

TIMLEY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH Silver Fox and Mink Farming

At a meeting of the National Chinchilla Breeders Association held during their 2nd annual chinchilla show at the Blackstone Hotel, Omaha, Neb., which was attended by 400 breeders, it was stated that the aim of the organization and the shows is to improve the breeding stock so that production can be increased and quality of pelts improved. It is their hope that eventually chinchilla will enter into competition with other furs and that it will be brought from the luxury class into the reach of any woman who buys a fur coat.

Chinchillas produce one, two or three litters a year and average two to a litter. A producer needs several hundred pair of breeding stock to put himself on a pelting basis, she said. A few skins are available now but are being taken by private buyers. A coat requires about 100 skins and weighs between three to five pounds. The tremendous demand that existed for centuries by women of high fashion for chinchilla furs brought about the wholesale slaughter of the wild chinchilla. That lasted until the early part of this century when F. M. Chapman, an American mining engineer working on a project in the Andes, heard the story of the chinchilla. With permission of the South American Government he conducted a four-year search. In 1922 he finally found a colony, the eleven animals surviving in a rocky crevice two miles above sea level. He spent a year bringing the animals down to lower levels, then placing them in refrigerated cages he raced them across the equator. One animal died and one baby was born en route. Eleven survivors reached Inglewood, California, on February 2nd, 1923.

That was the beginning of the industry in the United States but it took another ten years to determine whether the breed would survive and increase on this continent. Now successful breeders look forward to the day when chinchilla will again reign supreme in the fur fashion markets of the world. Today the National Chinchilla Breeders Association has approximately 5,000 members owning some 125,000 chinchillas. There are estimated to be 2,000 chinchillas in Nebraska. Mrs. Fulk said there are only about 25 chinchilla coats in the world since the growth of the chinchilla stock is slow. A chinchilla coat costs upwards of \$25,000. Princess Margaret of England owns one, as does Lily Pons of the Metropolitan. Dorothy Kirstan wore a chinchilla wrap when she opened in Tosca at the San Francisco Opera recently.

Well, all we can say about the above is that for persistence the chinchilla breeders have everyone stopped. For years they have been carrying on a campaign of publicity similar to the above but we haven't noticed in any of the fur trade publications where chinchilla furs have been offered on the market in recent years. Some years ago they were put on sale in New York but the response was unfavorable, completely out of line with the prices asked for the breeders.

The Pest Control Products Act Why?

The commercial value of the actual pesticides now sold in Canada approximately twenty million dollars yearly, and their value to Canadian agriculture could be estimated at many tens of millions of dollars annually, and there are approximately two thousand different pesticides now registered for sale in Canada, according to P. M. Overholt of the Plant Products Division Canada Department of Agriculture.

Pest control products which include insecticides, fungicides, weed killers, rat killers, and worm remedies are essential commodities in agriculture, and some of these are useful also in industry and household. The yield and quality of most farm and garden crops depend partly on the successful control of insects, plant diseases and other pests and the fact emphasizes the value and importance of effective insecticides and other pest control products.

Such control is exercised in Canada under the Pest Control Products Act, a Federal Act administered by the Plant Products Division, Department of Agriculture. This Act requires the registration of all pesticides and requires that all claims and directions for use be approved before the product is accepted for registration.

Re-registration of a pesticide can be denied if it is sold contrary to the terms of the registration, or should fail to provide the control claimed for it.

The Wonder Ray

The x-ray has helped medical science accomplish wonders since its discovery by Professor Roentgen 37 years ago. It has greatly simplified the detection and setting of bone fractures and has taken the pressure out of the diagnosis of many human ailments. Tuberculosis, once a malady responsible for thousands of deaths annually, is now on the wane thanks to free chest x-ray clinics operating in every province.

Until recently, the x-ray was used almost exclusively on humans. If a horse broke its leg, it was invariably shot. If a cow swallowed a few bits of barbed wire and her milk production began to drop drastically, she was butchered. If a pet cat or dog was seriously ill, it should land in the gas chamber.

Research workers in Canadian agricultural colleges are using the x-ray to produce mutations in the plant world which may someday help alleviate the world food shortage. One scientist produced a corn plant with ears two feet long, but this "giant" was lost to the world because no record was kept of the amount of radiation used in the experiment.

Another beneficial use of the x-ray is its ability to "see" flaws in metal which has resulted in stronger and longer lasting farm implements. It is widely used to detect foreign matter in processed foods. It has brought to light the wonders of birds by revealing what goes on inside the shell when an egg is hatching.

The radiologist and the x-ray may do as much in the future for agriculture as they have for medicine.

NEWSY NOTES -

Potash The chemical symbol for potassium is K; its atomic No. is 19, and its atomic weight is 39.105. It is a metallic, alkali chemical element that is never found in a free state in nature. The name potash was originally given to a vegetable alkali that was obtained from wood ashes. These were collected in pots, and the potash leached from them by using water. It was commonly called carbonate of potash, or pearl ash, K2CO3. Soda and potash were not distinguished by the earlier chemists, until Davy separated them in 1807.

The early farmers on the Island knew the value of wood ashes and the potash it contained, and not only carefully saved their wood ashes from their fire places and stoves, but when they were in need of more potash and burned their trees to secure potash, to make soap and as a fertilizer for their crops. We can recall gathering ashes, when clearing land, from wherever a brush and stump pile had been burned, to secure the potash. We have seen the wood-boats and those carrying ashes to the farms along the Saint John River. This was once quite a trade movement on that river.

Potassium is known to occur very extensively in nature. It is a component of granite and igneous rocks, and is estimated to form three per cent of the earth's crust. Some orthoclase feldspars contain 16.8% K2O in combination with silicic acid. Many other rocks contain up to 10% K2O, but the cost so far, of getting the potash extracted for fertilizer purposes, has been prohibitive. When river water was evaporated, the solids were found to contain about 2% potash. K2O. There is from one to two per cent present in the oceans.

The largest known deposits of commercial potash, previous to World War I were at Strassfurt, Germany. Some area of a prehistoric sea, believed by geologists to have occurred during the permian age, dried up, and kainite and other potash salts were deposited, near enough to the surface in Germany to be manually mined. Valuable deposits have been worked in the oligocene formation in Alsace, France; in the lower miocene formation in Galicia, and in the early tertiary formation in Spain. There are also deposits in India, Brazil, etc.

Potash is one of the three chief elements: Nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium, that are essential to plant growth. Soluble potash fertilizer not only greatly increase the yields of potatoes, cereals and grasses, so essential in the production of food supplies, but it enables plants to withstand the attacks of diseases, pests and adverse conditions of climate and soil. The world had been largely dependent on Germany for potash before the Great War. In 1913 the United States imported from Germany the following potash fertilizers: Kainite, 521,176 tons; manure salts, 250,329 tons; muriate of potash, 237,830 tons; sulphate of potash, 4,340 tons; and other forms to make 1,092,558 tons, equal to 270,720 tons K2O and worth over \$18,000,000. In 1917, the United States was able to secure only 8,100 tons K2O and this cost \$7,778,406.00.

The price of potash, when the German supply was cut off, rose to eight times the former cost. Every possible source of potash was investigated. The salt and brine lakes in Nebraska and California were the chief source, but kelp, a marine plant, and flue dust, etc., were collected and used. The amounts thus secured in the United States, increased as follows: 1915, 4,232 tons; 1916, 42,320 tons; 1917, 126,961 tons; and in 1918, 316,951 tons, valued wholesale \$9748,290.00.

During the period between the two great wars, great deposits of potash were discovered at Carlsbad in New Mexico, where it is manually mined. This assured this continent of a sufficient supply of this essential fertilizer, and New Mexico has been the chief source

Seed Production Of Registered And Certified Cereals

Because of adverse harvesting conditions in Western Canada in 1951 supplies of Registered and Certified cereal seeds may be reduced by almost 50 per cent below early estimates. H. R. Farnell, Plant Products Division, Canada Department of Agriculture, has indicated. Mr. Farnell points out that while this may cause regional shortages in Western Canada, the overall supply will still be sufficient for requirements with some movement from surplus into deficiency areas. In Eastern Canada it is estimated there will be an adequate supply of Registered and Certified cereal seeds. There was considerable wet weather experienced during harvest season in the east, and this factor may result in a considerable amount of No. 2 seed, so graded because of discoloration.

Early estimates of cereal seed production indicated there would be an increase over 1950. These estimates placed production at 3.9 million bushels of wheat, 4.2 million bushels of oats, 1.7 million bushels of barley and 375,000 bushels of flax. Mr. Farnell points out that while some of the crop in Western Canada will be harvested this spring, seed will not be available for seed in the spring of 1952.

Desinfectant For Seeds Introduced

A new seed desinfectant for the control of stinking smut (bunt) of wheat has been introduced by Canadian Industries Limited. Known chemically as hexachlorobenzene, the new fungicide overcomes several objectionable characteristics of other desinfectants in that it is not poisonous to humans and does not possess the unpleasant odor which has turned many farmers away from treating their seed grain.

Formulated in powder form, the fungicide is applied as a dust at one-half ounce per bushel by standard treating methods. The cost of treatment works out to about three cents a bushel. The product will be marketed under the name C-I-L Bunt Cure.

Technical service men of C-I-L's agricultural chemicals department warn that it is meant only for the control of stinking smut or soil-borne diseases attacking wheat. It should not be used on other seed grains.

Since the start of breeding work with soybeans at Ottawa in 1929, four varieties have been released for commercial production, namely, Mandarin, Pagoda, Kabott, and Capital. The most recent of these introductions, Capital, was selected for high oil content as well as other desirable characters. Over a five year period, Capital has compared favourably with other Canadian and United States high-oil soybean varieties.

BURGESS BEDTIME Continued from page 10

more. Than he did these things all over again. Once again Blacky flew up to see if Reddy was still headed that way. He was. Blacky took the news down to the struggling young Mink. He struggled harder

THE THINKING MAN SAVES THROUGH LIFE ASSURANCE AND THE SUN LIFE OF CANADA HEAD OFFICE MONTREAL

The following Representatives of the Sun Life of Canada in Prince Edward Island will be glad to discuss with you any matters relating to life insurance or annuities, without obligation. CHARLOTTETOWN MRS. DOROTHY ROGERS J. A. MOORE R. C. SHEA, KINKORA W. D. YOUNG, SUMMERSIDE H. C. BOHAKER - Unit Supervisor Charlottetown, P. E. I.

FARM EQUIPMENT SALES and SERVICE W. R. JENKINS "YOUR INTERNATIONAL DEALER" Gt. George St. Phone 2163

POULTRYMAN An opportunity to obtain the best in poultry equipment for home dressing plant, one only 65 gal. automatic propane gas scalding and one 20 inch electric picker, equipped with the sensational new rocking finger, used only one year. One seven drawer natural grain flat top desk, also portable typewriter. Apply MATTHEWS TURKEY FARM Alberton - Phone 18

NOTICE

Friday, February 8th

is positively the last day changes can be accepted for Telephone Listings IN THE NEW Island Telephone Directory!

A new issue of the Island Telephone Directory is in the course of preparation, and subscribers listings will be closed on Friday, February 8th. Telephone subscribers who want changes made in their listings are urged to send in such changes to our business office at once - and at all events not later than FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8th. We cannot undertake to give effect in the new issue to orders received after that date.

The Island Telephone Co. LIMITED

FARMERS! FOR SALE Potato Graders; Hand, Gas or Electric Power, with or without picking table (roller). Price \$55.00 to \$150.00. FRANCIS MacDOUGALL, Canoe Cove

PROPANE GAS For Hot Water Heating, Cooking and Cabin Heating. Non-Poisonous - Clean - Economical - Fast. This Gas is: Sold by STANLEY, SHAW & PEARDEN LTD. Distributors of McCarty Propane Gas Range Stoves 176 Gt. Geo. St. Phone 328

COMPLETE VISUAL REFRACTION and ANALYSIS G. F. HUTCHESON & SON Optometrists 53 Grafton St.

IF IT'S HARDWARE WE HAVE IT! The Rogers Hardware COMPANY LTD.

Get the Best Buys in MacDONALD-ROWE Woodworking COMPANY LIMITED 36 Lr. Water Street Phone 2767 or 2768

SKUNK and FOX BOUNTY The payment of bounty on Skunks and Red or Patch Foxes has been extended to February 29, 1952 and will be paid at receiving stations as previously advertised. The Bounty on Skunks will be paid ONLY on snouts with portion of white stripe attached. DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Pulpwood Buyer's Agreement We, the undersigned Pulpwood Buyers, agree to adhere to the following specifications: Four inch (4") minimum diameter (inside bark) Red, White and Black Spruce, Balsam Fir (Var) Peeled Poplar in the spring No short wood No rot or red heart All knots well trimmed No pasture, line fence or open-grown White Spruce. Signed: A. H. Anderson, CHARLOTTETOWN, Burgess Construction Company, MONTAGUE, Boates (P.E.I.) Limited, CHARLOTTETOWN, Co-operative Union of P. E. I. CHARLOTTETOWN, Johnston and Acorn, SOURIS and CHARLOTTETOWN. P. E. I. Produce Co. Ltd., KENSINGTON, J. Arthur Peters, SOURIS, Keith Pratt, BLOOMFIELD, Albert Quigley, ST. PETERS, John A. McDonald, CARDIGAN.