

NEWSY NOTES

BY AGRICOLA

It was my privilege to be reared in a family that had a great store of classical and traditional stories, which were freely used to point a moral or adorn a tale.

With the light-heartedness of youth I possibly did not then appreciate that privilege as much as I did later.

One of the more remarkable of these stories was that of The Wandering Jew. In the year 1228 (according to Matthew Paris, a monk of St. Albans) there came to England an Armenian archbishop, to visit the shrines and relics preserved in the churches.

The archbishop answered through his interpreter, that he knew the person they spoke of very well; that Joseph had dined at his table but a little while before he set out for England.

Thus far there is nothing improbable in the narrative, but the archbishop went on to say that Joseph lives for ever, and at the end of every hundred years suffers a dangerous illness, followed by an ecstasy (trance?) from which he emerges into the same state of youth in which he was when Jesus suffered, being about thirty years of age.

Following Matthew Paris's account, several other impostors appeared in various European towns at intervals, under the name and of this person, though they differed in certain details.

Such a character was a direct invitation to the writers of fiction and at least one great novelist has written of the "Wandering Jew." A very singular book, with that title, was written by Eugene Sue, a French writer.

That author provides the Jew with a sister, who also wanders; and every hundred years they come to the opposite sides of some strait (Behring? I forget), where they see each other, but never meet.

And wherever the Jew goes the cholera dogs his steps. It was a remarkable thing, in the great outbreaks of cholera in the early nineteenth century, that the disease would attack the house on one side of a street, and pass those on the other—Jew, of course, meant that the Jew had travelled along that side!

About twenty-five years ago there was, on lower Queen Street, a little drapery store which was run by a Jew. His name, I recollect, was Hoffman, which points to a German origin; but he was dark-complexed (as the country folk used to say) and not by any means an "Aryan blonde."

I sometimes called and made a few minutes chat, for he was a rather interesting person, and was, like myself, a stranger in the land. At last I found the store closed, and entering another place of business I asked: "What's got Mr. Hoffman?"

"He's shut up shop; gone back to Halifax, I think," was the reply. "Are there any other Jews in the Island?"

was the next question. "No, I never heard of any," said the store-keeper. "Why is that? I thought they were everywhere," I said. "Oh, I don't know; I guess they can't make a living," he returned.

I could not forbear smiling, for here was an implication that I must leave by readers to interpret! Shakespeare, in his "Merchant of Venice" has given to the world a name which it is only too ready to fling at the luckless children of Israel. He is supposed to have taken the plot from a more eminent writer, one Giovanni Fiorentino, an Italian who wrote such a story in the year 1378. There is, however, a very circumstantial account of a like transaction given by Gregoris Leti; only it is the Christian who is anxious to do the carving and the Jew is only saved by the intervention of Pope Sixtus V., on the ground that if the carver cut more or less than his due, he would most certainly be hanged.

There is an old word in Lorna, "Just a Few Words"

The foreign news sometimes puts a strain on my linguistic acquirements; for instance I was taught to pronounce Moscow as Moss-co. Now I hear it rhyme with cross cow! Am I behind the times, or are the announcers well ahead?

"To boost" anything seems a modern way of putting it, but rather to my surprise I find Jeremiah 23, reads "Why boastest thou thy wayes so hyllie (to optayne favour...)" in Coverdale's translation.

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TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS

CONNECTED WITH

Silver Fox Farming



Had a chat with Dr. Leo Frank yesterday afternoon, and in the course of conversation found that he is very pleased with his cross-bred product of Alaska males (P. E. I. bred) and standard females. The Doctor will not sell any for some time—it will probably be December 15th before they are ready—he says. He is sold on cross foxes and well he should be, as he got some good prices for last season's take-off, those that I saw were real beauties and well deserved the good prices they brought.

The Doctor mentioned two litters of silver foxes, that he believes are among the best he has ever raised. He said, "I mated a son and his father to two sisters of a different strain, and the pups are as alike as peas. You know the kind, blue black necks and clear, glinting silver with good brushes and tips. Curiously enough," he said, "I picked up a New York paper the other evening and it gave an instance of a father and son who had just married sisters and this is the way they trace the relationship—the son is his father's brother-in-law as well as brother-in-law and step-son to his father's wife. His father's wife, besides being his sister-in-law and his step-mother is mother-in-law and sister-in-law to his own wife, as well as her sister. His own wife, besides being a sister-in-law to his father, is his father's daughter-in-law and his step-mother's sister, sister-in-law and daughter-in-law!"

Brazil is buying more furs and pelts. That country is having a remarkable comeback. No longer are they dumping hundreds of tons of coffee into the sea so as not to depress the market with an over supply, but are selling it for real money, and exports of all other commodities are moving in increased quantities. With increased revenue their imports of furs rose to \$946,000 last year, and this year will be well over the million mark.

The emergence of the South American countries—notably Brazil and Argentina—from the throes of depression to the happy state of comparative prosperity which they now enjoy, places them in the category of likely customers for large quantities of our speciality. Years ago the young people of wealthy families from these countries did not consider their education complete without a trip to Paris, and while there usually purchased quantities of furs with silver fox predominating.

It is fitting that Tignish, the foundation place of the silver fox industry—where Charles Dalton conceived, and Robert Oulton assisted him in carrying to fruition, the first successful breeding of silver foxes—should be the pioneer town in this province to hold a pelt show. Much good can arise from it because the ranchers will have the good and bad qualities of pelts shown by the judges' placing of the awards. Live fox shows are excellent and have done much to improve the quality of foxes, of that there is no question, but they should be supplemented with pelt shows. I venture to predict that if pelt shows become general throughout the Island that within three years the standard of our pelts will improve 25 per cent or more. Who will be the pioneer to organize one for Queens County?

The report on the silver fox sale held by the Hudson's Bay Company the 17th and 18th of November has just come to hand and these are extracts from it: "The Company's offering of silver fox at their first sale of the 1936-37 season consisted of 5,948 skins, of which approximately 70 per cent were fresh shipments from Scandinavia. The attendance of buyers was unusually large for November and fresh skins were subject to keen competition.

While there was well maintained throughout the sale the demand was strongest for the better qualities of the three-quarter and full silver skins. Owing to the wide difference in color and quality between the September and November collections, the prices realized in September did not afford a suitable basis for comparison. Comparison is therefore made with the similar collection offered by the Company in November last year. On this basis the fresh skins in this sale show an advance of five per cent in average. The dark and quarter silver skins are fractionally lower in price while three-quarter and more, particularly the full silver skins show increases.

Following are average and highest price obtained for fresh goods only: Dark and slightly silvery, average \$22.50, highest price \$28.00. One-quarter silver, average price \$29.00, highest price \$44.00. One-half silver, average price \$35.00, highest price \$92.00. Three-quarter silver, average price \$39.00, highest price \$175.00. Silvery, average price \$41.00, highest price \$95.00."

The second silver fox sale of the Hudson's Bay Company will be (Continued on Page 12)

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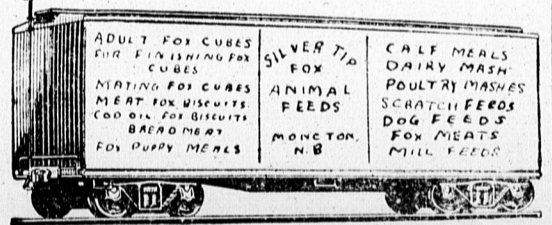
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