

-NEWSY NOTES-

By J. A. Clark, D.Sc.

FLORIDA AGRICULTURE

The Florida State Fair, held in Tampa from February 3rd-14th, 1953, presented a more typical exhibit of Florida's resources than could be secured at any other time. This exhibition gives strong evidence that Florida is no longer to be considered as just a resort state. While there are millions of visitors and tourists, that enjoy this scenic Vacation Land, where her mid-winter has climatic conditions that are enjoyed by citizens of the northern States and Canada only during the summer months; yet Florida's remarkable agricultural and industrial progress has been so rapid in recent years that it is quickly overtaking the enormous revenue received from her visitors.

From federal agricultural statistics, the revenue from agriculture for 12 months in 1952 reached a total value of \$592,904,000 and if all the products obtained from the soil, including forest products and mines are added then the total income from these sources was \$934,312,000. Her vast diversification of crops including as they do, temperate zone, sub-tropical and tropical zone crops the number and kinds are simply bewildering. In the highly specialized crops of fruit and vegetables there are over 200 varieties that are grown commercially, and, to indicate the rapid increase in their value; seven of the leading crops are now producing \$260,000,000 more than they did ten years ago.

Fruits and Vegetables

The citrus fruit industry of Florida traces back to the 16th century when the Spanish and other explorers from the Old World crossed the seas under the lure of gold, brought with them a source of wealth that has produced more times the fabulous treasure trove they sought. These adventurers brought citrus trees from their native land and planted some under climatic conditions so favorable that today about 35 per cent of the world's total production of grapefruit, oranges and tangerines are grown in Florida on an area about one half the size of Prince Edward Island. Last year Florida actually sold from this area \$190,123,000 worth of citrus fruits.

The total area in Florida last year planted to fruit and vegetables was 842,000 acres or about four-fifths the area of Prince Edward Island. In addition to the citrus fruits she marketed strawberries, watermelons and miscellaneous fruits worth \$18,259,000. Her vegetables returned \$158,754,000. It is interesting to note that of this, \$50,670,000 came from the sale of tomatoes. The total production of fruit and vegetables that rolled out from this area last year in

373,599 loaded cars of food products representing 178,987,300 packages of foodstuffs had a gross value of \$387,136,000.

Field Crops

To enumerate Florida's field crops would require considerable space. The following, however, occupied an acreage last year just equal to the "Island's Million Acre Farm": corn, tobacco, peanuts, sweet potatoes, cotton, sugar cane, oats, cow peas, velvet beans, soy beans and hay. Her tobacco was worth \$23,000,000; corn \$15,384,000 and sugar cane \$13,000,000 with hay and the other crops mentioned worth about \$16,981,000, or a total of \$88,299,000. These figures do not include Irish potatoes, and St. John's county, which is on Florida's East Coast, a short distance south of Jacksonville, is known as the potato capital of Florida. Its average production is 2,500,000 bushels of potatoes per year. It not only boasts having as its chief city, St. Augustine, the oldest city in North America, but also has a town at the junction of road routes Numbers 13 and 207 called Spuds.

Flowers, Bulbs, Etc.

Florida is a land of flowers. There is continual bloom. The shrubs bear both bloom and fruit at the same time. Everywhere that one travels in this land there are trees, shrubs and flowers that produce a great abundance of bloom. At the present time at the Lakeland Civic Centre, there is covering a lattice trellis that extends the whole length of the shuffle board courts for 120 yards which is a mass of flame flowers that can be seen across Mirror Lake. The sale of flowers, nursery plants and special crops under glass and in the open including peonies and tung nuts grossed \$25,059,000. Where there are flowers there are bees and these in 1951 from 218,000 colonies produced 17,876,000 pounds of honey that sold for \$2,842,000, and in addition, beeswax, that added \$140,000 to that year's agricultural returns.

Livestock and Poultry

The state had, according to the figures for 12 months 1951-1952, a total of 2,187,000 head of livestock. Beef cattle numbered 1,390,000, valued at almost \$200,000,000. Dairy cattle were worth \$28,075,000 and 17,000 porkers grossed \$15,737,000 to Florida's farmers last year. The sale of livestock totalled \$56,635,000, her dairy products 45 million and her poultry well over 30 million dollars, yet the production of these still leaves Florida listed as a deficit state in dairying and poultry products during much of her busy tourist season.

ELLERSLIE W. I.

Mrs. Harold Gillis was hostess to the members of the Ellerslie Women's Institute on Tuesday evening, February 10th, and despite a heavy snow storm, there were 13 members present. They planned on quilting a quilt but it had to be postponed until Friday night. Plans were made to purchase seats for the junior high school; also to clean both schools during the week. Mrs. L. A. Burleigh offered to have the next meeting. Other points of business were discussed. At the close of the meeting lunch was served by the hostess and members of the refreshment committee.

TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH Silver Fox and Mink Farming



Canadian Fur Auction Sales (Quebec) Ltd. held a three day general sale on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. On Thursday 8,500 wild mink, 22,000 standard ranch mink and 7,000 mutation mink were offered and on Friday 4,500 red fox, 300 blue fox, 350 cross fox and 6,300 silver fox including 1,000 platinum, 600 pearl platinum, 500 white marked and 4,200 standard silvers. The results of these sales will be watched for with interest by ranchers all over Canada.

Mink worked so that the hairs stand up in high relief is said to be the latest news in fur treatment at Revillon Freres in Paris. They report having exclusive use of the process. Scarfs made of one mink skin with headpiece and tail just long enough to go around the neck are offered among the small garments highlighted by this house.

At Palm Beach white furs in stoles and wraps register as to fashion. They are wearing for evenings at Palm Beach two of the most typical including the white mink stole dropped casually to the side and worn with a white ground wrap printed taffeta dress, and another style is white fox in long straight stole shown carried over the arm, worn with black velvet top and pale blue satin skirt.

An estimated 70 to 80 per cent of the fur stocks in most leading fur departments and in specialty stores in the United States this spring will be made up of small pieces which will be about 10 to 15 pieces each higher in price than small fur stocks last spring. The small fur business has grown to tremendous proportions in the last two or three years, several furriers pointed out. Fur scarfs are expected to be another big spring sale stimulant, more so than last year and many furriers are looking forward to making up this spring to some extent for lost scarf business last year.

Mink will again be a prime factor in spring fur business, it was said that standard ranch mink is listed as the type buyers expect to lead the popularity sales poll. Silverblue will also be a very important mink item in small fur spring fashions seen this year.

More long hair furs such as black and white fox stoles and a few silver fox jackets are expected to be good too. However, the trend towards long hair fur accessory pieces such as fox muffs and like will again be among the fur fashions promotions, it was said.

Some doubt was expressed by many authorities as to whether the mink boom would continue to be as strong this season as last year. From what we can learn there doesn't seem to be any slackening of activity. Here is another report from Chicago... "Furriers look for a good business this spring, better than a year ago, and in nearly all cases retailers plan to stress the 'little fur' fashion."

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Wellington and Vicinity

Miss Lila McAusland is spending some time with her parents. Miss Myrtle Ferguson recently took up employment in Charlottetown.

Richmond and Wellington tied 2-2 in a lively game on Thursday February 19th in Wellington Rink. Mr. and Mrs. Roland Miller, Freeland were visitors in Wellington on Sunday February 22nd.

Miss Ardene DesRoches recently accepted the position as assistant telephone operator here. O'Leary Ramblers and Wellington Battlers played at O'Leary Rink on Saturday night February 21st, the score being 7-5, favour of Ramblers.

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Ellands, McNeill Mills, visited in Wellington Saturday February 21st at the home of Mr. Lemuel Day.

His many friends are pleased to see Mr. E. F. Arsenault home from the Prince County Hospital and able to be out again.

Mrs. Lea Hogg of Summerside returned home after being a patient in the Prince County Hospital.

Mr. Elmer McAusland of Charlottetown recently visited his grand parents, Mr. and Mrs. Fred McAusland.

Pupils of the English School held a Valentine Day party on Friday February 15th. All pupils exchanged valentines, and enjoyed refreshments, also a treat of candy.

Mr. Ronald MacNeill, who has been a patient in the Prince County Hospital, recently returned home. One and all are pleased he is out and about again.

The Wellington Jrs. and St. Eleanors played a game at the Airport Rink on Wednesday February 18th the score being 6-1 in favour of St. Eleanors.

Miss Mary Clare Richard celebrated her 7th birthday at her home on Friday February 20th when a group of young guests gathered at her home to extend best wishes and presented her with lovely gifts. Supper was served the young guests by her mother.

Members of the Ladies' Aid met at the manse on Tuesday evening February 10th with the president, Mrs. J. T. Waldron, presiding. Roll call was answered by six members. Devotions opened with singing of "Faith of Our Fathers" followed by responsive reading in Hymnary no. 728, and closed with singing of "Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life". The business period was then conducted followed by a dainty lunch served by the ladies.

On Tuesday evening February 17th a large group of friends gathered at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred Arsenault in honour of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Gaudet who were recently married. The couple were the recipients of many lovely gifts. A delicious lunch was served after which the company proceeded to the Community Hall where dancing was enjoyed. Congratulations and best wishes were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Gaudet for a long and happy wedded life.

LONDON, (CP)—First editions of "History of Canada" and "A voyage to the Country of the Hurons," both written by Gabriel Sagard-Theodat and published in Paris in the middle of the 17th century, brought \$1,340 at auction of the late Sir Leicester Harmsworth's library here.

LONDON, (CP)—New five-shilling coins minted for the Coronation will be presented to Woolwich district babies born in Coronation week next June.

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Tignish and Vicinity

Miss Clara Gallant, who has been visiting her mother, Mrs. John Gallant, Palmer Road returned to Summerside on Monday February 23rd.

Mr. Paul Handrahan, Christopher's Cross was a visitor to Charlottetown on Thursday February 19th.

Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Mann, Irish-town, were recent visitors to Tignish. They were the guests of Mrs. Mann's mother, Mrs. John Dorgan.

Mr. Leo Corcoran of the P. E. I. Co-operative League spent a few days the past week in Tignish on business.

The many friends of Mr. Emile J. Gallant St. Felix are very sorry to learn it has been necessary for him to re-enter the hospital. All join in wishing him a speedy and complete recovery.

Visitors to O'Leary on Thursday February 19th were Mrs. J. A. Macdonald, Mrs. Foster Skerry and Mrs. Blois Ellis, Tignish.

Mr. S. H. Spinney, Hamilton, Ont. is visiting Tignish, the guest of Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Gaudette.

Miss Teresa McPhee, Tignish has accepted a position as sales lady with the Tignish Co-operative Ltd.

The Tignish Dramatic Club has selected for its St. Patrick's Play "Here Comes Charlie" and the practice is under way. Many of the cast are well known for the many wonderful performances in the past and doubtless the tyros will do equally well this year.

The recent heavy rains have combined with the Government snow plow in clearing by-ways of snow drifts. However it is not so good for the out door rinks and the game scheduled for Saturday night February 21st between the Tignish Boy Scouts and the Cape Breton Youths had to be postponed.

Mr. C. F. Morrissey, Tignish recently received the sad news of the death of his brother Peter Morrissey, on Saturday, January 31st at his home in New York. The late Mr. Morrissey was born at Sea Cow Pond, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Morrissey. He is survived by his wife and five children who reside in New York. Also left to mourn their loss are: Mary (Mrs. Sam Braybrook) Revere, Mass.; Elizabeth (Mrs. Foley) Boston, Mass.; Amanda (Mrs. Alex Aitken) Boston, Mass.; Ann (Mrs. Claude Kinch) Tignish; Austin New York; Clarence, Tignish; Percy and Montague, Sea Cow Pond.

LONDON, (CP)—Sir John Slesor, marshal of the Royal Air Force, said the aircraft crash rate is being reduced in relation to the amount of flying done. He said the modern jet fighter figures in fewer crashes than the old Spitfire.

PILSWORTH, England (CP)—William Butterfield offers \$1.50 for every fox shot on his 160-acre farm in Lancashire. Butterfield said he would rather pay for dead foxes than find his poultry maulled by hungry raiders.

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PILSWORTH, England (CP)—William Butterfield offers \$1.50 for every fox shot on his 160-acre farm in Lancashire. Butterfield said he would rather pay for dead foxes than find his poultry maulled by hungry raiders.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Swift Canadian Co., Limited announced today that the Company has leased its creamery, egg grading and poultry processing plant located at O'Leary, P. E. I., to Mr. Douglas Adams of O'Leary who will operate it under the name of Western Creamery.

Mr. J. E. Hoover, manager of Swift's Moncton plant, also stated the equipment in its Charlottetown plant on Fitzroy Street, and the Chick Hatchery located on Belmont Street have been sold to the Island Co-op Services Co-operative Association Limited who will continue to operate the plants.

The Company will purchase butter, eggs and poultry processed in the plants for distribution by our country-wide sales organization thereby providing a broad market for the products of the farmers in Prince Edward Island.

Live stock producers and shippers on the Island are advised that Swift Canadian Co. will continue to buy cattle, calves, sheep, lambs and hogs through our Buying Station located on Belmont Street, Charlottetown.

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