A Page for the MODERN FARMER

- NEWSY NOTES -

By AGRICOLA

The Rule of the Road

Tonight, Feb. 13, the sky presents a remarkable sight. To the West glitters the Planet Venus; it is rapidly overtaking Jupiter, the second in the line. Further Eastward is the Moon: it is close to the Planets Mars and Saturn, and in the language of draught-players, it seems as if about to "fork" them. I have watched our satellite's progress the last couple of nights or so, and it has passed these planets as closely as a racer passes his rivals. All move in almost the one track: tonight one could imagine a straight line touching them all.

Observations like this show that there is a certain regularity about the movements of the Sun's family of Planets. They all move round the Sun in one direction, and their paths lie very nearly in the same plane. The Earth goes round the Sun in the same manner, being itself one of the family. As we move round in our annual journey the Sun appears to trace a path against a background of certain constellations or groups of stars; and a little consideration will teach us that we and all the planets (being in the same plane) must follow the same path. Astronomically that path is the "ecliptic." That is why we find our planetary neighbors in line.

The old astrologers knew all this and for their own purposes named the twelve constellations the "Signs of the Zodiac." This belt of constellations (lying along the elliptic as I have said) is easily memorized by the old rhyme:—

"The Ram, the Bull, the Heavenly Twins,
And next the Crab, the Lion shines,
The Virgin and the Scales;
The Scorpion, Archer, and the Goat,
The Man that bears the waterpot,
And Fish with glittering tails."

In order perhaps to impress the unlearned, the astrologers gave this list in Latin; thus the Ram was "Aries," the Bull was "Taurus" and so on; astronomers still use this nomenclature, which will be found in many of the almanacs published in Canada.

The Sun is said to "enter" the Sign of Aries when Spring begins, but owing to the "precession of the Equinoxes"—to which reference was recently made—the Sign of Aries is now in the constellation Pisces.

It is significant too that the Sun's family of Planets also rotate on their axes in the same direction as they themselves rotate round the Sun. Furthermore, the Planets have satellites which (like our Moon) in general travel round their parent bodies, and rotate on their own axes, in the same way and direction as do the heavenly bodies to which they are attached. "These regularities" says the British Astronomer Royal, "cannot be the result of mere chance, and undoubtedly point to some common origin for all the members of the Sun's family."

NOTES ON ISLAND PLANTS

The Euphorbiaceae

This family is characterized by the exudation of a white, milky, acrid juice when any part is broken. It is a vast family in the warmer parts of the world, says Asa Gray; and is most numerously represented in northern countries by the genus **Euphrobia**. Several of the species have been cultivated as garden ornamentals, and some of the foreign Euphrobias have been classed among the Cacti, on account of a superficial resemblence. Our species, popularly referred to as Spurges, do not seem to have been put to any use officially.

The Seaside Spurge (**E. polygonifolia**) is a spreading, prostrate plant growing on the seashore. The Sun Spurge (**E. Heliosscopia**) is an abundane weed, wherever it gets a foothold. It produces great quantities of seed and I have seen illkept garden plots quite overrun with it. In England this plant is variously called Milkweed, Wolf's Milk, and Cat's Milk, from its white juice, which has a reputation for eradicating warts; whence another name, Wartweed. In some counties it is called Littlegood, and Churnstaff, the latter without apparent meaning. The numerous names indicate wide distribution. The Cypres Spurge (**E. Cyparissias**), found in MacSwain's list, is probably a garden escape: on a visit to Tracadie last year I was presented with a root of this plant, taken from a rockery. As it did well I home to give it the "once-over" botanically this Spring. In England it has the pretty name "Welcome-to-our-house." Lastly we have the Petty Spurge (**E. Peplus**), another naturalized European, called in Britain Devil's Milk, and Wild Purslane, and in France "Esule ronde."

The Empetraceae

There is but one member of this small family listed for the Island, the Crowberry (**Empetrum negrum**); but it has a variety (lately found here by Dr. W.L. Holman) given in Gray's Manual as **E. n. andinum.** This form, which has reddish or plum-colored fruit, has recently been raised to specific rank as E. atropurpureum by some American botanists.

Rhind, in his "History of the Vegetable Kingdom," (1855), has this to say of it; "This humble plant, in appearance resembling some of the mosses, derives its generic name from growing on rocks and elevated stony mountains. The berry is jet black; and hence probably the common name of crow berry It is common in all the northern parts of Europe, in elevated situations, on dry, barren, moorish, or boggy soils; and is more patient of cold, bleak atmospheres, than even the common heath. The berries have a slight subacid taste and are eaten by children in the Highlands. The Russian peasants eat them; and the Kamchatdales gather great quantities of them to boil with their fish, or to make a sort of pudding, with the roots of their lilies; wild game, especially grouse, feed on them. They afford a dark purple dye; and boiled with fat, are used for imparting a black color to otter and sable skins".

Last year (1939), while on a visit to Dalvey with Dr. Holman, we found both the black-berried and the reddish-berried forms growing in the greatest abundance.

The only notice of this plant I find in a note-book brought from England, reads: "The Crowberry is subject to the attack of a fungus, **Uredo Empetri D. C."**

Limewash Recipe

I have received a letter at my private address, and as it is marked "Agricola", I have pleasure in sharing it with my readers.—"Dear Sir, I thought I would have a little chat with you this evening, about limewash. When I read your article last Saturday in The Guardian, I immediately looked up my recipe which we used last Spring on our barns. "Add about 10 lbs. of tallow and 10 lbs. common salt to about 40 gallons of whitewash ready for use. The tallow or grease is to be added while in the boiling state, thus ensuring emulsion." This article also gives directions for color effects, which would be interesting to try. We used powdered laundry blue also; it seems to prevent the yellow tinge. I was glad to get your directions and you may be interested in this one.

"The little root of "Thrift" which you gave me a few years ago, did very well last summer, blooming both early and late.

"I expect that you are enjoying the stars in the western sky these nights. Are they not glorious?

"We may get out to see you next summer I would like to see that climbing rose you mention We bought some "Auxin" powder, and experimented with it last fall. We hope to try it again next August. Quite a few rose slips had good roots on them. We always enjoy your articles. Sincerely yours, M.E. Newson."

I thank this reader for her kind remarks and interesting recipe. The mixing of the tallow is an important point. It is evident that it must be melted and added while the lime is slaking, so that it will emulsify; it would take an enormous amount of churning to do that if added to the "made" whitewash as my Newcastle correspondent advised. (I have written for further information.) However, we have got this far: it needs 10 lbs. of tallow to 62 lbs. of lime, and it must be melted and added while the lime is slaking. Now one of the points where one can go wrong is just here: if too little water is used in slaking, the lime will be "scorched" and not all converted into hydrate. Scorched lime is generally lumpy and transparent. On the other hand, too much water retards the slaking by lowering the heat. The proper amount must be used for slaking, with an after addition of water to bring the mixture to brush consistency. A bushel of lime (62 lbs.), says another recipe, needs 15 gallons of water in slaking; "keep the barrel covered until steam ceases to rise, and stir occasionally to prevent scorching." Still another recipe advises 2 gals. water to 10 lbs. quicklime, which gives nearly the same proportions. The salt and the laundry blue will certainly improve the mixture, which will need diluting to the right consistency. I have been rather explicit in this matter, because both labor and material may be lost through faulty methods—no joke these hard times!

The 62 lbs. lime, after slaking, should be brought up to 40 gallons of wash by adding sufficient water, preferably hot. What attracted my attention to this wash, in the Old Country, was the fact that it wouldn't rub off, always looked as fresh as paint, and lasted for years. An old building which would soak up paint like a sponge, can be made to look new by this wash; and at a trifling cost. Washes which contain flour, milk or glue, are inadvisable for use except in very dry situations, as the organic matter easily decomposes. Now I think I have covered all the points in question, so will sign off.

I am glad the little "Thrift" has done well: it should be taken up, divided, and replanted every third year to keep it looking trim. It was the last plant still in flower in my rock garden, outlasting even the hardy "Bluebells of Scotland".

I was particularly interested to hear about the experiments with "Auxin," which readers may remember, was described as a "plant hormone" said to induce the rooting of cuttings, even though they were of hardwoods. A seed catalogue now lists it as "Hormodin A." The climbing rose referred to is "Paul's Scarlet" which stood a cold winter in a hard place and gave a wealth of large double flowers last year I hope it does as well this year, and that my correspondent may get to see it.

The Flu' Again

A German scientist tells us to look for a great epidemic of influenza in 1948, but the item does not give his reasons for this ominous statement. I am inclined to think we shall have a fair share of it this Spring, basing my belief on the unusual weather conditions in the Northern Hemisphere. Anyway, we on this Island, always have a certain amount of it every year.

The disease is a very old one: historians say that in 412 B. C., there was a world epidemic not unlike the modern influenza. It was described by "The Father of Medicine" the Greek Hippocrates. There are vague mentions in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicles, of an epidemic which destroyed men and horses, the latter being susceptible to the flu, among other maladies. There is a more authentic record of a severe outbreak in A.D. 1173, when it spread over England, Germany and Italy. Then for over fifty years the disease existed in a sporadic mild form, until, in 1239 another virulent outbreak occurred. It scourged all Europe again in 1510 but it was chronicled as a mild form. In 1557 came the first recorded outbreak on this side of the Atlantic. There would appear to be some connection between the influenza and sun-spots. In a "home-made" parallel list of maximum sunspot years, and severe epidemics, from 1761 to 1927-28, the phenomena are practically coincident. The sunspot year 1917-18 is closely followed by the last great epidemic of 1918-9. Sunspot year 1927-8 was accompanied by the milder outbreak of 1927.

I have before me a remarkable little book, written by Dr. Ralph E. DeLury of the Dominion Observatory, in 1938. The title is "Sunspot Influences", and when it is termed remarkable it is because of the immense amount of research which must have gone into its framing. Here is a short extract which will interest many readers who have a leaning to Astronomy:—

"The great influenza epidemic of 1917 and 1918 also coincided with the large peak in sunspots. If as seems likely, the sunspot cycle is a factor in the variations in influenza, the contentions of the astrologers that it was due to the **influence** of the planets can be condoned since the period is near that of the planet Jupiter, and that of the 10-year interval between oppositions and conjunctions of that planet with Saturn, both of which may indeed be factors in the causes of sunspots."

"Sunspot Influences" is a reprint from an astronomical journal, and may possibly be had on application to the Dominion Observatory.

Altruistic Farmers

An item in the Farmer's Advocate is very enlightening as to the ability of our farmers in general. "At a recent live stock meeting a member in the audience asked Harry Wilson, Chatham, Ontario, a member of the Advisory Bacon Board, if some relief for farmers could not be obtained through lower transportation and processing costs. Mr. Wilson replied: "It is a well-known fact that no one can operate at a loss but the farmer." No more of his speech is given, which may or may not be an injustice to the gentleman in question: but it is also a well-known fact that many people are willing to allow the farmer to continue his unselfish operation!

By operating at a loss, as the farmer has been compelled to do for the past ten years, he has had to skimp on the bare necessities of life and obviously had no purchasing power to buy the manufactured goods that the cities produce. "That is why there are so many farm buildings needing repairs, so many broken down fences, so many worn-out implements", says another writer. Unless the farmer can market his goods above the cost of production, he suffers in home, school, and church: when the farmer cannot buy, the manufacturer must cut down employment. So much is clear. But let the farmer take the next logical step and endeavor to set up a system of distribution that will function effectively, cooperatively, and much more cheaply; then powerful opposition quickly manifests itself.

An illuminating article on this subject appeared in the Feby. 8th issue of the magazine above quoted. In it is given a chart comparing prices of all goods with farm prices from the year 1913 to the present day. We need not however go back further than 1930, to get an idea of the farmer's plight. The figures are from the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, and the first group is the index figure of all goods, followed by the index figure of farm produce in brackets. In one instance (1937) they are on a parity; that was a year of very small crops over important areas in Canada. The figures are:—
1930, 86.5 (82.3); 1931, 72.2 (56.3);
1932, 66.7 (48.4); 1933, 67.1 (51.0);
1934, 71.6 (59.0); 1935, 72.1 (63.5);
1936, 74.6 (69.4); 1937, 84.5 (84.5);
1938, 78.6 (73.6). Up to August of 1939, the figures are 72.4 (58.4); a differential of 14.0.

Undoubtedly the farmer has been operating at a loss! I commend this article, which is fully explained in the magazine, to the study of my farmer friends.

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WEEKLY LIVESTOCK MARKET REPORT

Ottawa, February 15.

SUMMARY

The cattle market presented a somewhat brighter picture during the past week, especially in Eastern Canada where the better grades of killing material sold active and as much as 25c higher. The trade in the west was very susceptible to both supply and quality and even under the restricted recepots arriving at markets, the trade failed to show much improvement. Deman, at the moment, is not sufficiently broad to absorb any larger supply without impairing the price structure. Calves gained 50c on Eastern markets, lost 50c to $1 at Winnipeg and held unchanged elsewhere. Hogs were steady to just a shade easier at one or two markets, while lambs remained unchanged from the previous week.

Eastern Cattle Prices Stronger

Under an active trade and with offerings leande up daily, TORONTO advanced 25c on the better grades of killing cattle, while plainer kinds held steady. Steers carrying weight sold up to $7.50, with most sales between $7 and $7.35 and butcher steers and heifers moved out at $7.25 to $7.50 for best quality. With a small offering on hand MONTREAL was a shade higher and good steers sold from $7.25 to $7.75, with a few choice, weighing around 1,000 lbs., up to $8. Butcher cows had a range of $3.75 to $5.75 In the MARITIMES good cattle ments and sold strong, but fair to were again below trade requirecommon tyues, as well as cows, were steady to 10c lower. Steers sold up to a top of $7.60 and cows to a high of $5.25.

Western Cattle Steady to Easier

Despite short deliveries, the WINNIPEG cattle market failed to make much headway, although buyers were a little more lenient in their grading which made for slightly improved sales on handyweight butchers. With shipping demand still restricted the trade was again of a local character and the practical top on weighty steers was around $6.50, with best handyweight butchers making $6.25 to $6.75 and cows from $4.50 down. CALGARY had better action and sold medium to good light steers at $5.75 to $6.25. EDMONTON prices were unchanged, although the market appeared more active and steers made up to $6.75 with one lot at $7. PRINCE ALBERT paid around $5.75 for some good cattle with no choice offered, while MOOSE JAW and REGINA were weaker with a high of $6.50. SASKATOON was steady on good quality with the top price at $6.25, but other cattle were weak. VANCOUVER, likewise, was strong on good quality and paid up to $7 for good steers and as high as $7.25 on some sales.

The United States Market

Sales of Canadian cattle at Buffalo totalled 237 head. Weighty steers sold from $8.15 to $8.50, with the highest prices being realized late last week. Butcher steers and heifers brought $7.50 to $8.25, with one load at $8.50, and some lightweight veal calves sold between $6 and $10. Good Canadian steers were quoted at $8 to $8.25.

Exports to the United States during the week consisted of 755 beef cattle, 131 dairy and 1,263 calves. Totals to date this year are 3,030 beef cattle, 1,227 dairy and 5,152 calves, compared with 34,915 beef, 1,360 dairy and 5,648 calves in the same period last year.

According to figures released by the United States Treasury Department imports of heavy Canadian cattle from January 1st to February 3rd inclusive, were 6,152 head, or slightly less than 12 per cent of the first quarterly quota.

Calf Prices Variable

Calves opened firm and gained 50c by the close at Toronto with good to choice veals making $10.50 to $11.50. Montreal was also about 50c higher with good veals at $11 to a top of $11.50. Winnipeg, on the other hand, dropped 50c to $1, selling good to choice veals at $8.50 to $10. Calgary paid a high of $9.25 Edmonton and Regina $9.50, Prince Albert $6.50 for mediums, Moose Jaw $8, Saskatoon $10 and Vancouver $8.50.

Hogs Steady to Slightly Easier

Most of the hogs at Toronto sold on the dressed basis at $12 with a few on Monday at $12.10. Live weights were $9 for bacons off trucks. Montreal was mostly on a basis of $9.25 to $9.35 for bacons f. & w., with an odd sale at $9.40. Winnipeg was unchanged with bacons at $8.60 f. & w., while Calgary closed at $8.35 for bacons off trucks Edmonton at $8.40, Prince Albert and Saskatoon $8.30 and Moose Jaw and Regina at $8.35, Slaughter hogs at Vancouver paid $8.75 to $9.05. Heavier discounts were put in effect on off grades at some western markets.

Lamb Market Steady

There was no change in the lamb price situation, Toronto paying $10.25 for good lambs of both western and local feeding, with one lot of westerns making a top of $10.35. Montreal had one early spring lamb at $10, but most of the offering consisted of bucks selling around $8.50. Winnipeg was fairly firm with best offerings at $9.25 to $9.50. The top at Calgary was $8.25, Edmonton $8.75, Regina $8.50 and Saskatoon had a few common lambs up to $8.15.

CATTLE MARKETS

TORONTO cattle supplies continued light at 4,109 head. Offerings were cleared daily with prices 25c higher on best killers and others holding steady. Weighty steers ranged from $6.50 to $7.50 and butcher steers and heifers from $7.25 to $7.50 for best quality with common down to $6. Butcher cows were also higher at $3.75 to $5.50 and canners and cutters brought $3.25 to $3.75. Fed calves shared in the advance good to choice making $3 to $9 and mediums down to $7.50. Bulls were $4.50 to $5.50. The few stockers offered were taken at $5.50 to $6.50. Good tasted milkers and springers ranged from $75 to $90 each.

MONTREAL sold 1,070 cattle a shade higher. Good steers made $7.25 to $7.75, a few choice up to $8 and others down to $5. Several oxen were weighed up at $4.50 to $5. Heifers were $3.50 to $6.75, butcher cows $3.75 to $5.75 and canners and cutters $2.75 to $3.50. The range on bulls was $3.50 to $5.75.

MARITIMES—Receipts of good cattle continue below requirements and this had a strengthening influence on prices of the better grades. Fair to common types, however, as well as cows, were only steady to 10c lower. Steers sold from $4.50 to $7.60, heifers $4.25 to $6.85, cows $3.50 to $5.25, and canners and cutters $2 to $3.

CALF MARKETS

TORONTO calves opened firm and gained 50c, good to choice veals making $10.50 to $11.50 and common down to $5.50.

MONTREAL sold good veals at $11, tops $11.50, plain and medium in mixed lots from $9.50 to $10.50 and common down to $8. Most of the grassers made $4.50.

WINNIPEG calves 50c to $1 lower, good to choice $8.50 to $10, others $5 to $8.

CALGARY had good to choice veals $8.50 to $9.25 and common to medium at $5 to $7.

EDMONTON was unchanged with choice veals $8.50 to $9.50, others $5.50 to $8.

PRINCE ALBERT had a few common to medium calves at $5.25 to $6.50.

MOOSE JAW calves steady, good $7.50 to $8, mediums around $6.

REGINA calves firm, tops $8.50 to $9.50, mediums $5 to $7.

SASKATOON calves easier at $5 to $10 but closing with tops $9 to $9.50.

VANCOUVER sold good to choice veals from $8 to $8.50 and mediums $6.50 down.

HOG MARKETS

Dominion hog marketings were 92,111 as gainst 59,615 in the same week last year. Ttotals to date, this year 577,335, last year 407,772.

TORONTO rail grade price was $12 for the basic grade with a few early sales at $12.10. Bacons sold alive of ftrucks at $9.

Closing prices for direct deliveries to packing plants at HAMILTON were $12 to $12.25 for bacons dressed delivered and $11.50 plus transportation, and MONCTON $12.

MONTREAL sold the bulk of the hogs at $9.25 to $9.35 for bacons f. & w., with odd sales $9.40. The rail grade price was $12.30 to $12.40 hot weight, mostly $12.30.

SHEEP & LAMB MARKETS

TORONTO lambs were steady at $10.25 for good westerns and locals with on western load sorted at $10.35 for tops and $10.15 for second grades. Common lambs made $8 to $9 and sheep $3 to $6, with some good lights up to $6.75.

MONTREAL lambs were mostly bucks at $8.50. Sheep made $4 to $6.

EXPORTS OF BACON & HAMS TO UNITED KINKDOM

At seaboard for export, weekended February 10, 1940, 6,066,449 pounds.

TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH Silver Fox Farming

Fur ... manufacturers in New York are advising mink breeders to study improvements along the lines of battering texture, getting more blue into the fur in place of black and working for long lasting color. Mink is notoriously unstable in color if exposed to light.

In the mail this morning we were pleased to receive a communication from the Canadian National Silver Fox Breeders' Association written by our friend P. J. Wiliams. It will certainly tend to buck us up and make us more interested in our ranches. Now for Mr. Wiliams.

SILVER FOX RANCHING NOT GOING TO THE BAD

With improving markets and strong demand for Silver Fox furs details of which may be learned from the sales news given out in New York, Montreal and London, the present aspect is not at all discouraging to Silver Fox ranchers. The percentages of offerings that are this year being sold at the Auction Houses compare very favourably with those of former years. The prices yet are low but we are now experiencing a price increase just about the time of year that in previous seasons we were meeting with increasing price resistance in disposing of Silver Fox furs. In a few days it will be the month of March and the prospects for a good demand on the March sales are encouraging. War so far has not brought to Silver Fox ranchers the misfortunes that many had anticipated

Few realized to what extent ranchers eliminated breeders and prospective breeders from their herds in the fall of 1938. From the fewer breeders kept the 1939 production was considerably smaller than in the previous year or two, and there consequently were not as large offerings on this season's sales as was generally expected, and this to a considerable extent accounts for the average of approximately 80 per cent disposal of silver fox furs on this season's auction sales. This reasonably large percentage disposal may be taken to mean smaller numbers remaining for the markets to absorb, and smaller numbers will bring about a keener and more competitive demand, and these two factors point directly to better prices.

The ranchers who pay good attention to care and feeding of their ordinary foxes so as to produce and develop large pups with well finished pelts will be in line to get some profit from their fox ranching operations, while those who have the more desirable foxes that will produce in fair numbers the kind and quality of furs that the markets require will be reasonably sure of getting remunerative returns from their 1940 production.

Last week we published in our notes an account of the sale of New Brunswick show pelts at the recent Canadian Fur Auction, Montreal, stating that the average price for 302 skins was $40.95. It distinctly stated that this average was for all the skins which appeared in the pelt show at Saint John, platinums, white faces and marked silvers, but to a great many it conveyed the impression that the $40.95 was the average for the silvers alone. We received several letters and two telephone calls drawing attention to the matter, so we make this explanation. 281 New Brunswick show pelts were offered for sale in Montreal January 9th. One of these was a cross. The silver skins were knocked down by the auctioneer for the average price of $29.66. The cross fox skin was sold for $51.00.

C. M. Lampson's next sale of silver fox pelts will be held April 1st followed by another sale on May 27th.

The Department of Agriculture for the Province of Alberta through the Dominion-Provincial Youth Training Scheme is training boys on fox and mink ranches. About sixty are taking the course. Some of the breeders are giving the boys bonuses of either a fox or a few mink at the end of the year as a start for a ranch.

The February issue of the Canadian Silver Fox and Fur is very attractive with a front cover photograph of nine New Brunswick platina fox pelts. There is also a wealth of good reading matter including articles on the platina fox with cuts of George A. Callbeck's platinas and blues, an article on Fisher in Captivity; How Some Good Ones Have Been Bred, by P. J. Williams; Particulars of the Canadian National Fox Breeders' Association Meeting at Charlottetown and other interesting fox news.

The Fur Trade Journal of Canada for February is up to its usual good form with a leading article entitled. Nutrition Experiments with Foxes and Mink .....The Mating Season is Again Around the Corner .... We can't Get Something for Nothing .... The Kernel's Kolumn ..... Letters From Dad to His Son Jim ..... Letters to the Editor .....Ports of Call .....Animal Sex Control .... News of the Markets ...etc.

New York stores are swinging into Spring furs with many varieties offerings of jackets and coat promotions. In jackets there is no particular fur that stands out as a presentation over a wide range, but in fur coats mink and Persian lamb dominate the field. Russeks Fifth Avenue store last week offered platina dyed white fox in an advertisement believed to be the first for that article. The store took credit with the following declaration: "Russeks scoops the world with the sensational little platina-dyed white fox Cardigan, $250. Platina fox, the costliest and rarest of all furs now has a twin! Russeks has taken huge white fox skins and given them the same characteristics. The same smokiness: The same murkiness. The same gray pearl mistiness. And, worked into our sensational little tuxedo cardigan, the same air of unattainable luxury."

Bonwit Teller offers several types of jackets, one named gray mist a beautiful freak natural blue fox jacket, $550., another of natural stone marten $650 and another of natural Russian lynx, $395.

Lord and Taylor are advertising civet-spotted skunk jackets. It is skunk with white markings. The price of the jacket is $100 . . . . B Altman & Company are advertising a platina fox collar on a cloth coat priced at $1,000.

The ad writers have let themselves loose by making claims that might be termed at least slightly extravagant. List to the following ad . . . ."The breathtakingly lovely platina fox has a clear luxuriant, pearly underfur, misted lightly with gray blue, and beautifully marked with a bright blaze of white. So exquisite no words can truly describe it, no picture does it justice. Price $1,000.

From the sublime to the ridiculous . . . In an out of the way corner of the publication from which the above poetic pictures of fur fashion stores was gleaned appears the following: "Famous Firsts in Fur History! A 23 inch dyed red fox Tuxedo Jacket, $39.50." Oh, ye gods! What would have happened if nature from her book of secrets had created millions of platina foxes and only a few reds. Would the lowly red be occupying the place that the platina is today ?

There is a strong tone in the American raw fur market which was reflected in better prices for opossum, red fox, gray fox, silver fox, weasel and other furs. Very few furs have failed to show an upward trend. Beaver and raccoon have advanced the most —20 per cent, silver fox, 15 per cent, southern muskrat 10 per cent to 15 per cent, ranch mink 10 per cent, muskrat 8 per cent.

Friends of Allen H. Snow, who was for six years Manager of the Hudson's Bay Company Fur Department on McGill Street, Montreal, will wish him success in his new venture—a retail fur business which he has recently opened up at 5686 Monkland Avenue. Mr. Snow spent twenty-three years in the service of the Hudson's Bay Company, some eight of which were passed in Arctic Posts of the Company.

It is not improbable that the German Government will take over the sale of Soviet furs. The new agreement between the two governments very likely provides for that. Germany by re-selling these furs will obtain foreign exchange so very necessary to her now.

The New York Auction Company's sale of silver foxes which commenced on Monday was very successful. The first day's offering sold freely at much stronger prices than the preceeding sale. On Tuesday it was continued with the three-quarters being well received. The full silvered skins were practically all sold with the brightest silvers being hotly competed for by a full sales room. It was the general opinion that the brighter skins had up to this sale not been fully appreciated this year. On Monday and Tuesday, howeve, they showed an advance of 15 per cent over the last sale. Some believe the advance was as high as 25 per cent. Other full silvers advanced about 10 per cent. The average for the first string of full silvers was about $37.00 and the top price was $104. The three-quarters were about 90 per cent sold at 10 per cent advance on last sale.

At the Seattle, U. S. A., fur sale held February 15th, fine ranch mink skins brought $17.50; ordinary ranch minks $8.00 to $13.00. Three ranch silver fox skins of outstanding quality and very pale, brought $360, $250 and $220 respectively. Prices paid for others were equally as good as the preceding sale. 83 per cent of a collection of 2,370 skins was sold. Good quality full silvers brought $65. to $70. Good color half silvers, three-quarters and full silvers, $26. to $38. Weak or slightly off-color $20. to $23. Quarters, $19. Eighths, $15. Blacks, $10.

- CONSERVATION -

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

KENTUCKY THRUSTS THE STEEL-TRAP OUT

(Anti-Steel Trap League News)

Members of the League well know that Kentucky has been the object of our legislative efforts for the past two sessions of the State Legislature and we have been pleased to notify them by post of the success of our bill in that State. When the notices were sent Governor Chandler had not yet signed but he has now done so, putting the law on the statute books with the assurance of a sympathetic passage by both legislative and executive branches of the government.

After the Senate Committee had favorably reported our bill out it was voted on in the Senate and there passed unanimously. Later when the House voted on it the measure passed with the safe majority of 52 to 22.

As enacted this humane law will impose little if any hardship on the trapper as it will not become effective until January 1, 1940, thus allowing two years for the replacement of the old steel-trap.

At first blush it would seem a long time to wait for the operation of our humane law. In reality this is not the case. The present trapping season in Kentucky is now closed which leaves another short season with a few weeks in addition, before humane devices must take the place of the old torture trap. Kentucky has to its credit, not only, a Luck Furman whose perfervid espousal of any cause spells triumph for it, but a press which dares to support an ethical matter on ethical grounds. We have been fortunate in the personnel of this State, which, with South Carolina, leads the world in giving a just and decent treatment to our fur-bearers.

When the bill was favorably passed upon by the Senate Committee, February 1, the first step has been taken toward success but there was still far to go. The left wing of the trapping interests worked against us, as is always the case, but there was a large element among the fraternity which was quick to admit that the iniquitous steel-trap is no more to their liking than to ours. These men were with us. The farmer, led by his conscience as well as a desire to save his allies of farm and field, and the farm women were largely in favor of the change once they became convinced of the merits of our charge. The opposition among the trappers began with articles in the leading trapping magazines warning all trappers in Kentucky to write their representatives and defeat the bill unless they wanted to see their favourite pastime taken from them. They falsely said the bill, if passed, would end all trapping in Kentucky, etc., etc., animadverted on the wealth (?) and security of the members of the League who had nothing better to do than take the bread from the poor trappers' mouth. In the meantime a quickening touch was given our efforts by the timely contract made by Dr. Vernon Bailey with the Animal Trap Company of America to manufacture his invention, the Verbail Humane Leghold Trap. Although Dr. Bailey has already made his trap available to the trapper, it is still in need of some improvements which can be best effected by such adequate machinery as the Animal Trap Company is provided with. This trap was demonstrated before the Kentucky legislators by a practical trapper. By the time the bill went to the Senate for a vote that body passed it on February 10th and not only passed it, but unanimously. Still there was a chance that the House might not deal so well with the measure and we dared not rejoice too unrestrainedly. But when the House voted on the bill February 28th it voted with a welcome margin of safety—52 to 22, and our bill had only to be signed by Governor Chandler to become law. If subversive pressure was brought to bear upon him, and it doubtless was, it had no effect on his purpose to sign for he later appended his signature to the Anti-Steel Trap bill and it became a law of the Sovereign State of Kentucky.

SEEK LIGHT-UP FOR GENDARMES

PARIS, Feb. 20 —(CP) —Paris is in search of a luminous policeman, for blackouts. Several ideas have been tried out. Wide white bands were put about the policemen's hats—but were discovered to be invisible in emergency. Then white gloves with sleeves to the shoulders were tried. The crowds found the effect decidedly spooky—for there appeared to be two spectral white arms floating in midair.

Then somebody had a bright idea. They tried it out at the Rond Point, Champs-Elysees, one of the business corners. In the middle of the street a policeman stood courageously a white band on his hat, a powerful re-bulbed flashlight in his hand. When it was on the cars were supposed to stop, while a second policemaan on the corner turned a second flashlight on his hatband. This system, it has been decided is too expensive, as it means two policemen armed with flashlights at every corner.

So the problem is not yet solved. Two ideas are yet to be tried— the luminous policeman, wearing a cap and gloves covered with phosphorous to glow in the dark, which may produce more mysterious effects— and the solution employed in London—long white capes which are large enough to be seen by both motorist and pedestrian.

TURKISH EARTHQUAKE

ISTANBUL, Feb. 22—(AP)—Eighty persons were reported dead and hundreds injured tonight as a result of a series of earthquakes in central Anatolia in Asiatic Turkey which damaged 11 villages and left thousands homeless.

Lesser shocks were felt over a wide area which included Istanbul, Ankara, Smyrna and Andana, but damage in these cities was slight.

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