



NEWSY NOTES

By AGRICOLA

THE NORMAN INVASION

Godwin did not long enjoy his restored dignities, for the following year (1053) he died, leaving his earldom—all the land south of the Thames—to his son Harold. Some historians hint that Godwin was poisoned, but the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle says simply that "on the day after Easter sat he with the king at table; when he suddenly sunk beneath the root-rail, deprived of speech and of all his strength. He was brought into the king's chamber, and they speeded that it would pass over; but it was not so. He continued thus speechless and helpless till the Thursday; when he resigned his life, on the seventeenth before the calends of May." This seems to have been a paralytic stroke, and I suppose England of a wise counsellor at a critical time.

In 1055 and 1056 Harold — now the most powerful man in England next to the King—was fully occupied in operations against the Welsh who, supported by an army from Ireland, had penetrated English territory and done much damage. In the end the Welsh King "Griffin" (which I suppose to be Griffith) swore to be a firm and faithful viceroy to King Edward. Griffin did not keep his word however, and war broke out again: at last he was slain by his own men (1063) and his head was brought to Earl Harold, who had been twice again ridding, and the Yorkshiremen and Northumbrians were in revolt; and after twenty-two years' rule King Edward died (1066), and Harold was crowned King. Two more disturbances followed: the Welsh were again raiding, and the Yorkshiremen and Northumbrians were in revolt; and after twenty-two years' rule King Edward died (1066), and Harold was crowned King. Two more disturbances followed: the Welsh were again raiding, and the Yorkshiremen and Northumbrians were in revolt; and after twenty-two years' rule King Edward died (1066), and Harold was crowned King.

And now appeared a portent in the sky that struck terror into the hearts of the superstitious English. "Then was over all England such a token seen as no man ever saw before. Some men said it was the comet-star, which others call the long-hair." It was reported that first on the west coast of the island of Man, and so on all the coast. "Ist mirant stellam" is the comment above it.

Troubles came upon the new King once. His brother Tostig (pron. tosty) had been driven from his earldom by his own subjects, and had taken refuge in Flanders. The south coast was watching the distant ships, and Earl William would attempt an invasion, when he received tidings that Harold Hardrada, King of Norway had entered the Tyne unwares.

From a correspondent, who has taken the surest way to remain incognito, I have received this interesting letter. Dear Agricola: I am always greatly interested in your column, so felt I must write and tell you what I think a knitting sheath would be used for. "My grandmother was a great knitter, and knit and sold many pairs of socks to shipyard men. 25 cents per pair, which kept her in pin-money as it is called today, but which I suspect went to buy groceries rather than finger wags."

"When knitting she had planned to wear a rather elaborate affair done in black silk, like a pin-cushion, and which she called a knitting sheath. It was used to rest the lower point of the needle, and to keep the yarn from the top for a new stitch. Today most knitters hold the needle in their hands and throw the stitch over with their forefinger.

"I have seen some women knit like that today, never taking the needle from their hands. This whole row was knit, then fix the new needle in the same place. "I hope you can get some one to demonstrate for you.

"Many thanks for so many interesting letters, and please excuse me for not signing my name, Mrs. —"

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Weekly Livestock Market Review

By AGRICOLA

SUMMARY

A considerable amount of unevenness was apparent in the cattle market during the past week. Demand for shipment to the United States fell off sharply and prices, while holding steady on some grades, dropped 25c or more on others. Killing classes appeared to be the poorest sellers. Despite the fact that calves entering the United States are now paying the full rate of duty of 1-2c per pound, the market was not affected in any way and prices ruled steady to strong. Lamb prices held generally unchanged from last week but the hog market was down over the decline amounting to 25c to 50c or more.

Eastern Cattle Markets

Most grades of killing cattle dropped 25c at TORONTO, and some 1200 head were left unsold. Steers, however, ruled steady. Handy-weight butcher steers and heifers were especially hard to dispose of between \$6.50 and \$7.75, with some \$8c. Weighy steers sold up to a practical top of \$8.65 and one choice load made \$8.75. Good stockers moved readily at \$7 to \$7.50. Opening prices at MONTREAL were \$5.50c lower, and following Monday it was difficult to obtain bids. Steers were the heaviest losers, with good kinds going at \$7.75 to \$8.50 and one load at \$9. The bulk of the good cows sold around \$6.50 to \$7.50. MARYLAND receipts of the better grades of cattle continued below requirements and prices held steady with good to choice steers at \$7.50 to \$8.25.

Western Cattle Markets

The WINNIPEG market was somewhat uneven, some grades of cattle holding about steady and others losing about 25c or more under the influence of adverse advices from outside points. The better grades of cows declined 25c to \$7.50 and choice steers sold up to \$12.50. Weighy steers were barely steady, mostly from \$7 down with a few small lots reaching \$7.50 or better. With restricted competition from the south the higher priced feeder steers sold at \$8 to \$10.50. Choice calves were \$7 or better but sales were largely between \$6 and \$6.75. CALGARY closed 25c to 50c lower on butchers with good steers making up to \$7.50. \$7.50 for good steers and MOOSE JAW selling the best of the offerings at \$6 to \$6.50. REGINA was steady and SASKATOON also held steady on good steers and heifers but lower on all others. Steers with fair strength and good quality sold at \$7.50. VANCOUVER was active and steady with good butcher steers at \$7.50 to \$8.

United States Market

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ARE BIG TOWN OUT-MODED?

That is a query being asked in many quarters today. I recollect that, many years ago, a slogan calling for "A bigger and better Charlottetown", went the rounds. Nobody could object to a "better Charlottetown," but the writer had certain objections to a bigger one, which, however, he wisely did not put forward at the time. Many things have occurred since then to confirm his opinion that big towns are "out of date." The new methods of warfare are showing what wholesale destruction can be wrought when the area attacked is so large that it cannot be missed by a hand-drawn projectile, so far poison gas has not been used, but there is no certainty that it will not be; and when it is, the big town will suffer most.

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Tobacco Acreage 25 Per Cent Less

By AGRICOLA

The total acreage planted to tobacco in Canada in 1940 is estimated at 7,700 acres as compared with 91,000 acres in 1939. This represents a decrease of 23,300 acres or 25.6 per cent. The biggest drop in acreage is shown in Ontario, where 42,350 acres are planted this year in Ontario, 5,320 in Quebec and 400 acres in British Columbia, making a total of 48,270 acres as compared with 98,570 acres in 1939, a reduction of 20,300 acres or 20.7 per cent. Extensive damage from frost in Norfolk County on the night of August 23 resulted in the destruction of about 1,000 acres which will cause a still further reduction in the area of flue-cured tobacco to be harvested in Ontario. A decrease of only three per cent is indicated in Quebec and an increase of nearly 30 per cent is shown in British Columbia.

Calf Quota Nearly Filled

A release by the United States Treasury Department shows imports of calves from all countries from January 1st to August 31st, inclusive, totalling 92,603 head. Customs collectors were instructed to commence collecting the full tariff rate of 2-2 per cent on calves entering the United States on and after September 12th. Any imports entering the United States prior to the filling of the quota of 100,000 head will, of course, be subject to rebate of 1c per pound.

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TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH Silver Fox Farming

By AGRICOLA

We regret to record the serious illness of Provincial Fox Fieldman, W. Fred Burke. He was taken ill early in the week and had been in the Prince Edward Island Hospital ever since.

Herbert A. Neiman & Company's

sale of some 14,000 silver fox pelts conducted by the New York Auction Company, concluded with a strong tone. The entire collection averaged \$54.40 with the top price of the sale \$82.00 for a full silver. Perhaps one of the most remarkable things about the auction was the fact that the pelts offered on one day of the sale were 80 per cent sold. Half silvers averaged \$24.00, which is 10 to 15 per cent above the March level. Quarter silvers averaged \$17.00, which was also 10 to 15 per cent above the March level. Three-quarter silvers, which were practically all sold, averaged \$29.00, about 1-2 per cent above the March level.

Our readers must notice that from

time to time we have pointed out the increasing value of the darker shades of silver fox. It is true these do not average as high as the full silvers, but it must be remembered that full silvers have been "washed" Monday evening for years. However, there is no questioning the fact that three-quarter silvers have been increasing in value at practically every auction the past six months. Whether it means a great deal in the future we cannot foretell, but it certainly would appear that our ranchers should keep a proportion of the darker shades and halves among their breeding herds.

I. J. Fox, the celebrated New York

and Boston furrier, declares himself the first in America to present a zebra fur coat, fur hat and fur muff all for \$395.00. I. J. was the man that paid \$11,000 at auction for a rare specimen of Norwegian platinum last March.

Gunners of New York are advertising

mink coats, stressing the fact that they are "wild" mink at \$1,850 to \$7,100. Another New York firm, Trencher, advertising these coats as mink masterpieces, each pelt personally chosen for its fresh, rich natural beauty.

Claude C. Holman, secretary of the

Canadian Platinum Fox Breeders' Association, whose office is located at 1837 Broad Street, Regina, Saskatchewan, is here on a visit. Mr. Holman is a brother of a furrier in Montreal and has spent quite a number of years in the West, where he is recognized as one of the outstanding silver fox breeders. A few years ago he became interested in the new type of mink and devoted a great deal of time and travelled extensively to make himself familiar with the different phases and varieties of white face silvers and platinum foxes. Here he will visit some thirty ranchers breeding this type of that type and endeavor to interest them in the Canadian Platinum Fox Breeders' Association.

We asked him for a brief history

of the new breeds in Canada and he stated that in the year 1927 a ring-necked, white faced silver appeared in the ranch of Thomas Lennox near Calgary. It created considerable excitement and was sold to Colpitts Brothers. More appeared in subsequent years with Mr. Colpitts usually the purchaser although Mr. Lennox still has some left when at Fort Qu'Appelle, Saskatchewan, in 1932 a ring-necked specimen was developed by A. K. "Ollie" McNeill, brother of Well McNeill, Southport. It was the offspring of a pair of high class silvers purchased by the McNeills from the Klinton Silver Fox Farms, Ltd. Mr. McNeill decided to keep this fox and in fact all the litter, and being possessed of a good knowledge of breeding, from a few foxes he developed what is known as the McNeill strain of platinum foxes that are at present being bred in Norway, Sweden, various parts of the United States and in most of the fur producing countries.

The National Fur News for September

has the following to say about the origin of the Milligan and Morrison Silver Fox Producers Association, which is one of the leading fur breeding organizations in the United States. It is a pleasure to read such kindly remarks concerning two very old friends — George Morrison and Edgar Milligan — the latter who left us in 1939, and the former who is still with us. We will forever endeavor him to us.

MILLIGAN & MORRISON SILVER FOX PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION

This organization is best known as M & M, and these two capital letters invariably summon to mind George L. Morrison and J. Edgar Milligan, whose tragic passing some years ago was a great loss to the fur farmers of the North American continent. These men, under an ideal partnership, had operated in a large way in Canada, Alaska and the United States. George L. Morrison was the better known of the two to farmers in the United States. He had sold breeding foxes extensively and thereby established many ranches in many states. He was one of the few who sold breeding stock in the early days, and followed through with a service system that enabled beginners to establish themselves on a sound economic basis. It was due to Mr. Morrison that many of his customers in fox nutrition and in pelting and marketing furs efficiently. His untimely demise at first looked like a death blow to the M & M organization.

However, the fur farmers that

made up this group were made of stern stuff. They rallied the membership, who selected O. M. Nelson to carry on the field work so ably established by Mr. Morrison. O. M. and his wife Esther made friends wherever they went, and expanded the organization through adding new ranchers to the membership. O. M. developed great aptitude for counsel and advice that helped the fur farmers to increase efficiency in the conduct of their operations. O. M.'s health was not too robust, and his strenuous efforts to serve his members probably hastened his untimely passing two years ago.

Dr. M. B. Howard was first

President of the M & M organization, and served in that capacity until the annual M & M meeting and management.

A fox show for the new types

will be held at Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, November 13th to 16th and the classes are divided into extra light platinum, light platinum and medium platinum with further classes for white face silvers, subdivided into pale and extra pale. No foxes that are less than three-quarter silvers will be classified. There will also be classes for pearl platinum. Wonderful interest is being taken in this show and it is expected that foxes from as far east as Prince Edward Island and as far west as British Columbia will be exhibited. Our inquiry as to the number of

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Quebec and Maritime Branch

145 St. John Street

at Ottawa a year ago, Mr. G. E. Kennedy has been President during the past year.

The courage displayed by the M & M members, and the efficient

organization they selected to lead the fur farmers of the Dominion.

Mr. Arthur McGraw of Antigonish, N. S., is visiting the Province

in the interests of the Violin Corporation, Montreal, who are the manufacturers of Rex Wheat Germ Oil and other vitamin products. Rex Wheat Germ Oil has been a wide gratifying results on a great number of ranches in the United States and Canada. It has cut down mortality among young foxes, prevented parasites and increased the productivity of herds of foxes and cattle where used.

Our deepest sympathy is extended

to our fellow fox rancher W. B. MacArthur and family of Kenosha, Wis., on the death of Mrs. MacArthur, which occurred on Wednesday this week. She was a lady who had appeared at a wide circle of friends who will join with us in tendering heartfelt regrets.

The marriage of Irene Dalton to

Dr. Frederick Charles Douglas, of this city, took place at Summerville, Mass., on Wednesday, Sept. 26. Miss Dalton is the daughter of the late Sir Charles Dalton, a pioneer of the silver fox industry, which is now so widely spread throughout the world.

Increased Production of Maple Products

Though the season in 1940, as in 1939, was short and late, the output of maple products in Canada in the spring of 1940 was 20 per cent greater than in 1939 and the quality higher. On the basis of ten pounds of maple sugar being equal to one pound of maple syrup, the total production this year of maple sugar and maple syrup is estimated at 3,099,000 gallons, as compared with 2,592,000 gallons in 1939 and with the five-year average (1934-38) of 2,761,400 gallons.

This year's yield represents an increase of 56,600 gallons, or 1.8 per cent as compared with 1939, and is also 18 per cent higher than the five-year average. The farm product of maple sugar is estimated at 1,011 per cent of the total of the same percentage as in 1939. The total production of maple syrup was 2,755,200 gallons and the farm product of maple sugar amounted to 4,347,700 pounds. These estimates show increases of 453,000 gallons of sugar and 537,300 pounds of sugar as compared with a production of 2,302,900 gallons of syrup and 2,909,200 pounds of sugar in 1939.

Prices paid to producers for the 1940 crop were higher than in 1939. The combined production of maple syrup and maple sugar in 1940 is valued at \$12,930,000 as compared with \$13,443,900 in 1939, an increase of \$509,100, or 3.8 per cent. Total exports of maple sugar and maple syrup, expressed as maple syrup, for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1940, were 982,000 gallons compared with 773,544 gallons in 1939. Practically all exports of maple products go to the United States and the increase of exports of the 1939 crop over the 1938 total of 438,735 gallons was due to the short crop in the United States that year.

Based on averages, the people of the Maritime Provinces—Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick—consume approximately 25,000,000 pounds of beef annually.

REFUGEES FROM CO-OP

Spanish political refugees are being organized into an agricultural and pork production cooperative society by the Refugees Assistance Committee of Mexico, backed by the authorities in Mexico City. The refugees will settle on land purchased near Acapulco.

Australia now has 27,309 miles of railways.

Chewing gum is being rationed in Britain.

Use Minard's for dandruff.

FOX BREEDERS

Interested in Platinum and White Face Foxes are cordially invited to visit RAUL REYMOND'S RANCH at Southport, containing 125 MARKED PUPS