

TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH Silver Fox and Mink Farming

The first mink field day ever held in this Province took place last Wednesday afternoon. The mink...

most beautiful of the Natural mink type they had ever seen. As a matter of fact, the whole exhibit was so much better than most of the...

NEWSY NOTES

By Agricola

The Whistling Swan

This is a very rare visitor indeed, as will be seen below: Whistling Swan, AOU, 180, Migrant, rare. ("One taken at Wheatley River in 1885"—Birds of P. E. I., 1947). Plumage of adults entirely white; bill and legs black. Feathers of head often stained reddish brown; a small yellow patch on the forehead before the eye, though this is not invariably; nostrils nearer to the end of the bill than to the eye. Young downy brownish and grayish, bill and feet pale. Length of full-grown bird about 54 inches; expanse of wings 6 to 7 feet; weight 16 to 24 lbs.

This swan mostly breeds north of the Arctic Circle, but winters on the Atlantic Coast, in Virginia, North Carolina, and on the Pacific Coast from southern Alaska to Lower California. "Ten to fifteen thousand in the broad expanse of Spring Silver-Blu, Breath of Spring, and the Blue-Frost and the Arctic is a cross between the Blue-Frost and Arctic."

Quered about the field day in Salt Lake City he said—"Last Saturday so many turned up for that mink that I was really worried. They were all so interested and so pleased that no one seemed to notice the time passing away. Afterwards we had a very splendid supper and that night I can assure you we rested very comfortably and at noon we were off to the mink farm. It was another good rest and then on to the Gulf of the Gulf." He mentioned that he always enjoyed being here and was always glad to get back and see so many old friends.

Lowell Hancock said that the oldest mink breeder in the province was present—Roy Duggan and he thought it would be a fine thing to have Mr. Duggan give some leaves out of his book of experience. Mr. Duggan said, "It is thirty years since I took up mink farming and I have had many ups and downs. At one time I dropped out of it only to come back again. By persistence I finally solved many of the problems connected with breeding and raising them and I touch on these problems in my book. I do not think you can do better than follow the lead of Lowell Hancock who has an exhibit of pens here and give you a booklet with regard to construction."

Breeding time with him extended from the 5th to March to the 5th of April. He usually keeps 100 to 150 females. He emphasized the necessity of feeding liver in the diet and the amount he advised was 1 lb. to forty mink. Don't be in a hurry to examine your litters. He does not look at a litter until it is four weeks old and his losses are practically nil. When the kits are two months old he separates them, putting one kit to a pen. In that way he does not have damaged fur and keeps down fatalities. Regarding diet, he believed that fish could be fed in considerable quantity up to the first of September but strongly advised not to feed fish after that date. His diet was based on the provision of two-thirds meat to one-third cereal. He did not believe it was good practice to feed cereal and fish together and said that many mink ranchers lose mink because they mix their feed early in the afternoon on hot days and it ferments and when fed later on causes food poisoning. He believes in feeding twice daily, so if you feed a big feed in the evening of a hot day some of it will be left over until the next day and perhaps cause poisoning. And if you feed a big feed in the winter time the left-over will be frozen solid by morning. Many mink are lost through pneumonia and the ordinary cause is wet nest boxes. Take every precaution to have your bedding dry. He uses blower-straw and renews this from time to time removing the wet material. Mink are dusted on mink or dusted on the bedding would overcome that trouble. Care should be taken in the selection of breeders and the best types kept.

When Mr. Mayers had finished, P. B. Jones who with Lowell Hancock were the prime movers in organizing the field day, moved a vote of thanks which was seconded and unanimously carried and extended to Mr. Mayers and his son for their very helpful advice and the trouble they had taken to come here. This would be a day long remembered by those present.

Lowell Hancock was the concluding speaker and he paid a graceful tribute to George Mayers and his son R. H. conveying to them his gratitude and that of other breeders. He also thanked Mr. Duggan and said that the first mink field day could not be considered as other than a success. It was his belief that our Province could compete with any part of America in the production of mink for the reason that we have a splendid supply of fish which can be secured at low prices at certain seasons of the year. Herring, for instance, in Spring can be obtained cheaply and placed in cold storage and fish food can be used in place of meat for quite a number of months of the year. The cost of raising a mink here is, I believe, as low if not lower than Western Canada and horse meat is cheaper. He was making his second venture in mink ranching. The first he gave up when foxes were booming but now he was back stronger than ever and had a large production the past two years and was thoroughly in love with mink farming.

Address In Interests Of The Liberal Party

Following is the text of an address made last night by Mr. J.O.C. Campbell:

There are forty more shopping days until Christmas. The people will, in twenty-eight of those days, be shopping about for either type of gift—and will decide on December 11th what sort of Government they desire to give themselves for the next four or five years. You will choose between the Liberal Party led by the Hon. J. Walter Jones, and the Conservative Party led by the Hon. Dr. MacMillan. Dr. MacMillan hopes to become Premier. He has had similar hopes before and they have not always come true. When Dr. MacMillan, speaking of the late Premier not shared by the voters of either party, he said he hoped Mr. Jones would be the last former Premier, his hopes were not realized. The Hon. Mr. Jones is another former Premier. With Mr. Jones again, he hopes that Mr. Jones will be the last former Premier, he is again bound to be disappointed.

For this Prince Edward Island of ours is a farming community. Agriculture and fishing are our basic industries. And so long as we remain so, it is fit and proper that our Government should be led by a man who understands the farmers' problems. Now, no blame is to be attached to Dr. MacMillan for being a Conservative or for even hoping as he does. He is as much entitled to hold dear his loyalty to his Party as anyone else. He is entitled to entreat about the Hon. John Bracken (although his enthusiasm was cooled by the voters of the recent Nova Scotia or New Brunswick in the recent by-elections) and to express his loyalty as often as he sees fit. Yet the Irishman he can say, "Every man should be loyal to his native land whether he was born there or not."

Dr. MacMillan Quoted But when the Leader of the Conservative Party in this Province, as he did in an address less than two months ago, on September 15th, that he "would like to refer to the universal discontent and apparent dissatisfaction with conditions prevailing in Canada at the present time" (and goes on to say) "This is not peculiar to this Province alone, but rather, hangs as a pall and depressing influence over every Province in Canada from coast to coast"—when Dr. MacMillan made that statement he forgot one incident that doubtless—to use his own words—"is not blanketing and depressing influence—over his own career—that is to say, he has forgotten about the conditions that existed while he was Premier of this Province. I do not blame him for trying to forget that period.

There has been some discussion regarding "picketing" within the past few weeks during the strike of the potato packing plant. Does the Hon. Dr. MacMillan recall the picketing that took place during his regime as Premier? The morning I enquired at the City Hall how many people were on relief in Charlottetown at the present time, and I was advised there were none. That is today the morning of the Government during the period when Dr. MacMillan was Premier, relief, or the way as

who bothers about it at all, feel that it exists. The belief that he resembles his ancestors may be unreasonable, but by existing it influences his conduct. "Traditionally the Englishman is phlegmatic to meet with a riotous and since that is what he thinks he ought to be, that is what he tends to become." Orwell's book is, as the reader will not perceive, of a high quality throughout, but the best quality, in my opinion, lies in these words: "... the outstanding, and by contemporary standards, highly original quality of the English is their habit of not killing one another."

Great Loss To Canadian Bird-Lore Readers of the Bird Notes in this column, may have noticed, time and again, quotations from the works of Dr. P. A. Taverner. "Mr. Taverner died at his home in Ottawa on May 8th, 1947, a great loss to popular and scientific ornithology," writes a correspondent. For a number of years Mr. Taverner held the post of Dominion Ornithologist, (from which he retired in 1942), and was best known to the general public as the author of "Birds of Canada."

He was born at Quisp, Ont., in 1875, his parents being English, as the name indicates. His father and mother ran private schools. Early in life young Taverner became acquainted with Major E. A. Means, A. V. Codvert, and J. H. Fleming, all of whom were outstanding ornithologists in their day. Fleming got the young man interested in Canadian birds, but at that time there was no encouragement to take up the study of birds as a life-work at his home. The year 1900 Taverner went to Chicago, where he engaged in architectural work. Eleven years later he was appointed ornithologist to the Museum of the Geological Survey of Canada, a position he occupied for 32 years. It was during these years that he wrote the much-sought books on Canadian Birds. These, I hear, are being reprinted privately. Major Allan Brooks, D.S.O., whose paintings of wild birds illustrate and adorn Dr. Taverner's bird-books, died on January 8th, 1946. I have many pictures of Canadian birds but none of them equal Major Brooks's paintings in fidelity to form and color. Major Brooks was born in India, in 1869,

it was called, (we have almost forgotten the word in the last few years of Liberal administration), rose to such alarming proportions that picketing was a commonplace at that same City Hall which to lay "claim no one is on relief."

Yet in the same speech of September 15th last, the same Conservative Leader stated (quote) "The Progressive Conservative Party of Canada, under the wise and adequate leadership of the Hon. John Bracken, have repeatedly assured us that Prince Edward Island will get a square deal immediately upon the election of a Progressive Conservative Government at Ottawa." (unquote).

Conservatives In Power Yet throughout the periods of relief, pogy, and picketing to which I have referred and which the Doctor endeavours to forget, there was a Conservative Government in power both here and in Ottawa, elected on their express promise to the people that they would end unemployment!

What do we find from the figures of the last year, and apparently justified by our reasoning up to this point, that Dr. MacMillan's Government in its last year spent \$36,000 on agriculture, while the Jones Government spent on agriculture last year \$157,000. No man wants to run an election on the health of Dr. MacMillan spent \$375,000, as compared with \$500,000 by the Jones Government in the corresponding years. In other words, while the Jones Government spent on agriculture over four times as much as the MacMillan Government did, at the same time this former Premier of ours spent nearly three times as much on Public Health as did the Government controlled by the medical doctor!

Yet that same medical doctor, in his speech of September 15th last rebukes the present Government in these words "Ever since the present Liberal Government came into power, its financial history has been one of profigate expenditure." Is it suggested that Agriculture and Public Health are not deserving of assistance? He is the builder of the present Sanatorium for the treatment of tuberculosis "profligate expenditure"? The present Government persistently sought, in conjunction with the Federal Department of Agriculture, to rid this Province of diseases in potatoes, with the result that we alone of all the provinces of Canada could meet the stringent requirements of the British market. Is this the "profligate expenditure" of which the Doctor speaks?

It is true that some unforeseen expenditures had to be made. For instance, the rebuilding of a portion of the Trans-Canada Highway, built by the Conservative Government of Doctor MacMillan, which had fallen to pieces—but any Conservative would blush to call such expenditure "profligate."

Liberal Raillies The Liberal nomination rallies

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Progressive Conservative candidates have been, in every instance, selected by the voters of the local constituency concerned, and in practically every case, only after persuasion. "Only after persuasion!" Does this betoken a healthy state of affairs within the Conservative Party when men have to be persuaded to run for that Party. Yet these are Dr. MacMillan's own words. Is there the slightest evidence that any Liberal nomination has had to be persuaded to run? I find in the Dictionary that persuade means convince or induce. Does this mean that "in practically every case" (to quote Dr. MacMillan) he had to induce, persuade or convince these prospective Conservative candidates that they stood even a ghost of a chance of election? Can it be a fact that the only remaining Conservative stalwarts—the last remnants of that fine old Party—are those whose loyalty alone keeps them bound? (Continued on Page 16)

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