, at an average of 49¢ against an average of the previous sale of \$1.702. A decline of almost 42%. The top price of \$34.00 was for one pelt only.

At the same sale on the same day Alaskan sea-king prices declined 15 p. c. on a quality basis below the April levels, the average price drop being 25 p. c. As usual most of the sealskins were taken by dealers who are not entering most in the buying. There were few retailers present. Factors which made for the declines were the large carrying over of stock, the unsettled condition of the fur trade. The correct labelling and designation of the furs, as our readers may have observed, has been made mandatory by the Canadian War Time Prices and Trade Board. Trade marks such as "Emu" for muskrat, "Alaska Sable" for natural or dyed skunk, and 59 others sighted together, are being used. Every price tag label, display card and invoice must show the correct name as well as the grade terminology. The name of the new order is to protect the public by insuring that prices reflect actual grades and qualities of the furs purchased.

The writer had the privilege of visiting two ranches the past week and seeing some good specimens of silver fox. The new order is J. P. Clark's I saw the large Colpitts ring-neck platinum which almost any of our silvers, with a heavy white collar and a typical platinum back and side markings. You will note that Lowell is an optimist and is thinking of carrying, cool days which may materialize considering that the past week has witnessed a great down-pours of rain which may have pretty well exhausted the reservoirs in the clouds.

Last week we took occasion to give a brief resume of the Provincial Live Fox Exhibition and at the same time we meant to publish the results of the judging. The results of the judging are as follows: 1929 - J. Walter Jones, M. A., M. L. A., Banbury. 1930 - Major A. H. Robertson, Mermaid. 1931 - Gavin Harding, Charlottetown. 1932 - Gavin Harding, Charlottetown. 1933 - Brewer Robinson, Suramer-side. 1934 - A. J. Kennedy, Southport. 1935 - Clifford Rogers, Summerside. 1936 - John B. Roper, Sherwood. 1937 - Samuel Johnson, Fortune. 1938 - Clayton Clark, Summerside. 1939 - George E. Brown, Margate. 1940 - Lowell W. Hancock, Summerside. 1941 - Lowell W. Hancock, Summerside. 1942 - Lowell W. Hancock, Summerside.

Approximately 7000 silver fox pelts were offered last Wednesday and Thursday by the New York Auction Company and about 85% were sold at prices averaging 10% over the September levels. Top prices and quantities listed were: Fuls - 4000, \$64.00. Three-quarters - 300, \$30.00. Halves - 300, \$19.00. Quarters - \$15.00. Greatest interest was evidenced in the full skins. The largest percentage of the turnover was taken by cack trimming men and other manufacturers. London Rabbit Skin Brokers, Ltd. held its first auction this year.

GALLANT COLONEL
TULSA, Okla. (CP) - A colonel leapt with alacrity to light the cigarette of a second lieutenant. The colonel was a man. The subaltern? . . . an attractive member of the Women's Army Corps.

Use Minard's for sprains.



HALIFAX A. R. P. SCOUTS ON THEIR TOES
A Halifax Rover Scout A. R. P. first aid team gives a stretcher demonstration at an inspection by Scout officials.

Helpful Hints On Feeding Brood Mare

Both fall and spring-born foals may be raised profitably throughout Canada. The brood mare in foal should not be made to do the continual very heavy work of a gelding, but should be worked regularly, but only at light work, which should be made even lighter as foaling time approaches. Complete inactivity of the brood mare when pregnant is the cause of a high percentage of mortality in the foal. Crowding in shafts, over-exercising at night should be avoided. The brood mare should not be pampered. The over-feeding of a brood mare with coarse, bulky, musty, or mouldy feeds, and a severe use in any considerable quantity of laxative feeds, flaxseed, linseed, oil cake, or roots. Timothy or mixed hay should be fed in reasonable quantities with a grain ration composed of sugar work done. In the winter, on light work, six to eight pounds of sweed turnips, or carrots or sugar beets may be fed. Never feed the brood mare with coarse, bulky, musty, or mouldy feeds, and a severe use in any considerable quantity of laxative feeds, flaxseed, linseed, oil cake, or roots. Timothy or mixed hay should be fed in reasonable quantities with a grain ration composed of sugar work done. In the winter, on light work, six to eight pounds of sweed turnips, or carrots or sugar beets may be fed. Never feed the brood mare with coarse, bulky, musty, or mouldy feeds, and a severe use in any considerable quantity of laxative feeds, flaxseed, linseed, oil cake, or roots. Timothy or mixed hay should be fed in reasonable quantities with a grain ration composed of sugar work done. In the winter, on light work, six to eight pounds of sweed turnips, or carrots or sugar beets may be fed. Never feed the brood mare with coarse, bulky, musty, or mouldy feeds, and a severe use in any considerable quantity of laxative feeds, flaxseed, linseed, oil cake, or roots. 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