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EASTON'S CHICK HATCHERY

New Wiltshilt

NAPOLEON and UNCLE ELBY by Clifford McBride



TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH Silver Fox and Mink Farming

Fur farmers in Prince Edward Island must have been highly gratified by the results of the Canadian Fur Auction Sales Company, Ltd., and the Hudson's Bay Company, Ltd., auctions in Montreal last week and the previous week. The upwards of 30,000 silver fox and mutation pelts had a reception reminiscent of years ago. For the first time since 1947 there was a genuine scramble for pelts and the fact that prices for pelts went up to \$40. with a large number selling in the \$30. brackets gives evidence that better types of skins will have a good reception in the future.

As far as we can figure there should be about 65,000 silver fox and mutation pelts to be marketed in Canada. This includes the carry-over and the fresh pelts of 1950. A big hole has been punctured in that aggregate, certainly over 20,000, which would leave remaining in the vicinity of 45,000 for the rest of the auctions of 1951. It is therefore not too much to expect that when December rolls around the market will be bare.

Now let us see what Canadian pelts will be available for the buyers in 1952—probably not more than 30,000—and as war preparations increase it will certainly mean a damper on importations of Russian and Chinese furs. Manufacturers and retailers will be more or less driven to featuring Canadian furs, something which they have sadly neglected for a considerable time. We expect mink and muskrat would appear to be an almost certainty that the silver fox farmer can sell his product at at least a small profit in 1952.

Returning to the Hudson's Bay Company's sale, Women's Wear Daily, which had an excellent report of it, states that strength and activity characterized the sale and continued throughout the auction. White fox moved strongly to a top of \$34. for ones. No. 1 and 2 Western Arctic ranged between \$24.50 and \$30.50; Alaska ones and best twos brought \$23.50. Observers thought the turnover about 80 per cent. The above prices for white fox are the best since 1946 and they too, are another indication of better times for the fox farmer. Red fox was reported 38 per cent sold with a good demand for the heaviest. Cross fox 53 per cent sold, good demand at all prices; White fox 90 per cent sold; Blue fox 63 per cent sold, firm; ranch mink (41,168) 96 per cent sold, strong demand compared with December 1950; Ranch mink (2857) 99 per cent sold, very strong demand compared with December.

Another release of the Hudson's Bay Company's sale which appeared in Women's Wear Daily is as follows: Hudson's Bay Company reported strength in all articles sold and substantial advances in most. Silver fox was reported 75 per cent sold; selected regular and inferior standards were in demand and very strong; pearl platinum in strong demand, very strong prices; silverblue mink was reported 96 per cent sold with very strong demand; pastels 79 per cent sold, very firm; miscellaneous mutations 100 per cent sold, very strong; white up to \$78; wild mink 99 per cent sold, very strong demand. Largest buyer of wild mink was Henry Mechuten, New York. Top prices were paid by Maximilian, New York—\$77. for males and \$58.50 for females.

There is a growing interest in scarfs in the United States and furriers are featuring them in New York and other large cities. In last week's issue of Saturday Evening Post there was a page ad and it showed a young lady wearing a double silver fox scarf and

a silver fox muff. It certainly was appealing. Shades of the past! At Lampton Sale in London, March 10th, 1910, Charles Dalton of Tynish, P. E. I., sold 33 Silvers fox pelts for an average of over \$1300.00 each. Top pelt brought 540 pounds sterling, equal to \$2450 net.

At the January sale of the Hudson's Bay Company in 1928 a pelt from the Vimy Ranch, MacKinnon 64 D topped the sale with 142 pounds about \$625. net, others brought 132 pounds, 128 pounds, etc. With the small supplies of pelts that will be available in 1952 we may expect not the above prices but averages of \$30. to \$40. for a good ranch assortment.

The report of the January sale of silver fox and mink pelts held by the Hudson's Bay Company at Beaver House, Great Trinity Lane, has just come to hand. These are extracts. "Perhaps the most encouraging feature was the demand for silver fox, an article that during the past few years has not sold too well by auction in the International market. The collection of 9,697 skins were comprehensive and attracted good competition throughout and sold to advantage as seen from the prices analysis attached. The half silvery, three-quarter silvery and darker types of fox were once again in strongest demand. Fresh season's platinum and pearl platinum foxes also realized good prices.

The following are the fox pelt prices. All prices are reduced to Canadian money with the pound valued at \$3.00. SELECTED—quarter silvery, \$48.25; half silvery, \$55.50; three-quarter silvery, \$40.50; with a top price of \$66.00; full silvery \$38.75 with a top price of \$49.50. GOOD QUALITY—quarter silvery, \$23.25; half silvery, \$21.00 with a top of \$33.50; three-quarter silvery \$25.00 with a top of \$35.50; full silvery, \$26.25 with a top of \$40. AVERAGE QUALITY—half silvery, \$22.25 with a top of \$24; three-quarter silvery, \$17.25 with a top of \$22.25; full silvery, \$15. with a top of \$29.25. POOR AND FADED skins of the above categories sold mostly from \$12. to \$21 with the majority selling around \$16. Fox Pearl Platinum—\$24. with a top of \$41.25, average \$16.50 with a top of \$33; poor and faded, \$13.50 with a top of \$18.75. FOX PLATINA—Selected, \$42; good, \$21.75 with a top of \$40.25; average \$19.50 with a top of \$28.50; poor and faded \$10.50 with a top of \$12.75.

Maine Fish Plant Suffers Heavy Loss

ROBBINSON, Me., Feb. 9 — (AP) — The Seaboard Packing Company plant yesterday toppled into the St. Croix River under pressure of gale-force winds and a storm-whipped high tide. Loss was estimated at \$300,000. The plant, unoccupied during the sardine packing off-season, was scheduled to open April 1, employing 250 persons. The building rested partly on pilings extending over the river. Only a twisted tangle of wreckage remained. Officials hope to salvage \$50,000 worth of machinery and cans. A gale that hit with wind gusts of 65 miles an hour swept out of Maine during the day, leaving a trail of damage. Eastern Maine was lashed by the storm which had pelted the western part of the state during the night. At Eastport, damaged estimated at \$50,000 was caused with waterfront property taking a beating. Two planes at an Eastport airport were demolished and a 60-foot fish plant chimney blown down.

NEWSY NOTES

By Agricola

THE MOURNING WARBLER

Francis Bain refers to this Warbler in his "Birds of P. E. I.," thus: "The Golden Mourner rings out its lay company with the Redstart—these west, these a west west, and the brilliant Tennessee is its roving companion." It appears in all N. B. lists but is stated to be rare. The plumage of this Warbler is mostly of the darker coloration, whence the descriptive epithet, "Mourning" the golden effect is limited to the underparts. There are three records for P. E. I. Naturalist Dwight observed this bird in 1892; T. W. Stewart of Ottawa, saw one at Bonshaw July 17, 1936. Another was seen by Miss Maude M. Jones, at Fownal, June 2, 1949. The central provinces appear to be more attractive to this Warbler. Mourning Warbler. AOU, 679. Rare Summer Resident. Male: head and neck bluish ash; throat and breast black; rest of the upper parts, wings, and tail, all olive-green; underparts golden yellow. No wingbars, tail patches, nor white eye-rings. Female similar but duller, head and breast slightly grayer; throat not as dark. Length of adult 5.5 inches.

ANOTHER ANCIENT STONE

There flows into the river Tyne, a short distance above Newcastle, a tributary called the Derwent. Almost at the junction of the two rivers, a ford crosses the Derwent, and leads to a narrow road or lane, which running between high banks, clothed with trees, finally by devious ways, strikes into the main road to the city of Durham. This was the road formerly used by the marauding bands of Scots who raided the Bishopric from time to time, looting, burning and slaying. A mile or so from the ford and well back from the road was an ancient fortress usually called Hollinside Manor-house. The name would indicate that holly had been the predominating growth at one time but when I visited the place, about 70 years ago, the ruined building was surrounded by mixed hardwoods with a fair proportion of oak. A family called Harding held Hollinside in 1448 but by 1621 they had got into debt, and begun to decline, and in 1790, their estate passed by foreclosure of mortgage into the hands of others and the building was left to the corroding hand of Time. I should like to tell readers about the peculiarities of this old fortress, for it had many. Enough to mention that there was a large square hole in the wall above the fireplace.

Richard Harding, the last proprietor, was reduced to the ownership of a small cottage in the Derwent Valley, but before he left Hollinside, he dug the stone bearing his coat-of-arms out of the wall and buried it by night in his cottage garden. George Bowes, the new owner and a very wealthy man, does not seem to have troubled about the stone and after some years it was dug up. I visited the little cottage to enquire about the stone and there found that two old ladies, the last of the Hardings, had given it a coat of whitewash, and set it up in the "front room". It was about 30 inches square, of fine-grained sandstone. The coat-of-arms carved in high relief, depicted a plumed helmet with visor, surmounting a shield of conventional form. On the shield were carved three greyhounds running. Originally, the shield had been painted red (gules) while the greyhounds had been gilded. "Before I left England I heard that the old ladies were dead, and that the cottage was condemned by the Local Council and would be pulled down. I did not hear what happened to the stone."

"YE MARINERS OF ENGLAND"

There were three remarkably good "notes" in last week's Educational Horizon; so good that I cut them out for my special scrapbook. They are headed "Ye Mariners of England," "Meteors and Meteorites" and simply, "Sulphur." "Ye Mariners—" was a school song when I was a boy, and many a time have I sung it! There is a phonograph record of this song, I notice, but it has been "improved" by the vocalist. For instance, the composer gave the word "England" two notes of equal pitch, say E E. The vocalist made the second syllable "land" a third lower, thus E. G. There is altogether too much tinkering with these fine old tunes. With regard to the meteorites, et al, it is almost miraculous that so little damage results from the constant bombardment to which they subject our earth. Can any reader supply instances of injury to living creatures? The larger meteoric stones, such as those which fell in Arizona and Siberia, I take to be asteroids which have fallen to the lure of the earth's attraction. This applies also to the great meteorite which once on a time fell in Arctic Canada.

NATURE NOTES

Cluster-flies (Pollenia rudis) are in evidence here every winter, whenever the sun shines. They come out of seclusion and disport on the window-panes. Sometimes a house-fly may be seen in the living-room, but during two mild spells this winter a mosquito appeared and was quite lively. It made no attempt to "bite." One lives and learns. An illustrated magazine gave a colored picture showing a human subject with the "Mongolian blue spot." This was an area near the base of the spine, of a light blue color, shading off to the natural color of the skin. The spot did not appear too large, perhaps 2 to 3 inches in diameter and I gathered that all Mongolians were similarly adorned. A good many animals amongst them some of the Eskimoes, are colored in that region, but this is the first time I have read of the human "blue spot." Lately, in Dr. Barton's "That Body of Yours," I read some notes on the accumulation of fat in various parts of the human anatomy. There was, too, an allusion to the same process in "The White Witch Doctor," a serial (and a good one) now appearing in a popular magazine. The Witch Doctor shoots some hippopotamuses, and the African natives fatten their gluteal muscles on the flesh of the "river-pigs." This enlarged condition is called Steatopygia and is quite common among the Hottentots of South Africa. It appears to have been prevalent in Neolithic times for all the figurines (small statues) found in the underground Neolithic temples in Malta, were steatopygous. Foxes are quite common in this part of the Island, and we have lost a few hens this year. There are no rabbits (hares) here now. With the exception of a few Blue Jays, there have been no birds here this winter.

CAPONIZING

Poultrymen! Don't wait until you require this service. Make your appointment now. Delay may mean disappointment. For full information regarding age, price, etc., write: WM. G. MINGO Russ Hotel — P.O. Box 192 Charlottetown, P. E. I.

Inspect Canadian Overseas Squadron

ODDHAM, Hampshire, Feb. 9 — (CP) — Britain's Air Minister Arthur Henderson and Dana Wilgress, Canadian High Commissioner, flew to this R.A.F. station yesterday to inspect members of 421 (Red Indian) R.C.A.F. fighter squadron. The Canadians, who arrived in England last month, are undergoing joint operational training with R.A.F. jet fighter units. Ultimately, the squadron is expected to operate as part of the Western Europe defence force. Representatives of the British and Canadian governments watched a fly-past staged by 12 Canadian pilots. Among those participating in the fly-past was Flying Officer Fred Evans of Saint John.

Young Germans To Emigrate To Canada

BONN, Germany, Feb. 9 — (Reuters) — The West German Government has accepted a Canadian plan for 600 young Germans to emigrate to Canada for training as miners, a West German Labor Ministry spokesman said here yesterday. The plan was put forward by the Canadian Metal Mines Association, which will advance transportation costs, has already taken large numbers of displaced persons, but the flow of displaced persons has been drying up. Candidates would be recruited first in Bavaria, through employment exchanges, the spokesman said. It was hoped the first party about 150 strong, would leave in March.



FARMERS

OUR PRICES FOR SHUR-GAIN FEED HAVE NOT ADVANCED THIS YEAR, AND WE ARE PLEASED TO QUOTE YOU OUR PRESENT PRICES AT MILL, WITH BAGS INCLUDED—

FOR POULTRY Shur-Gain 18 per cent Chick Starter \$4.75; Shur-Gain 17 per cent Laying Mash \$4.30; Shur-Gain 17 per cent Hatchery Mash \$4.50; Shur-Gain 14 per cent Fattening Mash \$3.70; Shur-Gain 32 per cent Eggmaker Concentrate \$6.50; Shur-Gain 32 per cent Hatch Maker Concentrate \$7.00; Super Scratch \$3.40; Feed Wheat \$3.25; Oyster Shell \$1.95; Grit \$1.50.

FOR HOGS Shur-Gain 18 per cent Pig Starter \$4.30; Shur-Gain 16 per cent Hog Grower \$3.90; Shur-Gain 15 per cent Hog Finisher \$3.70; Shur-Gain 15 per cent Sow Ration \$3.90; Shur-Gain 35 per cent Hog Concentrate \$6.00; Shur-Gain 35 per cent Sow Concentrate \$7.25; Shur-Gain Hog Minerals \$3.25; Reduced Iron, per jar \$1.75; Hog Wormrid, per lb. 60 cents.

FOR DAIRY Shur-Gain 25 per cent Calf Meal \$5.40; Shur-Gain 22 per cent Calf Starter \$4.80; Shur-Gain 16 per cent Dairy Ration \$3.65; Shur-Gain 18 per cent Dairy Ration \$3.85; Shur-Gain 13 per cent Dry and Freshening Ration \$3.40; Shur-Gain 24 per cent Milk Produce \$4.50; Shur-Gain 32 per cent Feedmaker Concentrate \$5.50; Shur-Gain 13 per cent Feed Fattener \$3.70; Shur-Gain 32 per cent Dairy Concentrate \$4.75; Shur-Gain Cattle Minerals \$4.25; Iodized Salt \$2.25; Bran \$2.75; Soy Bean Oil Cake Meal 41 per cent \$5.00; Oil Cake \$5.00.

FOR HORSES Shur-Gain 12 per cent Horse Feed \$3.70. Five Roses Flour \$5.95. JUST RECEIVED—2 carloads of Fish Meal, and will be unloading car of Oil Cake Monday. Recently you have been warned by the Provincial Dept. of Agriculture regarding Ergot in feeds and its consequences. Farmers, when you purchase Shur-Gain Feeds you will be relieved from this worry as no screening is used in any formula in the manufacture of any Shur-Gain Feed. As advised by the Dept. it is therefore important when you purchase Feeds, always check tags on bags to make sure that no screenings is notated on tags.

McGUIGAN & BOYLE HUNTER RIVER

Fate of St. Lawrence Waterway Development in Hands of U.S. Congress



A crucial political battle that will determine the fate of the St. Lawrence waterway and hydro development for many years to come is now shaping up in U.S. Congress in Washington, D.C. Armed with the declaration of Charles E. Wilson, defence mobilization chief, that the waterway is a "must" for defence, seaway supporters are making their strongest bid ever for ratification of the joint Canadian-U.S. project. Arrayed against them is one of the most powerful political lobbies in the U.S., representing the railroads, private power utilities and coal mines, and eastern seaports who fear the waterway will mean less of business. For more than 20 years they have blocked the \$800,000,000 project designed to provide Ontario and New York state with 1,100,000 h.p. of electric power and open a deep-water route for ocean ships into the heart of the North American continent. Today they face a new and determined bid for approval. Bills calling for the immediate development shows Quebec-Labrador iron ore fields, and railway being constructed from them to port of Seven Islands on the St. Lawrence. Ship's mark route which would be taken, and the ports made available if St. Lawrence project is started and completed.