

NEWSY NOTES

By J. A. Clark, D.Sc.

SOUTHERN ONTARIO FLOODS.

On October 22nd we drove over the hills near Dundalk, 1,706 feet above sea level. It is the highest point in Ontario and most of the point in the province start from near this hump and flow into the several Great Lakes that form all but the northeastern boundaries of Southern Ontario. This hump is about 25 miles from Georgian Bay and nearly half way between Lake Simcoe and Lake Huron.

We were told that this ridge was a continuation of the Niagara escarpment. From it many comparatively short rivers drop during their courses a greater distance than the fall from Forth William to Quebec City, including the falls and rapids on the Niagara River and many of these rivers flow through deep channels as they flow through the country side. In places their channels widen out to form these are natural water storage areas, when the rivers cannot remove all the water that gathers from the rolling hills in the spring or during heavy summer and fall rains.

It is a matter of record that in Ontario the greatest loss of life from floods has occurred along its smallest rivers and streams. It is of interest that the worst floods in Ontario have been caused by summer and autumn rains and not by freshets from spring thaws.

It is quite generally thought that the lack of forests in Southwestern Ontario has been responsible for the recent rain for a longer period than cultivated land and no doubt their presence is beneficial in regarding the flow of rain water, but the rolling hills and the steep descent of the rivers and streams in Old Ontario was such that the first French explorer who reached the mouth of the Humber River reported it in flood.

Governor Simcoe was rescued from being drowned in the Holland Marsh by being hauled into a canoe during a flood and in order to avoid the regular route north by way of the flooding Humber valley he had Yonge Street built through the forest all the way to Lake Simcoe, by following around the east of the Holland Marsh Simcoe never trusted the Humber and had the new city of York built on the high ground nearer the Don River. His summer house was also built near the Don.

Recorded floods occurred towards the end of the eighteenth century and in 1804 bridges and dams were washed out by floods on the Don. Credit and Humber rivers, while the headwaters of all these were in dense forests.

The Indians and early settlers used the river flats for corn and other crops, partly because the trees had been killed on them by floods, so that they were cleared for farming, but also because they were generally fertile bluffs, some of the Indians and pioneers, however, even trust the rivers enough to place their wigwams or houses on these areas that land belonged to the river.

A noted engineer has said: "When we are honest with ourselves, and get down to the bottom of the flood problem, about 90 per cent of the permanent flood damage is the result of building roads, railways, factories, houses, farms and what not on land that properly belong to the river."

The Humber Valley Conservation Authority stated in 1947: "The flats belong to the river," but are part of the river bed, but are only occasionally needed and "whoever builds upon them does so at his peril." Six floor control dams had been considered for the

Humber, but the chief conservation engineer stated that had they been built they would have only taken care of about one third of the flood crest of October 16th, 1954. Another leading flood control authority believed that had the costliest dams ever conceived for the Humber River been built they would have had little effect against the flood caused recently by the hurricane. They might have provided a little more time for escape but the loss of life would still have been appalling.

What can be done to prevent such disasters in the future? The Metropolitan Planning Board had stated that it will ask the Provincial Government to move every body out of the river flats. The chairman believes that if this is done, the six proposed flood dams on the Humber would be unnecessary. The Humber falls 1,350 feet in 60 miles, and any scheme to provide flood dams to retain the six to eight inches of rain that fell on this watershed during Hurricane Hama would create more serious problems by flooding thousands of acres of valuable farm lands. Many millions have already been spent in Ontario on flood control dams that have not saved its towns and disastrous floods.

The Municipal Act of Ontario gives a town the right to refuse building permits to build on river flats, and the only existing machinery by which compensation can be given to those who have built without a permit is the expropriation for park purposes of their holdings. The town of Long Branch has presented a \$750,000 plan to the Metropolitan authorities of Toronto, to move all the houses from 42nd and 43rd Streets and Irtlan Road. This plan is to be included in the Metropolitan project to create a green belt of park land encircling the city, and to include the flats of the Humber and Don rivers. Reports on previous investigations have stated that many of these flats will never be safe for year-round residence, some are even subject to flooding by high lake water.

It is a mistake to think that Hazel was the first hurricane that ever reached Toronto. In 1850 and again in 1878 there occurred "a tremendous rain storm that came up from the Gulf of Mexico." These no doubt were hurricanes. The one in 1778 destroyed 30 dams and 20 bridges across the Don River. Provision should be made to lessen the danger from hurricanes that may occur in the future. It is said that no control measures ever planned could have saved the homes on Raymond Drive from the recent flood, because they were built on land that "belonged to the river," and the river had to use it on October 15th, 1954.

to new fields.

Mrs. Yates' number one ambition is to hunt in Africa, where she would "like to shoot one of every kind of animal there."

IN THE HOME WORKSHOP WITH BUILT IN SHEETS

MAN'S WARDROBE WITH SLIDING TRAYS PATERN 222

WARY OF HUMANS

Sometimes called mountain lions, the cougars seldom attack humans, but can be dangerous when wounded. It takes an accurate shot to bring the big cats from the trees where they seek refuge after being cornered by dogs.

Mrs. Yates hunts with dogs. She has been hunting since a child, starting out from grouse and duck to deer and cougar.

Mrs. Yates, her husband James and 16-year-old son Douglas, live on the "cougar run" — a circular path followed by cougars each year which starts and ends on the breeding grounds in the centre of Vancouver Island.

The "run" crosses their farm, a mile up Mount Matheson, some 20 miles from Victoria.

FLASHLIGHT HUNT

Mr. Yates leaves the hunting to his wife and says: "She has such a passion for cougar killing that she will get up in the night and start out with a flashlight. She'll have nothing on but her pyjamas."

She has had some "nasty times" during her hunting career. Once when armed only with a .22-calibre rifle, she found a cougar ready to pounce on her sheep.

"I called to it and when it turned, I shot it right between the eyes. It reared on its hind legs, forelegs outstretched and claws bared. Fortunately it dropped — dead."

Cougars are getting scarce on the southern part of the island. A scarcity of game has sent them

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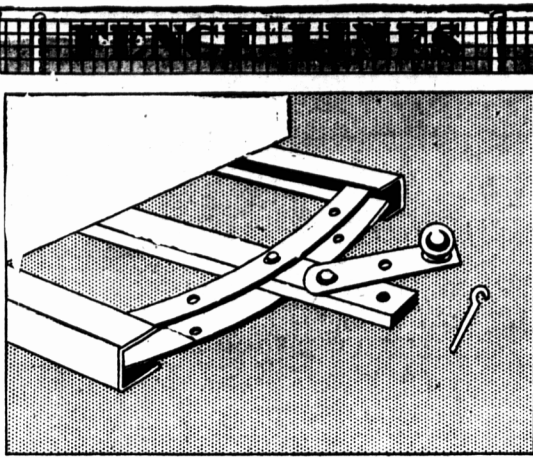
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Middle-Aged Farmwife Called Queen Of Cougar Hunters On Vancouver Island

VICTORIA, (CP)—A clear-eyed, middle-aged farmwife is called the queen of the cougar hunters on Vancouver Island.

She is Mrs. Joan Milward Yates who has been shooting the big cats for 17 years and her bag now numbers 23.

Shooting is her hobby, but she is also protecting her mountain-side farm from marauders. They prey upon livestock and have taken heavy toll in many farm-clearings.



This storage unit provides a place for what a man wears except suits, hats and overcoats. The basic design is so flexible that it also may be made for a woman's clothing or for household linens by simply eliminating the tie racks and making wide trays on both sides. Shelves may be substituted for the sliding trays if space is needed for magazines, records or toys. Large 3-dimensional drawings on the pattern show how to assemble the various parts for which a cutting list is provided. The curved sides of the trays are traced directly onto the wood. To get a copy of this pattern send name and address with 35c and ask for number 222. Your order will be mailed the day received. Apply: The Workshop Department, The Guardian Publishing Company.

NOVEL EXCUSE

LONDON (CP) — Joseph Moore, 52-year-old showman, pleaded that he was talking in his sleep when charged with using insulting behavior to a bus conductor. He was fined 10 shillings.

Timely Notes Silver Fox And Mink Farming

Gintle's, New York, report that small furs are now accounting for 46 per cent of retail fur sales while coat sales are figuring at about 23 per cent, for jackets amounting to 18.5 per cent as compared to 14.2 per cent a year ago. The sharpest drop has come in short coats which have dropped from 18.9 per cent last year to 11.3 per cent. European purchasers of American ranch mink reached a peak last season and European buying is expected to continue in the new auction season.

The Chinchilla Corporation of America of Lanthicum, Md., has notified the Securities Exchange Commission at Washington that it plans to sell 1,200,000 shares of its common stock for about \$300,000. The Company's chief purpose is the supplying of chinchilla stock to breeders. According to statements filed its total assets amount to \$54,112 and its total liabilities to \$13,112. In the past five months it has earned a net profit after taxes of \$11,648.

Some \$75,000 worth of fur coats were seized in a police raid on a downtown garage in Montreal, P. Q. last week following a telephone tipoff by a mysterious informer. Detectives discovered a pile of expensive fur coats heaped on the floor of the garage. A check indicated that 160-odd coats had been stolen from downtown and western district fur retail stores. The police theory is backed up by a label found on one of the coats which reads—Charles Desjardins, 1194 Sherbrooke St., one of the three stores looted in the past month. The three suspects seized in the garage at the time of the raid are being held by the police for further questioning.

The following despatch is from Denver, Colorado. . . Much of the interest in longhaired furs in several stores has been concentrated on fox. Domestic fox in pearl platinum and silver are best with one buyer who notes that fox is coming back in dress pieces and "up to a point is taking the place of mink." Pastel-dyed fox, especially pink, is selling in small collars and novelty pieces and a slight increase in sales of grey-dyed furs is noted. . . In another section of Women's Wear Daily we note that more furs are registering in color with new emphasis on greys, also pale tones. . . That high shades such as red, pink, charcoal are creating interest in furs. That there are a lot of little foxes in natural blue and white. That white luxury furs are for evening and a black-dyed mink is showing some activity.

At the P. E. I. fur breeders show which was on this week at the Exhibition grounds, we saw several very beautiful black mink and we complimented the breeder, who told us that he had quite a number of them and had been improving his herd right along. There has not been a really good demand for black mink but that may be because better specimens were not available. However, we feel confident that if a rancher can produce the right quality they can be sold easily.

The following is a despatch from Montreal to Women's Wear Daily. . . Canada Mink Breeders has decided to take part in Canadian Government exhibits at the Milan and Paris Fairs this coming year.

Government and the Canadian National Silver Fox Breeders' Association, and it is hoped that this show will be on an even larger scale next year.

NATIVES UNIMPRESSED

AUCKLAND, N.Z. (CP)—Walter Reid, 95, oldest living Scots pipe good.

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