

TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH Silver Fox and Mink Farming

Dr. George C. Bishop, Provincial Animal Pathologist, has very kindly furnished us with a reprint from the Canadian Medical Association journal of an article by Drs. J. Kaufmann and P. G. Schwager of the Royal Victoria Hospital, Montreal. This is one of the world's leading authorities on vitamins. These articles are most authoritative and show wonderful effects of the vitamin in the treatment of Pernicious Anemia and a reprint by Dr. Tom D. Spies from the Journal of the American Medical Association. Dr. Spies is one of the world's leading authorities on vitamins. These articles are most authoritative and show wonderful effects of the vitamin in the treatment of Pernicious Anemia and a reprint by Dr. Tom D. Spies from the Journal of the American Medical Association.

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The American State Department has issued a denial that it has any intention of restricting imports of fox and mink furs from the American fur farms. It is remembered that American fur farms have made this request to the government. Here is the official statement: "It is the policy of the State that a rumour is being widely circulated in fur trade circles of the United States and Canada that the government of the United States intends to impose restrictive quotas on imports of fox furs and mink, limiting their import to 15 percent of the amounts entering the United States in the preceding period. There is no substance whatsoever in this rumour."

The Russian Armory sale of furs which was given wide publicity shows Persian lamb 5 percent decline from October levels for the best goods, 10 percent for the other grades. The best Persian lamb is at a top price of \$2.30 for No. 1 large; muskrat 49 percent, sold at a top price of \$1.98 for No. 1 large; squirrel 80 percent sold at a top price of \$1.10 for Lenz dark tall. Comment points out that the Persian lambs were poor and that the decline from three months ago was about 20 percent. Much has been heard of the American fur farms and a great many thought they would be of such high quality and in such quantity that they would have an appreciable effect on the market. It is noted that there is a tendency to lower it but apparently the quality was not anything to brag about and the Russians held firm prices for their goods. This is another hopeful point for fur producers in that it means that Armory has no intention of causing any chaos in furs.

The slashing of prices in the United States is certainly the cause of the largest loss of the fur trade in recent weeks. The following advice gives a line on what is doing but this week's auction sale at Montreal will have a true indication of the trend. Seattle Wash., Dec. 12th. Price declines on the first fresh ranch mink of the season offered in the Seattle Fur Exchange ranged from 30 percent to 35 percent for better goods. 40 percent on ordinary and 25 percent on poor grades. The offering included 19,000 pelts of which 40 percent was silver fox. The balance was 122 to 236,500, ordinary, \$13 to \$16. No silver fox was offered. Marten was offered and withdrawn.

Regina, Sask. Dec. 12th. Due to unsettled market conditions the Saskatchewan fur marketing service has cancelled a special mink and silver fox sale scheduled for December 16th. The special sale was cancelled because of the unsettled market conditions.

Sam Johnston, who recently took over the chief inspection of the Dominion Department of Agriculture, has also taken over operation of the ranch of the Spilletts brothers on Lower Main Road. It will be remembered that Sam's foxes together with the other Johnston foxes were the leading prize winners at the recent Montreal Fur Show. Everyone will be glad to see Sam with us and wish him the best of luck. The Spilletts boys have no means given up their fox activities but will have saved themselves the work which ranch management entails.

Archibald Campbell, 822 University Street, Montreal, has well-known to many fox farmers here, recently made a shipment of pearl platinum foxes to Danish fur farmers. They were selected by Alfred Campbell, chief inspector of Danish fur farmers, who came to Canada to purchase various types of foxes for the breeders at home. There is a picture in the Saskatchewan Star-Phoenix of the foxes shipped with Archie and Lund looking admiringly at it. In our opinion it is a mighty good specimen as it has the dark gunmetal markings and is also well silvered.

As the results of the December fox and mink sale at Montreal may have escaped many of our readers we repeat the telegram received from George A. Callbeck. Of the 30,000 ranch mink catalogued 90 percent, sold at prices unchanged to 5 percent higher than Dec. 4th sale. The Dec. 4th sale was down between 30 and 40 percent from a similar sale held in 1945. The 15,073 silver foxes and new types catalogued were 37 percent sold at an

INTRODUCING CHINCHILLAS

To the large family of ranchers and others who may be interested in the newest and, I believe the most profitable fur-bearing animal in this country, and as the general public are practically unfamiliar with this new industry, I wish to present in my own words some information which I have lately acquired on the "Chinchilla". It is my desire to pass along to you a general introduction to this little mink of fur, which is one of the smallest, and I think the most interesting, and yet the most expensive of fur-bearers.

This little animal with its priceless pelt—I say priceless because at this time due to the scarcity of these animals for breeding purposes, there is actually no established price as to pelt value in any of the world's fur markets. When we consider that practically all of the skins marketed from Canada and the United States to date have been what is termed "fatally" skins, and coupled with the fact that captivity ranching is still in its infancy, it is easy to understand why a basic price has not yet been established.

Genuine Chinchilla must not be confused with the chinchilla rabbit, because the rabbit acquired its name from a type of rabbit that has been developed, and the similarity of color thus developed does not alter the fact that it is still nevertheless a rabbit, and therefore is to be used amongst the cheapest of furs, while Chinchilla is the most expensive fur yet discovered. It has a fine, soft and delicate fur, with a lustrous shade of smoky gray, and in weight it is equivalent to a piece of silk of the same size.

The Chinchilla originated in the rocky vastness of the Andes Mountains in Chile, and in 1923 Mr. M. F. Chapman, an American mining engineer, brought the first live animals to this continent, and located in California, where the first captivity ranching was started, and has since been ranching successfully and has slowly expanded since that time. There are less than two hundred and fifty ranches of all sizes in North America at the present time, and the total Chinchilla population is in the vicinity of twenty thousand animals, and of which Canadians own less than one thousand.

The fact that it requires between one hundred and twenty to one hundred and forty pelts to make one lady's fur coat (which has sold for a low of \$30,000 and a high of \$50,000) indicates there is a vast field open for future development. Chinchillas are a true rodent, naturally timid but will soon become tame and may be handled as pleasantly as a kitten, which makes their ranching a pleasant and desirable occupation also for women, who are already amongst the most successful ranchers. The animals are naturally vegetarian and are fed mostly on alfalfa, scientifically developed ration in pellet form, and with the addition of clean timothy hay, a few raisins, plum, and plenty of clean water, and they require a sand bath daily for a few minutes. This food costs the nominal sum of about \$2.00 per year per animal.

CONTINUED ON SATURDAY, DEC. 28TH

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Promotion in Plant Protection Division

In announcing three promotions in the Plant Protection Division, Science Service, Dominion Department of Agriculture, restored its staff responsible for administering regulations protecting Canada from pests and disease of foreign origin.

W. A. Fove has been named Associate Chief; J. W. Scannell, Assistant Chief, Seed Potato Section, and L. L. Reed, Supervisor of Field Surveys. All will operate from the Division headquarters in Ottawa.

These three officials have had long experience in plant protection work. Mr. Fove, having joined the Department in 1920 to aid in combating the European corn borer which had recently invaded Canada, making its first appearance in southwestern Ontario. Mr. Fove has been in the Department since 1920, and educated there and Ontario Agricultural College, he was in charge of inspection of imported plants at Toronto from 1923 to 1945. In his new position, he will assist the Division's Chief, W. N. Keenan, in supervising all plant protection activities in Canada, excepting seed potato certification.

Administration of Departmental regulations designed to produce disease-free high yielding seed potatoes will now be the responsibility of the Department in 1922. Born at Kirk's Ferry, P. Q. in 1897, Mr. Scannell was educated at Hull and Agincourt and in 1921 obtained the degree of B.S.A. from Macdonald College. During the years he served as District Inspector in charge of seed potato certification at Saskatoon, Indian Head, Winnipeg, and Guelph. As a result of Mr. Scannell's transfer from Guelph to Ottawa, the administration of seed potato regulations in Ontario will now be the responsibility of officials assigned to four districts: W. L. S. Kemp, Guelph; H. W. Whiteside, Barrie; O. W. Lachaine, Ottawa; and F. J. Hudson, London.

L. L. Reed will organize and supervise the many field activities of the Division in coping with outbreaks of insect pests and plant diseases of foreign origin. The duties include control of the Japanese beetle in Eastern Canada and the Dutch Elm Disease in Quebec and Ontario, and the inspection of orchards for apple maggot in connection with export certification. Mr. Reed was born at Newton, Mass., in 1902, and was educated at Springfield and Hampton, N. B., and at Nova Scotia Agricultural College. Joining the Department in 1923, he has served in the five eastern provinces and in British Columbia. Posted at Saint John from 1927 to 1941, he was active in the work connected with suppressing Brunswick.

THE AMERICAN WOODCOCK

This bird which belongs to the Snipe family, was once found in great numbers on this continent. It is a justly-prized gamebird, and in consequence has been exterminated from many places by ardent sportsmen. Perhaps it is not altogether fair to blame its scarcity on the hunters, for the woodcock is a ground-nester and so is exposed to whatever carnivorous animals roam the district—including the house cat. Here is a detailed description of a specimen received for determination, Dec. 6th, 1946.

American Woodcock, A.O.U. 228. S. Crown and back of head black, with few light brown crossbars. Bill very long (2.5 inches) and tapering. Eyes very large, situated near the top of the head. A blackish line runs from the base of the bill to the eye. The upper part of the back is black, including the wings in cinnabar and silvery-grey, in equal areas. Length 11 inches.

Woodcocks haunt the muddy edges of brooks, where they probe the soft mud for worms, insects, and larvae for their principal food. They have few light brown crossbars. The back is black, including the wings in cinnabar and silvery-grey, in equal areas. Length 11 inches.

Recollections of Coal-mining.

My earliest days were spent on a northern colliery in England. My schooldays were spent in a school where more than three-quarters of the scholars were miners' children. They were my playmates; rough, sturdy fellows, hardy and capable when need arose. They lived in the "pit rows"—rows of mean cottages, so that I early learned how their parents lived and thought. At the present day, even with all the improvements effected during three-quarters of a century, one can scarcely consider the miner's lot an enviable one. English miners work only 7.5 hours a day now, but in my youth a ten-hour day was the rule. (During the eighteenth century the miner often worked 12 hours per diem.) The work was outrageously hard and the conditions miserable, rarely if ever, anybody not connected with the industry seek work in the mine; the new miner came from old mining stock that knew "what it was up against." The pay varied and there were strikes when it got too low; the miners at that time averaged about \$4 (\$20) a fortnight. In good times this might run to \$7 and the miner spent it recklessly. It is very difficult to compare monetary values, even in short periods, nevertheless it is of some interest to know that the sixteenth century miner got only 3 pence to 4 pence (8 to 8 cts.) a day!

A curious institution in the old days was the "pitman's bond," which was finally discarded about the middle of the nineteenth century, after being in use for over one hundred years. This agreement, signed by the miner with a cross instead of his name—since he could

- NEWSY NOTES -

By Agricola

More "isms" This Note has nothing to do with Communism or Socialism, those social systems which stem from the writings of Karl Marx. There are many other "isms" of more innocent character, that one comes across while browsing in the dictionary. When the Chianiana, i.e. Major Hoople's laundry, says "velly" for "very" he is guilty of lambdasm, i.e. the pronunciation of r as l; a usage quite common in the Far East and sometimes called lallation. I knew a village in North Durham where the people, men, women and children, unconsciously practised phoneticism; an excessive burring of the letter r, a hollow sound with an "h" mixed in. This is mentioned by Shakespeare as the defect in Hotspur's speech. Nosism, the dictionary says, is the egotism of a group of persons, which prompts the use of "we" in speaking of oneself. Royalty and editors take notice. For the next "ism" we go to Philosophy: fatalism is the doctrine that all thought is addressed to second person, or to one's future self as this. Such a definition reduces one to the condition of the metaphysician "that dining when he was talking about," so we pass on. There is a large group of "isms" as macochism, selenism, etc., which I have listed; they are almost medical terms, and do not lend themselves to newspaper explanation.

Here are a few words in "is". When of old, a man said: "I am a citizen of no mean city," he made a rhetorical understatement. Such a figure of speech is known as "hotes" or "melets." Old writers were fond of "hotes," a figure of speech which uses the same word at the same time, in two different senses: "He was a great taker of snuff, as well as of towns." The Northumbrian dialect (and perhaps the Anglo-Saxon language) often used metaphors, the transposition of letters or syllables. For instance the little heater Brownly (pronounced "broony") was really a "burnie"—a little burn or brook. "Figures of speech" will be treated of later, if all goes well.

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Young Diving Ducks

"Canadian Nature" for Jan. 1947, has just come to hand. This magazine, indispensable to all nature-lovers, gives a colored plate showing 14 species of Diving Ducks in their young and downy state. One does not expect much of an individual duck, but the coloration of these sprightly-looking youngsters is sufficiently distinct to enable one to tell their species. The Diving Ducks are known here as "Barn Ducks" in the Lesser and Greater Swamp, Canva-back, Redhead, Old Squaw River, and Spectacled Eiders. Fully half of the ducks in that list are shown here.

"Weather in Arctic Canada" Canadian Nature has a good article on the weather, and the weather observation stations in the northern regions. There is a splendid map of the circumpolar regions showing the sites of all the meteorological service stations, and it is noticeable that Russia has long had a chain of these posts stretching along the coast of Siberia, from the Bering Strait right through to Murmansk. On the continent they are scattered here over Alaska and the Hudson Bay area. Contrary to popular belief, summer brings birds and flowers to Arctic Canada. This article, by M. N. Monsinger, of the Meteorological Service, would be a good basis for a lesson to advanced classes. (It may here be stated that the basis of all weather prognostication is the barometer, with the thermometer a good second. My old "VI Standard (Grade) Reader" had chapters on these two instruments, so that when I left school I knew the principle of, and could read them both. Some years ago I asked a little visitor to read the thermometer and found that she could not, though I'd noticed one on the teacher's desk. I have a small bar-

HOG SHIPPING SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEARS WEEKS

We will load hogs at all regular points Monday, Dec. 23rd and Monday, Dec. 30th; also Thursday, Dec. 26th, and Thursday, January 2nd.

We will also receive hogs at our Charlottetown plant Monday all day and Tuesday until noon, Dec. 23rd and 24th, and Friday, Dec. 27th. Also on the following week Monday, Dec. 30th, and Tuesday until noon, Dec. 31st; and also Thursday and Friday, January 2nd and 3rd.

Please Note:—We will not be receiving hogs at our plant Wednesday, Dec. 25 or Thursday, Dec. 26, or Wednesday, January 1st.

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Profitable Way to Startling Example of Soil Erosion

Anyone who has taken the trouble to watch a heavy rain brush or roll the surface soil down a slope may have been reminded of a giant planing mill shaving the rough surface off a plank. Slowly and surely the surface is removed, and the soil erosion measurements by the Field Husbandry Division at the Central Experimental Farm in Ottawa, says Dr. P. O. Ripley, Dominion Field Husbandry, are somewhat startling to learn in 1945 that in the four months, June to October, 15 inches of rainfall shaved 21.0 tons of soil per acre from the surface of a field of corn planted and cultivated up and down a 10 per cent slope. On June 17, 1946, 46 tons of soil per acre were washed off the same plot by 3 inches of rain in exactly one hour. On an adjoining plot which was summerfallowed, the runoff at the same time was 725 tons of soil. During the 1945 growing season, with 15.03 inches of rainfall and 1946 with 19.78 inches of rainfall the total soil runoff on a summer-fallowed plot cultivated up and down the slope, unmanured, has amounted to 132 tons per acre. On corn cultivated up and down the slope 128 tons were lost. Manuring the soil made it more absorbent and porous and the runoff on a manured summerfallow plot was only 14 tons during the same period while a manured corn plot lost only 100 tons per acre.

Planting the corn on the contour reduced the runoff still more to only 34 tons of soil per acre. With a cover crop of alfalfa only one-quarter of a ton of soil was lost. These rather startling figures tell a very simple story, says Dr. Ripley. Tremendous losses of soil can occur if improper methods of soil and crop management are used in sloping ground. The loss can be reduced to an almost negligible amount if proper crops and methods are used. Don't let the rain wash off the surface soil, he advises. It is valuable.

Millions of Eggs to Go to Britain The new United Kingdom-Canada egg contract provides for delivery of at least 150 million dozen eggs between February 1, 1947 and January 31, 1948. The quantities to be shipped are 27 million dozen spring fresh eggs each year, 1.8 million dozen fall and winter fresh eggs each year, 18 million dozen storage eggs each year, and 7,600 long tons of dried egg powder. The new egg contract thus provides a floor under the egg market until January 31, 1949, says the Current Review of Canadian Conditions in Canada. The price adjustments are planned so as to encourage production when Great Britain needs eggs most, during the fall and winter periods.

This objective is to be attained in two ways: (1) by extending by one month the fall and winter period to January 31st in each year; (2) by increasing the price by 2 cents a dozen at seaboard, from September 1 to January 31. The price during the remainder of the contract year of February 1 to August 31 is increased by one cent a dozen. The extension of the premium period also includes the month of January 1947, but with no change in premium.

STOCKHOLM—(CP)—Sweden has acquired 100 North American Aviation Corporation planes of the AT-16 type. Used by both British and American air forces as a trainer, it is easy to fly and yet embodies the more complicated technical equipment of a modern fighting plane.

Rye chop becomes quite pasty if finely ground and has a further disadvantage of frequently containing ergot which is harmful. Several roughages have been tested at Scott's including prairie hay, sunflower silage, western rye grass hay, oat sheaves and oat straw. Their general value for steers when used with a full ration of chop was in the order mentioned. One also found that in seasons when a green second growth was in the oats before cutting that the oat straw was more profitable to use than hay at the higher price. Normal oat straw containing no green growth was the least valuable of the roughages tested but reasonable profits have been realized by its use with a full grain ration when hay was not available at a normal price.

From a half to one pound net dry per head of luscious oil meal added to the chop during the last month of the feeding period improved the finish to coat appearance of feeder cattle. A meter, resembling a watch, which attracts most visitors "What's it for?" is a frequent query, and getting the information that it measures the atmospheric pressure, the interest vanishes. Anybody question often asked, is "How do you wind it up?" It is evident that a simple explanation of both instruments, might well be included in the Canadian Reader, and would be useful for reference.

ATTENTION! FOX RANCHERS

Our receiving station at F. R. McLaine's is now open for the season. We are receiving furs for shipment to the leading markets. Many years of successful selling and marketing for Ranchers in the Maritimes is your assurance of good returns.

We now have orders for all kinds of furs so this should be a good year to ship to the

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