Page for the MODERN FARMER

TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH Silver Fox Farming

Well we know now where we stand with the processing tax, 15 per cent has been lopped off from the 25 per cent which will be of considerable benefit for silver fox pelts that are used as trimmings. The quandity that can be sold for that purpose will depend on whether or not cloth is available for making coats. It has been very scarce ever since war broke out but we understand larger quantities are being released now that the demand for soldiers, sailors and other war uniforms has practically ceased. Getting down to brass tacks it may mean the difference of from two to five dollars on the type of pelts that will be sold for trimming purposes. If so that much gain to us would be very greatly appreciated.

The high-class pelts which go into the making of fur neckpieces, capes and jackets will not be so fortunate. Formerly all types of fur garments and fur capes were free from the 8 per cent sales tax. Now that tax will apply to them as it has always applied to garments trimmed with fur. This 8 per cent tax is not relished by the big operators throughout the Dominion who got off scot free for so many years through some type of pull or arrangements it has been difficult to figure out, while the utility garments (cloth coats trimmed with fur) were made subject to an 8 per cent sales tax, the magnificent two, three, four and five thousand dollar mink coats were exempt. The tax concessions made by Mr. Ilsley can only be regarded as a beginning. We must keep agitating for the complete removal of the processing tax and we are entitled to it.

Walter R. Shaw, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, has returned from a visit to Delhaven, Delaware, and is now along with his other numerous duties, getting things ready for the live fox show which takes place in the new fox show building at the Exhibition grounds four weeks from Monday, being the week of November 19th to 23rd. This is the latest date the show has been held for many years, but in the comfortable new quarters it is not expected that it will cause very much inconvenience unless we get heavy snow storms that might possibly block the roads. Walter inspected the fox show building Wednesday morning very thoroughly and his impression was that it was tops. It was also inspected by Don Stewart and others who all came away delighted with the arrangements which are being made for the show.

The Michigan - Ohio International Fox and Mink Show will be held at Grand Rapids, Michigan, November 26th to 29th. Several of the Ontario exhibitors such as W. H. V. Ruthven, Gilroy Bros. and J. J. McCague will exhibit there. These breeders were quite successful last season carrying off a lot of the top honors. George H. Mayers of Lampson, Fraser & Huth, Inc., will be the judge.

The Seattle Fur Exchange of Seattle, Washington, has purchased a substantial interest in the famous Little Bros. Fur Sales Agency of Vancouver. This brings to the Seattle organization furs which have their origin in the Yukon Territory, British Columbia, Alberta and the Canadian Arctic, and it should be of considerable benefit to the westerners. Just recently the New York Auction Company acquired control of the Canadian Fur Auction Sales Company, Ltd., of Montreal, although we understand Frank Pingree will act in an advisory capacity. He was formerly manager. It may be a good thing to have these American companies come into Canada as they are aggressive and will no doubt find more outlets for goods because of their South American connections.

Apropos the fox fur situation the following article was written by George H. Mayers, who probably understands marketing as well as any other man in America. It is well worth reading . . .

THE MARKET FOR FURS

George Mayers, Manager
Lampson, Fraser & Huth, Inc.

We acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 8th instant, requesting the writer's views for the coming season to be published in your October issue.

It is most difficult to forecast future markets under present conditions as there are so many angles to be taken into consideration in predicting future business. However, as it is close to the coming season, we can review what is happening at the present time.

We are pleased to report that in recent sales of New Color Phase Fox and Silver Fox, as well as Ranch Mink, we have found a very firm market. At the moment there are very few good Ranch Mink available and it is naturally understood that some manufacturers and retailers are marking time for the opening season and we might mention that there are also some accumulated retail orders to be filled from the next year's crop. This, in itself, will absorb a fair proportion of the coming season's production of Ranch Mink and one does not expect the crop to be any larger than it was last season, taking everything into consideration. Therefore, with the demand which has existed for this article, the future can only appear most bright.

Platinum Foxes have found a ready market all season. At the present moment quantities of good Platinums are hard to find. White-Marked Foxes of the paler type have fared quite well, the same as Platinums, and both of these articles are now much higher than they were at the opening of last season. By the time that the new crop reaches the market there will be very few skins available from last season's collection.

Fine Full Silvers have fared well all year. Quantities at the present moment are not very large. Cheaper and medium priced goods are still more plentiful than the others, but, with the present demand, there should not be a large carry-over.

Breeders of this article are, of course, wondering as to the Scandinavian crop. There are various reports and one can expect a small production but do not feel for one instant that the channels which consumed your production during the war years will also be called upon to consume this season's production because we must call to your attention that only recently we were informed that the London raw fur market is now open for merchandise and that trading is evidently resuming again. Therefore, with the small production from the Scandinavian countries and a half decent break in the European market, as well as the splendid demand which exists in South America, we should expect that part of the Americas' production will be used in Europe. This, of course, is rather a foresight and may be viewed with some skepticism due to the poor conditions in general prevailing in the European countries at the moment. However, as time goes on, we can expect these conditions to improve and trading will find its channels. Therefore, breeders of Foxes can look forward to a ready market for their product.

It gives the writer great pleasure to inform the breeders that ranched furs still remain among the leaders in the fur trade and Fox breeders can look forward to a better demand in the coming season for the trimming type of Fox, which, due to various regulations and restrictions, has not been selling too well in the past season.

Harry LaDue, Editor of the American Fur Breeder, has made a complete digest of the American horse meat situation and a recommendation for action by fur organizations. This appeared originally in the American Fur Breeder but we obtained our information from the National Fur News. Harry says that the horse population in the United States is definitely on the decline. Since 1925 the number of horses on U. S. ranches and farms has dropped from 16,500,000 to 9,500,000. Corrected Canadian figures are not available but dealers and packers estimate that there are 6,000,000 horses in the Dominion and reports indicate that the Canadian horse population is on the decline.

Harry traces the use of horse meat which first started in the western states when horses were available at $5.00 and the hide usually compensated the fur farmer for the initial cost of the horse. Then fur farming began to expand. Thousands of new fur farms were started and practically all herds were doubled and trebled. Fur farmers were forced to go further and still further afield for their horses. This meant competition with each other and the prices were driven higher and higher. The induction of caretakers and fur farmers into the armed forces and into war plants brought about a substantial reduction in fur animal herds and this helped the situation for a brief period, but the fact that jack rabbits from the western plains and herring from the Great Lakes would be missing from the foxes' menu meant that more horses would be used instead.

At the present time a new problem has arisen and it is the serious lack of nourishing food in some countries such as Poland, Greece, Albania, Czecho-Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Italy, Belgium, Holland and France that caused them to look for sources of horse meat supply in the United States and Canada. This has to be exported in the pickled or canned form, it is practically impossible to handle it in a frozen condition because of lack of refrigerator ships and trains. However, packers in both Canada and the United States are now planning on exporting considerable quantities to Europe for human consumption.

In the United States there are thousands of horses slaughtered for human consumption. Horse meat markets are doing a thriving business in California and the western states. The manager of one place says they are just eating the stuff because they cannot get beef. We are shipping between four and five carloads of quarters a day to Boston and New York from our two plants. All that is in addition to millions of one pound packages. Frozen horse meat is also used for dog food and as there is a great fad for dogs now it means that a great deal of horse meat will be used for this purpose.

Summing up the situation Mr. LaDue says it is time to act now. The Canadian fur farming industry has already embarked on an expansion program, the Swedish fur farming industry was able to carry on during the war, Norway saved its nest egg and it won't be long before the Norwegian backyard fur farmer will be again seeking a market for half a million silver fox pelts. Costs of production will once more become a vital factor and a difference of a few cents a pound in the cost of horse meat can make or break the United States fur farming industry. Mr. LaDue says it is hard to advise what course to take. If you have a source of supply hang on to it and cinch it if possible. If not his advice is for groups of breeders to plan and build their own slaughter houses. This won't help several thousand of more or less isolated fur farmers in the United States, but will insure a source of supply for groups of fur breeders congregated in one area.

If you are contemplating building a horse killing plant you had better plan on building and equipping it with facilities for processing dog food and even human food, along with fur animal food. With the added source of revenue from the sale of the relatively high priced dog food and human food your chances of securing live horses to process in your plant will be mighty slim. All of the above sums up to—horse meat is going to be scarce and very much higher in price in the future.

As a possible offset to the horse meat situation there is whale meat. A few days ago William Agnew, Fur Trade Commissioner for this province to Newfoundland, stated that he was in touch with whale meat processing firms in the old colony and that in the near future he would be able to give definite figures as to its cost landed here. The Norwegians use whale meat but one would have to find out just how or in what proportions they feed it. Years ago we tried it out at our ranch at the request of the Hudson's Bay Company but we did not give it sufficient test to determine its value as compared with horse meat.

EARLY BOAT DECORATION

Some of history's earliest recorded boats — those belonging to the Phoenicians and Egyptians — were decorated with male animals despite the fact that ships are generally known as "she"

NOTICE

The woolen mills will be closed from October 17th to November 5th, 1945, to clear out some back orders.

WILLIAM CONDON & SONS

- NEWSY NOTES -

BY AGRICOLA

"The Terror Of The Woods"

So Francis Bain terms the American Goshawk (Astur atracapillus). A month ago I passed on to my readers a description of a "juvenile" goshawk which had been shot whilst visiting this farmstead. Since then I have had an opportunity to examine the body of an adult bird, and as it differs in coloration a very careful description was made. I have several colored pictures of this bird, but they cannot be considered as altogether accurate: in each some feature or color is exaggerated. Here is a first-hand description:

American Goshawk, adult. Crown and cheeks black, a white stripe above the eye passing round the nape. Throat and under-parts light, stippled pearl-gray. Back dark bluish-gray, feathers margined black, tail coverts rather lighter. Tail long, feathers blackish, spotted (scarcely barred) darker, each tipped with white. Breast, under-parts and half of tarsus with stippled pearl-gray feathers. Under-tail coverts with clear-white fluffy feathers. Wings short, broad, upper surface blackish, like tail; under surface with upper half finely stippled and barred gray-black, lower half dark-gray, barred whitish. Tarsus and toes yellow, claws black. Length 21 inches, weight 2 lbs.

The quills or midribs of all feathers shining black, those of the breast slender and threadlike, suggesting that the feathers had been tacked or basted on.

On referring to the notes on the immature specimen it will be seen that rusty-brown is the prevailing color, instead of the adult's dark bluish-gray. These changes always make for uncertainty, especially as the information given in popular books is always somewhat meagre, and the colors often too light.

This bird came back for a young pullet it had killed—"a sad mistake it was to make," as the Pirates of Penzance says.

That Old Book

I am indebted to Mrs. H. T. Colvin of Summerside for the following notes: "Through the kindness of a friend, Mrs. Wright Leard of Bedeque, who is the owner, I have at hand a copy of the Island history you speak of in last Saturday's Newsy Notes.

"The author is the Rev. George Sutherland. The title-page (of which I am enclosing a copy) designates him as 'Pastor of the Free Church, Charlottetown.' This probably means the first section of his listing of Presbyterians. In the book called 'Prince Edward Island, Past and Present," the Rev. George Sutherland is listed among the names of ministers who have served the Presbyterian Church in P. E. I.

"It is truly an interesting book, so many facts on various subjects given in so few pages. As he says in the Preface, 'No facts of any importance that could illustrate its physical aspects have been omitted.' He also says "It is hoped that it may point out to some of the Island youth the road to fame in the fields of Natural Science." Was Bain the answer to this hope? Or was he older than a youth in 1861?"

(Note by Agricola: Bain published his Natural History of P. E. I. in 1890 and one must suppose he was no longer a youth when Sutherland wrote. There can, however, be no doubt that the one was influenced by the other, since the general style and lay-out of the books are the same; though Bain is more exact in his knowledge of the Natural Science to which he confined himself.)

"Sutherland's book could not have proved what was wanted for very long, as a History by — Campbell was brought out in 1875. Campbell's book is valuable, among other things, from the complete list of the census taken in 1798. All heads of families are named, with details as to the family. No other history (of those I have read) has given any such lists. While several give the dates of census-taking, with the total numbers, no names are listed."

(Note: I have not come across this history, though I have heard that a Duncan Campbell once did some writing. Could this be the same? The old Meacham's Atlas of P. E. I. (1880), in its appendix, did good work in giving the names of settlers, dates, country of origin, occupation, etc.)

In last week's Notes I suspected that this old book was intended as a supplementary School Reader. This turned out to be correct, for the title-page runs:—"A Manual of the Geography and Natural and Civil History of Prince Edward Island, for the use of Schools, Families and Emigrants. By the Rev. George Sutherland, Pastor of the Free Church, Charlottetown, printed and published by John Ross, 1861." Possibly the Campbell history was a kind of counter-blast, because Sutherland did not hesitate to accuse former Governors of arbitrary actions, when their immediate descendants were still living: indeed, his own words were that he expected "harsh censure" from some of his readers who had no sympathy for his principles.

In further explanation it may be remarked that the Presbyterians —the largest body of Protestants on the Island in 1861—were divided into two sections: first, the "Free" Church of the Lower Provinces of British America: and second, the section claiming connection with the Established Church of Scotland.

Bird Notes From Summerside

The letter goes on to give some notes on the birds mentioned in the Rev. Mr. Sutherland's History: "Among the birds he mentions the 'Chatterers', calling one the Cherry Bird, and the other the Hungarian (Bohemian?) Chatterer (or as it is now called, Waxwing).

"During the second week of September I saw a flock flying high over the tree tops and uttering their soft notes. Several times they came down to trees in the yard but not near enough for a good inspection. One very windy day I was startled by seeing the handsomest Waxwing I had ever seen, on a shrub near the window. It looked much brighter, with every shade of color more intense. The crest was erect, with a rosy pink tint. The black under its chin was larger. The wing next to me had quite a lot of white on it (also yellow), something I had never seen before. I saw no red, and forgot to look for it, as I was hoping it would go to the bird-bath, and then perhaps I would see the under tail-coverts, which Taverner says are chestnut in the Bohemian. However, it flew away for a while and came back with four young and another adult much darker in color. The young were grayish, crests not noticeable, a decided white shading down the centre of the underbody, no yellow on the wings, some on the tail.

"While the white on the wing would indicate the Bohemian Waxwing, the underbody had a yellowish cast towards the tail, instead of grayish; so it must have been a freak.

Today I have three or four Palm Warblers visiting. The one I saw last fall must have brought his family. Their tails are never still. These warblers are bright yellow underneath, but white on the tail tips.—Sincerely yours."

(Note: I too am of opinion that the bird was a freak Cedar Waxwing, and there is no doubt of the rest of its family.)

Sutherland almost suggests that he was familiar with the "Hungarian Chatterer." This bird, the Bohemian Waxwing, is a denizen of the Arctic regions, and a casual winter visitor to Canada and the U. S. A. It is listed as "vary rare or accidental," in Mr. Robey W. Tufts's excellent "Common Birds of Nova Scotia," while the Cedar Waxwing appears among the common birds. There is no reason to suppose that we are any better off in the matter of the Bohemian, but it is well to be on the watch all the same. The chief drawback to recognition is the meagre description of the birds; a feature that was given special consideration some years ago by ornithologist C. W. Nash. Here is his description:

Bohemian Waxwing. Forehead, chin, and line through the eye velvety black; a conspicuous crest; **front of crown chestnut-brown;** upper-parts rich greyish-brown; upper tail-coverts, wings, and tail greyish; primary coverts and secondaries **tipped with white,** the latter with narrow, red, sealing-wax-like tips (sometimes wanting); all but the outer primaries tipped with yellow or white on the outer web; tail **broadly** tipped with yellow; breast greyish-brown; under tail coverts **rich chestnut.** Length 8.00 inches.

Cedar Waxwing. Forehead, chin and line through the eye velvety black, **bordered on the forehead with white;** a conspicuous crest; upper parts rich greyish brown; upper tail coverts, wings and tail, grey; secondaries and sometimes tail with small narrow sealing-wax-like tips (these may be entirely absent); tail tipped with yellow; breast greyish-brown; yellow below; under tail coverts **white.** Length 7.25 inches.

In "The Birds of P. E. I." (1936), a note on the Bohemian Waxwing says: "Seen winter of 1915-16. No later dates reported."

Our Manufactures, etc., 1861

The total population of the Island (including its 315 Indians) was 80,856 persons, of whom 2,318 were engaged in fishing. The rest were employed in agriculture or in manufactur based directly on it. There were 141 Grist mills, 46 carding mills, 176 sawmills, 9 fulling and dressing mills and 55 tanneries.

The cloth manufactured, but not fulled, in that year (1861), totalled 303,676 yards. Cloth fulled 122,940 yards. The tanneries produced 143,803 lbs. of leather.

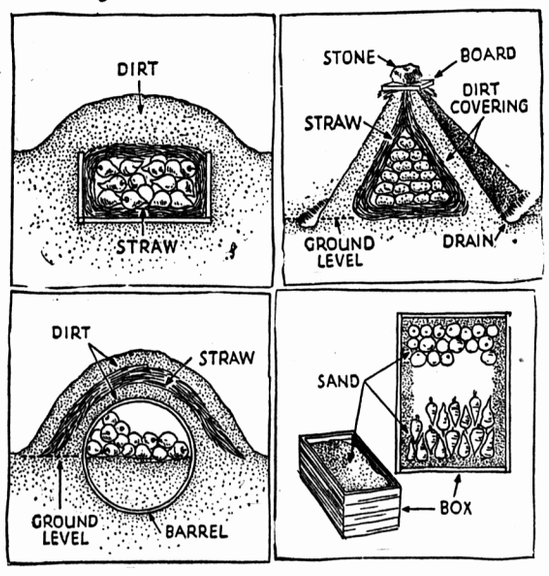
Though limestone is not one of our important geological formations, there were 48 lime kilns at work, principally in the west of the Island; and these produced 22,821 barrels of lime in 1861. I remember seeing a dismantled lime kiln on the St. Peter's Road, on the outskirts of Charlottetown, about 35 years ago, and was told it had not long ceased working.

Under the swamps and barrens of Prince County lay beds of brick clay of glacial origin: these gave material to 9 brick kilns which in 1861 produced 1,332,000 bricks.

Besides the produce of the farms and fisheries, there was a considerable export of lumber, shingles, lathwood, etc., which kept the sawmills going. Sutherland also mentions shipbuilding, but gives no details.

Taking it altogether the Island was almost "self-supporting" then. Probably its manufactures lacked the elegance of imported goods but they were not as flimsy, and lasted longer. The leather produced on the spot gave work to the shoemaker and the harness-maker and kept the money in circulation at home. So with the cloth mills, for there were 107,242 sheep in the Island, and their wool benefited the tailor and others as well as the merchants Now we import everything, and the qualiyt is nothing like the best! Once the industries are gone, it is impossible to revive them again.

Many Victory Garden Crops Easily Stored for Winter



Easy Methods of Storing Vegetables

As freezing weather approaches, vegetables which remain in good condition in the Victory garden may easily be stored safely for winter use. Kale, Brussels sprouts, parsnips and salsify will stand freezing, and are usually left in the garden, and harvested as needed, until just before the ground freezes deeply.

If parsnips and salsify are dug at this stage, washed and enough for one meal packed in a paper bag, the bags can be stored outdoors in any convenient place where they will remain dry and safe from animals. They can be taken into the kitchen and thawed out for use as needed.

Tomatoes should be harvested after the first hard frost. Many can be ripened if laid on a shelf in a farm basement; some prefer to hang them up, still attached to hang them up, still attached to the vine.

Carrots, beets, turnips, rutabages, potatoes, apples and cabbages can be stored in an unheated garage or shed for several weeks, until the outside temperatures have fallen to several degrees below freezing. If the carrots, beets and turnips are placed in boxes packed in soil, which is kept moist, in the protection of the garage or shed they will keep well in any except extremely low temperatures. Sand is not good for this packing, as it does not retain moisture well. Potatoes should not be packed in this way.

A better method is a cold cellar, or basement room, in which the temperature can be kept down to as near 34 to 38 degrees as possible, and ventilation provided. In such a room, the vegetables should be stored on shelves, racks, slat bins or solid boxes, raised off the floor. A concrete floor should be sprinkled every few days, and an earth floor kept somewhat damp.

Pumpkins, squash and sweet potatoes should be stored in a temperature between 55 and 65 degrees, which is often found in a heated basement. The crops requiring lower temperatures may be kept in heated basements for some time if they are packed in boxes with wet sand about them.

Where basement storage is not practical, an outdoor storage pit may be easily constructed by digging a pit as large as desired, and deep enough to stand in. Lay heavy boards over the pit, even with the surface, and cover the boards with a mound of earth. A ditch should be dug around the mound to lead surface water away from the pit entrance, which is provided with a ladder or steps. A door should be fitted to the entrance, preferably two doors with an air-space between them, to keep out the frost. In such a pit the fruits and vegetables may be stored in boxes, bins or on shelves.

Where the quantity to be stored does not warrant a large pit, various adaptations of the idea may be used, as shown in the illustration.

Vegetables stored should be in good condition, not too old or too immature; and tender vegetables which have been exposed to frost should never be stored. Avoid vegetables with bruises or skin punctures, as decay will start from these, and never store vegetables which are wet. Even the hardiest vegetables should not be stored if they have been frozen.

Do not close outdoor root cellars tightly until the temperature inside has dropped close to freezing, and do not cover vegetables in earth pits until the soil has cooled off thoroughly.

Attention Farmers AND Soldier Farm Workers

This is to advise that all soldiers sent out from this office or the National Selective Service, Summerside, to assist in harvestng, may remain until the work is completed, regardless of when their time expires.

Farmers are asked to please notify this office when they have finished with these men so that we may make arrangements for placing them elsewhere.

DOM.-PROVINCIAL FARM LABOUR BUREAU

10-19-3i.

Potato Starch Factories

At

HUNTER RIVER and MURRAY HARBOR

Are Open Daily to Receive

Small, Scabby or Cull Potatoes

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ANNOUNCEMENT

Our new SHUR-GAIN Feed Service Mill, at Winsloe, is now in operation.

With our hammer mill and mixer we are in a position to serve all your grinding and mixing requirements.

For your convenience we manufacture a full line of SHUR-GAIN complete feeds for Poultry, Hogs and Cattle.

Due to the fact that we are able to manufacture SHUR-GAIN complete feeds locally we can offer you very attractive prices.

Drop in to see us at your earliest convenience.

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WINSLOE, P. E. Island

10-18-3i

FOXMEN:

Here are facts to ponder when deciding on your Fall Feed. At the last three Live Fox Shows held on Prince Edward Island 1350 foxes, the cream of the Island were exhibited. Out of 147 1st prizes awarded, 73 were exclusively SUNGLO fed, and 42 part SUNGLO fed foxes, or 115 out of 147 1st prize foxes received SUNGLO fox feeds. Out of 483 top placings ranging from 1st to 5th placing, 225 foxes were EXCLUSIVELY SUNGLO FED. 145 more were partly SUNGLO fed or 370 out of 483 Top Placing winners were part or all SUNGLO feeds, as their commercial feed diet. Out of 96 Champions, Reserve Champions, Grand and Reserve Grand Champions 49 were EXCLUSIVELY SUNGLO FED, with 19 more part SUNGLO fed, thus SUNGLO feeds in competition with all other fox feeds combined produced over 50 per cent of Top Placings and Top Awards at the last three Live Fox Shows on Prince Edward Island.

START TODAY USING SUNGLO FALL FURRING MEAL OR CUBES.

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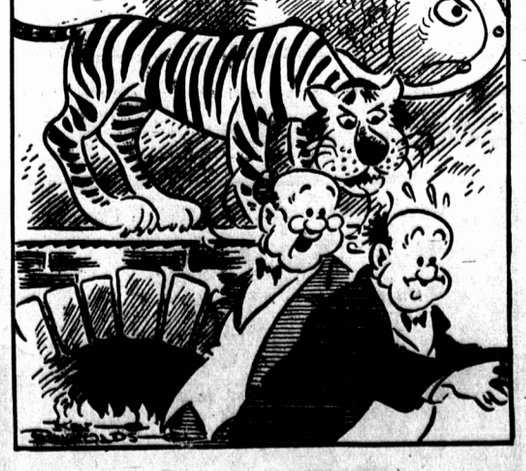
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

10-Sat.-Tue tl Nov. 17

QUICKIES By Ken Reynolds



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