

TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH Silver Fox and Mink Farming

We understand there has been a sharp drop in the price of muskrats and the repercussions on the State of Louisiana where trap-pest number 23,000. Reports in the press are that they are suffering, along with manufacturers and processors, in what is termed the most critical period in the history of the fur industry.

also prevent distemper. Vitamin A and D can be obtained in the shape of cod liver oil or concentrates of it and should be fed from the first of January until the middle of July. It is particularly necessary to feed it during the months of March, April, May and June to prevent rickets.

Calcium is a necessity too for bones for bone and growth and of course it can be given in the form of fish, either fish bone or smelts or in fact any type of fish.

The present season has been disappointing as far as matings are concerned. At least it has been that way with us. Only about 15% of our females have been mated up to now, no doubt due to the mild weather in January.

Another thing our American fur farmer writer draws attention to is the danger of feeding unwashed or poorly washed tripe. This is comparable to the feeding of rye-corn in many cases.

Urges Quick Move To Save Wildlife

MONTREAL, Feb. 3 — (CP) — Immediate action on "at cabinet levels" to halt wildlife destruction in Canada is urged by a sportsman-writer who finds governmental departments too frequently only rump bodies headed by incompetents with a greater knowledge of politics than of the business in hand.

The plea, coupled with warnings based on facts and figures, is made by Isaac Hunter in his "With Rod and Gun" column in the Montreal Gazette.

He takes note of the provincial and federal governmental set-ups but finds wildlife conservation deteriorating into extermination. Often departmental heads are chosen for reasons other than any real knowledge of wildlife management.

He finds many instances of retrogression in the work, with little realization that hunting and fishing are big business in Canada.

There has not been much activity in the fur markets the past week, but prices of mink seem to be strengthening and there has been a good demand in New York for them.

Isaac Hunter finds the most common cause a combination of wholesale illegal slaughter, inadequate law enforcement and judicial leniency toward violators.

On a national scale, the most promising possibilities may result from a report of a committee of the Canadian Association of Tourist and Publicity Bureaus.

The committee struck snags when it wanted statistical information. Six provinces lump all but resident licences as "non-resident," with no indication of the amount of States coming from the United States and other foreign countries.

- NEWSY NOTES -

By Agricola

The Osprey

The Osprey is aptly designated the Fish Hawk, for fish are its favorite food, though it may occasionally eat a water snake or a frog. It flies rather slowly above the water (sea or lake) at a height of about 50 feet, till its sharp eyes spy an unsuspecting fish. Then it spirals down and may even (though unwillingly) plunge into the water to capture its prey.

The Osprey is known to breed in the Labrador regions. It is not particular in its choice of a site for its nest, it is said; it may select a tree, a rocky ledge, a pinnacle rock, or occasionally the roof of a building.

Francis Bain, in 1891, recorded that he used to see "The Osprey pursuing his summer fishing along our well-stored shores."

Osprey or Fish Hawk, 'AOU 364. More or less common—1916 list. Adults: head white or whitish, with a dark-brown medium stripe and a dark-brown band through the eyes.

The Name MacIsaac A contribution to this discussion comes from Kamloops, B.C., and is a fine piece of research. Here it is: "Dear Agricola, may I add my bit to the discussion of the family names of McKisick and McIsaac, recently appearing in the 'Newsy Notes'."

"First of all, as every good wife should always ask her husband's opinion, I questioned my brother-in-law, a Ross from Ross-shire, and he says that McIsaac is a Scottish name. So I immediately looked up my 'Clans and Tartans of Scotland,' by Robert Bain, and found the names MacIsaac, MacKissock, and MacKissock, are given as surnames of the clans Campbell and MacDonald of Clanranald. This signifies that there were three distinct families who had obtained the protection of those powerful clans."

"In the census of 1798, there appears as a resident of Lot 35, the name of Roderick McIsaac with a family of five, as well as the name of Donald McKisick with a family of five."

"In Meecham's Atlas, published in 1880, I can find no mention of either family in Lot 35, but a Donald McIsaac is shown as living on property in Lot 36, which was quite recently owned by Mrs. Alex McIsaac; and a number of families of that name are shown as living in Lots 41 and 47, where in 1798 only McKisick families had settled."

"I would suggest that as both families have been but fairly recently out from Scotland, they both gave the correct pronunciation of their respective names—MacKissock being easily written as McKisick by the census taker who surely was not noted for his ability in spelling—and that while the descendants of the McKisick families may now be using quite unwittingly the name of McIsaac, to which family they do not belong, the descendants of Roderick McIsaac are quite rightfully using their own name."

"As to the Col. Kenneth MacKissock who was a British Military Attaché at Washington, D.C., do you not think it is highly probable he was one of the MacKissock family?"

"A quite humorous but interesting article entitled 'The Big Ancestor Hunt' appeared in the January 15th issue of the 'Saturday Evening Post'. When the Americans take an interest in anything they usually do it with great enthusiasm. Apparently ancestor hunting is no exception to the rule. Yours sincerely, Nina G. Ross."

I think Mrs. Ross for her lively letter with just the right amount of humor! Personally I believe that all four names mentioned above were originally pronounced in one way, i.e., as MacKissock. The Gaelic pronunciation of "i" was "ee", not "ah-ee". That latter sound was introduced into the alphabet by the English at a comparatively recent date, as has already been mentioned in this column. The census-taker of 1798, an Englishman, Robert Fox, would certainly take his cue from the Old Testament and give Roderick McIsaac a new slant on his name, which has now superseded all the rest.

I recall an instance of change of name in my home-district a great many years ago. A Scottish family named Angus, settled in the upper reaches of the Derwent Valley, 30 to 40 miles west of Newcastle. This family multiplied exceedingly and as they were fond of the old baptismal names, there grew up Andrews, Duncans, Margarets, and Maries, in profusion.

Soon mislives and parcels got to the wrong address and a good deal of inconvenience and vexation resulted. To remedy this state of affairs one branch of the family changed its name to Angus, a change that answered the purpose very well.

Owls

Not long ago a reader of these Notes asked: "How many kinds of Owls are found in P. E. Island?" In reply I informed her that a bulletin issued in 1916, reported that 9 species had been observed. Some of these Owls were undoubtedly accidental, some were uncommon, and all are scarce, owing to persecution at the hands of unthinking "sportsmen." (Some years ago, I recall, a resident on our south coast boasted that he had shot 9 owls in the last 12 months!)

Two of the owls in the 1916 bulletin, viz., the Great Horned Owl and the Snowy Owl, are destructive birds, raiding the poultry yard in daytime and capturing and eating our game, particularly our native Ruffed Grouse. It must be admitted however, that they kill great numbers of rats, mice, squirrels, and other rodents, and, strange to say, skunks! The rest of our owls are innocent of the major crimes, and are so beneficial that they deserve our careful protection. They are most active at dusk, when poultry have retired for the night, and the rodents are uncouthly stirring. Probably a safe rule would be, "Never shoot an owl at night."

Owls have some peculiarities of structure that demand a brief notice. The eyes of these birds are so disposed that they look directly forward; if the bird wishes to look sideways it must turn its head. "There are striking facial discs (rings of feathers) about the eyes" of the Great Horned Owl, a waxlike swelling round the base of the upper mandible, is hidden in the feathers. The feathers themselves are noteworthy: they are soft and downy, and cling together in such a way that air cannot pass through. This prevents any whistling sound and ensures the silent flight for which the owl is noted. Owls are popularly believed to be more or less blind in daytime, but there is no reason for this. They are active in the daytime because they "put in a night shift" hunting the rats and mice. As in the Hawks, the females are larger than the males.

Seeking Atlantis

A party of British scientists, equipped with radar, is to set out to discover the site of the lost island of Atlantis. The island, according to an ancient tradition, is a great island west of the Pillars of Hercules (Straits of Gibraltar). It was ruled by the Atlanteans and was defeated by the Athenians in the year 9600 B.C. The Atlanteans afterwards became very learned but wicked and impious; and the island was, in consequence, swallowed up by the ocean in a single day and night. The story is related by Plato (429-347 B.C.).

I quote from the Times: "Subsequently, however, through violent earthquakes and deluges which brought desolation in a single day and night, the whole of your warlike race was at once merged under the earth, and the Atlantic island itself was plunged beneath the sea and entirely disappeared; and whence even now that sea is neither navigable nor to be traced out, being blocked up by the great depth of mud which the subsiding island produced."

Some scientists believe that the Americas once lay close to Europe and Africa, and fitted in like a jigsaw puzzle. Certainly a glance at a Mercator's projection map supports the theory. What caused the break? The impact of that "big meteor (or planetoid) in what is now Arizona? And were those highly civilized Mayans the descendants of the Atlanteans?"

QUET, PLEASE!

DARTMOUTH, N. S. — (CP) — Dartmouth's new anti-noise legislation has gone into effect after the town's legal department charged clauses which would have made church chimes and fire sirens illegal.

Hotbed Outside Window Handy and Inexpensive

Even the smallest garden can profit from a hot-bed in which plants can be started weeks earlier than seeds can be sown outdoors. The plants you grow cost a fraction of those purchased in the market. Most economical in space, cost and upkeep, is a hot-bed built around a window opening from a heated basement, preferably a south window. In front of the window a foot deep, the size must be figured carefully, so that a frame set in this excavation can be covered by window or hot-bed sash. As in the case of other hot-beds, a glass substitute may be used on the sash, if desired.



Hotbed Built Into Basement Casement

Build a frame to fit in the excavation. The sides must slant sharply from a point above the window, almost to the ground. Fit the sash on this frame, using hinges at the top so the sash may easily be raised for ventilation. Earth may be kept out the cold; and the sides should be as light as possible to keep out the wind.

The frame may have to be caulked, where it joins the foundation to prevent drafts, otherwise it is built like the garden type, using a standard or odd size sash as you choose.

Heat is supplied to this bed by opening the basement window, and allowing the heated basement air to enter the bed. The window is left open at night, and may often be closed during the day, when the sun is shining on the bed. Hotbeds of this type have been tried and tested, and although they do not maintain temperatures as high as other kinds the heat will be more even, and the ventilation much better.

The main things to watch are temperature and drafts. Ventilation is necessary on warm days, and for very short periods on cooler days.

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How To Care For House Plants

Those Christmas gift plants will last longer and bloom more profusely if they are given ample sunlight; if the air is kept cool and moist; if the soil is never allowed to dry out; if they are kept out of draughts; and if insects are kept under control.

The temperature in most houses during winter is generally too warm for most plants—particularly at night. That is probably why grandmother grew better house plants, than many of us do today—her rooms were cooler at night. Night temperatures should be 60 degrees or lower, so it is worth cooling a plant to the coolest room in the house at night. The exception to this is the Palm-tree which like warm night, never below 60 degrees, and does not relish sudden changes of temperature.

A plant needs water when the soil has dried out so that it crumbles in the hand. Most plants are best watered by standing the pot for a few minutes in a shallow pan or saucer containing an inch or two of water. The should be removed when the surface of the soil appears moist.

The humidity in most homes is far too low for house plants—particularly cyclamens. Humidifiers or pans of water placed on radiators, will help. Standing the pots on saucers or trays of gravel which are kept moist is another way to provide humidity, but the pot itself must not stand in water. Pyrethrum or rotenone sprays will kill aphids, white flies and red spidermites, or nicotine sulphate may be used.

Be careful to avoid leaving house plants in a draught, and if you use cooking gas, remember that all plants are most susceptible to any unburned gas which escapes into the air. It will cause both flowers and leaves to drop off.

Red Clover Seed In Good Supply

Red Clover seed production in Canada in 1948 was the largest in at least 20 years. Latest estimates place the crop at approximately 12.5 million pounds. This is more than double the 1947 crop and the 11-year 1937-47 average. The record crop is largely attributed to production in Ontario, where over seven million pounds was produced. During recent years considerable interest in growing Red Clover seed has developed in Western Canada and particularly in Alberta.

Canadian farmers use about four million pounds of Red Clover seed annually, provided it is readily available and the price is not out of line with other similar legume seeds. The traditional export market for Canadian Red Clover seed is the United Kingdom and some western European countries. Normally, Canada's surplus of Red Clover seed, recognized as being hardy and superior is exported to those areas. However, export restrictions caused by exchange difficulties have limited sales to the United Kingdom and Europe. While the United States is usually self-sufficient in Red Clover seed, sizeable quantities of Canadian grown Red Clover seed have been exported to that country during recent months.

With plenty of good quality Red Clover seed available for seeding next Spring, farmers should take advantage of the opportunity to make greater use of this valuable legume crop.

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BIG INDUSTRY

About 90,000 persons, including both full time and seasonal, are employed in Canada's fishing industry.

BABY CHICKS AND POULTRY SUPPLIES

NOW IS THE TIME TO BOOK YOUR CHICKS. We are practically booked up for February deliveries, with the exception of a few lots. We can, however, make delivery, as yet, from MARCH hatches on. As we are hatching, mostly from orders on hand at date of settings, we would advise booking at once.

POULTRY SUPPLIES: See our display of Chick FEEDERS, WATERERS — Cool, Oil and Wood BURNER STOVES—Brooder Stove PIPE, etc.

FEED: We can also supply you with CHICK STARTER. If you desire the BEST — in CHICKS, FEED and POULTRY SUPPLIES, we suggest that you call on us TODAY and make full arrangements for all your requirements.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR COMPLETE CHICK SERVICE

DILLION and SPILLET Chick Hatchery, CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. I. 70 Queen Street Phone 146

Disease Destroys Half Peanut Crop

JOHANNESBURG, Feb. 3 — (CP) — South Africa's \$3,000,000 (\$12,000,000) peanut crop is threatened with serious loss from the incurable virus disease, rosette, which may cut the yield by 50 per cent. There is no cure for the disease, which spreads quickly.

In northern Transvaal areas, home of peanut growing, rosette has appeared and vast acreages are badly infected. The disease normally appears at this time but under favorable conditions the plants are well advanced and the nuts set. The drought, however, seriously retarded growth and the yield per acre may drop from 10 bags to 3 1-2.

There is a world shortage of oils for the soap industry and in the last two seasons the Union has planted bigger acreages than ever before. Last year's crop was more than 1,300,000 bags and most of the oil pressed from it went to the soapmakers. The crop failure this year will have serious repercussions in that industry.

Ayrshire Breeders Special Meeting

A special meeting of the P. E. I. Ayrshire Club will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 8th, at 12 noon in the Provincial Department of Agriculture Building. Plans for extension work for the coming year will be discussed.

EGGS

We are in a position to buy large quantities of ungraded eggs at the following prices:— A Large A Medium A Pulled 37 1-2 35 1-2 26 Grade B Grade C 31 28 (delivered at our grading station) We give quick and efficient service. Shipments graded and cases returned immediately. Try our SHUR-GAIN FEEDS, E. J. MACDOUGALL, Vernon, P. E. I.

BABY CHICKS

NOW is the time to order your Baby Chicks for this season.

RECORDS show that February and March Chicks have been the most profitable in past years. They will be this year.

OUR U. S. A. market connections are your assurance of satisfactory prices for Poultry meat in 1949. Eggs are always highest from September to December. Only early hatched Pullets can produce them at that time.

OUR new Hatchery is now prepared to give you the highest quality Chicks that can be obtained. Some of our flocks have been highest winners at P. E. I. Exhibitions for many years. We can supply all popular breeds and cross-breeds at the following prices — Pullets 32c; Mixed 17c; Cockerels 8c.

REMEMBER: Our Chicks are STRONG, HEALTHY and STURDY. They LIVE, GROW, LAY and PAY. Contact our office at once.

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If you want to ring the bell—hit top profits from fryers and broilers—it's the strain of chicks you raise that counts. Swift's Hatchery offers a special strain of New Hampshire for profitable fryer and broiler production. This strain has high livability, full feathering at four weeks and an exceptionally fast rate of growth.

By introducing such strains into Swift's Hatchery Supply Flocks, we achieve constant improvement. You can achieve greater profit from fryers and broilers by ordering Swift's New Hampshire Chicks.

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Musky... They have been developed from strains which show the greatest vigor and fastest rate of growth.

Healthy... Breeding flocks have been carefully tested to eliminate all pullorum reactors. Swift's chicks are hatched under the most sanitary conditions, and are given proper care so they reach you in top health.

Nardy... Produced from strains noted for high livability. Many flock-owners have reported that every Swift chick they purchased lived.

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