FOR FARMERS, STOCK BREEDERS AND GARDENERS

- NEWSY NOTES -

By AGRICOLA

WHO WAS GUNTER?

I have received the following from a correspondent who desires to remain incognito: "Dear Agricola, Reading in the press of recent date, of an ancient surveyor's compass, brings to mind the surveyor's or Gunters Chain which may have a long and interesting history, but in the books of information at hand are silent as far as it or its inventor is concerned. It apparently is a masterpiece of measures, divisible as it is by the English foot and yard, and having the advantages of the decimal system for calculating acreages and we think the originator is entitled to a place in the Hall of Fame for giving us an instrument that never has been improved upon.

As you have information on so many ancient matters you are the only one we might expect to give us any light on the subject, if you will pardon a little idle curiosity."

In a postscript my correspondent goes on "We enjoy reading your Newsy Notes" and look forward to Saturday's paper on account of this feature. We also take this opportunity to thank you for the sample of Soy Beans when you so kindly sent."

I am glad to be of some assistance to my unknown friend, since he refers to my efforts in such flattering terms, and also because he is the second, out of all who asked for (and got) soybeans, who has acknowledged their receipt!

With regard to these beans I am trying to get hold of information about their domestic use, apart from their industrial and farm uses; and if I do then it will form a series of "Newsy Notes," that will benefit all who have the beans.

Now for Edmund Gunter. An old book in my possession, says Gunter was born in Hertfordshire in 1581, of Welsh parents. He received a good education and in 1599 enrolled as a student at Oxford. Successively B. A., and M. A., and in 1615, (after ordination) B. D., he was appointed to the professorship of Astronomy in Gresham College, London, in 1619. This was a position that enabled him to indulge his mathematical genius and he held it till his death in 1626.

Gunter published several treatises on the Cross-staff, the Quadrant, the Sector, and other instruments; some of which were in Latin. He also published his "Canon Triangulorum," an extensive table of sines and tangents for every minute and degree of the quadrant.

His practical inventions were (1) the Gunter's Chain, 22 yards long and subdivided into 100 links. "Its usefulness arises from its decimal or centesimal division and the fact that 10 square chains make an acre." (2) The Gunter's Line, a logarithmic line usually laid down upon scales, Sectors, etc. (3) The "Gunter's Quadrant," to find the hour of the day, the sun's azimuth," etc. (4) The Gunter's Scale," called by seamen "The Gunter, a large" plain scale usually two feet long by 1-2 inches wide." By means of this instrument and a pair of compasses problems in navigation could be worked out.

That is all I can find of Gunter's history. He had wisely taken the old wooden measure of 5 1-2 yards, variously termed the rod pole, or perch) as the basis of the new measure; and by quadrupling it he cleared away the fraction, and so 22 yards became the new unit of measurement. Instead of a wooden rod, the more convenient chain was brought in, to suit this longer unit; and the inventor made a further improvement by making the chain of 100 equal links. It is, however, not correct to say that the chain is divisible by feet and yards for each link is 7.92 inches long, and consequently not an aliquot part of a foot or a yard.

Once on a time, during a winter when I had little to do, I took it into my head to make a Gunter's Chain —with some changes, which my correspondent may not class as improvements! It was, I found very difficult with the means at my disposal to make links 7.92 inches long; but as the whole chain was to be 792 inches, then 99 lings of 8 inches in length would fill the requirements. Now, the links of a Gunter's Chain are really short length of steel wire with a circular "eye" or loop worked on each end, and some plan had to be evolved for making them all of the same correct length. Finally I procured a short piece of hardwood plank, and with a half inch bit drilled two holes through it, exactly seven inches apart. Then I drove two-half-inch bolts up through the plank, so that their outside measurement was just eight inches. After the wire (which had been untempered) was wound round one bolt to make the "eye," it was carried to the other bolt where a similar eye was formed; and the link was slipped off the bolts. When 99 links had accumulated they were joined together, and the chain was put into the furnace preparatory to re-tempering it.

Three of the links measured two feet: and nine of them measured two yards. Copper tags with the numbers 2, 4, 6, 8, etc. were affixed at the proper links to mark the yards. To help in getting a right angle (often necessary in fencing a farm) a brass tag was affixed to the ends of the 24th, the 56th and the 96th links, and to the beginning of the first link. This chain has been used once or twice by neighbors who found it quite satisfactory.

THE BIRDS AT SOUTHPORT

I have also received this letter from a young nature student at Southport: "Dear Agricola, Spring seems to be here again and has brought many birds with it. I think most of our Spring birds have come, excepting the Warblers and some others. Even some Warblers are here. On March 17th, 1938, I observed a Song Sparrow, and on the 18th, a Fox Sparrow came and fed by the door. On March 25th I saw a Chipping Sparrow and a Tree Sparrow: on March 26th, I observed a Bronze Grackle. On April 16th I saw a Flicker, and a few days later a Vesper Sparrow. On April 19th, I observed a Marsh Hawk, and a bird which I thought was the Oven Bird, though it may have been some kind of a Sparrow. On April 29th I saw a female Blackburnian Warbler and a Magnolia Warbler.

The Purple Finches arrived a few days ago. Sunday May 1st, I saw a Hermit Thrush, and some White-crowned Sparrows and Juncos came almost to the door. The Hermit Thrush was the first I ever saw. A pair of Robins have nested by the house every year and have begun building again this year. The Arctic Owls seemed numerous here this year and several were shot. Today, May 3rd, I saw a Vireo, either a Red-eyed or a Warbling. Well, Agricola, I think I have mentioned all that I have seen, but I hope to send more notes in the coming months. Yours sincerely, Clive Stewart."

Clive adds a postscript which is as interesting as the letter to which it is appended: "I am going to tell of the bird I mentioned in my last letter and perhaps you may be able to run it down for me. It was like a Grosbeak in its stout bill, and was the size of a Grackle, perhaps a little larger. The color was as well as I could tell, a dark purplish or almost black bird. The reason I called it a grosbeak was because of its bill, and because I heard someone talk of the "Purple Grosbeak." I was in doubt at the time, as I could not find it in my "Birds of Canada" (by P. A. Taverner). I am thirteen years old, and go to Cross Roads School, where we have a Bird Club. We belong to the Audubon Society and everyone is interested in birds. We also have a chart on which we put the names and the dates when we saw the Spring birds. I shall be glad if you can find the name of the bird mentioned above. C. S."

I am sorry to disappoint my young friend as to the supposed "Grosbeak" but the color, size, and beak don't agree with any bird in my books either. The color seemed to agree with that of the adult Starling, which has a metallic purplish iridescence in certain lights; but then the Starling's beak is sharp and dagger-like. There is a Blue Grosbeak, the male being of a deep indigo color; but is is confined to the United States, and winters to the South. However, I shall put the question to Mr. Robie W. Tufts, Chief Federal Officer for Migratory Birds when next I see im.

The Arctic Owl: is that the Snowy Owl, (376) (or the Arctic Horned Owl (375.b), a variety of the Great Horned Owl?

It is in every way commendable that the scholars at the Cross Roads School have organized a bird-study club. A naturalist once wrote: "A love and a knowledge of Nature can mean in any life a happiness comparable with that which religion brings. If you want to find divinity in nature, you will perceive it there. Or if it is enough for you just to find out something you did not know before, there will be no end to your fun."

Even a little knoweldge (he says) puts tremendous new interest into every familiar scene. We behold nature as something more than a beautiful picture. It becomes peopled with friends whom we call by name. And in this newly revealed world we may walk, happy in the mastery that is ours at the price of just a little curiosity and effort.

So persevere, young ornithologists at Cross Roads; you hobby will bring you a cultural reward all your life long.

ALLOTMENT GARDENS

Gardens of this description have been running in other towns in Canada with excellent results, and I have often wondered why there was nothing of the sort in our capital city. When (in the Old Country) I moved from the village to the town I found that there were allotment gardens to be had, so I rented one. It may interest my readers to learn how the gardens were run. It appeared that ten years before this, there had been a meeting at which a deputation had been appointed to wait upon the Corporation, as the Town Council was called. There object was to press the Corporation to provide allotments. After some bargaining the civic body agreed to fence in a portion of the Town Moor, capable of being divided up into 120 gardens at a rental of $7.50 each per year. The garden was to be as much as one man could cultivate and the inner fence was to be furnished by the tenant. Everybody was satisfied to become a tenant on these terms, but demanded a twenty-one year's lease, which was granted, when the "Nun's Moor Allotment Gardens" were incorporated. There was wisdom in asking for a lease, because the ground had been in grass for years (perhaps hundreds) and the tenants knew that the first year's crop was likely to be small, but would increase year by year as the ground got "into heart." Then again a succeeding Corporation might decide to use the ground for some other purpose, and the tenants, if yearly, would lose all the labor they had put into their plots. Most of the tenants proposed to build tool-sheds, hothouses called green-houses cold frames ,etc, but would not do this on a yearly tenancy.

I bought my plot from one of the tenants; that is to say I recompensed him for buildings he had erected. I was of course still liable to the Corporation for the rent of the plot. The buildings were a hothouse, with a glass roof 14 feet by 20, with a boiler room and a "sitting-room" attached. A gardener does not do much sitting, but it was handy in case of rain. At the other end of the plot was the tool shed, where implements, plant pots and the like, were stored. There was no trouble in getting manure in those days for 75 cents a load (three shillings) but a cheaper substitute (which required composting) was to be had in street sweepings consisting of horse manure, leaves, etc: a sixpenny trip to the scavenger, and he dumped his cart at your garden gate. An old fellow, "Old Ned" was always on hand to wheelbarrow the manure where you wanted it.

When I became acquainted with the rest of the gardeners, I found them a curious cross-section of our city population. Many of them were well to-do business men, and many had "retired" and took this way of spending their leisure. One had been to the gold-fields and made his pile: he was known as "Klondyke" and always wore a kind of cow-boy hat, and a swank. There were a couple of "jobbing gardeners" who attended to other folk's gardens during the day, and worked their own at night. My next neighbor was a worker in the City power station, and held very advanced political views; he would have been taken for a "Red" now-a-days. He was quite a genius, too: he showed me an oil painting of the "Temptation" which he had made; and he had given Satan the countenance of John D. Rockfeller, copied from some American paper!

But rich and poor, all made money at their gardens when they could, for the place buzzed like a bee-hive, at the week-ends, when men, women, and especially children, thronged the alley-ways between the plots, all intent on buying fresh vegetables and flowers. My specialty was ripe tomatoes, and later in the year Japanese Chrysanthemums, and I always held back a stock of the latter for the Xmas. Market.

The outer board fence, put up by City, was seven or eight feet high, and difficult to scale. Only once during my tenancy was my plot "raided." There was, annually, a sort of fair called the Temperance Festival, on the Town Moor, not far away from the Allotments. There were shows, booths, and gypsies ,of all kinds, and one of the latter gentry (or so the police supposed) had climbed over and raided in a kind of diagonal from one corner to another, annexing anything of value as he went. I lost my scales and weights (for tomatoes): my neighbor had forgotten his waistcoat and watch when he went home and only the waistcoat was there when he returned. The thief was never caught.

A book might be written about the Allotments!

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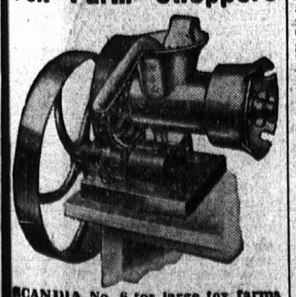

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- CONSERVATION -

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

WATERFOWL RESTORATION — THE PLAIN FACTS

(An address by Ira Gabrielson, Chief, Bureau of Biological Survey, U.S. Department of Agriculture, at a meeting of the Maryland State Game and Fish Protective Association in Balitmore, December 14, 1936.)

It give me real pleasure to attend this meeting and tell the story of what we are trying to do in the Federal migratory waterfowl program. I only wish that it were possible to tell every sportsmen's association in the United States just what this Federal program is and what we are trying to accomplish. I am sure that if this could be done, 75 per cent or more, of the sportsmen of the country would be solidly back of it. Certainly, an immense increase in hearty cooperation has been the result in practically every group that has already come to know the facts as I shall present them tonight—in other words, the story of exactly what we are trying to do and why we are doing it.

It may be a little harder to convince you Marylanders of some of the facts as we see them because you live in one of the great natural wild fowl concentration points of the country and will have some ducks to shoot as long as there are any left at all on this part of the continent. The Susquehanna Flats and other points in Chesapeake Bay are among the finest natural food areas of the Atlantic flyway, and the birds naturally concentrate with you. It is only to be expected that those fortunate enough to live in such favored areas will be the last to realize fully the seriousness of the decrease in our birds. As long as enough birds remain in the Atlantic flyway to fill up these Susquehanna Flats on their southern movement in the fall and their northern flight in spring, you will have ducks in front of your eyes, and you will have to remind yourself continually that conditions elsewhere are far different.

Now among the important facts in the case is the simple truth that except for a very few species Maryland does not produce the migratory water-fowl that are hunted in the State. Your pintails, redheads, canvasbacks, and other species of that kind are not grown in Maryland nor anywhere near here. These birds are produced largely in the great prairie sloughs of north central United States and Canada, and no measures that we can take to improve breeding grounds in Maryland will help to supply these birds. The only contribution that you can make toward increasing and restoring some of the species that are in most serious condition is to hold down your take of them while the rehabilitation of their breeding grounds is taking place in the great nesting regions.

It has been seriously proposed by a few that, because ducks are still present in numbers during migration here, a longer and more liberal hunting season might be allowed in this territory, while heavy restrictions or an entirely closed season should be imposed in the North Central States, where the waterfowl decrease is more apparent and the sportsmen are fully alive to the seriousness of the reduction of birds on the breeding grounds.

From a national standpoint, as well as from any selfish viewpoint, this would be about the most short-sighted move possible. It would be exactly as if in time of shortage of water in Baltimore's municipal reservoirs your city authorities would open wide every faucet and fire plug in the city and at the same time restrict the water consumption in the surrounding country. The result would be disaster for all.

Having been a duck hunter all of my life, I understand how irksome some of the restrictions are that we have felt it necessary to impose, and it should be understood that they are an essential part of a well-rounded national restoration program.

While I am talking about regulations it may also be well to present our point of view very briefly. The regulations were not designed to hurt any community or to interfere with any person more than with any other, or to favor any one area over other similar areas. The regulations were designed solely for the purpose of holding down the legitimate kill of birds each year to a point less than the total annual production. If this can be done for a few years, the flight of birds can be built back again. I will be frank to say that up to three years ago I thought further restrictions were useless. There seemed to be no hope for the migratory water-fowl. I had lived for 15 years in one of the great producing areas of the Pacific Coast flyway. I had traveled extensively in the producing areas of the other flyways, and each year has seen fewer birds returning to take advantage of the nesting grounds that were available. Not only that, but the area of nesting grounds was shrinking continuously before drainage, before natural effects of droughts, and before the normal developmnt of agriculture which no one can stop. These taken together with the steadily increasing annual kill by a greater and greater number of migratory waterfowl hunters, seemed to spell the doom of the migratory water-fowl. It appeared that we might just as well open the season wide and tell the ducks hunters to shoot the wild fowl for twelve months in the year, shoot them on the nesting grounds, and shoot them anywhere else because they would go anyway. If that condition still prevailed, I think I would still feel exactly the same way about it.

However, now we have great hopes that the conditions are changing radically .During the past three years the Federal Government has for the first time been doing constructice work on a scale big enough to give real hope for the future. You will all recall that early in President Roosevelt's administration he appointed a committee consisting of three prominent citizens who made a report on the wildlife resources and suggested among other things that the only hope for the migratory waterfowl was a complete about face on the part of the American public and a large-scale Federal habitat restoration and refuge program. While the program contemplated in this report has not by any means been completed, we have made vast strides in its directions and have adequate plans for its realization.

During the last three years a total of $20,000,000 has been available for the purchase of refuges and the development of lands for migratory water-fowl by restoring water levels, providing better feeding grounds, fencing and posting refuges, and doing many other things necessary to make these areas valuable for water-fowl. The program is simple. The program is biologically sound, and whether or not it will succeed depends upon many factors, some of which are outside of the control of those who are handling the work.

The program is based on two premises: First, If we are to have ducks and geese in this country, the birds must have suitable habitat in which to breed, feed, and rest; in other words, the areas of marsh land must be increased rather than further decreased. These areas of marsh land must also be in favorable localities for the birds. The second premise is equally important: We must have birds to breed in these marshes, if their establishment and rehabilitation is to have any considerable effect on the numbers of the birds.

As you all know the migratory water-fowl follow four main flyways in traveling between their breeding grounds and their wintering grounds, from the north to the south and back again, and we have used this knowledge in establishing the refuge program. We have thus outlined it on a broad scale. From our surveys and studies, we know there are approximately seven and one-half million acres of marsh land, strategically located along the flyway, which can be restored or improved for migratory water-fowl to make framework of a mighty refuge system that would provide adequate feed and resting grounds for the birds wherever they might hapoen to be in this country. In addition to this, we are endeavoring to restore every available acre of marsh in the natural breeding grounds that can possible be restored.

Naturally you cannot see much of this habitat-restoration work. The breeding grounds, so far as they lie within our continental territory, are largely in Minnesota, North and South Dakota, Nebraska, Montana, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington, with only comparatively limited numbers of waterfowl breeding outside of this area. This northern tier of states west of the Great Lakes is the only breeding ground we have in the United States where such species as pintail, redhead, canvasback, ruddy duck, gadwall, and widgeon breed, and it contains the favored nesting areas of other species. It is the great duck incubator of this country.

It happens that I was born and raised in this territory. I saw many parts of it before it was changed by the great drainabe movement which swept this country in the early part of this century. Let me cite the example of a farm which I knew as a boy. It is typical of thousands of farms, and when you multiply it by thousands you have one of the reasons the migratory water-fowl have reacher such desperate straits over vast areas of this country. This was a typical prairie farm in northwestern Iowa. On that farm there was one little lake or pothole which comprised about thirty acres. In addition to this there was a low swampy area that took the overflow water from it down into the slight drainage system that nature had succeeded in carving in the landscape. There was another drainage system of low marshy land which crossed the farm to another lake outside its boundaries.

These two areas produced many dozens of ducks every year. Not enough perhaps on this one farm to interest you hunters greatly, but every farm in the country at that time had a similar condition. That land was drained as a part of a great drainage and agricultural development program. It is doubtful if that farm ever produced any greatly increased crops as a result of that drainage. I do know that it ceased to produce ducks and other aquatic life and that one of the great recreation centers for the neighborhood was destroyed with the lake.

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TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH Silver Fox Farming

The Silver Sheen Ranch, consisting of 56 acres of land fronting on St. Peters and Royalty East Roads, two houses, barns and buildings and 400 fox pens, has been sold to John B. Andrew, East Royalty. This ranch was built in 1915, two years after the silver fox boom had reached its crest. In 1913 companies capitalized at $35,000,000 were doing business here, while private individuals by the score had vaulable holdings of from one to 25 pairs. Options on young foxes in the Spring of 1914 ranged from ten to fourteen thousand dollars a pair, and we were evidently in for a further enormous expansion of the industry.

On August 4th the European war broke out and prices of live foxes dropped within a couple of weeks to $4,000 a pair, and in November to $2,000 a pair . From then on it was a case of pelt production. The Silver Sheen Ranch was composed of the Tuplin Fox Corporation, Woodstock Company and other well known high-class fur farms. The quality of the animals was the best in the land, and as evidence of this it may be stated that in the early Spring of 1920 a fairly large consignment of skins from the ranch sold for an average of over $600 a pelt. Year after year it was enlarged until it had a capacity of 400 pairs. The drop in price of silver fox furs which has been a steady factor for the past several years made its futher conduct unprofitable, and finis was written to the company and ranch by the sale mentioned above.

The sincere sympathy of hundreds of silver fox farmers will go out to Percy Barlow and his son Philip, because of the death of a beloved wife and mother, Mrs. Barlow was justly esteemed by all who had the pleasure of her acquaintance because of her many fine qualities.

Particulars concerning Fromm Bros. auction sale of silver fox pelts on April 12th and 13th are contained in the May number of the American Fur Breeder. According to it February market levels were upheld and even exceeded in spite of exceptionally unfavorable trade conditions in New York and throughout the country. In this respect the sale was a success, although less than half of the offering was sold.

The catalogue number consisted of 15,000 silver fox, 200 blue fox, 350 cross fox and 300 mink. New York City was represented by some 40 buyers with only two buyers from Chicago, two from Brooklyn and three from other cities. Because it was believed that an attempt would be made to buy the offerings at greatly reduced price levels, Fromm Bros. protected their own, as well as the skins of shippers consigned to them under the trade mark "Federal", and effectively maintained values established at their February sale. They explained to the press that this refusal to sell at bid levels was because if they did so they would harm many retailers who have sizeable inventories of silver fox and would generally demoralize the market. The low percentage of sales would have no bearing on his Company's policy with regard to future sales.

Thirty-four per cent of the 5,376 Fromm pelts were sold the first day, the full silvers averaging $70.33 as compared with $68.33 in February and $112.67 last September. The best Fromm skin brought $260.00; the second highest priced skin — another full silver — fetched $220.00.

3,150 Federal (other shippers' skins) offered the first day were 32 per cent sold at averages of $44.52, about on a par with February prices. The top Federal skin brought $94.00 and the lowest $23.00, as compared with $86.00 and $33.00 in February. 132 blue foxes were 100 per cent sold at an average of $20.43, or 15 per cent above February.

On the second day the sale was not so good and lower prices were averaged, both for the Fromm skins and the Federals. For instance, 549 Fromm three-quarter silvers were only 30 per cent sold, at an average of $42.17, and only 24 per cent of the 1,585 Federal three-quarters were sold at an average of $36.48, while almost half of the 800 Federal full silvers were sold at an average of $38.00. Federal half-silvers sold averaged $27.50, Federal quarter-silvers sold averaged $21.30.

To show that all the goods on the auction were not of the top quality it may be mentioned that only 40 per cent of 249 cross foxes were sold at $16.12. They were described as mediocre quality. Fifty darks were sold at $19.16; 32 mink out of a consignment of 202 brought an average of $6.70, and 30 reds were all sold at an average of $6.70.

Harry LaDue in an editorial appearing in the May American Fur Breeder, with reference to the United States silver fox tariff says: "The tariff hearings are over—the fox breeders have had their day in court and now it is up to the President of the United States, the Canadian Government and Providence. According to advice from Washington there will be no decision on the tariff matter until mid-summer and then the decision will be in the form of an announcement with the terms thereof.

Briefs and statements from Canadian fox farmers and editorials from Canadian fur publications were read and filed with the committee opposing tariff reduction on the ground that American fox breeders had created their own market through style promotion, advertising ,etc., and that this standard would be materially affected by a heavy influx of foreign silver fox fur with certain decline in pelt values in the United States which would reflect in other world fur markets. The matter is strictly between the President and the Canadian Government. United States Senators and Congressmen can do nothing except file protests protecting their constituents. So American breeders will be on the anxious seat until mid-summer."

Edward Fromm writes an editorial in May American Fur Breeder headed, "Why Advertise?" In it he predicts that the 1938-39 crop of silver foxes in the United States will be 50,000 more than the previous year, and states that the 1937 crop has only been 50 per cent marketed by ranchers and probably less than 35 per cent marketed by the retailing field. In other words, there are probably twice as many silver fox pelts still to be consumed at this time than there were a year ago, and the still larger crop now in the making will commence to go to market within six months. A year ago American ranchers were averaging about $45.00 for their pelts. Today the average stands at about $35.00 and is in danger of declining still further before the crop is all marketed.

From the above premises Edward Fromm goes on to state the benefits of advertising so as to create consumer demand. He quotes the United States Government through the Foulk Fur Company of St. Louis, as spending 15 per cent of the market value of Alaska sealskins by advertising them to the women of America in fashion magazines throughout the year. It is not a question as to whose duty it is to advertise, it is a question of creating more interest and more demand, therefore more dollars for the rancher by advertising.

A mink breeders association has been formed at Lawrencetown, Annapolis County, N.S. The President is M. P. Neily, with George Armour of Middleton, as Secretary-Treasurer. The object will be to foster better mink breeders, secure best possible markets and hold annual mink shows.

Clean up now. Within the next week or two is the time to clean up the pens or dens, disinfecting the latter with creolin in the proportion of one to 40, or using other good disinfectant. Burn all old straw and litter and leave nothing around that can develop or harbor fleas during the coming hot weather. Fleas are a very serious menace in a great many ranches, and it is all very well to say we will powder the pups later, but an ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure, and plenty of strong smelling disinfectant of the coal tar type will prevent the little pests from visiting you later on.

Cattle to be exhibited at the Provincial Exhibition will come under the same regulation of other Class A fairs in Canada this year, namely, they will be subject to test for Bang's Disease—the technical name for contagious abortion. Perhaps you are not aware that Bang's Disease is a serious and dangerous affliction and it may be contracted by humans through cutting up meat from diseased cattle, or by drinking milk from cows affected with the disease. Several persons have been affected in the vicinity of Charlottetown and one is still undergoing treatment. While this country is probably freer from it than most of the provinces of Canada, yet there exists a sufficient number of cases to call for action and vigilance both in regard to the use of milk in the home or the feeding of it to foxes, or the use of meat from aborted cows.

Mrs. J. A. Campbell of Hollister, California, writes us as follows:—"Enclosed find clipping from National Fur News, which may be of interest to Islanders in general, who are inclined to be skeptical about the grade of fur marketed in this section where we seldom see frost. Aptos is approximately forty miles from here. Wishing you continued success with your paper which is always like a letter from home."

The clipping shows J. Gordon Noakes of the New York Fur Auction Company, New York, holding a prize silver fox pelt received from Elmer Atkinson, Aptos, California. This pelt brought $510.00. A letter from the New York Fur Auction Company to Mr. Atkinson also appears in the clipping, extending congratulations of the Company, stating that the pelt created a sensation among the trade and was one of the finest of the type ever seen.

COLONEL AUBREY
2.10 2-5
Registration No. 3940

Colonel Aubrey will make the season of 1938 as follows: Leaving the owner's stables Cape Traverse, Tuesday, May 17th by Augustine Cove to Victoria at noon, thence by Hampton to Myron Shaw's DeSable over night. Wednesday 18th to J. A. MacDougall's, Argyle, at noon, thence by Long Creek to New Haven over night. Thursday 19th to John O'Brien's, Bonshaw, noon, thence to J. D. Flood's, South Melville, over night. Friday 20th by Kelly's Cross to Crapaud at noon, thence by Tryon to the owner's stables, where he will remain the following week. This route will be continued every two weeks health and weather permitting.

J. P. KEOUGH,
Owner in Charge.
Mares at owner's risk.

L-4496-5-14-21.

Canadian Garden Service 1938

BY GORDON LINDSAY SMITH

An Early Start

Much more fun, much more satisfaction results where gardening is spread over the entire season, while the whole plot may be planted in a single afternoon, usually about the middle of May, the inevitable consequence is a rush of flowers or vegetables followed by practically none at all. On the other hand by only sowing a part of the seed of each packet at one time, by using short cut methods in the way of started plants, by providing a little protection against early frosts next fall, the amateur garden can be made almost continuously productive.

For first bloom and first vegetables experts depend largely upon started plants. These may be purchased from reliable green houses in flats already grown or they may be grown by the gardener himself from seed started indoors now Seed of petunias, marigolds, cosmos and such flowers and tomatoes, cabbage, head lettuce and other vegetables are sown in shallow boxes or little pots or paper boxes and started in sunny windows right away. The best soil for this purpose is a mixture of sand fine earth and possibly a little rotted leaf mould. With plants that do not take kindly to transplanting sometimes small individual boxes or pots are used or sometimes special paper holders that have no bottom. Then when the ground is warm outside either box and all is planted or the pot is carefully removed leaving soil intact about the roots. Where pots or boxes are not available sometimes a sod is used, the same inverted and the seed planted. When the plant is ready to go outside sod and all or a generous piece of it is planted. This permits the operation of transplanting without disturbance to root.

Where one has a summer cottage that will not be visited until June, the usual practise is to start practically all the garden indoors at home and later take it well grown out to the garden by the lake.

And a Late Finish

In addition to using started plants the new gardener is also advised to spread his sowing operations over several weeks, especially so with vegetables. One third of the seed can be sown at the earliest possible date outside, one third at the normal time and one third two to three weeks later than usual. This practice is perfectly feasible with those long season vegetables like corn, carrots, beets and it insures the very freshest vegetables, just reaching maturity, all through late summer and fall.

With early vegetables like peas and leaf lettuce, however, where first growth in the cool part of the season is essential it is best to sow all seed first thing in the spring. Harvesting season in this case is spread out by using all leat one early, one medium and one late variety.

To add still further to the season it is possible to bring in just before the first severe frost next fall tomatoes, vines and all, celery, corn with the stalks attached and hang or store in some cool place like garage or cellar where the cobs or fruit will go on maturing slowly for weeks after frost has blackened everything left outdoors.

Improving the Soil

Extreme types of soil is no longer taken as an excuse for a poor garden. No matter how heavy or how sandy the ground at one's disposal some plant will find such earth to its liking and in any case so far as a small garden is concerned it may be changed to any type desired.

Heavy sticky clays are made loose and pliable by the addition of plenty of rotted leaves, or other vegetable matter which scientists term humus or fibre. Extreme cases may be treated with sand or ordinary coal ashes from stove or furnace. Liberable applications of manure and good cultivation will help and also digging under green crops of clover, oats or just weeds.

Where very damp it may be necessary to provide drainage either by open ditch, tile or by removing a foot or two of the top soil and putting in a layer of cinder stones or gravel. This practise is particularly desirable for preparing a rose bed.

Light soils also benefit by heavy applications of manure, rotted vegetable matter or dug in green crops. This will increase their humus content and allow them to absorb and hold moisture. Light soils of course will not require the constant cultivation necessary with heavy types.

FEATHERS STIMULATE FUR FOR EVENING WEAR

For frivolus evenings when only a very light wrap is needed, wear a short cape of tucked taffeta with a monk's cowl hood, or a bolero or short jacket of feathers — curled ostrich in white or black or clipped marabou in white or blue fox color — flattering as fur, but light and cool.

That favorite pen nib that is scratching—hold it in a flame for a moment and it will write more smoothly.

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