

TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS

CONNECTED WITH Silver, Fox and Mink Farming

Prime Minister St. Laurent of Canada while attending a meeting of the British Commonwealth Prime Ministers, visited Beaver House, the Hudson's Bay headquarters in London, and was shown over what is one of the finest buildings of its kind in the world.

The Canadian Fur Auction Sales Company (Quebec) Ltd., Montreal, will hold one of the largest public auctions in several years, with fresh collections of various types of furs. On Monday, January 22, 15,000 beaver, 10,000 wild mink and 1,500 otter will be offered. On Tuesday, January 23, 3,027 Alaska seal, 28,000 ranch mink and 9,500 muskrat will comprise the offering. On Wednesday, January 24, 700 fisher, 2,500 martop, 2,000 white fox, 10,000 red fox, 1,200 blue fox, 1,500 cross fox, 1,500 lynx, 700 lynx cat, 3,000 wolf and 300 timber wolf will be on sale. On Thursday, January 25, 70,000 muskrat, 10,000 ermine, 100,000 Canadian squirrel, 5,000 raccoon, 1,000 skunk, 16,000 silver fox including 4,000 platinum, 5,000 white mark, 10,000 standards — a very fine collection — will be offered. Friday, January 26 will be devoted to the selling of the remainder of the silver fox and mutations. The silver fox and mutations go on show at 8.00 a.m. January 23. This sale will give a good indication of the trend of silver fox for the balance of the season.

Hudson's Bay Company reported that their January sale of Scandinavian fox-pelts was one of the best they have had for some time. Of the 6,200 skins offered about 75 per cent were sold and fresh goods were estimated to have brought full Scandinavian local prices, while stale goods advanced 30 per cent over the last sale held in September. French and Italians were the main buyers. Top prices for the sale were: full silvers, \$24; three-quarters, \$18 10s; half silvers, \$18 10s; quarters, \$16 15s; white marked \$8 15s. The above prices are reminiscent of better times of some years ago. The explanation will be given later on.

Following the above sale the Hudson's Bay Company wild mink collection was sold and it advanced 10 per cent over the levels of a year ago. A large part of the offering was bought by a New York buyer. Ranch mink was said to be fully 15 per cent above New York ideas and as a result very few United States orders were received for it. Standard mink brought up as high as \$44; Mutation mink up to \$40; Canadian silver fox, full silvers, \$23 three-quarters, \$15 15s; Plantinum, \$14.

A cabled report of Anning, Chadwick & Kiever, Ltd., sale of silver fox received by Women's Wear Daily New York, is as follows—Scandinavian goods proved much more saleable than Canadian merchandise at our sale of silver fox here today. The reason

Must jealousies of nations lead to war? Is there no remedy for this day's ills? Except the slaughter of the battle-fields, The broken homes, the starving refugees, The lusts infernal loosed to brutalize The shattered remnants of humanity That shall be aftermath of any war? This day and age releases on mankind?

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FOXES FOR SALE I STILL HAVE A FEW CHOICE THREE-QUARTER STANDARD SILVER FOX PUPS FROM REGISTERED STOCK ERNEST T. MILL KENSINGTON, R.R. 4

NEWSY NOTES

By Agricola

THE OVEN BIRD

Francis Bain devotes a long paragraph of his "Birds of P. E. I." to this Warbler. "The Gold-crowned Accentor or Oven-bird, (Scurus auricapillus), is a true Warbler, though looking so much like a thrush. In color it is a beautiful olive-green above with an orange crown, and white below, spotted with dusky on the breast. It comes the last of May, but we would not be aware of its presence if it were not for its loud and off-repeated chant of wee-chee, wee-chee, wee-chee, uttered with increasing volubility to the end. Follow this call the bird actively exploring the leaf-covered ground for beetles, and looking nervously round for the approach of a companion. The nest is peculiar. It is a bulky structure of dried leaves and grasses, placed on the ground and roofed over to hide its four mottled eggs from intruding gaze."

The bird takes its name from the nest and the nest gets its name from the dome-like structure used by the pioneer housewives as outdoor ovens. Such ground-nesting birds must be rare on the island now, for dogs, cats, foxes, skunks, minks and other predators abound, to say nothing of hawks, crows and some other birds. This is the bird, too, which many writers credit with calling "teacher, teacher, TEACHER-ER," in a rising crescendo: one bird-watcher, however, puts the accent on the last syllable. This Warbler was classed as a summer resident in 1916. The late Mr. Ludlow Jenkins informed me that a nest was found at Marshfield in 1914, and that is the only record on my books.

Oven-Bird, or Gold-crowned Thrush, AOU, 674. Plumage about the same in both sexes. Centre of crown light orange, bordered by two black stripes; eye-ring white. Rest of the upper parts, wings and tail, olive-green; no wing-bars nor tail-patches. Underparts white, streaked or rather, dotted with dusky on breast and sides. Legs very pale pink. Length of adult, 6.15 inches.

NATURE NOTES

Carl von Linnæus, better known to us as Linnaeus, was born in Sweden, in 1707. His father intended him for the ministry but the lad, at four years old, was constantly inquisitive about plants and their uses, and this curiosity ultimately shaped his life. He at last, after many travels and adventures, became Professor of Botany at Upsala University. He was ennobled in 1761, but in 1787 his memory began to fail, and after a paralytic stroke, he died in 1778. "He found biology a chaos, he left a cosmos," writes one of his admirers; and he might have added "but we'll soon have it chaos again!" His only surviving son, Carl, died five years later, and his mother sold the herbarium and books of records to Dr. J. E. Smith, first president of the Linnaean Society. It is said that Dr. Smith visited Upsala and offered the widow 200 pounds for the herbarium, which was accepted, for it was a great sum in those days. Somebody told the King of Sweden, and he sent a man-of-war to intercept Dr. Smith and recover the herbarium. It was too late! The herbarium is still the property of the Society and I believe is stored in one of the English Colleges. In the Pocket Book of Science-Fiction a story called "Twilight" tells of the future, when man has killed off everything that menaced him — and many things that haven't. Among the latter are the birds. The new poison-sprays for insects are already at work and the caterpillar that the bird feeds to its young is sure death to the poor nestlings. We may deplore this, but cannot prevent it.

London and Boston are the two chief export markets for Canadian wool, of which 70 per cent is handled by the Canadian Co-operative Wool Growers, which has its own agency in London and direct connection with the Boston market. Canadian wool reaching the open market goes through one of 27 government-registered warehouses. The wool is graded under government supervision and growers are paid on the basis of grade and condition. Last year the Canadian clip totalled 9,000,000 pounds, down

swans, against the murky skies over the fenlands. When the second World War broke out, Peter Scott joined the Navy. He was awarded the D. S. C. and the M. B. E.; these speak for themselves. He went back to his old hobby and founded the "Severn (River) Wildfowl Trust," an area in Gloucestershire operated as a sanctuary for all manner of wild ducks and geese. In 1949, his search for the Ross's Snow Goose to within 200 miles of the North Pole, and he intimates that he is going again! One's knowledge is necessarily limited but the writer has never heard of a delinquent who liked natural history, nor of a naturalist who looted a bank. Captain Scott was right.

It was an old belief that the influenza appears with greater virulence every thirty years. The last severe epidemic of "flu" was in 1918, finishing up in Arctic Canada in 1919. There is probably minor outbreaks every year, and some of these are notable too. Early in 1939, Pope Pius XI, died from the effects of this disease. My notes say that in February, 25 per cent of school children in Montreal were ill with "flu". February 10, 1940: in the previous three months 1,039 persons died of influenza in England. The present visitation is taking a great toll in that country but as yet no exact figures are forthcoming.

G. B. S. REJOICES

George Bernard Shaw, caustic cynic and epigrammatist, was once musical critic for one of the newspapers, and wrote a piece on "the growth of harmony". I preserved the piece, and today I can hear Shaw's harmony on the air, grunting, grinding, and otherwise astonishing rather than pleasing. Let him tell how this came about. "The technical history of modern harmony is a history of the growth of toleration by the human ear of chords that are first sound-disharmonious and senseless to the main body of contemporary professional musicians. By senseless, I mean, in the case of a discord, that you cannot for instance foresee its resolution or relate it to a key. Great composers anticipate the rank and file of us in this sort of perception, and consequently in the toleration of combinations which seem unbearable in the absence of any such perception." (continued in next Notes)

their way from the Chosin Reservoir through encircling Reds to the sea at Hungnam.

Women's Institute Meetings

MAYFIELD W. I.

The regular monthly meeting of the Mayfield Institute was held at the home of Mrs. Millar Orr on Jan. 2. Meeting opened by singing the Institute Ode, followed by the Creed. Roll call was answered by five members and one visitor. Secretary being absent there were no minutes. Mrs. Blair Andrew gave the report of the bean supper: Proceeds \$38.56; expenses \$8.22, leaving a balance of \$30.34. Christmas treat for school children amounted to \$4.08 and Christmas boxes sent \$1.95. Committees were reappointed. It was moved and seconded that bill be paid. Collection amounted to 75c. February meeting to be held later in the month. Roll call to be answered with exchange of Valentines. Mrs. Eddy Cole on lunch committee. Spelling match to be held at next meeting. The hostess served a delicious lunch. Meeting closed with the Mizpah Benediction.

SOURIS LINE ROAD W. I.

The regular monthly meeting of Souris Line Road W. I. was held at the home of Mrs. Cyril Macdonald on January 3, 1951. Roll call (that of a New Year's Resolution) was answered by 12 members. One new member was enrolled and three visitors were present. Minutes of last meeting were read by secretary-treasurer Mary Keays. A discussion of business took place immediately. All financial matters, (gifts to crippled children, rooms for school, etc.) arising from December meeting had been attended to, including the purchasing of gifts for retiring President, Mrs. Lorne Keays and retiring Secretary-Treasurer, Miss Helen McIsaac. The Sick Committee reported purchase of fruit for sick of the district. It was decided that a donation of one hundred and fifty dollars (\$150.00) be given to Secretary of School Trustees of Souris Line Road South school district to help defray expenses of chemical toilets installed in the school during the past summer. It was moved and seconded that a donation of ten dollars (\$10.00) be given to the Souris Line Road North School to help buy furnishings. A cash box is to be purchased for the Institute. The following Committees were appointed: Sick Committee — Mrs. Joseph P. MacAulay and Mrs. Joseph L. Macdonald. School Committee — Mrs. Hugh MacAulay and Mrs. Cyril Macdonald. Mrs. Joseph L. Macdonald invited the members to her home for February meeting. Meeting adjourned with singing of National Anthem. A delicious lunch was served by the hostess after which a card game followed; net receipts amounting to \$2.20. A vote of thanks was extended to the hostess by Mrs. Lorne Keays and seconded by Mrs. Joseph P. MacAulay, President.

RICE POINT W. I.

The January meeting of Rice Point W. I. was held at the home of Mrs. C. MacEachern with an attendance of five members and two visitors. Collection amounted to 90c. Two members paid dues. Regular business being completed, correspondence was read by secretary which included letters of thanks for Christmas gifts, fruit to the sick, school children's treat and card of sympathy. Arrangements were made to have Dr. Florence Murray speak at Afton Hall on Jan. 16. Other correspondence was read and discussed by meeting. It was decided to leave the quilting until after the February meeting. A present to be given to a recently married couple, also an Institute pin to be presented to a member. Mrs. Fletcher MacEachern invited the members to her home for the next meeting. Roll call to be answered by each member donating a cup. Lunch committee being appointed meeting closed with the National Anthem.

LONG RIVER W. I.

The Long River W.I. met at the home of Mrs. Arthur Johnstone on Jan. 5. Meeting opened by repeating Ode and Creed in unison. Roll Call was answered by 13 members, one visitor was welcomed. It was decided to remember two boys from Long River who are in the services. Committees reported. New committees appointed. Sick, Mrs. W. E. Johnstone, Mrs. Hedley Paynter, Miss Mae Found, Lunch, Mrs. Elmer MacLeod, Mrs. W. E. Johnstone, Mrs. Ralph Johnstone, Mrs. Oscar Johnstone. To scrub school, Mrs. Euctage Paynter, Mrs. James Bernard, Mrs. Edwin Bernard, Mrs. Mae Brown. One member paid fee. Hostess for February meeting will be Miss Mae Found when roll call will be an exchange of Valentines. A "thank you" letter was received from Jack Paynter, R.C. A.F. who had spent Christmas in Clinton, Ont. A very interesting letter was read by Mrs. Murdoch MacLeod from Mrs. Malcolm MacLeod, representative to the A.C.W.W. conference in Copenhagen last year. A committee of six were appointed to work in conjunction with the hall committee to raise funds to repair the community hall in the near future. Mrs. Heath Campbell, Mrs. Ralph Johnstone, Mrs. Elmer MacLeod, Mrs. Arthur Johnstone, Mrs. Andrew Johnstone, Mrs. Oliver Paynter. It was decided to hold a social evening in the hall on Friday evening. Programme committee for same, Mrs. Allan Campbell, Mrs. W. E. Johnstone, Mrs. Francis Paynter, Mrs. Mae Brown, Miss Mae Found, Mrs. Ernest Dunning. It was decided to sell refreshments at the rink, each taking their

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

(By Forbes Rhude)

Canadian Press Business Editor Canadian wool growers "may have front seats for the top of 1951," says Wool News, published by Canadian Co-operative Wool Growers, Ltd., concerning advancing wool prices. Canadian growers do their clipping in May, June and early July, and last year they and growers in other countries which take the clip early did not get as high returns as those who marketed later. Even so, last year, early-selling sheep men were delighted to find they were getting the top of the 1949 season. But prices continued to advance in the late years, to the surprise of authorities with many years of experience. Now these same authorities, who advised caution in mid-1950, see reason to believe the peak has not yet been reached. Manton, advices from Melbourne report four world price records at the opening of the 1951 Geelong sales. London and Boston are the two chief export markets for Canadian wool, of which 70 per cent is handled by the Canadian Co-operative Wool Growers, which has its own agency in London and direct connection with the Boston market. Canadian wool reaching the open market goes through one of 27 government-registered warehouses. The wool is graded under government supervision and growers are paid on the basis of grade and condition. Last year the Canadian clip totalled 9,000,000 pounds, down

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MacDONALD'S BABY CHICKS. This coming season shows definite promise of offering best returns to early hatched pullets, broilers or capons. We have a large quantity of cockered chicks available during Feb. and March which we offer at special prices during these two months for large orders. We also have a number of mixed or pullet chicks available throughout the season but if possible order early chicks for your best returns. All chicks from the following breeds and crosses (Barred Rocks; New Hampshire; B.R. x N.H. cross; and N.H. x B.R. cross); are produced on our own farm from our two purified strains of New Hampshire and Barred Rocks known for their uniformity in growth, livability, meat and production characteristics influenced by years of R. O. P. breeding and rigid selection. Chicks from purified, proven strains is your best guarantee of greatest returns on your investment, so place your order today for whatever you want for delivery from February 1st to July. MacDONALD'S CHICK HATCHERY COVEHEAD ROAD, P. E. I.

SHORTHORNS. Entries for the Second ANNUAL PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND SHORTHORN BREEDERS SALE to be held at the Charlottetown Exhibition Grounds on FRIDAY, MAY 11, 1950, will be received until February 15th; positively no entries accepted after that date. Bona fide farmers purchasing approved bulls at this sale may have 15% of the purchase price refunded on fulfilling certain conditions. Females will not be bonused. The management reserves the right to place age limits on the animals offered if we have more entries than the market will absorb. An entry fee of \$3.00 will be charged at the time of entry and all expenses will be deducted from the proceeds of sale on a pro rata basis. We wish to thank all who attended our 1950 sale, especially those who purchased animals. With your co-operation we will endeavour to make this year's sale bigger and better. All purchasers of bulls at our 1950 sale who still have the animals are requested to apply for the remainder of their bonus as soon as convenient. We wish to announce that we have purchased the good breeding bull, Beathorn Charmer. At present he is standing at the farm of Stanley Hurry, Winsloe. All members are invited to make use of this outstanding sire. P. E. ISLAND SHORTHORN BREEDERS ASSOCIATION A. H. MUTCH, Secretary, Earncliffe, P. E. I.

OUR BOARDING HOUSE. MAJOR HOOPLE. MISTAH MAJOR, WHYNT YOU NAME THAT APE SAMPSON? HE LOOK KINDA PUNY, THASS TRUE, BUT HE'S GOT MO' NATURAL POWER THAN GARLIC IN A CROWDED BUS! EUREKA, JASON! I'VE GOT IT — THE CHIMP MUMBLES SOME OF THE SAME GARBLED DICTION IN THIS STORY, THE "CANTERBURY TALES" — WE'LL CALL HIM CHAUCER! CHRK-SHRK-GRK! REFINED LITERARY — THAT'S GOT CLASS.



REST FOR THE WEARY — Tired Korea's sub-zero temperatures by a Chinese Communist roadblock. Their column is halted in North.