

NEWSY NOTES

By J. A. Clark, D.Sc.
THE NEWFOUNDLAND DOG

In the autumn of 1939, shortly after the outbreak of World War II, we were privileged to spend some time in the home of Hon. Harold Macpherson, a breeder and lover of Newfoundland dogs. It was a great pleasure to be acquainted by his dogs and enjoy their assistance as they went about their official duties as guardians of the home, and ready for any duty, whether it was the care of children or the retrieving of game birds for their master.

The Pyrenean sheep-dog is believed to be the chief or dominant ancestor of the Newfoundland dog. The Basque fishermen from France visited Newfoundland from 1506 on, and they are believed to have taken with them the white or cream-colored Pyrenean sheep-dog as their ship's mascot. These were dogs trained for generations by the French and Spanish shepherds to protect their sheep from robbers, wolves and bears. They were trusted by their masters to safely guard their flocks for two or more days at a time; thus acquiring for themselves the name: "Dog of the Mountains".

The English settlers of Newfoundland brought with them their mastiffs, bird-dogs and water spaniels. To these were added the large dogs that came with the Spanish, Portuguese and French who came to Newfoundland to catch and salt fish for Cadiz and other ports in Europe.

From these dogs and their descendants, under rugged conditions, there developed a large, imposing dog, with strong bone, tough sinew, showing great strength; the head is large, the neck long, the loins strong and well ribbed up; the tail is long and powerful, of great use in swimming; the coat is black, with white markings. The hair is long and wiry, with a thick, woolly underfur which never seems to get wet through; and like water dwelling animals, they can give their coat a good shake that drives out almost all the water.

They are happiest when retrieving sea-fowl for their masters. They will jump into the water from a bank, a boat or from a bridge and chase a wounded bird until it tires; and having a gentle mouth, they do not maul what they have retrieved. They are also most useful for the farmer-fishermen of Newfoundland; being very intelligent in the herding of animals.

On the southwest coast it is said to be a common sight in deep-water fishing, to see a Newfoundland dog at the gunwale of a ship, ready to grasp the fish that slips off the hook. One fisherman who kept a record found that his dog had retrieved one-third of his summer's catch. This dog would jump in and go under water after a fish that broke from the hook at the surface.

The Newfoundland is a great draught dog, and was used for years in hauling mail to and from the outposts to the railway, and from an outpost through a chain of settlements. A team of seven dogs have hauled mail and passengers over frozen lakes and marshes, through the bush and over trails that were too difficult for a hardy pony. They travelled as much as seventy miles, keeping the trail through falling snow, and taking their load to its destination.

There are many stories told of their ability and faithfulness, so that they well deserve the title: "Friend of Man". In December, 1919, the coastal steamer "Ethie" was wrecked near Bonne Bay; no boat could be launched, nor could one live in the sea that raged on that rocky coast. A Newfoundland dog, when told to go, dashed through the surging, seething sea and swam out until he caught a small rope thrown to him from the ship, and brought it ashore in his teeth through the breakers. A heavier rope was then hauled in, and a boatswain's chair rigged, so that the 92 passengers, including a baby, were saved; the infant coming ashore in a mailbag.

Charles Dickens wrote of his two Newfoundland dogs in 1868: "The other day 'Bumble' got into difficulties among some floating timber and got frightened; 'Don' was standing by me shaking off the wet and looking on carelessly, when all of a sudden he perceived something amiss and went in with a bound, bringing Bumble out by the ear; the scientific way in which he towed him along was charming."

Robert Burns referred to a Newfoundland dog in his poem: "The Two Dogs" as follows:

"The first I'll name, they ca'd him Caesar.

Was kept for his honour's pleasure;

His hair, his size, his mouth, his lugs,

Showed he was nane o' Scotland's dogs;

But whalpit some place far abroad.

Where sailors gang to fish for cod.

His locked, lettered, braw brass collar

Showed him the gentleman and scholar;

But though he was o' high degree,

The taint a pride — nae pride had he."

In May, 1926, a Live Stock Registry Act was passed in Newfoundland, which included the dogs in that colony. Their registrations are recognized by most countries and clubs in almost every part of the world.

Because of their pleasant dis-

position and trustworthiness, they well deserve the name that has been applied to them: "Nature's Gentleman".

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

BERGEN, Norway (CP)—Bergen radio station has hired extra operators to handle Christmas greetings being exchanged between Norwegian seamen in foreign traffic and relatives at home. The total of messages is expected to reach 100,000, a big increase over last

Nitrogen From The Air For Crops Without Soil

BERKELEY, Calif., (AP)—Air can be turned into fertilizer by magical little algae, raising the prospect of growing food crops without soil.

Algae are one-celled plants which grow in water. One blue-green type of algae now is found to have great ability to take nitrogen out of the air and make it available for growing crops.

This is the main thing that fertilizers do — supply nitrogen for growing crops.

The first success in growing rice plants using nitrogen grabbed from

the air by the algae is described in a paper prepared for the American Association for the Advancement of Science by Dr. Daniel I. Arnon, department of plant nutrition, University of California.

SIGNIFICANT FOR ORIENT

The finding offers a cheap, effective way of fertilizing various food crops. It could be of immense significance, especially in the hungry Orient.

Dr. Arnon added the blue-green algae, named *Anabaena cylindrica* to rice plants, and found the rice

grew without needing nitrogen from the soil. They got it all from the air through the algae.

Dr. Arnon found "under conditions these algae can take nitrogen from 200 times faster than in the soil."

SOIL DETHRONED

The algae get their energy from the sun, and don't need materials from the soil in order to produce nitrogen.

"The soil has been dethroned from its unique position as the sole medium for plant growth," Arnon said. "This is not to suggest that in the immediate future soil will not remain as our most important natural resource. How-

U. S. Newsprint Production 9.4 pc. Higher This Year

WASHINGTON, (AP)—The commerce department says the United States increased its newsprint production by 9.4 per cent in the first nine months of 1954.

Production was 863,000 tons compared with 788,000 for the same period of 1953. Imports were 3,675,891 tons in 1954 and 3,705,349 in 1953.

A review of the pulp, paper and

paper board industry prepared by W. LeRoy Neubrech, one of the department's forest products experts, forecast climbing U. S. consumption of pulp, paper and allied products over the next two decades, but commented:

"Construction of new newsprint capacity in the United States, coupled with recent announcements of proposals for additional domestic newsprint capacity, may possibly witness a tendency toward a leveling off of United States imports of newsprint from foreign sources."

Published with Neubrech's re-

The Guardian Page 13
Monday, January 3, 1955

view Friday was an article on industry trends by Wallace H. Pederson, department program executive for paper.

Pederson noted that U. S. wood pulp production was 13,438,000 tons in the first nine months of 1954 compared with 13,291,000 in the similar period of 1953; that imports dropped to 1,499,804 tons from 1,621,931 in 1953, and that exports were 304,406 tons compared with 97,602 in 1953.

"These shifts indicate that the United States is not only becoming more self-sufficient as to wood pulp, but also that we are fast becoming a major supplier of pulp to world markets," Pederson commented.

Wonderful things have happened to the beautiful new 1955 Chrysler

See it today! Thrill to its dramatic new beauty... dynamic new power

One look... and you'll know wonderful things have happened to the beautiful new Chrysler! You'll sense a stirring new spirit in this long, low, brilliant new automobile where style is wedded to engineering perfection.

From the brilliant, inspired styling of the radiator grille to the gracefully sloping hood and rear deck, here is a true masterpiece in metal. Flowing contours that create a vision of motion on wheels. Every inch and every line of it new and exciting.

And when you step inside, you see a further extension of this dramatic new beauty. Fashion-right interiors, completely new, rival the finest modern home decor. Luxurious new fabrics and trim appointments impart the look and feel of elegance you expect to find in this finest of motorcars.

Under the hood, there is dynamic new power... a thrilling new 188-horsepower Spitfire V-8 in Windsor DeLuxe models... eager new power in the great 250-horsepower FirePower V-8 of the lithe New Yorker DeLuxe and incomparable Custom Imperial. Teamed with these new V-8 engines, in every Chrysler, you get the finest, smoothest, most effortless fully-automatic transmission ever developed... PowerFlite... as standard equipment. *Power brakes, power steering, power seat and power window lifts are available, too.

Certainly, if you appreciate, if you treasure the finer things of life, it can truly be said, you belong in the beautiful new Chrysler. See it today at your Chrysler-Plymouth-Fargo dealer's!

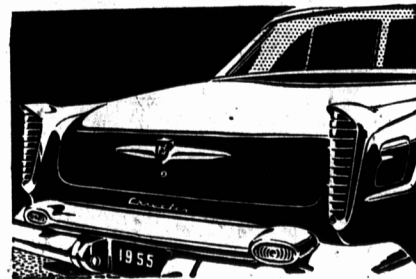
For new driving ease... PowerFlite Flite Control lever is now mounted on the instrument panel, along with other controls you seldom use.



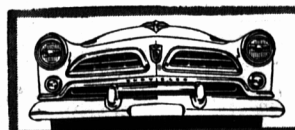
For vision unlimited... the New Horizon windshield that really wraps around unlike ordinary wrap-around windshields. Not just at the bottom corners, but at the top, as well, where extra vision counts so much.



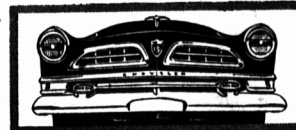
Balanced beauty... the long, smooth-sloping rear deck perfectly balances the extended hood of the 1955 Chrysler. Mammoth, twin-tower taillights accent the car's width.



You belong in the beautiful new Chrysler for 1955



WINDSOR DELUXE

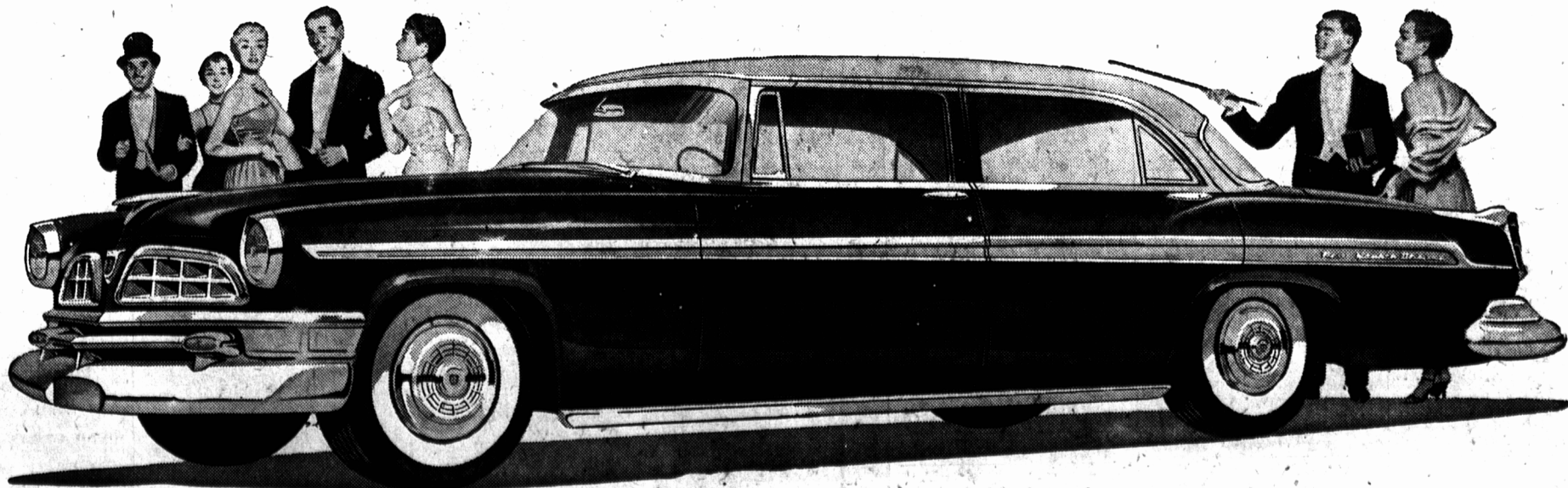


NEW YORKER DELUXE



CUSTOM IMPERIAL

*All optional equipment is standard on Chrysler Imperial. Power brakes are standard on the New Yorker DeLuxe.



Manufactured in Canada by Chrysler Corporation of Canada, Limited

Premiere presentation now! At your Chrysler-Plymouth-Fargo dealer's! You are cordially invited!

F. R. McLAIN LIMITED
Malpeque Road, Charlottetown

MULLEN MOTORS
Mount Stewart

HUNTER RIVER — Hunter River Garage

TIRED FEET
Soothe them with
MINARD'S LINIMENT