

-NEWSY NOTES-

By J. A. Clark, D.Sc.

Farm Fences

The idea of fencing land probably developed from the earlier days when the different tribes built stockades or walls to protect their homes, encampments, towns and cities from enemies. Fences are a very ancient device used either to protect property from marauding animals or to restrain one's own from wandering from the homestead. The various types of fences that have been used in this country indicate the steady development of our farming industry.

Early Fences

In clearing land, it was necessary to rid it of stumps and stones, and, by placing these along the boundaries, a double purpose was served. The earliest fences were made of stumps, many of them were old pine "rampicks" that had remained from earlier forests, and which when put together so that the roots of one interlocked with another, would stop any animal, and most people would go a long way around rather than try to get over them. The few stump fences that remain are sometimes spoken of as picturesque by our visitors, but a common expression formerly used was: "As homely as a stump fence". These old dry pine stump fences have lasted for generations.

Log fences were used when trees were more or less an enemy of the farmer, who, when he cleared his land had no other use for many of the trees than to lay them in a fence end to end in a straight line, with each tree in pieces between each tree, and the ends of the first tier were placed on flat stones, the lower logs soon decayed.

Stone fences, because of their durability, were often used on the line between neighbors. When properly laid, stone fences were erected that have withstood the elements for centuries, and with the exception of goats, have restrained the wanderings of most farm animals. The original blazing of a line for a fence between neighbors, through the woods and over the hills without instruments, often resulted in some de-

violation to the right or left of the correct line. The writer recalls that "fence-viewers once found an encroachment of eight feet that one neighbor was determined to hold by piling stones six-feet high over the whole area. Take Two

Dyke Fences

Throughout many districts in Prince Edward Island, the early settlers constructed many earth and stone dykes, largely along highways, and about the boundaries of their farms. Some of these were over a mile long, with openings for gates. They were usually constructed with sods and layers of clay between well set up layers of uniform sized stones. There would be three or more tiers of stones in the dyke. Most of these dykes had a ditch on one or either side of the dyke from which the sods and clay had been taken, adding to its height. They were seldom high enough to stop sheep or brachy live stock, unless a few rails were built along the top of the dyke, or trees planted there to form a hedge.

Rail Fences

One of our earliest memories of the farm was the hauling of "var longers" from the woods to repair and build an endless number of fences. We should probably explain here that both "var" and "longers" are colloquial names formerly used quite generally on the Island. "Var" is the rapidly-growing balsam fir, (Abies balsamea) whose wood is generally considered of little value, except for light lumber and fir sheathing. It is a short-lived soft wood, very subject to disease and wood borers. "Longers" are known elsewhere as poles or rails, and were about five inches in diameter and sixteen and one-half feet long. The name probably originated in building fences, because they were longer than the pickets used to anchor the fence in position.

Rail fences were constructed in many different styles. The stake-and-rider snake fence being one of the earliest when wood-fencing materials were abundant everywhere. These zig-zagged along a strip of land from six to eight feet wide with the longers or rails slapping over about twelve inches where they lay across each other at every turn in the snake fence. Most of these fences were six or seven longers high, with pickets about one and a half inches in diameter and eight feet long. They were set into the ground about eighteen inches on either side of each turn in the snake fence, where they formed an X that held the rider or top longer and acted as braces to strengthen the fence.

The buffalo or stake fence was straight, and required only from three to four feet of land from where the cross stakes that held each longer went into the ground; the large end of each longer rested on the ground and was held at an angle of about forty-five degrees by two well-driven pickets. When longers were more difficult to obtain, and hay wire became available, then straight fences were set up between two sturdy stakes or posts, one on each side of the fence, and each pair about fifteen feet apart, with the longers spaced and wired in place. Some methods of fastening the longers to the posts were patented, and these fences were known as "patent fences".

When cedar trees were available, many of these were split and today there remain in many parts of Prince County splendid cedar fences that are horse-high and hog-tight after nearly a century.

Wire Fences

It must be about fifty years since the writer observed, the first woven wire fence, near Ebenezer on the New Glasgow Road. That one disappeared years ago, but one of the best fences in use today is the galvanized woven wire fence. A forerunner of the barbed wire fence was the ribbon saw-tooth fence, that was such a menace to stock that it was soon discarded. The old reliable barbed-wire fence, which replaced so many of the other types, and which has been discarded by some farmers because of the danger it presents of injuring stock, is again gaining popularity when used as an electric fence. This fence, when properly erected, and when animals have been taught to respect it before they have been chased against it by flies, is a cheap efficient fence, which can easily be moved to wherever it is needed. The ideal fence, to withstand frost, snow and wind and keep animals where they should stay, has not yet been invented.

Local Officer Cadet In Germany



Checking over soldiers' pay books is Officer Cadet W. L. Conrad, 14 Upper Prince St., Charlottetown, a student of the Royal Military College, one of 74 officer cadets undergoing practical field training with Canada's NATO formation in Germany. He is attached to the Royal Canadian Dragoons. (National Defence Photo)

The Unlatched Door

By Frank Price
CHAPTER NINE

(Continued)

"What a horrible idea! But you haven't told me what I asked."

"About Borden? Well, thanks to my letter of introduction, I met Mr. Winterton. We seemed to get on well together, so I put my account, such as it is, into his branch of the bank. I consulted him about my business and, one thing leading to another, told him pretty much what I have been telling you. It seems that Borden has been trying to put through some big deal, in which he was negotiating for help from the bank—not Winterton's branch. He went to headquarters. He told a plausible story, and the thing was going through when Mr. Winterton happened to hear of it from a friend at the top. He remembered my story and repeated it in confidence—I suppose all this is frightfully confidential and I oughtn't to be telling you—

"Please go on! I won't repeat a word."

"Well, that led to inquiries which led to Borden's application being turned down with a bump. He wasn't told why, but there seems to have been a leakage somewhere and he knew or guessed that Mr. Winterton was responsible."

"Then that accounts for it!" Barbara exclaimed.

"For what?"

"His emnity, his wanting to hurt Martin through," she broke off.

"Through whom?"

"Nobody! I oughtn't to have said that. Forget it, please!"

"Did Borden try to hurt Winterton through you?"

"Good heavens, no! How could he? What am I to Martin?"

"I don't know. I know as little about you as you do of me. But I love you and if anybody tried to hurt you—something is hurting you—frightening you. Won't you tell me what it is?"

"I can't! Don't ask me."

"Will you tell me this: Is it on your own account that you are afraid?"

"I haven't said I am afraid. I couldn't tell you if I were. And you mustn't question me. You have no right!"

"I have told you I love you and you were not angry. Doesn't that give me a right?"

"I haven't said I love you. If ever I did you would have the right to question me about anything and I would answer, but until I do, I can tell you nothing."

"Until you do!" Roy fastened eagerly on the words. "Does that mean that you will some day—that you could love me?"

"I don't think it would be difficult," she said with laughter struggling against tears in her voice. "But you will make it impossible if you persist in asking me

Business Reports

VANCOUVER, July 18—(CP)—Powell River Company Limited today reported net profit of \$3,650,955 for the first six months of this year, compared with \$4,245,914 for the same period in 1951.

In the semi-annual report to shareholders Harold S. Foley, president, said:

"Earnings were down when compared with 1951 because of increased costs, a change from a profit to a loss on exchange of American funds and a higher rate of income tax."

Consolidated profit before income taxes totalled \$7,551,875 as compared with \$9,157,220 in the first six months of 1951.

Mr. Foley reported increased production of newsprint during the period. It totalled 150,095 tons compared with 149,153 in 1951 while unbleached sulphite pulp production was 22,925 tons compared with 23,671 last year.

Earnings a share were 87 cents compared with \$1.05 a year ago. A dividend of 50 cents a share was paid this year compared with 67 cents last year.

REGINA, July 17—(CP)—The Leader-Post says today it has learned that the Saskatchewan Government's Industrial Development Office is trying to interest private capital in building and operating a pulp mill in Northern Saskatchewan.

The paper reports interest has been shown by concerns in Sweden, United States and some Canadian provinces. It says the efforts have not reached the level of agreement negotiations but there have been "several bites" by United States interests.

Yellow fat disease occurred on some ranches where the owners fed storage fish as a high proportion of the diet to the kits. Apparently in the old days when the ranchers did not have cold storage and had to feed fresh fish and meat the disease was not seen. The controversy on which is the better, sheds or outside pens, brought out many interesting comments by members of the panel. In southern Ontario it appears that sheds will pay for themselves in reducing weather damage to the fur and increasing food consumption, which means better growth during the hot summer months. Members of the panel picked the following diseases as the five most important as far as Ontario

TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH Silver Fox and Mink Farming

The Hudson's Bay Company has inaugurated a new plan which they state will complete their International Fur Marketing Service, namely, livestock loans and livestock insurance. For livestock loans in approved cases they are prepared to make loans against live animals for the purpose of assisting in the development of the current season's production. These loans can be arranged without any delay and if a mink breeder requires such a loan all he has to do is to write the company giving full particulars of his stock with the quantities of each type, the number of each he intends to pelt and stating the amount he requires.

Another important new procedure is the issuance of livestock insurance. This livestock insurance is a comprehensive coverage of live animals by the Hudson's Bay Company. Thus you can insure your minks at very favorable rates with a company of outstanding financial resources. The H. B. C. covers the principal fur markets of the world and has warehouses in Montreal, New York and London, and they can sell your pelts in whatever center you desire. Our experience of many years with this, the oldest company in the world, has been a very pleasant one and we are glad to see that its management is so progressive as shown by the above new developments.

Canadian Fur Auction Sales Company (Quebec) Ltd. has announced the following dates for their sales-special mink sale, Dec. 3, 1952; special mink sale, Dec. 22, 1952.

A conference of fur breeders at the Ontario Veterinary College brought out some interesting experiences and these are notes taken by a breeder which may be read by mink ranchers here with benefit—Ontario ranchers have fed quite a bit of raw chicken waste the past year or two and report that mink fur up well and produce satisfactorily. Care must be taken, however, to prevent this feed from spoiling in warm weather. Some ranchers cook the waste. . . . It is very important for the kits to have easy access to feed. A plentiful supply of feed when they require it aids materially in producing larger kits. In the summer of 1951, 16 ranchers in southern Ontario had outbreaks of virus enteritis, or as it is often called, "Fort William disease."

One rancher reported that he lost 2,200 kits. That was about 60 per cent of his total kit production. At the present time there is no effective method of prevention or treatment known. . . . Some ranchers also reported difficulty with low-lying planes during April and May of last year. Dr. Joan Bearer of the Department of Fur-Bearing Animals, Ontario Veterinary College, is conducting fresh water fish feeding trials. The work is in conjunction with the Ontario lands and forests program in cleaning undesirable fish from game areas.

Yellow fat disease occurred on some ranches where the owners fed storage fish as a high proportion of the diet to the kits. Apparently in the old days when the ranchers did not have cold storage and had to feed fresh fish and meat the disease was not seen. The controversy on which is the better, sheds or outside pens, brought out many interesting comments by members of the panel. In southern Ontario it appears that sheds will pay for themselves in reducing weather damage to the fur and increasing food consumption, which means better growth during the hot summer months. Members of the panel picked the following diseases as the five most important as far as Ontario

ranchers are concerned. . . . nutritional diseases (nursing sickness, etc.), calculi; food poisoning; virus enteritis and distemper. Although virus enteritis is more spectacular, when all deaths are considered, losses due to nutritional imbalances are probably greater. . . . Muskrat carcasses are a good food when properly handled. One must realize, however, that mink can become infected with tularemia organisms by feeding muskrat carcasses.

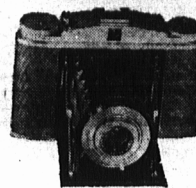
Have your glass slides warm when sperm checking as the sperm will stay alive longer. This results in a more accurate check. In raising Aleutians mink it is a good idea to go through half-bloods to develop a more hardy animal. . . . Preliminary observations of the new virus distemper vaccines have shown them to be more effective in controlling outbreaks than the old "killed" tissue vaccines. Kits can be vaccinated when the youngest litters are five weeks old. Ranchers were warned that splitting an individual mink dose might result in a failure to protect mink against distemper.

The incidence of calculi in mink in the Maritime Provinces is very low. There is some thought that the higher fish diets in that area may be a factor. Fur damage along the sides and the bottom of the tail may be caused by sharp projections in the pen. This type of hair loss should not be confused with fur chewing. Horse meat in Ontario is becoming increasingly scarce and as a result high in price. Most ranchers are utilizing substitutes such as chicken waste, increased percentages of both fresh and salt water fish, and are also using more cereal in the ration.

Among the speakers at the above course were Andrew Sturgeon of Peewaukee, Wisconsin, Albert Woodley, New York City, and Dr. John R. Gorham, University of Wisconsin. It was a fine get-together and as our readers will note, some quite good points were brought out. It appears to me, however, that mink ranchers of Ontario have a great many more troubles than the mink ranchers of Prince Edward Island. Here distemper is very seldom met with and losses—particularly early losses—have been comparatively small. It may be that our nutritional balance is better than the Ontario men are using and perhaps too, our longer spring climate gives the young mink a better chance of survival. At the same time it would be a good idea for all mink breeders here to read these notes carefully and tuck the information away for possible future use.

The Finnish Fur Breeders Association of Helsinki, Finland, report that 200 standard and mutation mink were imported from the United States during the past year. This breeding stock came from Fromm Bros., Hamburg, Wis., Petockoy Fur Farms, Harbor Springs, Mich., and A. B. Ereksion and Sons, Sandy, Utah. In the previous year about 160 breeding mink went to Finland. . . . According to Women's Wear Daily, silver fox garments received the admiration of those attending the recent convention of beauty shop owners in New York City. The fur garments were displayed by the American Fox Breeders' Association at a style show.

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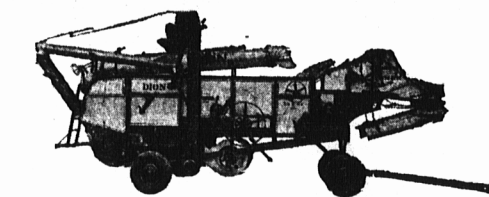
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