

TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH Silver Fox and Mink Farming

Mink breeders throughout the Province must feel good over the continued climb in prices of that fur and its mutations. Ed. Stanton writing in Women's Wear Daily, New York, has the following...

Asian furs which longhairs refused to unload in New York or Boston are now on the docks in Liverpool where, unless they are placed in cold storage quickly will deteriorate, in fact may become so spoiled as to become unusable.

Reflecting on the current prices one veteran mink dealer commented that in December of last year at the outset of the selling season these same male mink that are now bringing \$30. could be bought for \$18. or \$19. and the same females that are now selling for \$19. and \$20. were then available for \$12. or \$13.

Concern is being shown in New York because of recent action by longhairs there in refusing to unload certain Russian furs at United States ports. These merchants are worried less the longshoremans refuse to unload the large quantities of fur skins which are due to arrive later this month and in September.

The Wisconsin State Fair which was held at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, August 19th to 27th featured a fur show with live foxes and mink exhibited in all the different mutations. This has been a regular feature of that Fair for many years, but what we cannot understand is how it is practicable to exhibit mink or fox in August.

Fur farming is big business in Sweden and recent reports state that Swedish furs have sold for higher prices than those in the United States because a large part of them have been sold at prices negotiated in barrier trading rather than at auction.

Bridge Grafting Of Apple Trees

OTTAWA, Sept. — Mice and rabbits succeed in killing many apple trees annually because no effort is made to replace the damaged bark by bridge-grafting. This is a simple operation and the cost is negligible if a bearing tree is saved for further production, says T. B. Harrison, Experimental Station, Harrow, Ont.

The right stage for bridge-grafting is when the bark separates readily from the wood and generally this occurs when the apple trees are in full bloom. It is important to first check carefully the injured area on the tree to insure that the scion or bud stick used overlaps at least three inches into the live tissue above and below the wound.

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Ayrshire Junior Champion



Lealands Champion Boy, eight months old Ayrshire calf, owned by Keith Boswell and Sons, Victoria. This calf was the Ayrshire junior champion and the reserve grand champion male at the Provincial Exhibition two weeks ago.

Chemical Weed Control

The use of chemicals for weed control has become an accepted part of modern practice according to J. S. Lee, Senior Agronomist (Field Crops), Experimental Station, Kentville. Since the introduction a few years ago of 2,4-D, chlorophenoxyacetic acid compounds, called the Greenlets, are voracious insect-eaters, and are thus very useful to the gardener and farmer.

This 2,4-D is only one of a number of interesting chemicals, the use of which for weed control is proven or shows promise. Certain aromatic petroleum products are used for weeding carrots. In fact it is probable that all commercial size carrot crops in this county are now weeded with oil.

For brush control along highways and power lines where selective action is not required numerous materials are used. 2,4-D and a closely related compound 2,4,5-trichlorophenoxyacetic acid or 2,4,5-T and sodium chlorate are being successfully employed.

For weed control in horticultural crops, the diversity of plant types makes selective chemical weeding difficult and yet here again there have been many new developments. Chemicals are available, which are satisfactory or are showing promise, for weeding asparagus, onions, strawberries, peas and possibly others.

The important thing to remember is that the right chemical must be selected for each crop. It must be applied in the correct way and at the right time or more damage than good will result.

Anyone intending to use chemical weed killers should obtain expert professional advice from an Agricultural College, Experimental Farm or Agricultural Representative.

It is important to first check carefully the injured area on the tree to insure that the scion or bud stick used overlaps at least three inches into the live tissue above and below the wound.

The areas of contact of tree and graft are carefully cut with a knife and the bark is gently lifted with a screwdriver when ready to insert the end of the scion, previously cut to a flat, one-sided wedge. Usually the graft is inserted first into the lower slot and nailed firmly to the tree. Then a similar process is followed with the upper end of the graft and both ends of the 'bridge' are then well covered with a grafting compound.

In the case of a wide wound the grafts should be placed three inches apart about the trunk. On young trees which are apt to sway in the wind, it is advisable that the grafts be bowed to allow for this movement.

All the equipment required for bridge-grafting is a sharp knife and a sharpening stone to keep it that way, a small hammer, some flat headed nails of assorted sizes and a can of tree grafting compound. For convenience, all this can be placed in an eleven quart basket for carrying about the orchard.

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NEWSY NOTES

By Agricola

THE RED-EYED VIREO

This is one of our common summer birds, judging from my records. The Vireos or as they are sometimes called, the Greenlets, are voracious insect-eaters, and are thus very useful to the gardener and farmer.

In this connection it may be remarked as a matter of interest, that the Vireos disgorge pellets of the indigestible parts of their food, just as the Owls, Hawks, and Flycatchers do. "All the Vireos," says Nash, "clean their insect food from the trees and shrubs, never descending to the ground in search of it, and are most active in the hottest weather. Francis Bain was familiar with this bird, and wrote of it: 'Intimately associated with the Warblers in their greenwood haunts is the Red-eyed Vireo, a modest olive-tinted bird that never leaves the leafy shadows. Its song consists only of two notes, but so constantly repeated that they make a ceaseless ripple of gentle melody, flowing through the murmuring bow-layers. Its nest is a cup-like, hanging structure, woven of spruce or bark and suspended from the flexuous extremity of a slender limb. The eggs are three to five, white, with a few dark spots.'

The following description was drawn up from an actual specimen, brought in on August 23, 1946.

Red-eyed Vireo, AOU. 624. Common summer resident, 1950. Plumage: Brown slaty-gray edged black, supercilial line white, conspicuous, below this a dusky stripe through the eye; iris of eye red. The rest of the upper parts light olive green, wings rather darker, no wing-bars. Underparts white, faintly shaded with olive on the sides and on the lower tail-coverts. Tail slightly notched. Length of adults about 6.3 inches.

THE BATTLE OF OTTERBURN

(concluded)

By this flank attack the English were hemmed in so that they could not use their bows, weapons on which they relied for victory. The battle became a slogging match, with swords, spears and battle-axes. Hotspur had the advantage in numbers, but his men had been marching since noon and entered the fight tired and hungry; in addition they did not know the ground. The Scots had made a rough meal and secured some rest before their enemies appeared; and they had explored the district that same day. The English however kept in a compact body and being more numerous, began to force the Scots back. The Earl Douglas now ordered his bannerman to advance, shouting "Douglas Douglas!" Sir Henry Percy ("Hotspur") thinking of his captured pennon, pushed forward to catch the Earl. The battle increased in fury, and Douglas, wielding his battle-axe with both hands, dashed among his enemies "like another Hector", as Froissart says. None could stand before him till at last he fell, pierced by three spears. One struck him in the shoulder, another pierced his stomach, and the third entered his thigh. The main body of the English marched over him without suspecting him to be their principal enemy. The tide of battle flowed away, and his men found him still lying, but mortally wounded. "Cousin, how are you?" said Sir John Sinclair. "but so so", he replied, "thanks to God there are but few of my ancestors who have died in chambers or in their beds." Then he instructed them to raise his banner and cry, "Douglas!" but not to tell friend or foe whether he was in their company or not, "for should the enemy know the truth they will greatly rejoice." These were his last recorded commands and were faithfully carried out.

Meanwhile Sir Ralph Percy (Hotspur's younger brother), had advanced too far into the ranks of the Scots, till he too was wounded by a spear. He had scarcely breath

to surrender to Sir John Maxwell for his wound was so desperate that his iron boots were full of blood. There was a kind of chivalry in these fights and Sir Ralph was at once taken care of and his wounds were bound up.

As was foreseen the cries of "Douglas! Douglas!" served to rally the Scots who used their spears with such effect that the English were repulsed and many were killed. Sir Henry Percy had the misfortune to be taken prisoner by Lord Montgomery, and the English were now without their leaders. They began to retreat and the Scots pursued the fugitives for five miles. If one can place reliance on the figures, the English had 1,040 taken, or left dead on the field; 830 were slain in the pursuit, and more than 1,000 were wounded. On the side of the Scots there were only 100 slain and 200 prisoners!

Sir John Froissart, historian, who questioned both parties, found they agreed that Otterburn was the hardest and most obstinate battle that was ever fought.

Sir Henry Percy, as the price of his ransom built the Castle of Penon for his captor, Lord Montgomery. Sir Ralph Percy and other English knights were allowed to remain in Northumberland till their wounds were cured, on condition that when able to endure the fatigues of the journey, they should surrender themselves in Scotland, or else remit the amount of their ransoms.

NATURE NOTES

The Clematis virginica, whose popular name is the Virginia Bower, is a rare plant in this Province. It is a shrubby, climbing member of the Buttercup Family, with white flowers in profuse clusters. My plants began to bloom in early August and the flowers were in good condition for more than a fortnight. This may be attributed to two causes: first, the clematis is growing near the creek, in a moist situation; and secondly, the flowers have no petals, their substitutes being the thicker, harder sepals. When at last the sepals fade and the seeds ripen the clusters bear heads of seeds, (achenes), with long white tails, that are responsible for another name, viz. "Old Man's Beard." My plant has climbed a young spruce to a height of 8 or 9 feet. In any suitable situation, near water, this plant might well vie with the clematis vitalba, the "Traveller's Joy" of the old English country lanes.

Ayrshire Breeders

The Prince Edward Island Ayrshire Breeders Club will pay a bonus to owners of Registered Ayrshire Sires that conform to the standards set by the club. Any Breeders wishing to apply for this bonus, send full particulars to the undersigned.

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A Laurel Willow (Salix pentandra) was cut down just outside the lane fence last fall. This spring a grove of young shoots sprang up round the butt, thick and succulent. The leaves are large, thick and glistening in the sun - whence the name "laurel". About August 14, I noticed something wrong with the end of the shoots and examination showed multitudes of fat green aphids sucking the sap as if their wont. I have no use for aphids of any kind, and meditated an attack on them, but on visiting the clump next morning I found a campaign already in progress. Every short shoot had a "Lady-bug" (Anisotoma) busily engaged in eating aphids and rejecting their empty skins. There were few of the plant-lice left.

Examination showed the assailants to be Coccinella transversoguttata, a bright scarlet insect, with two transverse black marks on each wing-case, and a dark bar across the body "just below the shoulders." The only other Coccinella I have noticed here is C. bipunctata, a smaller species with a single black spot on each wing case. They are most useful beetles with a special liking for aphids.

SINGAPORE, AUG. 31

(Reuters)—Terrorists today murdered G. A. Dumas, 42, English manager of a rubber estate in Pahang, Malaya.

You Can Ruin Your Concrete

Don't use too much water in mixing concrete and don't forget to screen the pit-run gravel. The advice comes from the Experimental Farm at Swift Current, Sask., where special attention is given to farm engineering.

Think of a brick wall. Here large pieces of baked clay (bricks) are held together with mortar. A mortar that is too "sloppy" oozes out, and a weak wall will result. In many ways, concrete is similar to a brick wall. Coarse material is held together by mortar. The mortar in this case is a mixture of sand, Portland cement, and water. This is mixed along with the coarse material all in the one operation.

The strength of the mixture, when it has "set", will depend upon the amount of water used in relation to the cement. Note this point. It is the amount of water used in relation to the cement that is so important.

The dealer from whom you buy your cement will be able to get useful bulletins on mixing and using concrete for you. Ask for "Quality Concrete" and "What the Farmer Can Do With Concrete". These are published by the Portland Cement Association.

It pays to screen pit-run gravel. Then use the coarse and fine material according to the directions. If too much fine material is used in relation to the coarse material, more cement will be required. At the Swift Current Station, most pit-run gravel contains too much sand. It was found that a man's wages could be paid screening the gravel. A good workman would handle enough material in an hour to save nearly one sack of cement.

Properly graded aggregates (sand and gravel), the right amount of water and cement, will give a dense and strong concrete at a minimum cost.

FRANKFURT, Germany, Aug. 28 (Reuters)—About 35,000 construction workers today went on strike here and in Hanover for wage increases of up to 14 per cent. The strike was called by the non-Communist West German Trade Union Federation, but is backed by the Communists.



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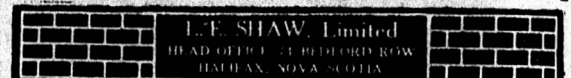
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SPECIAL MEETING

OF P. E. I. POTATO GROWERS' ASSOCIATION LEGION HALL, CHARLOTTETOWN THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7th-7 P.M.

A meeting of all members which includes contract holders of 1935 and all patrons, including Debenture Holders since that time is called for above date for the purpose of:

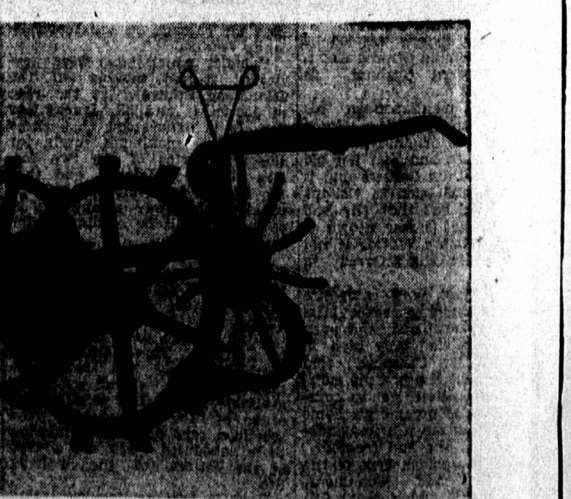
"Authorizing the directors to proceed to register the Association under the Cooperative Ass'n. Act of this Province."

A Provincial Act requires a 2/3 vote of members to permit a change to be made.

Full details of above change have been mailed to members—but in case any qualified member has not received notice, he may come to the meeting and will receive voting privilege on proof of membership.

The future status of your Association will be decided at this MOST IMPORTANT MEETING. By Order of Directors P. E. I. POTATO GROWERS' ASS'N. HORACE M. WRIGHT, President, E. D. REID, Secretary.

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