FOR FARMERS, STOCK BREEDERS and GARDENERS

- NEWSY NOTES -

By AGRICOLA

NOTES ON ISLAND PLANTS

The Gramineae.

This, the family of the grasses, is the most important group of plants in the vegetable kingdom, for in the last analysis "all flesh" depends on it for sustenance. Up to the present only thirty-six species of grass have been recorded in the Island, but as Gray's Manuel of Botany lists eighty-three genera, with numerous species, there is no doubt that in the future our list will be greatly extended. The grasses are, however a difficult group, and their determination requires a very special knowledge; a fact which discourages students and accounts for the paucity of the Island list.

Wheat (Friticum Spp) and Oats (Avena sativa L.) though not native, belong to this family, and are too well known to need description. There are two varieties of oats which deserve especial mention, the Naked Oats, and the Tartarian Oats. The Naked Oats (Avena nuda L.) sometimes called "Pillcorn" or more properly "Peelcorn," are thought by Sturdevant to have been produced by cultivation. They were growing in England in 1538 according to Turner. The Chinese are said to cultivate a variety of "Pillcorn" with a wide rachis, and I suspect it is one of the parents of our hull-less oats. (Corn, of course, is the British name for oats or wheat, while our "corn" is maize.) The Siberian or Tartarian Oats (Avena orientalis Schreb) reached England in 1777 but are said to have been brought to Europe a century before this.

Barley (Hordeum vulgare (L.) accidently called "bere," is another of our cultivated grains. Our forefathers used it as a unit of measurement: "three barleycorns make an inch." John Barleycorn, too, with the theme of many a convivial song in olden times.

Couch-grass (Agropyron repens) a most troublesome introduced grass, has many local names in Britain: "Couch- Scutch, -Twitch,- and Quitch-grass; Whickens or Quickens," all from the Anglo-Saxon "Cwic," meaning "living." and having reference to its extraording vitality Its creeping underground stem is technically a sobole. Couchgrass has medicinal properties, for both cats and dogs —though by nature carnivorous—instinctively eat the leaves at times; and a British herbalist offers "Couch Grass Roots," i. e., soboles, as useful in cystitis and nephritis, and helpful in gout and rheumatism.

Three quickly maturing annual grasses, common in cultivated ground, are the Foxtails, (Setaria), the Small Crab-grass, (Digitaria), and the Barnyard Grass (Echinochloa.) These ought at all costs, to be prevented from seeding. The Foxtails infest the turnip and potato patches, while the others are more than at home in the garden. One of the Foxtails (S. glauca) is found in Europe, temperate Asia, and in eastern equatorial Africa, where the explorer Grant observed it at 2 degrees North Latitude. It was infested by a small round fungus "the dust of which was eaten by the natives."

Two fragrant grasses have been found in the Province' the Sweet-scented Vernal Grass (Anthoxanthum), and the Vanilla Grass (Hierochloe.) The Vernal Grass is an introduction, and in Britain it is the grass that gives the fragrance to the hayfields, being sown in the grass mixture. It has however less saccharine matter and more "mucilage"; and is therefore not so nutritious as most other grasses. It is looked on as a kind of condiment in the hay. Its fragrant principle — coumarin—is also found in several other plants, namely the Tonka Bean, the Faham Tea-plant of the Mauritius, the English Woodruff, and the Melilot or Sweet Clover.

The Vanilla Grass has much the same perfume and is said to be used by the Indians in basketry, to impart a fragrance to their products. (As a digression, the real vanilla is obtained from a South American orchid, which is, in all probability, getting scarce; so that the enormous quantity of so-called vanilla now used comes either from one of the above plants or is perhaps made from coal tar, like many other flavorings.) Vanilla Grass was formerly burnt as incense at Indian ceremonials, and to, insure the presence of a good influence. The Dakatas used it in their "Sun Dance." When the Dakotas and Chippewas made a treaty and smoked the pipe of peace, the tobacco was mixed with the "Sweet Grass," (which is another local name.)

The Bear Grass, or Marram, (Ammophila) has many local names. Its firm, running rootstocks spread through the sand and hold it in place; so that it has often been employed by engineers to prevent sand-drift.

Marsh Grass, sometimes called Slough Grass, (Spartina spp), is often cut for rough forage. Formerly it was used by the Indians as thatch for their permanent buildings, and was afterwards covered with earth to keep out cold and resist wind.

Squirrel-tail Barley or Grass, the Hordeum Jubatum of Linneavs, is a cosmopolitan plant, found in Europe, Asia and America. It has been grown as an ornamental in British gardens since 1762. In Southern Oregon the seeds were in special request for food, among the Shoshone Indians. The Spo-

and it is well to know that its awned spikes are dangerous to cattle.

With one exception, we may pass over the remaining list of grasses as comparatively uninteresting. The exception is the Wild Rice (Lizania) which has been successfully introduced by Professor Wm. Reddin, into a pool at Southport. I can remember attempts at its cultivation, years ago; but the Wild Rice sometimes refuses to grow in localities which seem to have every requisite for its propagation, and I believe none of these attemps were successful. This is one of the important game foods, the seeds being consumed by all species of ducks, and the stems and leaves by geese. Muskrats, too, are very fond of the Wild Rice, and do considerable damage to the stand at Southport.

Wild Rice, ("Indian Rice" to some,) is found in North America and eastern Asia, in the swampy borders of streams and the shallow waters of lakes. Gould, writing in 1869, notes that it grew nine feet tall at the foot of Lake Champlain; and at places on the Delaware and Hudson rivers, where the tide ebbs and flows, it was over twelve feet high. Seeds were sent to England in 1791, and attempts made to acclimatize it, but it does not occur in Hooker's "Flora of the British Isles,' and evidently did not take hold.

From very early times the American Indians have used its seeds for food. Father Hennepin, in his voyages on the upper Mississippi, in 1680, ate the grain and pronounced it better than rice. Flint, in 1828, says that but for this grain the Canadian hunters and traders could hardly exist; it was used in making their bread. An acre of wild rice was supposed to be equal to an acre of wheat, and the one objection to it was the the seed drops too readily when ripe.

ANIMALS IN WINTER

For many animals, reptiles, and insects, winter presents two problems; how to keep warm, and how to find food without too much exertion. Some solve the problem very simply: they fatten up in the fall, then, as the cold increases, they "go to bed' and remain there till spring. Some of them provide themselves instinctively with a cosy "bedroom" before the lethargy overcomes them. We call this "sleeping-in" by the name of hibernation.

The word is often rather loosely applied. Our squirrels, voles, that is, field mice, and white-footed mice only indulge in long naps during the hardest weather, and a mild winter may induce them to forego hibernation altogether. Some again, like the varying hare, only stay at home till the storm blows over. So, I think, does our flying squirrel: while cutting in the woods one fine February day some years ago, I saw one of these little animals climbing the trees and volplaning down without any other motive, apparently, than having a good time. (That was the only time I ever saw a flying squirrel.)

Snakes, frogs, slugs and snails go into a sort of comatose state for the winter, —and a proportion of the sleepers never wake again. Our little green "grass-snakes" hibernate under thick beds of fallen leaves, and a number of them (where possible) will coil tightly together for warmth; a very general habit of snakes.

Toads settle themselves in holes in soft earth, while some kinds of frogs find comfortable quarters in the mud of ditches and ponds, revive even after ice-crystals have formed in their blood!

Do our bats hibernate or go south? I asked this question a few years ago, but am still awaiting information! In the countries where they hibernate (in hollow trees or old buildings) numbers of them crowd together, hanging head downward, wings folded, the clusters looking like a bunch of overripe bananas!

Our Mourning Cloak Butterfly, I suspect, is another sleeper. It is frequently found in the sheaves when harvest is being hauled in —an ill-chosen place! And it is perhaps the earliest to fly in the spring. In the sheltered nooks one finds the chrysalis of the White Cabbage butterfly, a sort of mummy case in which all evolutionary process are suspended till the sun is strong enough to awaken them.

Again myriads of tiny insignificant (or are they?) creatures spend the winter in a state of extreme passivity, sheltering under the loose bark, in cracks of trees, or in the hollow stems of dead plants. "Their fragile lives," says a naturalist," are chiefly endangered by birds and quick alternations of frost and thaw."

Many of our animals, however, are like Longfellow's Shingebs who, if you remember, cared not for Kabibonokka, the North Wind; and if you ask for proof, I recommend you to take a ramble after a light snowfall and examine the network of little devious tracks spread before you.

ODDS AND ENDS

A lesson from history. Never in all my lifetime has the world been in such a warlike mood as now, and worse still the nations that have power to impose peace will not unite to do so. On this side we hope to escape by isolation: a vain hope! The point of attack is England, and if England goes down, our turn will come. 'Divide and concuer' was the slogan of the ancient Romans.

Soon after the Norman Conquest, England becawe aware of a new foe approaching from the East and threatening to over-run Europe. The Saracens, a race of Mohammedan faith, were pressing westward and had reached Palestine. The rulers of Europe at that time 'had no use for each other', but in the face of the common danger they closed their ranks. England might have objected to sending an expeditionary force, arguing that she lay too far from the danger, but she took the long view and went to help the rest. The war was thus localised in Palestine, and though it was carried on in rather ineffective fashion it served to break up the proposed invasion.

Phonetic Printing. Our language is growing every day! Our wordsmiths enrich it with new words, even new slang, to express new ideas. But my! the pronunciation is fierce, sometimes. I listened the other day to a great man who talked of "the strategic position." I admire the man, but he called it "Strat-EE-jic," and all who heard him will call it strat-EE-jic instead of strat-EDGE-ic. With the new vehicle the radio, there is a new danger to the language, which may soon be without any accepted standard of pronunciation, just as formerly there was no standard of spelling. A phonetic alphabet would take care of both.

SCANDIA
Fox Farm Choppers

No. 6 for large Farms
No. 5 for small Farms
F.W. Lamplough & Co.
Limited
MONTREAL

Weekly Livestock Market Report

Summary

Firmness featured the cattle trade throughout the week and, while only at one or two Western centres were any price gains recorded, full credit was given to a brisk demand for export to the United States for holding the market at last week's level. Seasonably moderate receipts of cattle also contributed to the favorable position of the trade. Continued active trade is looked for provided southern markets hold up. Calves gained 50c at Toronto and elsewhere sold steady to firm. A good portion of the losses sustained in the hog market during the previous week were regained with advances ranging from 25c to 50c reported from all markets. Lambs were the only dull spot in the trade, most stock yards reporting an easier tone and one or two centres dropping 25c.

Firm Cattle Market

Export buying aided the cattle market at Toronto and some sales of weighty steers made up to a high of $7.75, with most of the sales between $6.25 and $7.25. Good butcher steers and heifers were bracketed between $6.25 and $6.50 and a few tops were made at $6.75. Montreal was the only market to report a little easier feeling, although supplies were well cleared out with good steers making between $6.50 and $7.25. Very few on hand, however, were good enough in quality to sell over $7. Moderate receipts and a keen demand on southern account accounted for the strong position of the Winnipeg market. Enquiry centred around steers and late sales were fully 25c higher with the better grades making $6 to $6.75, and fleshy 800 lb. to 900 lb. steers moving south at $5.75 to $6. A rather large percentage of the steers offered at Winnipeg were taken to fill southern orders and this left more or less scant supplies for local slaughter purposes. Good feeders were quoted at $5 to $5.50. Calgary was active with prices strong up to a high of $7.25 on steers, with good to choice butchers generally at $5.50 to $7. Edmonton enjoyed a firm trade and had odd choice steers up to $6.25. A strong trade prevailed at Prince Albert and, in some cases, the market was 25c with the top of the steer division at $6. Moose Jaw and Regina were fully steady with the previous week, the former point recording a top of $5.85 and the latter $6. Saskatoon was also steady, despite a plain quality offering, and had a top of $5.50. Light receipts found a ready sale at firm to higher prices at Vancouver, where good steers had a range of $5.50 to $6.25.

Heavy Exports to U. S.

Shipments to the south during the week were sharply increased and prices realised on a long string of sales at Buffalo, St. Paul and other points appeared to be quite satisfactory. The bulk of the Canadian steer sales at Buffalo was made between $8.25 and $9 with some loads making $9.25 and $9.50. These prices would average back to the country in Ontario from 25c to 50c better than could have been obtained at Toronto. Shippers, however, in many cases show signs of nervousness concerning the Buffalo market which, judging from past performances, frequently drops sharply on Mondays. Canadian bulls sold at Buffalo from $7.50 downward. Recent sales at St. Paul show medium to good Canadian steers making $8.25 to $10.25, heavy heifers from $7 to $8.25, and best cows up to $7.

Exports to the United States during the week totalled 7,976 beef cattle, 232 dairy, and 1,374 calves. Total shipments to date this year amount to 17,120 beef cattle, 582 dairy, and 2,277 calves, compared with 2,720 beef, 538 dairy, and 2,489 calves in the same period last year.

British Market Unchanged

Little or no change was seen in the market for either fat or store cattle in the United Kingdom with demand quiet. Dairy cows were easier except for the very best. Birkenhead sold best lightweight steers up to 15c per lb. dressed weight including offal, while Glasgow estimated good Canadian feeds around 8c per lb. alive, and bulls 6c.

A shipment of 157 dairy cows was due to leave Halifax on Friday, January 20th, via S. S. Dellian, the first consignment this year. In the first three weeks of 1938 exports overseas totalled 1,441 head.

Calves Steady To Firmer

Calves gained 50c at the opening at Toronto and held firm for the balance of the week with choice veals at $10 to $10.50 and a few tops $11. Montreal was steady with good veals at $10.50 to $11. Elsewhere the trade on veals was steady to firm, with Winnipeg topping at $9, Calgary at $7.50, Edmonton $7, Prince Albert and Moose Jaw $6.50, Saskatoon 7.25 and Regina and Vancouver $8.

Hog Prices Recover

The British bacon market held unchanged this week with Canadian sides at 74s to 84s and Canadian hams from 98s to 100s.

Hog prices throughout Canada recovered part of the declines of the previous week. After a weak opening at Toronto, the market advanced on short runs to close 25c higher, with bacons at $8.75 to $8.85 off trucks. The opening market was lower at Montreal and bacons sold at $9 f. and w., but there was a firmer undertone at the close. Lighter runs made for a fair price recovery at Winnipeg and bacons closed 50c higher at $8.50 f. and w. Calgary closed 30c higher at $7.90 for bacons off trucks, while Edmonton was up 40c with bacons closing at $7.90. Prince Albert and Saskatoon advanced 50c to close with off truck bacons at $8.25. Moose Jaw and Regina also moved up 50c to close at $8.35 for bacons off trucks.

Lamb Market Easier

Lamb prices, on the whole, were down 25c at Toronto with good westerns at $8.75 to $8.90 and one load sold early at $9. Ontario lambs sold up to $8.75 with a few up to $8.90. Montreal lambs were mostly at $6.75 to $7.25 for mixed lots, with a few ewes and wethers sold separately up to $8.50. The trade was dull at Winnipeg with the tendency weaker and best lambs making $8. Calgary was also easier with good lambs at $6.75 to $7. Edmonton was down 25c, good lambs making $7.25 down. Prince Albert had one medium lot at $6.75, while Moose Jaw topped at $7, Saskatoon $7.75, and Regina $7.60.

Cattle Markets

Toronto—Cattle prices were unchanged on an offering of 6,288 head. Export buyers aided the market by taking some 800 steers and heifers and 200 bulls for the U. S. Weighty steers ranged from a low of $5.50 to a high of $7.75 and good butcher steers and heifers made $6.25 to $6.50 with a few tops at $6.75. Butcher cows sold steady at $3.25 to $4.50 with canners and cutters $2.50 to $3. Butcher bulls brought $4.75 to $5.25, and bolognas $4 to $4.75. Fed calves ranged from $7 to $9.50 and stockers sold in small lots from $4.40 to $5.50 with a few good feeders and stock calves up to $6. Milkers and springers were steady at $75 to $80 each for tested tops.

Montreal weighed up 1,936 cattle, a shade easier. Good steers were $6.50 to $7.25, mediums $5.50 to $6.25 and common down to $4. Heifers $3.50 to $6.50. Good butcher cows made $4.50 to $5, tops up to $5.25, medium around $4 and common $3 to $3.50. Canners and cutters were $2.50 to $3.

Calf Markets

Toronto calves opened 50c higher, and held firm at $10 to $10.50 for choice with tops $11. Common lights and heavies sold down to $5. Grassers mostly $4.50.

Montreal calves steady, good $10.50 to $11, common to medium $6 to $10.25, drinkers $6 to $7, and grassers $4.25 to $5.

Hog Markets

The Dominion hog run was 53,697 compared with 72,925 in the same week last year. Total run to date this year 158,489, last year 201,512.

Toronto hogs advanced on short runs after a weak opening and closed 25c higher, with bacons at $8.75 to $8.85 off trucks. Sows closed $6 to $6.25 off trucks.

Hamilton and other packers' prices closed generally higher, the former at $8.60 to $8.75 for bacons off trucks alive, and $11.90 to $12 dressed, and Moncton $8.40 to $11.45.

Montreal hogs opened lower at $9 for bacons f. and w. and up to $9.25 off trucks. The Montreal market closed with a firmer undertons. Rail grades $12.35 to $12.55.

Sheep And Lamb Markets

Toronto lamb prices were down 25c, good western mostly at $8.75 to $8.90 and one load at $9. Ontario lambs were $6 to $8.90. Sheep firm at $2 to $5.50.

Montreal lambs sold in mixed lots at $6.75 to $7.25. A few good up to $8.50. Overseas cattle exports to date this year 157. Last year 1,441.

LUCKY TO LIVE

CASTLETON, Eng.—Driver of the second lorry to fall into a 100-foot ravine here since Christmas, Joseph Revill escaped as the bus left the roadway.

A LARGE PUP CROP
Insure a large crop of healthy, vigorous pups this year by feeding
ROYAL FOX FEED
Results during former seasons shows that the use of Royal with a good meat ration is the most positive way known for the rancher to secure best breeding results.
Insist on Royal.
Ask your dealer today or write direct to
The St. John Milling Company Ltd.
Saint John New Brunswick

TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH Silver Fox Farming

Stephen Taylor of the Maritime Fur Pool Ltd., Moncton, N. B., is visiting this Province. His home is at Little Shemogue, N. B., which was also the home of his grandfather, Robert Oulton, after he moved from Alberton, P. E. I. To those who are not familiar with the early history of silver fox farming we may say that the late Robert Oulton was the co-founder with Charles Dalton of the silver fox industry. It was he who solved the problem of raising them after many disappointments and he was the first to use wire pens.

Dalton and Oulton were firm friends and both were excellent judges of foxes. Dalton was the business man and handled the end, while Oulton attended to the breeding. The care that these men gave to the selection of their breeding stock and the infinite pains they used would hardly be believed by the present generation. It is said that they would take the pups out on a sunny afternoon in late December and if any showed the least shade of off-color it would be pelted. By keeping the clearest and best year after year they gradually evolved a strain of foxes that dominated the fur auctions in London.

Silver fox was very popular with the nobility of Russia and the Austrian nobility were also very partial to it. It is no wonder then, that phenomonal prices were paid for the pelties from the little fur farm conducted by Dalton and Oulton at Tignish. After years of congenial partnership, Mr. Oulton decided to remove to Little Shemogue. They divided the foxes and parted the best of friends. Dalton kept on with his fur farming operations at Tignish and in 1910 sold 33 pelts for an average of over $1,000. at Lampson's sale. One brought the world's record price of $2,540.

Mr. Taylor still carries on fur farming at Little Shemogue and has a keen eye for the desirable types to breed. In 1929 he was one of the Judges at the first Provincial fox show held at Charlottetown. His services are quite often required as an arbiter at fox and pelt shows.

P. M. Evans, Tignish, was a visitor to Charlottetown on Thursday and we had the pleasure of an interesting talk with him. He recalled old days in the fox business, particularly when Frank Metherall of Cape Wolfe received a check for $1,125 for a pelt marketed by W. Chester S. McLure in New York. That was the spring of 1917 "I well remember seeing that pelt, prior to its being shipped," said Mr. Evans. "It was a very large pelt and very heavily furred, with a beautiful brush and tip. It was clear blue black, with some silver sprinkled on the hips and that was very bright. I spoke to Mr. Metherall the other day about the pelt and asked him if he could remember how he fed his foxes that year." "Yes I remember" said Mr. Metherall. "We had a lot of horse meat that year and I fed horse meat all summer and all fall right up until pelting time. The only cereals they got was some bread which we baked at home."

Mr. Evans makes a practise of visiting ranches during December and early January in order to keep posted on the tops. Among those visited was the ranch of W. B. MacArthur, where he saw the Grand Champion fox at Charlottetown and Amherst, 1938. He also saw a fine average of breeders and pups. Charlie Ellis and Loxby Dennes, O'Leary, have a good average of well furred foxes that have distinguished themselves on the show table at Alberton. George Warren's was the last ranch he visited. There he saw Highland Goldmine and Charlotte, sire and dam of the beuautiful North Star. These foxes are famous show individuals as well as breeders of prize winners. They are descendants of the original strains of Dalton-Oulton blacks and Gordon-Tuplin silvers, their ancestry tracing back to the famous Oulton three-legged female. Sir Wilfred, Old Kitty, Foch Sybil, Peggy Dalton and Bobby Burns. From these strains came first prize winners, champions and grand champions at Montreal, Toronto, Charlottetown, Alberton and Borden.

Mr. Evans is convinced that if ranchers kept fewer foxes and carried them over until late December or January peltire we would have heavier leather and better furred pelts. Selective mating, proper feeding and ranching conditions would solve the problem of better quality pelts. Then we would regain our place at the top and Prince Edward Island ranches lead the world as producers of the finest strains of silver black foxes and fox pelts.

Mr. Evans believes that more stress should be given to the question of heredity; that the pedigree of the parents, uncles, aunts, cousins and grandparents be examined and the most careful scrutiny given so that the pups selected will represent the best strains of blood. Continuing his observations he said:— "Full silvers with wide bar and bright even silver top sides, narrow strip of black up the belly, is not a recent discovery. I have seen them over twenty years ago cropping out from blood of the old strains. The establishing of good full silver pelts in the United States was first started by Jim Tuplin abut 25 years ago when he sold a very fine collection of full silver pelts to Spear's Fur House in New York. They were from Gordon-Tuplin strain foxes bred by Jim, and were of the same quality as the finest full silvers we have today.

The breeding of black and silver foxes is still in its infancy. Thirty-five years ago there wasn't a fox ranch east of the Black Banks. We all have a lot to learn and my advice is to watch the rancher who keeps on trying and makes his fox operations pay dividens each year. There should be more care taken in feeding foxes. There are a great number of poor little foxes that if they were kept in good clean pens and houses and fed plenty of good food, would feel and look a lot better, and there are a great many good-looking foxes if they were kept in the poor little foxes' pens and houses and fed the same, would not feel well and would look dashed bad."

I am sure everyone in Prince Edward Island must have read with pleasure the telegram which appeared in the Guardian a few days ago from the sick bed of Honorable W. H. Dennis, who is in hospital in Ottawa suffering from pneumonia, to the effect that he was feeling much better. It was a shock to us all to learn that such a good friend of the fox industry would have his visit to the Capital City marred by such an untimely occurrence. Mr. Dennis, we were all pulling for you during your illness, and we will welcome you back again with warmest greetings.

We are glad to see our friend W. Fred Burke around again after his recent illness which confined him to the Prince Edward Island Hospital for some time. Mr. Burke had undergone a heavy strain due to the illness of his son Carl and pressure of work. Happily both are now convalescing.

I guess there wasn't any news that was more gratifying to Provincial Fox Pelt Show exhibitors than the announcement put out by the Charlottetown Fur Sales Ltd., a few days ago that 66 of the 129 show pelts consigned to C. M. Lampson's Auctions, London, sold on Tuesday for an average of £12,8s —or in the vicinity of $60. average. Colonel Dawson, Manager of the Company, is to be congratulated; also the exhibitors, and particularly Lowell W. Hancock, who made possible the show.

Approximately 750 pelts which were displayed at the Ontario Fur Farmers Fox Pelt Show in Toronto, were offered at the January Montreal sale. Fifty-six of the prize winners sold brought an average price of $60.14.

A ranch in the vicinity of Fredericton, N. B., in which C. F. Bailey of the Dominion Experimental Farms is interested, has developed a strain of blue silver foxes that are attracting a lot of attention. Sales made in London of culls gave excellent averages and the originators are looking forward to founding a new breed of foxes.

The elite of Quebec City flocked to the grand fur fashion parade which was held in connection with the fox and mink breeders' show in that City in December. In the ballroom of the Chateau Frontenac there were 1,200 people. Four days before the show all tickets were sold and hundreds of unsuccessful visitors turned away. Next year it is planned to have the fur fashion show on October 15th while tourists are in Quebec and it will be an opener for the fur season in the Province and lead the fashions in furs for winter. The Queen of the Show appeared on the stage with a cape fifteen feet long made of 52 silver fox skins trimmed with white fox. She was preceded by a six year old girl draped in white fur and carrying a large white muff. That one item will give you an idea on what a gala scale the affair was carried out.

It came as a great shock to many of us when we heard the news over the radio and read in the press that J. Gordon Noakes lost his life in the seaplane disaster which overtook the Cavalier early this week. He was a gentleman in every sense of the term and knew furs as few men. His long connection with the New York Fur Auction was characterized by conduct that made him a favorite with customers and consignors and kept that emporium to the front as an auction mart of the first magniture. We feel sure that throughout the length and breadth of the fur world there will be deep regret at the untimely passing of Mr. Noakes.

J. B. Lewis, Manager of Michigan Fur Farms, Ltd., Owosso, was a visitor to the Province this week looking over the Company's ranch at Marshfield. Mr. Lewis is one of the best authorities on fur farming in the United States and anyone who has an opportunity of conversing with him certainly is the gainer in knowledge from one whose experiments has stood practical tests.

Among the fur garments on display at Prowse Bros. Ltd., today by a representative of a Montreal fur house, is a beautiful mink coat made from finest selected Canadian dark mink. It is fashioned in the latest style and is probably one of the most expensive fur garments ever shown in this Province —priced at $1,700 in Montreal, but no doubt if purchased out of samples would be sold at a very much lower figure. The remainder of the collection are tops in various species and attracted a lot of attention yesterday.

FOX RANCHERS
Fresh Frozen Caplin 1½cent a pound.
Delivered Any Station
FREEMAN POPE,
Souris

CONSERVATION

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

(P. H. Moore, Secretary of Nova Scotia Guides' Association reprinted from "The Dalhousie Review").

Conservation has come to mean but one thing to the reading eye of the Anglo-Saxon. It is a simple name for the intricate problem of saving our natural resources from total destruction. That we must save them is a necessity but latterly recognized. That the salvage must be accomplished without too drastic interference with industry, is what makes the problem intricate.

Though minerals may be classed under the head of most valuable natural resources, it is hardly practicable for man in his brief span of existence to attempt to promote their growth. In this department of conservation we have to content ourselves with the most approved methods of extraction of values—all values—in the ore. The scientists are almost hourly finding by-products of by-products that were in themselves great discoveries but a few months ago. They are constantly finding new uses for old rock. They are conservationists of the first rank. But as the Irish guide once said after a very long tramp with a footsore sportsman: "Some spalpeen has cut the end off the trail—!" The mineralogists have but the manufacturing end to work upon. They may garner on one end, but cannot promote growth on the other. Hence the subject of conservation of natural resources, as it will be alluded to in this article, will refer only to the forests, game and fish. In saving these much contingent wealth will be conserved. In promoting growth new wealth is created.

Tree growth is probably the most significant character of this star called earth. Upon our trees all life depends. Without tree or shrub our land would be inundated by flood at each rainfall, and a desert between the squalls. There would be no shade, and hence no natural storage of moisture. The water in the hills would all go rushing down to the sea as fast as it fell from the clouds, and it is doubtful if entirely treeless mountains would act as an important attrahent to rain clouds. Fresh water fish could not exist under such conditions. The country would be all sea or marsh slime, while dinosaurs and other prehistoric hobgoblins would be rushing about wondering what it was all coming to.

A sophisticated reader may hold that the above statement of facts regarding trees and their importance is but a reiteration of something of most common knowledge. In agreeing with him the writer is constrained to point out that such repetition by many writers has not yet had the desired effect, inasmuch as the public is still wasting the natural resources to an alarming extent, or encouraging such waste by commerce with those who illegally or thoughtlessly destroy.

How many good people are there who would have the moral courage, for example, to refuse to eat at a friend's table game illegally killed? Indeed, how many are there who know or care anything at all about game laws? How many honest housewives would refuse to accept a nice gift of short lobsters if brought right to the door, or who would refuse to purchase a brace of plump partridges at a bargain price even though the season were closed or the sale of game prohibited? Who will stand by the young spruce, and refuse to buy them for Christmas trees, though being well aware that each tree if left to grow would be worth many dollars to posterity? The man who outs them gets only about thirty-five cents for a bunch of three or four. It is admitted that he is too is to blame but if he cannot sell them, he will not cut them until they make valuable timber or pulp.

The average man or woman treats the subject of conservation in a most detached manner. It is like politics. Many preach, but few practice. Natural resources seem to be classed with air in the mind of the great majority; there is plenty, and it is free for the taking. In fact, the natural resources of the forest division of such a continent as North America seems so vast when put in figures that the average reader can see no end to them. For instance, take one item, pulpwood. In the Pulpwood Commission Report of Canada for 1923 we find it estimated that there are in Canada one billion 275 million cords of pulp (paper) wood. In dollar value this is worth at least 5times the above figures on the stump. As pulp when ground is worth at least 25 times one billion 275 million or over $31,000,000,000. In terms of manufactured paper it is worth from three to ten times that figure in dollars, or too many figures to write. It seems inexhaustible. And yet the experts tell us in their report that after deducting the annual cut, plus the loss by fire and bud worm, Canada has a mere twenty-five years supply of wood on hand and growing.

Taking at random another natural resource and another country and another set of figures, we are again impressed by the importance of "wild" assets; the fur catch in the U.S.A. and Alaska for 1926 is reported as $65,000,000,000, of which $2,500,000,000 was from Alaska. With the forests gone there would be practically no fur. There are now in most of the states and provinces of North America drastic laws protecting fur-bearing animals at breeding time, as well as limiting the annual crop taken for market. It is a sad commentary on our short-sightedness that we now have to admit that many wise laws for the protection of fur bearing animals were not enacted until after the game had been exterinated. In other words, politicians currying votes would not press protective measures as long as one constituent wished to live in freedom on the products of forest and stream.

It has been the outsider, the financier, the newspaper statistician, the dreamer and the sportsman who have seen and fought the danger of neglecting to control natural resources. Most people are not thrifty. The average trapper would trap all the fur he could catch in or out of season, provided the product was marketable. The lumberman has proved that he will, if left alone, cut his land without thought of future growth, and leave in his wake a fire hazard of extreme peril to present life and property and posterity. The market gunner, uncurbed, has proved that he is a hog when it comes to killing game. He would kill out any season as long as someone would buy his loot. The short fisherman, unrestrained, would market shell fish or game fish at all possible seasons, with no regard for the future generations.

There are exceptional characters in all lines of endeavor, but the present menace of exhaustion of all forest products and the many contingent branches of wealth, not excepting scenery and natural playgrounds, has proved beyond possibility of error that human beings uncontrolled by law will kill, cut and burn without stint or thought of the future. Few men will forego the satisfaction of taking a dollar today so that the child of a neighbor may have ten dollars when he reaches manhood. Yet that is the principle involved in conservation. Hence it takes Dick to mind Harry's business, while Tom must see to it that laws are passed and enforced so that Dick himself may not reap without again plowing the land for sowing. In the meantime Tom must be watched by both. Natural resources have been, until lately, everybody's business. Few have busied themselves with the conservation of those resources. Now that complete extermination is starkly in sight, the world has begun to take notice.

The remedies for the case, however, are not so simple as the average man might think

(To be continued)

Urges Harbor Improvement

(C. P. by Guardian's Special Wire)

HALIFAX, Jan. 26—F. K. Warren, retiring president of Halifax Board of Trade, urged at the annual meeting today that the Board press for implementation of a section in the report of Sir Alexander Gibb's survey of Halifax harbor providing for a committee to work on port business.

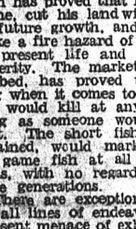
Mr. Warren suggested the committee work in co-operation with the port manager. The committee would consist of a provincial Government appointee, one named by shipping interests and one by labor.

Could Use A Pied Piper

YARMOUTH, N. S., Jan. 26—The call went out today from Seal Island, 25 miles out in the Atlantic from this south shore port, for a Pied Piper. Reports said the little fishing station had become overrun with rats, believed to have come there in wrecks about four years ago.

Lobster fishermen particularly are complaining. The rats, according to the fishermen, ate heads from lobster pots and even destroyed bait bags. Wild ducks have disappeared from the island and the gull colony, for which the island is noted, was cut in half last summer.

KEROL
THE PERFECT DISINFECTANT
FROST-RESISTANT



KEROL is the highly concentrated disinfectant widely used in disinfecting barns, poultry houses, fox pens, etc. Very economical, non-corrosive and FROST-RESISTANT.

DRI-KIL
The perfect all-purpose farm insect powder that actually kills lice, ticks, mites on livestock and poultry —even in winter.

KEROL and DRI-KIL are Cooper Products —British Made — Fully Guaranteed. Order from your Drug, Hardware, Feed and Seed Store, or write
CANADIAN CO-OPERATIVE WOOL GROWERS LIMITED
Quebec and Maritime Branch.
Lennoxville, Que

SILVER FOX FURS WANTED
We have just received an order from a large Canadian manufacturer for good quality three quarter and full silvers. Top prices will be paid for these if received by Feb. Also buying daily all grades silver, red and cross fox, mink and muskrat.
P. E. I. FUR TRADERS
182 QUEEN ST.