

MODERN FARMER



TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH Silver Fox and Mink Farming

Mink sold well at the Dominion Auction Sale, Winnipeg. Wild mink ran mostly between \$31. and \$35.50; ranch mink also sold well. Better males brought \$18. to \$19.50, ordinary \$15. to \$17, while females ran from \$11.50 to \$12.50 and \$9. to \$11, respectively. Most of the Silver-bus changed hands. The better males at \$18. to \$21, ordinary males at \$16. to \$18, and females \$11.50 to \$13 and \$10. to \$11.50. A small collection of rats sold well to local manufacturers. Best lots brought \$1.98 to \$2.05. At Seattle, Washington, 6,000 ranch mink were sold at no change from the last sale. Fine ranch skins were from \$16. to \$22., ordinary \$12. to \$15. Not enough mutations were offered to provide price competition.

Francis Beck, President of Montreal Fur Sales (Canada) Ltd., announces that a special fox sale will be held on the company's premises on Friday, April 14th. He states that he has a very attractive collection of approximately 7,000 silver and mutation foxes, the bulk of which consists of fresh skins of the present season never offered before.

The New York Auction Company reports that their offering of 20,000 mink skins was 67 per cent sold last week. Prices were fully maintained at price levels. The goods were mostly from the Great Lakes Mink Association but the quality was not as good as formerly. Males were selling mostly for \$15 to \$17, and \$18, with some higher and others bringing less than \$15. Female males appeared to be selling mostly at \$10 and \$12.

Otto Gross, owner of Northwood Fur Farm, Cary, Illinois, claims that he has received a hundred letters and telephone calls from all over the United States asking about his Blue Mist Fox and he plans to have some pelts from them shown at the Northwood second annual consumer fur show on July 30th. He says there are no white or black hairs on this blue fur and that the hairs are thick and short.

They are Wearing Fox Scarfs — is the big thing in Women's Wear Daily of April 7th, and it continues... All reports of Spring fashions they are wearing this

Wool Prices At Record Levels

The recent issue of Wool News reports that producers of wool enter the 1950 season with prices at record levels in all high producing countries and on world markets. Men of experience in world economy are pointing out that wool always is closely linked with the general economy. The inference is that unless the world's economy shows a substantial recession the prospects are that wool prices cannot fall to continue on favorable levels.

Furthermore, it must be noted that because of the high prices that have prevailed, stocks of wool in Great Britain and other major manufacturing countries are low and that these countries, as a result, will be in the position of having to make heavy purchases in order to keep their textile mills running.

"In spite of this hopeful outlook friends of those who produce wool are wary of making forecasts. Bearing in mind the uncertainties that surround world affairs and the possibilities and probabilities suggested in regard to synthetics and in manufacturing processes there still is wisdom in an urge not to abandon sensible caution and to maintain a reasonable conservatism in regard to flock extension."

"Regardless of what may develop in the countries of heavy wool production, however, there still is little danger of an over-supply to the point that will make sheep unprofitable in Canada as compared with returns on other classes of live stock and on the sound basis of investment and costs for labour, feed and shelter."

FARMERS ATTENTION PLEASE

We have in stock a complete line of JOHN DEERE TRACTORS and FARM EQUIPMENT

Manure Spreaders and Loaders
Line Sowers — Plows — Harrows
Cultivators — Potato Machinery

If you want a GOOD used Tractor, we can supply it also.

A. PICKARD FARM TRACTORS LTD.
CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. I.

Marine Farming May Aid Problem Of World's Food

COPENHAGEN, April — Reuters — Denmark is worried about her rights over the continental shelf which she shares with Britain, Belgium, France, Holland and the Baltic countries.

This shelf, on which the continent of Europe and Britain stand, stretches far out under the sea from all the coasts of Europe. When it ends the sea bed dives sharply to depths of several thousand feet. Similar shelves surround all the world's land masses.

Scientists have known of the existence of these submarine plateaus for years but recent investigations have shown that they offer enormous possibilities.

Borings into the Bay of Mexico for example, produced oil. Reports from various parts of the world spoke of the possibility of a new kind of marine agriculture which could help to swell the world's supplies.

The question of national rights over parts of the continental shelves was at once raised. Chile started what might become a new "gold rush," with a claim to the ownership of the sea bottom for 200 miles out from the Chilean coast.

International attempts to settle claims to the sea bed have been temporarily abandoned, but Dr. G. Cohn, head of a Danish Government commission set up to investigate Denmark's position, commented:

"These claims are of the utmost importance, for not only the sea bed but also the air above the sea is involved."

From a continental shelf point of view, does Denmark belong to Britain and the other countries or do these countries belong to us, or what? It is vital to reach agreement with one's neighbors on this point if no international solution can be found."

Command of the continental shelf could also vitally affect the fishing nations of the world. Dr. E. Poulsen of the Danish Biological Institute said:

"Big nations which have not previously done much fishing might claim areas far out into the sea and drive off foreign fishermen. This might have serious consequences to Denmark, in for example, the Barents Sea."

After expressing a belief that cultivation of the sea bed might in the future play a great part in feeding the world, Dr. Poulsen outlined one of the difficulties in sharing out the bed between the nations.

"In a lock in Scotland, for example, nitrate and phosphate were poured into the salt water. The fish grew faster and bigger, because the fertilizers improved the growth of sea weed. The tiny shell-fish and such, living off the weed, grew faster and quicker and the fish who live on the shell fish in turn fared better."

"But, without international control, it will not be possible to do this everywhere. Fertilizer dumped into the sea above the Danish bed, for example might well drift into the waters above a neighbor's bed and thus benefit the fishing catches of a foreign nation."

Something will Grow

No matter the location there is some flower or shrub that will thrive in it. Some flowers, vegetables and certain varieties of grass actually prefer shade. Some want acid soil rather than sweet, some like heavy clay better than loam or sand. The thing in planning is to consider these special likes and dislikes, then to select those plants that suit one's special location. Flowers and shrubs with special preferences are usually so marked

NEWSY NOTES

By Agricola

NOTES ON EASTER-TIDE

These notes are, in the main concerned with the curious customs and happenings of Easter-tide in Northumbria of a bygone day.

Seventy or eighty years ago the rustics kept tab of the Lenten season by the rhyme:

"Tid, Mid, Miseray, Carling, Palm, and Paste-egg Day."

In explanation of the first line it must be recalled that the Anglican Church prefixed a Latin phrase to each of the Psalms of David in its Book of Common Prayer. For Lent, special Psalms of a penitential character were to be recited on each Sunday. "Tid, Mid, Miseray" were supposed to be contractions of the Latin words appropriated to the first three Sundays.

Carling Sunday, the fourth in succession, took its name from a local occurrence. In "old times" there was a famine in Northumbria and the people of Newcastle were in danger of perishing. Providentially, on this Sunday, a ship with a cargo of carling (gray peas) cast anchor at the Quay. The carlings were intended for some other country, but the mayor confiscated them and the people were saved. In grateful memory of this, the Anniversary was known as Carling Sunday, and the store-keepers always stocked up with carlings for the occasion.

It was still the custom when I was a boy, to eat the "carlings." They were boiled first, then fried in butter and sugar, and served with rum sauce! The innkeeper provided them free to their customers on Carlin Sunday night, but I understand this custom did not survive the first world war. This highly indigestible dish was in general demand in Northumberland and Durham, but Cumberland shunned it.

On Palm Sunday the children gathered "pussy-willows" to take the place of palms. These were sometimes placed on the altar in the parish church, but more frequently taken home as a bouquet. And eggs might be no "palms" if Easter was early that year.

Paste-egg Day was Easter Sunday, when the dame of the house distributed hard-boiled eggs to the children of her neighbors. In Cumberland Paste-eggs were more correctly known as Pasche-eggs, because they were a paschal gift! These eggs were understood to be a symbol of the Resurrection, and much ingenuity was shown in decorating them. They were cleverly dyed with whin blossoms, logwood chips, or onion skins, or the eggs might be wrapped before boiling, in colored cloth, wool, or wallpaper! When the Women's Institute were formed, they promoted paste-egg competitions for the best designs.

The old people were thrifty: they had to be, for money was scarce. Still they all continued to wear something new, however trivial, on Easter Sunday, and to send the children to church in new clothes.

There were a few special week days, too. Pancake Tuesday was properly Shrove Tuesday, Ash Wednesday, the following day, was the first of Lent. Pancakes were a dish at every meal on the Tuesday, and in Durham Cathedral, and at Morpeth, Northumberland, the "pancake-bell" was rung. It was a common custom in many localities, to play football on Pan-

cake Tuesday, in a kind of riotous frolic. The players didn't bother about goalposts: all they desired was to drive their opponents to the town limits through mud-holes, rivulets, and so on. A spectator described one such game: "For grotesqueness and whimsicality, for diversion and devilment, for fragrant odors and filthy defilement, football at Workington on Pancake Tuesday just lacks all creation." When things are at their worst, they begin to mend; commonsense played its part and our local football at Chester-le-Street started out about 1937.

On Good Friday, all classes ate "Hot Cross Buns" round spiced cakes marked with a cross. In the towns the baker's boys went their rounds, calling: "Hot-cross buns, one a penny, two a penny, hot-cross buns!" The cheaper buns had the cross scored on them with a knife before baking; the dearer buns had the cross inlaid with generous slices of candied "lemon-peel." There is little doubt that this custom came down from pagan times. Gustave Flaubert was a zealous antiquary long before he was a successful novelist, and in his famous romance, "Salammbô," he tells of the little cakes, scored in a peculiar manner and eaten in honor of the goddess, Ceres.

Easter Monday was the children's day. This was the day when they rolled their paste-eggs, and each locality had its favorite rolling place. The kiddies gathered in groups and "boold" (bowed) the eggs on the grassy surface, breaking the shells into small pieces so that the eggs stripped freely. Then the contents were eaten and the incautious or greedy child might be very ill, afterwards. As an alternative, the eggs might be "jaaped" (which I take to be "chapped"), an old Scottish word. One child held his egg and another struck it with his egg. There was some sort of wager in the case. Of course, Easter Tuesday was a school half-holiday, to taper off with.

HAWK OR OWL?

Here is a pleasant, chatty letter from Clyde River: — "Dear Agricola —

Continued on page 16

or light digging between plants may be done.

In the rose garden some of the outer covering on the bushes should be moved as soon as the weather gets warm, and the remainder of the mulch at intervals of a few days. It is a mistake to uncover the bushes too early as the stems may be injured by drying winds before the roots become active. Pruning the bushes can be delayed until the leaf buds show signs of growth. All damaged wood should be cut out and stems pruned to a good strong bud.

Consumers League Reviews 50 Years Of Work Reforms

NEW YORK, April 18 — (AP) —The National Consumers League, founded by women 50 years ago to awaken shoppers to their power for reform, is looking forward to another half century of accomplishment.

The United States organization has achieved much in its battle for higher wages, shorter working hours, sanitary working conditions and the banishment of child labor. Early results were won largely by influencing the consumer not to buy goods produced under sweatshop conditions.

"There is still a big job to be done," said Elizabeth Magee, general secretary of the league, which makes its headquarters in Cleveland. "Twenty-two states have no minimum wage law, and 36 have no legislation giving women pay for equal work. Many states still do not prohibit night work for boys and girls of 16 and 17."

In its second half-century the league plans to continue the fight for minimum wages, maximum working hours and equal pay for women. First it will seek to widen the coverage of federal social laws, such as those on social security, to benefit people now left out. Second it will try to close gaps in state legislation which permit some local businesses to pay low wages.

It also will seek better pay, housing and working conditions for migrant workers.

Miss Magee noted that the Joint Congressional committee on the economic report recently received a report that 10,000,000 American families and 6,000,000 individuals—a total of 38,000,000 people—have an annual income of less than \$2,000.

"The public has a great stake in these people," she said. "Poorly paid workers are not a good market. But with better pay they constitute a great expandable market for industry."

Bad Labor Conditions

Indignation over sweatshop labor spurred women to found the league. More than 50 years ago thousands of men and women worked long hours in dirty, ill-lit factories, often for starvation wages. Department store clerks toiled so long and hard in the Christmas rush that some fell ill and died. Tubercular sufferers and syphilitics worked for manufacturers of clothes and candy. Underfed children pulled baggages all day.

Florence Kelley, chief factory inspector of Illinois and Hull House worker, and other women became convinced such conditions would exist as long as the consumer bought their products. So the

You'll Make No Mistake If You Order BRAY CHICKS

"Best I've ever had." — "Strong and vigorous, full of vitality." — "Wonderful layers, produce such large eggs." These are extracts from letters received from Bray customers, usually accompanying an order for Bray Chicks. Many people are so well satisfied with Bray Chicks (and Bray service) that they have raised Bray Chicks for 10, 12 and more years without a break. Handle them right, and they should do the same sort of job for YOU — and everything points, this year, to a strong market next fall.

ORDER THROUGH ANY OF THESE ISLAND AGENTS:

CHARLES E. WORTH, 257 Queen St., Charlottetown. Phone 22-L
Robert J. Shaw, Bloomfield
Mrs. Arthur J. Enman, New Annan
Clarence F. Haslam, Emerald
J. J. Stewart, Montague
O. C. Johnson, North Tyrone
H. A. Jolly, O'Leary
Charles S. MacKay, Kensington
Mrs. Geo. Muirhead, St. Eleanor's
Garth MacLean, Lot 16, South West
Elmer Waugh, Wilmot Valley
Winston W. Currie, Alberton
E. D. Johnston, Elmsdale
Wm. MacEwen, New London
FRED W. BRAY Ltd.—120 John St. N., Hamilton, Ont.

ATTENTION FARMERS

We have just received a shipment of the famous FORDSON MAJOR TRACTORS

which are now on display at our Showroom.

This splendid heavy duty, row crop tractor with its wide variety of optional equipment including 3 and 4 bottom plows, fills a long felt need in the heavy tractor field.

You are cordially invited to inspect and compare this unit with others in its class.

S. R. JOHNSTON Ltd.
ST. PETER'S ROAD PHONE 262

Canadian Garden Service 1950

By Gordon Lindsay Smith

Most for the Room

Even a tiny vegetable garden 10 feet by 20 will give big returns with a little planning and double cropping. In these small plots one is wise to forget those bulky or spreading sort of things like potatoes, corn, squash or peas. One should concentrate on beans, carrots, beets, spinach, radish, lettuce, possibly a half-dozen stalked tomatoes and perhaps a hill or two of cucumbers trained over the boundary fence. None of these vegetables take up much room. Beans, beets and carrots can be grown in rows only a foot apart, though an inch or so wider will make cultivation easier, and 10 feet of any of them will produce many meals for the average family. With some of the very early things like lettuce, radish and spinach double cropping can be practised. Plant these in rows, say 16 inches apart, with rows of the later things — beets, beans, carrots, parsnips, etc. — between. By the time the latter require full room the other quick-maturing items will be out of the way. It is also possible to have two crops in one season, where such quick-growers as radish are followed in the same ground by late beets, carrots or beans.

STILL AFLOAT

OSLO — (CP) — "Show Boat" by Jerome Kern was shown here recently in the first time this famous American operetta has been produced in Norway. Advance notices indicate it will have a great success than "Oklahoma."

In the seed catalogues.

Most vegetables, however, are pretty keen on a generous amount of sun but they have distinct likes and dislikes in the matter of soil. For deep-rooted carrots, potatoes, etc., it is important that the soils be fairly loose at least a foot down. Certain types prefer sandy soil to clay. Be it matter what the soil is to start with a little planning and care one can change it fairly easily.

Spread them Out

In most parts of Canada it is perfectly true that the season is short but this does not prevent a succession of vegetables. The trick is to make a succession of sowings of such things as beets, beans, lettuce, radish, carrots, etc. It's a good plan to sow about a third of the seed at a time, so that the soil is then followed with a third about the normal time, then a fortnight or so later plant the rest. This will spread the harvest out over many weeks. A still greater spread can be obtained by using early, medium and late varieties.

Spring Work In The Garden

It will soon be time to tidy up the flower garden. Many dead stems of perennials in the borders should be cut off at the base and dead annual plants pulled up by the roots. A light raking of the bed may be made, but go carefully so that tips of bulbs just below the surface of the soil are not damaged. As the weather becomes warmer, a more thorough raking



A two-wheel track from the Karanambo airstrip leads to the McTurks' home. Cookhouse, stores, and thatched garage for "Tiny" McTurk's dog give the place a mid-Western atmosphere. (In circle) Edward and Connie McTurk.

"Tiny" and Connie McTurk tend their little gardens, which are on stilts six feet from the ground. This is primarily to keep away destructive ants and pests. They grow vegetables, lettuce, onions, and a variety of flowers.

HOSTS OF THE SAVANNAH

Life is slowly changing for Edward "Tiny" McTurk and his wife, Connie, who live in the vast savannah country of British Guiana, South America.

Air transport has reduced the three-day trip by fast, sprawling rivers to an hour, and the week's journey to the Rupununi District, where the McTurks live, to less than two hours. There is now no need to drive the cattle over the hazardous two-weeks' trail to the coast: they are slaughtered on the spot and flown by air to Georgetown. Balata, a submarine cable insulating material, is bled from the trees by Amerindians and is flown direct to the coast.

The story of the McTurks is typical of the five ranching families in the Rupununi District, who, because of their isolation, are the hosts of all who touch down on the savannah airstrip at Karanambo. Whatever else air transport has changed, it has not altered the overwhelming hospitality and indomitable pioneering spirit of the British ranchers who for generations have opened up colonial territories as the world over.

With food packs on their backs, the Amerindian balata tappers move all towards the river, where their boats will take them to the best tapping sites.

When day is over, "Tiny" and Connie McTurk settle comfortably in a large ladies hammock and listen to the radio, their only contact with the outside world.

Money has very little value to the Amerindians who live on the savannah. "Tiny" McTurk runs his own store and he pays out his balata tappers in kind.

This seven-foot arapaima was caught by "Tiny" McTurk in the Rupununi. It weighs four hundred pounds; is the largest fresh-water scaled fish in the world.