

NEWSY NOTES

By J. A. Clark, D.Sc.

Island Land Tenures

Isle de St. Jean was first appropriated by France in 1523. During this French regime it was granted to the Company of New France, a French naval officer, Captain Sieur Doublet in connection with his fishing enterprises in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. No settlement was allowed as the French wished to keep their settlers near their fortifications, as sources of supply of farm produce. This condition lasted during the period of his grant from 1663 to 1700.

The King of France gave a grant of the Island in 1720 to Count St. Pierre, who built a governor's house barracks, storehouses and a church at Fort La Jole at the entrance to Charlottetown Harbour. France at that time conducted its colonization scheme by administering public affairs in its colonies through a governor who reported to the King, who had absolute authority over the colonists, who were centralized for protection from their foes.

The Treaty of Paris in 1763 ceded Isle St. Jean to Great Britain, and on October 7th of that year was annexed to Nova Scotia. The Government of Nova Scotia then enacted legislation that the inhabitants of St. John's Island were and are subject to all laws of Nova Scotia. The laws were in force until the Island became a separate colony in 1769.

The British Government, in order to plant colonies in the New World, which they called plantations, referred such questions to a body they called "The Lords of Trade and Plantations". The settlement of the Island was referred to this board in 1764. A great many persons of influence in Great Britain had petitioned the Government for grants of land on the Island. Some had claims for naval or military services, others that they were deserving of the patronage of the Crown. One of these John, Earl of Egmont who was the first Lord of the Admiralty, memorialized the King to allow him to set up a feudal system.

Proposed Feudal System
The Earl of Egmont, in his petition to His Majesty the King, modestly states: that he "desires from His Majesty a grant of the whole Island of St. John's, estimated at two million acres, with all rights, royalties, privileges, franchises and appendances, with all civil and criminal jurisdiction." He proposed a feudal system for the Island. He was to be Lord Paramount. He set out in great detail the various tenures and gradations in rank that he proposed to introduce and establish.

The jurisdiction was to be similar to the known rules of the common and statute law of England. He offered to reserve fifteen thousand two hundred acres of land for places of trade and a capital town. His summary of his proposition was as follows:
"Tenure of service—One Earl of the whole county; forty capital lords of four hundred; four hundred lords of manors; eight hundred freeholders; 800,000 acres.
"Tenure for burgage, for the establishment of trade and commerce in the most proper parts of the Island—One county town, 15,200 acres; forty market towns, 20,000 acres; four hundred villages, 40,000 acres;
"Tenure at large in common socage—Left at (large) in common socage, as a fund to enable the undertakers and for their encouragement to complete this plan, 1,124,800 acres; making a total of 2,000,000 acres."

The Lords of Trade and Plantations recommended that Lord Egmont's prayer be not granted. He persisted, however, and sent a second and a third memorial, on behalf of himself and his nine children and others that the Island be surveyed and divided to be parcelled out by him &c. These all were rejected by order in council May 9th, 1764.
Creation of Island Landlords
The Lords of Trade and Plantations recommended that the Island be surveyed and this was completed by Captain Samuel Holland from 1764 to 1766. It was to be divided into counties of about 500,000 acres each; the counties were to be divided into parishes of about 100,000 acres each, and each parish subdivided into townships of 20,000 acres each. In each county land was to be reserved for a town site and in each parish a proper site for a church and sufficient land for a glebe for a minister.

Photosynthesis Synthesized

The efficiency of photosynthesis, a process in which green plants capture the sun's energy and transform it into food, can be increased in the laboratory by 100 per cent. In recent experiments, Dr. Dean Burk of the National Cancer Institute in Bethesda, Maryland, so raised the efficiency of the living process that, under ideal conditions, plants could absorb one unit of light, pick up one unit of carbon dioxide and produce one unit of pure oxygen.

This is considered to be the maximum utilization of solar energy by plants to build sugars that are elemental foodstuffs. Normal efficiency of photosynthesis is about 65 per cent.
These findings may not only increase food production per unit of light, Dr. Burk said, but may result in using solar energy in many ways. It might be possible to break down water directly to hydrogen gas with sunlight. Such a process would eliminate our present dependence on exhaustible supplies of natural gas for energy and would substitute a photo-chemical process giving hydrogen gas that could be made in any part of the world where there is both water and sunlight.

TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH Silver Fox and Mink Farming

The New York Auction Company Minnesota branch offered 30,000 mutation mink and 20,000 standard ranch mink in Minneapolis last Tuesday. The mutation collection consisted of Platynums, Pastels, Aleutians and Breaths and Spring. Both the standard and mutation offerings included pelts from the West Mink Breeders' Association, the Olympic Association and the Rocky Mountain Fur Farmers Sales and Independent Shippers. At Montreal Friday, Dec. 7th the Hudson's Bay Company offered 40,000 ranch mink, standards and mutations. They comprised exceptionally fine representatives of the new season's mink from the leading ranchers throughout Canada. At Vancouver, Little Bros. had an offering of 12,000 mink on December 6th. They were mostly collections from the Master Breeders' Association. On December 17th the American National Fur Breeders' Association will offer a large collection of standard, mutation and wild mink at Milwaukee, Wis. From the above it will be seen that the 1951 crop of mink is already being marketed and predictions are that the United States and Canadian production will total somewhere around the three million mark, possibly higher. It takes a lot of promotion and a great many sales to distribute such great numbers into manufacturers' hands and we look for a very busy promotional campaign to assist in that endeavor.

The petition also further points out that the restriction of bank credit is injuring the fur industry as credit is basic to it. With the denying of credit facilities the fur industry finds its borrowing ability at the bank restricted almost to the amount which is necessary to find capital to pay for the goods. It ends with the statement that the excise tax on furs should be eliminated. However, if it is impossible to grant this relief they suggest that the excise tax and the sales tax be combined in one tax not to exceed 15 per cent at the point of sale of the garment by the licensed wholesale manufacturer.

At Montreal, P. C., early last week the Canadian Fur Auction Sales Co. (Que.) Ltd. had a special sale of furs which attracted the largest attendance of any opening sale in years. The offerings consisted of Alaska sealskins and standard ranch and mutation mink. They met with keen competition, New York being the principal buyer of the large percentages sold. There was some slight European bidding and Canadian dealers bought a fair portion of the mink offerings. Percentages of mink sold were given as ranch mink standards, 80 per cent sold, pastels 82 per cent sold, Silverblue 75 per cent sold, Miscellaneous, 75 per cent sold and low grades 65 per cent sold. The company estimated ranch mink and pastel mink about 5 per cent below last year's opening. Silverblue unchanged with no comparison made on miscellaneous and low grades.

The market was much stronger than anticipated and the collection as a whole brought favorable comments from the attending buyers. Here are a few prices—Ranch mink (17.218) 1 part 2 EX dk rignles, Alberta type, \$25.50 to \$30; Ontario type, \$23 to \$28; New Brunswick type, \$20 to \$21.50; Quebec type, \$20 to \$21; Females, Alberta type, \$15.25 to \$16.25; Ontario type, \$12.50 to \$14; Quebec type, \$14; western Ontario type, \$15 to \$16; British Columbia type, \$15 to \$17. Top price for the pastel mink was \$33.50 to \$49.50. For males and females, \$17 to \$26.50; for Silverblue mink Breath of Spring top prices were \$22 to \$40 with females \$13.50 to \$19; Blue Frost males sold from \$12.75 to \$13.25; Kohl-Y-Nur mixed \$12.25.

Canadian fur organizations representing the entire fur industry of Canada have combined to present a brief to the Minister of Finance and to the Minister of National Revenue at Ottawa in an effort to secure some relief from the burdensome excise taxes which impose a heavy load on the Canadian fur industry. For the benefit of those not familiar with the taxes levied, we may say that the present excise tax has been fixed at 25 per cent and the fur merchant is obliged to pay cash for the tax consisting of 25 per cent of the value of the raw skin, plus dressing and dyeing charges. Excise tax as now levied represents more than the 25 per cent of skin values.

In addition when the manufacturer sells the said skin he must account for the sales tax of 10 per cent in addition. Other taxes besides are levied in cities like Montreal which has a 2 1/2 per cent tax on furs and the Quebec government, we understand, also collects a 3 per cent tax. This is on the retail price of the fur or fur garment. Where the shoe pinches hardest is probably the case of the retailer, who must pay for the garment with its 25 per cent and 10 per cent tax, its cost of furs and extend credit to the buyer for a considerable period without any extra charge being levied for that accommodation.

Could Increase World Food Supply

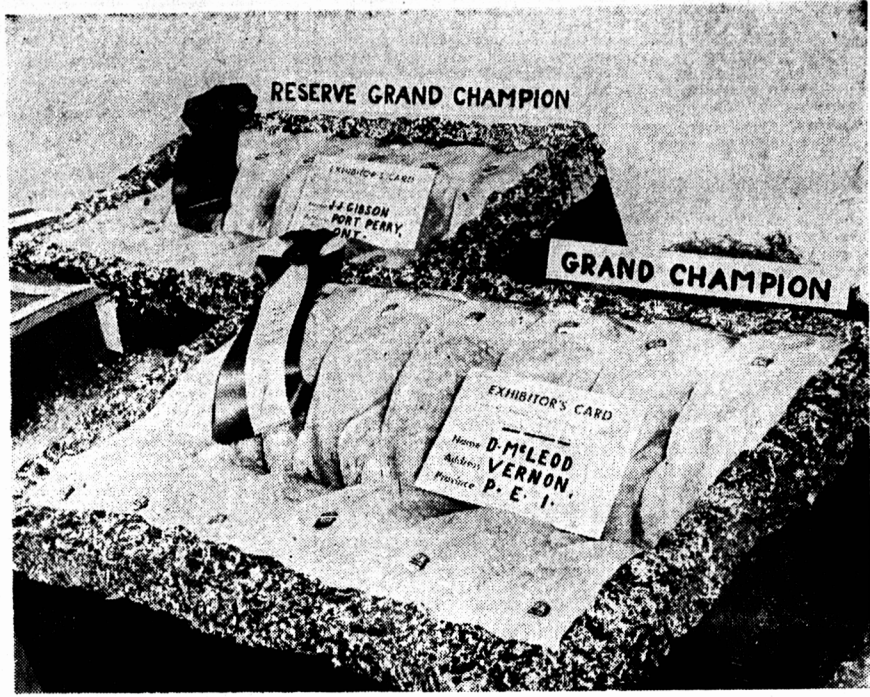
Food production in the underdeveloped nations of the world could be increased by 35 per cent in the next ten years if governments of these countries would launch an intensive drive to educate their farmers in modern methods of agriculture. This statement was made by Norris E. Dodd, director general of the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization at a recent conference in Rome, Italy. "It will be necessary to stir up a revolution in the minds of tens of thousands of farmers aimed at improving soil management, using fertilizers and pest control chemicals, and accepting mechanized equipment and scientific livestock feeds," Dodd said.

Dodd said that the population in underdeveloped countries is growing at the rate of one to two per cent a year and was outstripping increases in food supplies. He proposed that the FAO conference set its sights on a 15 per cent increase in food production for the five years ending in 1968 as a possible target in those areas. For the next five years, ending in 1963, the sights should be raised to a 20 per cent increase—a total increase of 35 per cent in ten years.

CENTURY OF FERTILIZER

At the Rothamsted Experimental Station in England, a plot of land has received nearly 1,400 pounds of commercial fertilizer every year for more than 100 years and is still producing bumper crops. The land has been sown continuously to wheat and the yield of grain has been maintained at about 34 bushels per acre during the entire period, states C-I-L Agricultural News. Yields on a nearby unfertilized field average 12 bushels an acre.

Island Capons "Tops" At Royal Winter Fair



Pictured above is the box of twelve, grade special, undrawn capons, which won the Grand Championship in the Dressed Poultry Show at the Royal Winter Fair for Dingwell MacLeod of Vernon.

The same picture is featured on the front page of the current issue of the Canadian Poultry Review, which in an article, describes the Poultry Show as "the greatest show of its kind in this country or any other country."
The value of displaying such merchandise to the consuming public, the Review reported, was evidenced by the attraction of the exhibit of dressed poultry had for the visiting public, many of whom could hardly believe that carcasses of such excellence and eye-appeal were possible.

These New Bug Killers

You first read about it in a newspaper or hear it on the radio. It's a new insecticide claimed to be lethal to a variety of crop-destroying bugs. Advertisements proclaim its wonders. Then it appears on dealers' shelves.

Long before the product reached the dealer, a corps of experts had spent thousands of dollars on development work to make certain the product is everything it is claimed to be. According to a recent report, the cost of developing

College For Feed Manufacturers

Seeking to develop a source of trained manpower of professional status for its production personnel, the feed manufacturing industry in the U. S. has reached an agreement with Kansas State College to set up a new school for teaching feed technology—the first of its kind in the world. The school will be a co-operative project with the college providing faculty, laboratory, classrooms and administrative facilities. The United States feed industry will put up the \$200,000 building while machinery manufacturers will contribute and install the equipment. The course will correlate chemistry, nutrition and engineering with practical feed milling.

Hogs, sheep, cattle and chickens of campus experimental flocks and herds will eat the feeds produced by the students.
According to C-I-L Agricultural News, feeding livestock is no longer a matter of doling out quantities of grain and forage. The formula feed industry has grown rapidly in the last few years as scientists have increased their knowledge of the response of growing animals to balanced nutrients. Economic, political and consumer groups have also demanded more and better animal products in the shortest possible time for smaller expenditures in livestock and poultry feeds.



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IT'S HAILING FERTILIZER IN NEW ZEALAND

More than 170,000 acres of pastureland in New Zealand were fertilized by airplane during three months last summer, according to C-I-L Agricultural News. This is three times the acreage top-dressed by air during the same period last year. The job was accomplished by 24 airplane companies which flew more than 6,000 hours to spread 22,000 tons of fertilizer.

safety precautions detailed on the manufacturer's label. Only when complete clearance is obtained from the government can the product be recommended for use. From the foregoing, it appears obvious that the new pesticides being offered to Canadian growers today are products of long and careful research so that they may be of maximum benefit to mankind.

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