

**CALM VIEW**  
**WINNIPEG, (CP)—**The children today are just about the same as the children of a generation ago, says school principal Orville Holmes. He said they get into the limelight more because of modern youth projects such as community clubs and teen-age camps.

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**ATTENTION — POTATO GROWERS**

When delivering potatoes to Assemblers for shipment to the Potato Board Selling Agency, Growers should make sure that they receive an Official Receipt from the Agent for the correct amount of potatoes delivered. You should also check to make sure the Receipt is clearly marked showing the grade and variety of the potatoes.  
 Growers should retain these Receipts in case there are any errors in payment. They should insist that the grade and variety of potatoes is marked on them so that there may be no misunderstanding in the spring when final payments are being arranged for each Pool. **THIS IS IMPORTANT.** All Assemblers are supplied with Official Receipts.  
**P. E. I. POTATO MARKETING BOARD**  
**SELLING AGENCY.**

**TIP OF THE WEEK**  
**FROM YOUR MASTER DEALERS**

- |                  |                                    |
|------------------|------------------------------------|
| Charlottetown    | L. J. Rossiter                     |
| Summerside       | Prince Edward Island Fur Pool Ltd. |
| O'Leary          | H. B. Willis Inc.                  |
| Kensington       | H. B. Willis Inc.                  |
| French River     | Arthur A. Campbell                 |
| Central Bedouque | Dunk River Dairying Co.            |
| Albany           | L. D. McLeod & Sons                |
| Victoria         | L. D. McLeod & Sons                |
| Stanley Bridge   | Reid's Feed Service                |
| Wheatley River   | Preston Rackham                    |
| Morell           | Dingwell & Rossiter                |
| Kilmuir          | McGowan's Ltd.                     |
| Murray River     | D. M. McKinnon                     |
| Brookfield       | Cruwys Bros.                       |
| Mount Stewart    | Clark's Feed Service               |

**TIP NO. 13**  
 Water is the cheapest feed. Be sure all livestock and poultry have fresh water at all times.  
 Let's Discuss Your Feeding Plan With Your Island's MASTER Man  
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**FEEDERS WHO KEEP RECORDS USE MASTER**

**TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS**  
**CONNECTED WITH**  
**Silver Fox And Mink Farming**

A disease called Myxomatosis is causing grave concern to rabbit farmers in England. Two outbreaks of the disease have been reported recently in Kent, one of the counties adjoining greater London. Earlier this year the disease was reported in France. It was said to have been introduced there by a land owner who wished to rid his walled park of rabbits. During the summer it spread to Belgium and Holland and now has appeared in England. This disease was introduced into Australia from South America some years ago with the

object of reducing the rabbit plague. It was a great success and millions of rabbits were killed. Australia is said to have gained over \$200 million worth of extra wool and other farm products during the past year as the result of the extra grazing for stock. During one of the visits which Mr. McLure and the writer made to London in connection with the Hudson's Bay Company sales were taken to a large farm where they were producing rabbits on a big scale. They were the chinchilla type and the proprietor said that he was operating at a profit.

An exchange in the U. S. A. has this: Fur business nationally during October was believed approximately 15 per cent below 1952 volume. The range of decline from various sources was anywhere from 8 to 25 per cent. However, the fur sales potentially is greater than such surface appearances would indicate and retailers are not carrying large stocks so that when buying starts the market should easily take up the available furs.  
 A woman known in New York trade as Etta Orr, was charged in June sessions court with grand larceny in connection with the theft of \$54,177 worth of furs. The indictment charges that she got furs on memorandum from fur dealers, falsely claiming that they were to be used at fashion shows for the benefit of charitable and religious groups. From Joe Zucker and Ruth Rudy, Inc., in July she got \$19,000 worth of furs and from other firms the balance to make up the \$54,177.

H. Agen and Sons, Inc., New York, are showing quite a number of ready-to-wear long-haired fur pieces with fox in the lead. Lynx, too, is being promoted with black dyed lynx and black dyed fox followed by Norwegian blue the best with fur buyers, is selling well, also matched sets of collars and cuffs and there is a big story in Fox muffs.

F. L. Hayes, vice-president of Hudson's Bay Company, New York, has a timely article on how to handle pelts for market in the October number of the Black Fox Magazine and Modern Mink Breeder. Pelting and preparation of pelts for market is a problem probably understood better by breeders than by Auction Companies and for which there are many satisfactory solutions. Auction Companies part in this mainly consists in advising how pelt should look when finished. Reference to pamphlets issued will give briefly chief points to be watched. Various processes described in order are: (1) Pelting — put pelts on stretching boards in freezer soon after pelting — until ready to scrape. Do not allow carcasses or pelts to touch each other or lie in heaps. (2) Scraping — when ready to scrape allow fat to unfreeze to a condition neither too frozen or too soft, so that fat will come off without getting too soft and liquid. To be done in very moderate temperature, as low as comfortable, certainly not in a much heated room.

Scrape from head to tail where necessary, but safer to scrape from tail to head in upper part. Roots of hair point towards head, therefore

**-NEWSY NOTES-**

By J. A. Clark, D.S.  
**THE STARLING**

The starling belongs to the genus Sturnus and the family Sturnidae, which for centuries have been widely distributed throughout the continents of Europe and Asia and some of the Indonesian Islands, including Samoa and New Zealand. There are no American species, and these birds are not found on the mainland of Australia.  
 The common starling (S. vulgaris) is very widely distributed throughout Europe and North America. It is smaller than the song-known robin, the American migratory thrush. It is brown, glossed with black, and has a buff colored tip to each feather, giving the bird a speckled appearance about the shoulders and breast. They lack the style of the American black bird, the purple grackle, with its long slender tail and rich metallic purple and iridescent green reflections on its shoulders. The starling has a short stubby tail and a more compact body than the grackle, and this helps in the identification of these two species, which are often seen together.

The starlings, which have become a scourge in North America, were imported from Europe as recently as 1890, when a drug manufacturer in New York, Mr. Eugene Schieffelin, brought out sixty of these birds, in his endeavour to introduce to the New World all the birds of England mentioned by Shakespeare in his writings. A second importation of forty birds was brought out the next year.  
 These insectores, or perching birds, soon spread north along the Atlantic coast to Boston, and south to Philadelphia. In a short time they reached the Great Lakes region. They moved north to Eastern Canada and on as far north as Hudson Bay. They spread south down the Mississippi Valley and over into Mexico. They moved on west to the Rocky Mountains. They have invaded Alberta, and the zoologist at the University at Edmonton reports that they are now there "to stay".

The starlings, being omnivorous, with a satisfactory food supply, and having escaped in America from many of their natural enemies, have quickly multiplied by each pair raising, each season, two or three broods of four to seven offspring from each hatch. Their migratory habits, taken to favourable winter conditions. Some seem to have acquired the

they could be damaged if pelt is scraped towards tail. Scraping requires special care. Pelts have been spoiled by scraping too hard when in soft greasy condition, causing "windows" at head where fur has "slipped." (3) Putting on the boards — Choose board of as near natural size of mink as possible. Avoid too wide a board as this causes thin quality and sparse coverage. Avoid pulling hind legs down too tight as leather will shrink anyway and quality will also appear thin at inspection point. Center the pelt carefully on board. Cut belly vents high enough to permit easy inspection of rumps. Set rumps on board to present densest possible quality and coverage.

Open tails on underside and fasten so as to permit proper drying. Do not leave tails closed as they will sweat and shed fur. Keep front legs and paws from touching belly side of pelt, otherwise they will not dry properly and will damage the leather of the belly. Dry pelts slowly at very moderate temperature, say 50 degrees, with air circulation. If pelts are dried too fast they will set too hard or too dry. Mop off grease at intervals as it collects, do not rub hard. Avoid use of sawdust, if possible because it is hard to remove completely after drying and spoils appearance of fur. When pelts are removed from board, fluff up fur with brush or comb to present fur at its best. Use steelwool to smooth off pelt and give attractive appearance to leather, but this must be used carefully.

Ideal pelt has firm but pliable leather — good inspection opening at rumps by cutting vents high enough. By not overstretching, fur is presented glossy with full coverage and cushion — i.e. resistance to thumb pressure — very important — plan pelting and drying operations thoroughly. Do not rush, as many good pelts are spoiled by too fast scraping or drying. Pelting is climax of years work, and ranchers deserve proper presentation of product. If pelts are to be dressed before selling, do not pelt and dry carelessly as damage may result.

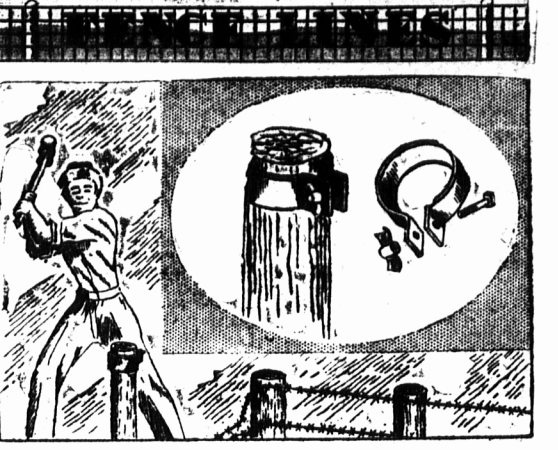
Warnings against over trapping muskrat have been issued by Glen D. Palmer of Illinois Department of Conservation. "Mr. Palmer said that a survey of drought conditions in the prairie country which annually produces the bulk of the muskrat crop, shows that they have been forced to migrate by thousands to new areas. This desertion of the normal family life of the animal not only has decreased the number of young in the 1953 crop but has brought about a congestion of muskrats which might lead to a disease that an increased take would be permissible. If so they might seriously damage the future reproduction of valuable fur-bearing animals by over-trapping this coming season." Looking at the over-all picture as we see it reported on muskrat we believe there will not be such a disparity in price this season as has been predicted by some parties. Muskrat is one of the most popular furs, if not the most popular, on the market and there is nothing that can take its place for certain types of garments

the earliest arrival of starlings that we have been able to trace was a small colony near Charlottetown that nested there about 28 years ago. For many years they were in the minority when seen with the grackles, however, they have increased so that they seem to have replaced the grackles, and for the last year or so great flocks of starlings could be seen in many different districts of the Province. We have not seen so many grackles as in former years.  
 Starlings are another illustration of how essential some import regulations are to the citizens of a country. Had the importation of these birds been stopped at New York in 1890, the whole continent would have been saved from a scourge that it now seems impossible to eliminate.  
 Similarly, had an importation of cedar trees infected with a scale insect been stopped and destroyed, when they arrived some years ago in Hamilton, Bermuda, that delightful group of islands set in the South Atlantic would today still have its magnificent groves of cedars that extended throughout the many islands. Today as you approach Bermuda, the beautiful, green cedars are dead, and their dry skeletons give a dull, brown appearance to the whole land.  
 Many remedies have been tried. One that seemed promising was the importation of lady bugs to eat the scale; but before they were established, a hurricane came and garded the lady bugs to sea. As a result, Bermuda has lost its magnificent cedars.

The result of their roosting habits has proven to be an outstanding nuisance to communities. They gather in great throngs to roost in city buildings, in parks and woodlots and under bridges. Great damage has been reported to trees in parks and in groves from the starlings droppings, which not only are unsightly, but have killed in some areas whole groves of valuable trees.

Communities have undertaken to check this undesirable species of bird by organizing hunting parties, by destroying their nests and young, by trapping and by the use of dynamite. Like the attempts to destroy the "imported" rabbit in Australia, nothing satisfactory has yet been found to keep in check this scourge that was brought to America by one admirer of Shakespeare.  
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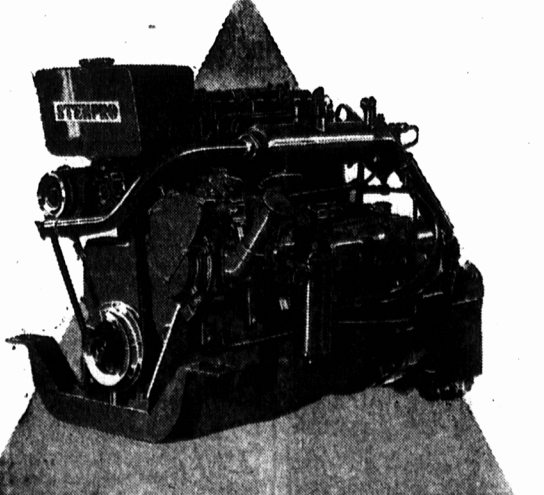
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