TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH Silver Fox Farming

Next week is Provincial Fox Pelt Show week at Summerside. Classification dates are January 2nd and 3rd and it is probable that judging will not take place until Wednesday and may not conclude until Thursday afternoon. At present we have no line on the number of pelts that will be exhibited but we trust it will be large and representative of our Island ranches with quality exemplified. There is much more than appears on the surface to having this show an outstanding success because other provinces such as New Brunswick and Ontario are bending their energies to place on exhibit on the same auctions show pelts that will fully reflect the best in their respective provinces.

Prince Edward Island because it is the birth place of the Silver Fox industry and has the name of producing the finest silvers in the world and also some of the finest of other types, is practically on show and if we do not realize our responsibilities and put up a really worth while exhibition we will have lost a good deal of our prestige. Buyers will be present in January from the United States, Canada, Mexico and possibly from South America and they will see the Platinums and newer types which have been exhibited at Summerside, also in Ontario and New Brunswick. The silvers will not be auctioned, we understand, until March and each exhibit will be thoroughly advertised in the various fur trade journals.

The committee in charge in Summerside under the chairmanship of Lowell W. Hancock, are making arrangements to have their end of it well taken care of. The High School auditorium will be available for judging and exhibition of pelts and we trust that as many ranchers as possible will be present to see the show pelts and judge for themselves the good results that can come from this type of education. Prince Edward Island has always had an enviable name for the Exhibitions it has conducted. The Provincial Live Stock Exhibition functioned here long before Confederation and the shows were held in the vicinity of the present Drill Shed. In 1889 the Charlottetown Driving Park and Provincial Exhibition Association was organized by a group of forward looking citizens and persons from the surrounding country. Its Exhibitions have been conducted ever since and we are confident that no one can successfully dispute the fact that the present high standard of excellence obtained by various Holstein, Guernsey, Jersey, Ayrshires, among cattle breeders as well as horse, sheep, swine and poultry breeders, has been developed through these Exhibitions. Premier J. Walter Jones was for years the leading exhibitor at the local shows and recently our papers have carried items concerning the progeny of cattle bred at his farm in Bunbury. This is just one instance of what shows will do.

The Silver Fox Breeders' and Exhibitors' Association who are conducting the Pelt Show, has also for many years conducted a live fox show and that has been the means of bettering the live stock industry to an immeasurable extent here. Since 1929 with the exception of two years' cancellation shows have been held continuously. The pelt shows were first held in Charlottetown then were moved to Summerside at the request of the breeders and they too have played their part in keeping alive a sense of competition and education breeders as worthwhile types of foxes to reproduce.

Considerable of the credit for both live and pelt shows must be given to the energetic and always courteous Secretary, Walter R. Shaw, and to self-sacrificing members of committees who have given their time and services freely to help along the good work. Once again remember — NEXT WEEK IS PELT SHOW WEEK AT SUMMERSIDE.

Echoes of the Montreal sale of Silver Fox are drifting in and today we publish a complete report from Women's Wear Daily, New York, as follows:

SLUGGISH RESPONSE MARKS CANADIAN SILVERS SALE

MONTREAL, Dec. 19 — Selected full silvers declined 6 per cent and 15 per cent of the catalogue of 831 skins were officially reported sold today, the second day of Canadian Fur Auction Sales Co.'s special sale. Other offerings today included 5,109 regular full silver, 3,165 inferior types, and 610 low grades, of which a lesser proportion was sold, the attendance having declined materially from yesterday afternoon. Declines were attributed in the main to the fact that the catalogue contained a much smaller percentage than usual of fresh skins, due, it was explained by F. H. Pingree, auctioneer, to pelting being later this season, and to a carryover from the last sale.

The specials, platinum, platinum silver, etc., marketed yesterday afternoon were officially reported 58 per cent sold at unchanged prices and the whitemarked skins 37 per cent sold, also unchanged, while the one-half to three-quarter silvers declined 12 per cent on a sale of 16 per cent. Selected full silvers ranged from $31 to $60 for fulls and $29 to $50 for silvery, and regular fulls from $24 to $44 and $23 to $38 for silvery. In the selected section good pale skins sold from $41 to $52.

A portion of the silver fox offering numbering 2,039 skins, of which half were platinum, platinum silver, pearl platinum and other specials, and the remainder, one-half to three-quarter silvers was marketed late Monday in the presence of an attendance averaging over 100 dealers, many of whom were New York buyers.

Prices maintained the level of the September sale and the general opinion was that 40 per cent of the specials and 25 per cent of the three-quarters changed hands. Prices for platinum silver ranged from $80 to $125 and for platinum from $68 to $120.

White-marked brought $54 to $70 and pearl platinum $40 to $47, white special full silver reached a top of $66. The offering of ¼ to ¾ silvers brought $33 to $41 for "A" grade, $18 to $40 for "B" grade and $18.50 to $27 for "C" grade. No official comparison was made.

Price range unofficially reported: Selected full silvers (831): fulls: special $54, select $35 to $60; "A" $33 to $54, "B" $31 to $49; "C" $35 to $39; silvery select $32 to $50; "A" $33 to $50, "B" $29 to $39, "C" $31 to $39; whitemarked fulls — select $70, "A" $46 to $49; "C" $58; whitemarked silvery "A" $36 to $43, "B" $38.

Regular full silver, forenoon section (2,495): Fulls — select $41, "A" $29 to $38, "B" 28 to $40, "C" $24 to $36, silvery — "A" $29 to $35, "B" $28 to $36, "C" $24 to $33; whitemarked "B" $34.

Afternoon section (2,614): Fulls— "A" $36 to $44; "B" $26 to $41, "C" $30 to $35; silvery — "A" $29 to $38, "B" $25 to $33, "C" $23 to $31.

Inferior types forenoon section (1,894): Fulls—"B" $19 to $22, "C" $20 to $27, inferior grade $11 to $22, silvery—"B" $17 to $25, "C" $15 to $23, inferior grade $10 to $24; three-quarters — "B" $28; "C" $15 to $20, inferior grade $13 to $18.

Last week we told that we were feeling a good deal more optimistic than we had felt for some time despite the fact that the Montreal sales were not as satisfactory as we expected. Our reason for this buoyancy of hope is that things are shaping up better in the United States principally with regard to mutations. By this we mean platinums, platinum silvers and various types of white faces. Now here is the latest from the New York Auction Company's sale last week and we quote again from Women's Wear Daily....

NIEMAN'S SILVERS 70% SOLD AT N.Y. AUCTION CO.

Price resistance was put up by the group of about 50 buyers yesterday at the N.Y. Auction Co.'s offering of approximately 5,000 silver foxes. Of this amount, about 2,500 were put on sale for Herbert A. Nieman & Co.; another 500 were color phase, and the balance of about 2,000 were from independent ranchers.

The collection, according to the salesroom, was poor, early goods, with the exception of the mutations, which were termed as fair. With the prices on Nieman's offering close to the amount the buyers were willin to pay, 70 per cent were sold, according to the N. Y. Auction Co. and the salesroom. The auction company declined to quote the top price for Nieman's full silvers.

The independent silvers were the victims of the buyers' price resistance. The buyers simply refused to pay what they termed "last year's prices" this year, and showed very little interest in the goods. According to Maurice Cantor, president of the N. Y. Auction Co., this collection was 58 per cent sold. The top price for full silvers in this group was $76.

The mutation silver foxes brought a very strong response. One buyer said it was stronger than he thought it would be. Eighty per cent of the approximate 500 were sold, according to the Auction company. Platinums brought a top price of $180, while white face was sold a high of $110.

Half page ads in some of the larger fur magazines show a splendid cut of Lloyd K. Lockerby holding a couple of the many promising pearl platinum youngsters in the Lockerby ranch. These pups were sired by Lockerby PGX-20X, Grand Champion Pearl Platinum 1943 Provincial Fox Show, Charlottetown. Another of our Island breeders, Gordon MacMillan, Cornwall, is being given extensive publicity through Rex Wheat Germ Oil ads. It is pleasing to see these two large concerns select our Islanders for advertising purposes as such ads give a boost to the entire industry here.

Fred W. Andrew, Ranch Manager of the McLure and MacKinnon Silver Fox Farms, Ltd., is home for a few days from Camp Hill Hospital, Halifax, where he is taking treatment for a wound received the evening before the battle of Arras, August, 1918. Mr. Andrew speaks very highly of the treatment accorded him by the physicians and staff of that institution and of the many fine friends he made in a short stay. His two sons, Alvin and Jack, are in the R.C.A.F.

It was with considerable delight and great admiration that we found on opening an envelope from the Travel Bureau a folder in colors entitled "Fox Farming on Prince Edward Island." It is one of a series of folders on this Province issued by the Prince Edward Island Travel Bureau of which B. Graham Rogers is Supervisor. The pictures illustrate the different types of foxes and fox pelts, two of these being reproductions of photographs taken of the show pelts of 1943-1944. There is a centre cut of the Provincial Exhibition Main Building, the officials of the Canadian National Silver Fox Breeders' Association, and young ladies arrayed in Platinum Fox skins, grading and judging of fox pelts, etc. Altogether it is one of the most creditable pieces of literature we have seen. Congratulations to our friend "B. Graham" who certainly understands the art of publicity.

When these notes appear 1944 will have about completed its course and so we would like to extend to the readers of these notes our sincere hopes for their health and prosperity in the coming year.

- NEWSY NOTES -

By AGRICOLA

The Seven Sleepers: A Reminiscence

One of my early recollections is that a member of the family who reared me, once said: "Whatever is that boy doing? It's enough to waken Seven Sleepers!" I do not remember what called for this remark, for there were so many things which must have tried their patience sorely; as for instance when my chum and I played cricket on the garden path and I "batted" the ball through the kitchen window.

I kept the "Seven Sleepers" in mind, however, for I was even more inquisitive than the generality of my fellows; and when the tumult was nicely forgotten, I asked who were the Seven, and why they slept so soundly? The answer was a wise one: I was referred to a certain book in the library, and there I could dig out their history for myself. Though I had not yet been to school I was a fairly good reader and I am of opinion that this quest for the Sleepers first gave me a bent for history, both authentic and legendary.

The tradition of the Seven Sleepers ran in this fashion. In the year 250 or 251, there was a great persecution of the Christians throughout the Roman Empire. At Ephesus in Asia Minor, where stood the great temple of Diana, the persecution was exceptionally severe, and seven young men, in order to escape it, fled to the wilderness and took refuge in a case. They were traced and their pursuers blocked the mouth of the cave and left them to perish. Instead, they fell into a preternatural sleep, in which they lay for nearly two hundred years.

During the reign of the Roman Emperor Theodosius II in the year 447, they woke up and imagined they had slept but a single night. One of them managed to get out of the cave and made his way secretly to Ephesus to buy provisions. Once inside the city he was amazed to see a great change: he could with difficulty find his way about. More amazing still, he saw big buildings and churches all surmounted by crosses. At length he came to a baker's shop, where in exchange for bread, he tendered an ancient coin of the Emperor Decius. The baker, suspicious of fraud, and seeing the strange garb of his customer, caused him to be arrested: nor was the prisoner's startling story believed till he had led his captors to the cave where he had left his companions.

The Emperor caused them all to be brought before him and, says the story, "heard from their lips enough to convince him of the life beyond the grave." They were returned to Ephesus, where they voluntarily went back to their cave there to fall asleep again till the Judgment Day.

This story was widely current in the East in olden times and was adopted by Mohammed, who however, makes the "Seven" sleep at last in Paradise, guarded by their dog Kitmer. In some eastern countries June 27th became known as the festival of the Seven Sleepers, and, like St. Swithin's day, was supposed to have a connection with the weather: if it rained on that festival it would rain for seven weeks thereafter!

One version of the story gave the names of the Seven: Maximianus, Malchus, and so on, but this was probably done "for artistic verisimilitude" as the Mikado puts it.

English History

Some sage (American, I think) once said: "Every little man should have a big man to tie to," meaning this, I take it, in a political sense. In the matter of education, this might be altered to "every young man should have an old man to tie to" and if he is two generations away so much the better. The previous generation lacks patience and tact when dealing with its junior, whence comes the saying that "no boy is his father's friend." And think what experience can be accumulated by the man who has already watched three generations play their parts! If such a one is observant, and is upright in character, he is the man to "tie to."

I was very fortunate in this respect. When in my late teens I became acquainted with my great-uncle (i.e. my grandfather's brother) we soon became close friends and remained so for many years. On a visit together to the famous Roman Wall, about the summer of 1890, he gave me an epitome of English history that I remember to this day. We climbed to the top of the **Murum** (Wall), there about five feet high and perched on the edge of a cliff of ancient volcanic origin. Below us lay the placid surface of Crag Lough (Lake), which came to the foot of the cliff. Northward as far as the eye could reach was a rolling country with sheep-pasture on the hills, heather on their sides, and trees in the valleys. A pale sunshine over all gave the scene an unreal look; there was no sign of human habitation, and no sound save the eerie wail of the "whaups" or curfews, in that seemingly desolate land. To east and west, mile after mile, ran the remains of the wall. "What must the wall have been life," I said, "when it was first built! The old histories say it was eighteen feet high, and look at it now!" My "uncle" —as I called him—smiled at my disappointment and said: "You're lucky to see it at all. For centuries it has been a public quarry. That farmhouse behind us is built of stones taken from the wall, and so are all the buildings to the south. This was a national monument greater, and of more importance in its day than Stonehenge, but that did not save it. You must go to history to see why."

By a little further questioning, I got a sketch of that history, which I afterwards wrote down, as nearly as I could remember it. "When the Romans withdrew, about A.D. 446, the wall would be in good condition. The Scottish Picts would not trouble it, for it held nothing of value to them. Nor would the heathen Anglo-Saxons when they conquered the district: in general they had an idea of witchcraft connected with the Roman remains and did not meddle with them. Christianity was later introduced into this region by St. Cuthbert and others, and many Anglo - Saxon monasteries and churches were built, mostly of wood at first, and stone later. With the advent of the Danes these were for the most part destroyed and their occupants put to the sword.

"The Danes were scarcely expelled from the country when the Saxon dominion came to an end by the successful invasion of William the Conqueror. It was a long time before the Normans succeeded in thoroughly establishing their supremacy. The Crusades followed when the thoughts of men were directed to the rescue of the Holy Land from the Infidel. Soon followed the devastating Wars of the Roses, which were no sooner settled by the accession of Henry VII to the throne, than the Reformation and the conflict between Rome and Henry VIII were distracting the minds of the people.

"Hardly had these matters died down, until the struggle between the Crown and the Parliament—the people—took place, after which there was a period of uncertainty about the succession to the throne, followed by the conflicts of the eighteenth century between the Jacobites and Hanoverians; so that it was not until within a comparatively recent period that sufficient repose has been enjoyed in this country for men's minds to be sufficiently cultivated and enlightened to take an intelligent interest in the old historic relics of our land."

Now there you have the history of England "in a nutshell" and intelligently taught, as Mr. Molony would say. Not much of the Kings, though they are perhaps convenient as milestones; but much of the people and the part they played. I was so intent on the narrative that I did not notice the omission of all the continental wars in which England has been engaged since the Norman times and which must have been as distracting as anything that happened at home.

It was the Normans who introduced an improved architecture into Britain and no doubt began the demolition of the wall whose miles of stones, already squared, were ready for re-erecting. I hear that in the period after World War I the British Government has been assuming a kind of protectorate over the wall and in 1943 forbade a quarrying company to continue operations on almost the very spot where I heard my historic lecture!

If I were to write a History of England I would divide it into two sections. The first section would be, in form, like Prof. Merklejohn's admirable "Short History", divided into brief chapters, each headed by the name of a King, and liberally supplied with dates for reference only. In subject matter only the monarch's actions would be chronicled (for such actions had far-reaching effects) but there would be no "philosophizing" about them. The second section would march in sequence with the first, and show the effect of the actions upon the nation at large, that is, it would be the general history of the people, which seldom coincides with that of the King. In this section the condition of the nation would be referred back to the action which caused it by page numbers in brackets. This would oblige the reader to hark back and —repetition is good teaching.

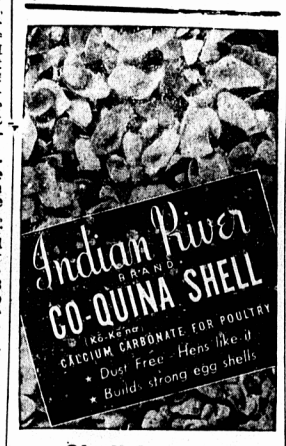
Green's "Short History of the English People" comes nearest to my ideal in this respect, but the chapters on social conditions are interjected and scattered amongst the historical actions and so break the unity of the book. This history has, however, a most valuable and complete index.

If I were industrious enough to write a third section it would be concerned with a present-day view of world affairs, and a consideration of their political drift. This would be the most difficult section.

There is no getting away from the fact that the people of the British Isles are the most mature people in the world today—and he most realistic. They are crowded together in small space, and his makes for free interchange of thought. They are in direct touch with all parts of the British Empire (or Commonwealth if you will it so) and the world. Their civil service records are only equalled by those of the Vatican. They have had a long historical experience, including dictators and civil wars. And best of all, they have long memories. On this continent as I see it, we are more idealistic than realistic. We pass laws suitable for a more perfect world—and promptly forget them.

New Year's Greetings

On the threshold of another year, to all the readers of these jottings go the good wishes of the writer. May the Providence who rules all things "pour upon them the continual dew of His blessing." That is an ancient invocation never more needed than in this modern day. But a new day is dawning. "Lift up your hearts and rejoice!"



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FOXES AND HOUNDS

The age old and, at the present time, lucrative sport of fox hunting with hounds is gaining popularity in some sections of the province. Outwitti the wily Reynard with traps or snares is a disappointing business at times and requires study, patience and skill. A number of valuable fox hounds are owned in the Mount Albion and Pownal districts and rivalry is keen between two groups of sportsmen, each the owners of two hounds. At time of writing the Mount Albion trio of Bobbie and Lorne Jenkins and John Sam Horton are in the lead with 10 foxes, all reds, shot over their hounds this season. The Pownal team consisting of Ed Wood, Ed Robertson, Gordon Brown and Fin Drake are trailing with 8 reds to heir credit. Sometimes when the Mount Albion Bunch are getting hard pressed they take a fourth member along, John H. Myers. John is an old veteran of the last war and is just as deadly with a shotgun as he was in the old days with a rifle or 8-inch Howitzer.

The prices obtained for the pelts is considerably below last season when prices of $17.00 or $18.00 each were common. Today it is harder to obtain $10.00 or $12.00 per pelt. Foxes are quite plentiful this season but toward the end of the hunting period they'll not be so numerous if the boys have their way and hunting conditions are favorable. Both groups have had hard luck with their hounds. One of the Mount Albion dogs took a relapse of distemper and is out of the running for the season, if not for all time. The Pownal crowd are still looking for their best hound, one that was imported from Ontario early this season. This hound, for which a fancy figure was paid, gave promise of becoming a record breaker. About 10 days ago this hound struck the trail of a fox in the Pownal area that had evidently had had experience with hounds in the past. At the first notes of the baying, Reynard lit out across the fields, disdaining the woods that cramped his speed. He cleared the backs of the Village Green farms like a red streak, crosse the Klondyke Road at a single bound and headed for the wilds of Lake Verde and Avondale. By the time the hunting party had reached the road in question the sound of the chase had died in the distance.

The present whereabouts of the hound is a mystery. The story is going the rounds, probably started by an unkind rival, that when the party running the hound reached the Klondyke Road they met a native of the district and the following conversation took place: "Did you see a fox and hound pass here not long ago?" "Yep" was the answer. "How was the chase, pretty hot?" "Nip and tuck, the hound was a little ahead". Those Mount Albion foxes are not to be trifled with.

HUNGARIAN PARTRIDGE

Thursday's storm will make conditions hard for Hungarian partridge. Up until the last few days the birds had things pretty much their own way with weather conditions favourable and few Snowy Owls to both them and make an otherwise pleasant life miserable. Huns were more plentiful than generally supposed. Farmers, now that the season is closed, are reporting coveys that never had a shot fired at them. Some readily admit that there was a method in keeping mum; they wanted to make sure that there would be enough left for seed next season. By what I've seen of some of the local sports in action, they needn't have worried. There's a lot of space around a Hun.

VANCOUVER, Dec. 28 — (CP) —A 50-mile-an-hour gale rocked buildings in Vancouver district, wrecked a barge at Victoria and damaged electric light and telephone lines throughout British Columbia's lower mainland area late yesterday and early today, only serious damage was the wrecking of the barge S. F. Tolmie on the rocks of MacCauley Point.

To The People of Prince Edward Island

There is a new spirit abroad on the eve of this New Year's Day, 1945, as we ring out the old and ring in the new. It is the spirit of Victory!

We look forward with hope and confidence to the achievement of this great objective in the coming months, realizing nevertheless that many sacrifices also lie ahead. ....

Continually we are reminded of the part played not only by our gallant fighting forces overseas, but by our farmers and fishermen on the food production front. Their achievement, too, has been magnificent.

But there is still much strife and toil ahead. Let us bend every effort to our tasks, in whatever lineof duty they may be, and help make 1945 in very truth, VICTORY YEAR.

GOVERNMENT OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

J. WALTER JONES, Premier.

Crops Keep All Winter in Drain Tile Root Cellar

All winter storage of Victory garden crops which require cold, moist air, may be provided inexpensively by burying boxes of vegetables, or merely covering them in pits.

When this method is used there is some difficulty in digging them up when the ground is frozen, and the entire box, or pit contents must be removed at once. Several boxes or pits, each containing a mixture of vegetables, are necessary, to be opened at intervals.

Larger quantities can be stored with excellent results in a 24-inch drain tile sunk into the earth and closed with an insulated cover, which may be opened at will for the removal of any part of the contents, and replaced without difficulty.

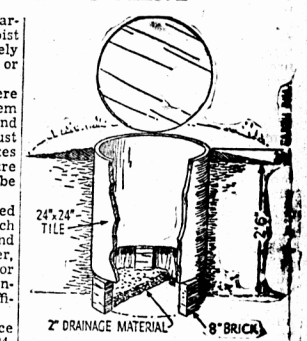
A working drawing of this device accompanies this discussion. A 24-inch tile will accommodate six and a half bushels of fruit and vegetables. The cover may be made of wood, larger than the tile, but protected with hardware cloth to keep out rodents and insulated with many thicknesses of paper or padding. A pad of insulating material to fit just under the cover, where it is easy to remove and replace, may be used where temperatures fall very low.

Crops which will keep well in this storage include carrots, beets, turnips, rutabagas, potatoes, apples and cabbage. The tile should be placed in a well drained place convenient to the kitchen. It may be used during the summer for storing eggs, milk and butter, and for the small garden makes a clean, safe and inexpensive root cellar.

In preparing boxes or pits for outdoor storage, the box or pile of vegetables should be covered with six inches of hay, straw or leaves, then with six to eight inches of soil.

Vegetables and fruit placed in storage must be free from decay or injury and neither too old, nor immature. They should be harvested after frost has stopped their growth, but should never be stored if they have been frozen. Avoid vegetables with bruises or skin punctures, as decay will start from these and never store vegetables which are wet.

Do not cover vegetables in earth pits until the soil temperature has cooled off and do not close your storage tile tightly until the temperature within has dropped to 40 degrees.



How to Build Root Cellar With Drain Tile.

Chicks, Chicks, Chicks

Anyone wishing to order chicks for the season of 1945 I would like to have their orders as early as possible as I was only able to get 58 per cent of my orders filled last year from some of the leading Hatcheries in Canada. Any person wishing to order R. O. P. Pedigreed White Leghorns from parents stock with a laying record of 280 to 339 eggs per year, write call or phone before ordering. Phone No. 2063-L.

A. H. BRYENTON, Charlottetown, Box 425

Wanted Immediately Raw Furs

All types Foxes, Muskrats, Mink, Weasles, etc., required. We have disposed of practically all last season's goods and now need quantities of fresh skins for our trade.

We buy outright, also accept goods on consignment for private sale. Reserve prices. Shipments daily. Prompt remittance.

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Ship us your CHICKENS and FOWL Live or Dressed Express Collect Highest Prices Paid Prompt Returns

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