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A FACT A DAY ABOUT CANADA
FROM THE
DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS
JANUARY 1940
SIXTH SERIES

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James Muir,
Editor.

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ZOOLOGICAL SURVEY
OF CANADA

SECRET

1. The first part of the report is devoted to a description of the work done during the year. It is divided into two main sections: a general survey of the work done and a detailed account of the work done in each of the various departments. The general survey shows that the work done during the year has been of a high standard and that the various departments have all made considerable progress. The detailed account shows that the work done in each of the various departments has been of a high standard and that the various departments have all made considerable progress.

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No. 93. Mon. Jan. 1, 1940 -- The Year 1940

The year 1940 has begun and it seems, as friends greet one another, that all are labouring under the spell of a coming struggle that will be one of the most fateful in the history of human relations.

We have been told by those who ought to know, that the war has not really begun, and the air is full of rumours of what the belligerent nations, and even the neutral nations close to the sphere of conflict in Europe, may expect. Death and disaster of incalculable magnitude is predicted by men unaccustomed to pessimism.

The year that has begun sees the Finlander fighting for his home with glorious courage against a foe of tremendous potentiality, a foe with whom he had no quarrel and with whom there had been signed a compact of live and let live. The Finlander has given history an epic that Thermopylae cannot pale, and all the rest of the world wonders.

Statistics will undoubtedly record new and awful happenings, but beneath the bare figures there will be the story of a brave and resolute people on this side of the Atlantic, who have entered into the struggle to save human liberty in the world, as a crusade, a holy war.

We can see around us in the less exuberant New Year greetings than those of past years, the sign of firm resolve, realizing that it will be a year of testing of the character of the Canadian people.

We begin the New Year at any rate with good heart that, whatever the test, we are today strong as a people of the great Empire, stronger Canadians than we have ever been in the history of our race.

No. 94. Tues. Jan. 2, 1940 -- Canada's Mineral Production

The official estimate of Canada's mineral production in 1939, issued yesterday, is a most important matter, particularly at this time when Canada is at war. That official estimate, for which the world outside of us was waiting, had to be cabled overseas to satisfy inquirers abroad. This circumstance gives some idea of its importance.

Last year's mineral production is valued at the huge sum of \$470,179,000, which is coming close to half a billion dollars. Now, half a billion does not mean very much to ordinary folk like us, but it does have a real meaning when we are able to compare it with something else of which we have a better idea.

Wheat provides such a comparison. The value of the 1939 wheat crop was \$252,779,000. But wheat is only one of many field crops, and the total field crop of 1939 was worth \$634,130,000. The farmer has also fruit, meat, milk, eggs and so forth to offer in the market.

Gold is the chief factor in our mineral production. Of the total of \$470,179,000, gold had a value of \$181,274,000. To make a true comparison, therefore, gold should be placed opposite wheat and wheat has a definite lead. The purchasing power of these two items added together is something worth talking about. It is over \$433,000,000.

The variety of the minerals mined in Canada is worth considering. Take metallics alone. There are gold, silver, nickel, copper, lead, zinc, platinum, arsenic, bismuth, cadmium, cobalt, molybdenite, selenium, tellurium and titanium in 1933 and in addition, in 1939, manganese ore, mercury, tungsten ore and iron ore.

From time to time there will be something said, as has been said in the past, about the uses to which many of these metals are put.

No. 95. Wed. Jan. 3, 1940 -- An Emergency Hay Crop

Never in the history of Canada has such attention been paid to the farmer, and the possibilities of the farm to provide the sinews of war. Much interest is being shown, therefore, in soybean production in Eastern Canada. This is particularly so in Ontario, where soybeans are used extensively to provide protein concentrates for livestock. Also, soybeans are about the only annual legume which can be used satisfactorily as an emergency hay crop when red clover, alfalfa, or other biennial or perennial legumes fail, due to drought or winter killing. There have been about 10,000 acres planted to soybeans annually of late years.

Successful production of soybeans is dependent, first of all, upon the selection of suitable adapted types. Varieties of Canadian origin which are suitable for growing in many parts of the Dominion are now available. Growers are advised to secure seed of varieties suitable for their district for 1940 seeding.

The chief considerations to be kept in mind when choosing the variety of soybeans are the locality and the use to be made of the crop. The highest yielding varieties of both grain and hay are the relatively late maturing sorts for the district. Thus, the best varieties for hay are the ones which are relatively late maturing but are early enough to reach the hay stage while the weather is suitable for curing. The best grain varieties are the latest sorts which will mature before heavy frosts set in. If the seed is to be sold to soybean mills for processing, a further limitation is imposed. Since the manufacturers of soybean products discriminate against soybeans with coloured seed coats, it is necessary to grow yellow seeded varieties if sale of the beans to mills is contemplated.

The Division of Forage Plants, Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, has introduced and tested hundreds of varieties and strains of soybeans and has produced, through plant breeding, several superior varieties. Those interested may secure definite advice from the Department of Agriculture on this subject. Every little helps in the war effort.

No. 96. Thurs. Jan. 4, 1940 -- Canadian Magnesite in the War

Magnesium, eighth most abundant of Nature's elements, is recognized throughout the world as a useful metal. Its commercial importance has grown rapidly in recent years, with its wide use for structural and metallurgical purposes.

Included among the magnesian minerals are magnesite, dolomite and magnesium salts, but magnesite heads the list. A compact granular form of natural magnesium carbonate, it constitutes a very valuable material in making refractory products intended to withstand extremely high temperatures. As a kiln lining it is used in the construction of steel, copper, nickel and other furnaces. It is also manufactured as finely ground refractory cement, and in the form of bricks it provides enduring floors and floor tiles; it is also a potential source for the metal magnesium. Reasonably stable under atmospheric conditions, magnesium metal and its alloys are expanding rapidly in aircraft construction.

In peace time as well as in war time, magnesite is an indispensable material for the great steel mills of the United Kingdom. Having no home production, Great Britain is particularly dependent on outside sources for this mineral.

It is at this point that Canadian magnesite becomes prominent. There are large deposits of magnesitic-dolomite in Argenteuil County, Quebec, sufficient to supply home products for many years and also to support a large export trade. In addition, large deposits of magnesium bearing rocks occur near Marysville, Atlin and Clinton in British Columbia, and in the Yukon. Exploratory work has been conducted on the western deposits, but as yet there has been no important commercial development.

The Quebec deposits, only 75 miles northwest of Montreal, attracted wide attention when during the first Great War supplies from Greece and Austria were cut off from the western hemisphere. The company which develops these deposits is the largest producer of magnesitic-dolomite in the British Empire. It makes shipments to Great Britain and other parts of the Empire, as well as supplying a good part of our domestic needs.

An interesting development during 1938 was the discovery at Rutherglen, Ontario, and at Bryson, Quebec, of brucite-bearing limestone. Brucite, a hydrated magnesium oxide, contains a higher percentage of magnesium than magnesite and can also be utilized for the manufacture of refractory material for lining metallurgical furnaces. It has value also as a potential source of magnesium metal.

In recent years the tonnage of magnesitic-dolomite produced in Canada has not been published, but in 1938 the value was \$420,261. A total of 9,219 tons of magnesite, valued at \$336,811, was used in the Canadian primary iron and steel industry in 1938. Already Canadian production and consumption of magnesite has been stimulated by the war.

No. 97. Fri. Jan. 5, 1940 -- The Finlanders

Only a year or so ago there appeared amongst these daily Facts a reference to Finland, but so much have the gallant people of that country come into our thoughts it will be timely to say something more about them. The Finlanders have swelled the ranks of those small countries that have had to fight for their very existence and have done it successfully. So amazing has been the success of the Fin s in the defence of their native land against the vast hordes of Russia, that it has evoked

a world's wonder and admiration.

There are, according to the last census, more than 25,000 people of Finnish origin in Canada. About half of them were born in the Dominion and the other half in Finland. Nearly all the Finns are Lutherans. Finnish and Swedish are the official languages of Finland.

The land they love so well is about 150,000 square miles in extent, or approximately almost twice the size of the Maritime Provinces and Newfoundland added together. Like Canadian territory, it extends into the Arctic.

The country was conquered by Russia from Sweden in 1809 and united to the Russian Empire, as an autonomous but not sovereign Grand-Duchy. When the Russian Empire broke down in 1917, Finland declared herself an independent sovereign state. Relations between Finland and Russia were finally settled by treaty in 1920. About 90 per cent of the people speak Finnish and 10 per cent Swedish. There are nearly four million inhabitants. The Aland Archipelago, a group of 300 islands at the mouth of the Gulf of Bothnia, belongs to Finland.

Here are some interesting facts. There are three universities and several technical and commercial high schools. The forests are a great source of wealth; in Europe only Russia is so wealthy in forests as Finland. The merchant fleet consists of about 600 steamers, over 180 motor vessels and 110 sailing vessels. Service in the army is universal and compulsory.

The Republic is governed by a single chamber, elected by the people. Finland was the first country to concede woman suffrage and representation and it is noteworthy that it was gained without agitation. It was for some years a Prohibitionist country, the only one in Europe.

The national flag is white with a blue cross.

No. 98. Sat. Jan. 6, 1940 — Ye Olde Wooden Ice Boxe

In an age when yesterday's household necessities are today relegated to remote corners in basements, or perhaps to a happier and more useful fate in the summer camp, it is interesting to note that at least one item amongst the horse-hair sofas, sideboards and push-and-pull washing machines of yesterday, has not only held its own but is occupying a position of increasing usefulness in the Canadian household.

This is the wooden refrigerator, that article of sturdy lines and doubtful beauty that dripped its way into an abiding place in the home during the past century. Nor has the advent of the electric refrigerator ousted it, doubtless because many rural communities and settlers are beyond the reach of the various hydro systems, and also because of the relatively lower initial cost of the ice refrigerator. The manufacturers, too, have done their part, and done it well, in fitting the old wooden ice box with the necessary handsome exterior to grace the modern kitchen.

A compilation of statistics returned by firms engaged wholly or chiefly in the manufacture of household and commercial refrigerators, cold storage counters and ice cream cabinets constructed chiefly of wood, reveals that there were 14 such establishments in 1938. Ontario's proportion of these firms was nine, Quebec

two, Manitoba two, and Alberta one. A number of other industrial firms not included in this class make relatively small quantities of cold storage equipment as a side line.

The value of wooden refrigerator products in 1938 was \$851,400 compared with \$633,300 in 1937. There were 205 employees on wages in 1938, an increase of 41 over the previous year.

No. 99. Sun. Jan. 7, 1940 -- Consumption of Wheat

Although Canada is one of the great wheat producing countries, and wheat occupies a large place in our economic structure, it is not one of the greatest wheat consuming countries, that is, pro rata to population.

There are several countries whose inhabitants use more wheat per capita than we do. Apart from seed requirements, but including food for poultry, etc., the Canadian consumption of wheat is about 270 pounds per head per annum. Our consumption for human food is a little less than 250 pounds.

The greatest consumer of wheat is the Frenchman. His consumption is estimated at about 432 pounds and he adds 46 pounds of rye to his menu. People in the United States eat more wheat than Canadians, their per capita consumption being about 282 pounds. Even that, however, is considerably below the consumption of 342 pounds in the United Kingdom, despite the heavy use of oats in certain parts of these islands.

The Germans are not so strong on wheat as many other nationalities. Wheat consumption runs about 150 pounds per capita, but the Germans use more rye than wheat. Their use of that cereal is about 200 pounds, so that, adding wheat and rye together, the total is only 350 pounds. The Spaniard consumes 330 pounds of wheat and he adds 58 pounds of rye to it. The Italian consumes comparatively little rye but the Pole a great deal. Indeed, the Pole is regarded as the heaviest consumer of rye in the world with 375 pounds; his wheat consumption is 78 pounds.

There is only one reserve to that statement -- we have no statistics from Russia. The Australians, by the way, with 300 pounds, eat considerably more wheat than the Canadians. All the figures given are approximate.

No. 100. Mon. Jan. 8, 1940 -- Farming on Indian Reserves

We have been talking a good deal these last few months about food and the contribution Canada is making to the Allies in the form of provender. So it is timely to give more than a passing thought to what the Indians of the Dominion are doing with the lands on the Reserves. Those whose memory goes back to one-quarter of a century ago, when the call came to arms, will recall the stirring response of the descendants of the great tribes that used to roam the woods and prairies not so long ago.

Take it in round figures. There is about one-quarter of the Reserves under field crops, and as the horse is still king on these Reserves it is natural to expect that the chief crop will be oats. So it is. The acreage under oats last

year was almost 50,000 acres, with wheat a little less.

It was from the Indians of Upper Canada we learned about corn and the Indians' corn crop for husking was taken last year from 1,300 acres. With the exception of three acres in Nova Scotia, all of it was in Ontario. There was almost the same acreage under fodder corn, practically all of it being grown in Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia. There was none grown in the Prairie Provinces. There were 23,000 acres under oats in the Prairie Provinces and 21,000 in Ontario.

As to be expected, the Alberta Indians, with 22,000 acres, had the largest wheat acreage last year, and Saskatchewan had 15,000.

One expects an Indian to be fond of horses. So he is. Altogether the Reserves have almost 30,000 horses, some of them very fine animals. Alberta leads the way with about 11,000 and British Columbia 9,000. Out of 42,000 cattle last year, British Columbia had 14,000 and Alberta 12,000.

Of course, there are many Indian farmers all over the Dominion; the figures given are for the Reserves only. It is enough to show how notable is their contribution to agriculture.

No. 101. Tues. Jan. 9, 1940 -- Sending Perishable Goods Abroad

The sending of perishable goods abroad, especially during war time, is a great problem which has been solved amazingly. It is something to ponder over. We are fairly familiar with it.

But the problem is not ended with the despatch and carrying of perishable goods. There must be cooperation and efficient care of the goods at their destinations. There are great difficulties, and an example of that is provided by India, an important part of the British Empire. One of our Canadian trade commissioners there says:

The climate over a large area of India for most of the year is so hot and humid that the trade in foodstuffs of a perishable nature has invariably been attended by serious risks and heavy losses. To some extent the diversion from fresh to imported tinned foods has enabled the trade and the individual consumer to avoid these risks and losses; but the alternative has not at all times proved satisfactory and there is today a definite trend in this market towards increased use of refrigeration in the import, storage and distribution of many types of foodstuffs.

The severity of the Indian climate is experienced in all the principal cities. Those on or near the coast, such as the larger cities of Calcutta and Bombay, have hot weather practically throughout the year. Some of the principal inland centres, such as Lahore and Delhi, have much higher summer temperatures but a cold winter. In the early days of European settlement, the prevailing heat and humidity in the principal markets resulted in the practice of consuming all perishable foods immediately following their purchase in the bazaars, and in the universal custom of buying only sufficient of such foods for each day's use. It is still uncommon, for example, for domestic fruits to be served at dinner as these will have been kept during the heat of the day and may have deteriorated sufficiently to be unpalatable or dangerous.

The increased use of artificial ice and electric- or gas-operated domestic refrigeration has greatly ameliorated conditions in the larger centres of population

for the individual rather than for the trade. The latter is to a large extent controlled by small Indian firms which cannot afford to install refrigerating plants and take the risk of selling out their daily stocks. A further factor is the shipment of fruits, vegetables, and other perishable foods over the long distances from producing areas to the leading markets. The railways have been slow in providing refrigerated cars for such traffic and many shippers and dealers are inclined to take the risk of loss rather than pay the higher costs of freight in refrigerated space. The result is that losses are still heavy and that markets have in many cases gone without supplies of fruits, fish, meats, and vegetables which are in keen demand and would otherwise be available.

Installation of refrigerated chambers on cargo vessels has made it possible for perishable foodstuffs to be taken into India's main ports from many sources. The obvious desirability of extending the sale and consumption of these goods and of encouraging and regulating domestic production has recently been made a subject of investigation by the government. The Imperial Council of Agricultural Research has for some time past carried out a series of experiments with the cold storage of various foods and, with the aid of the Agricultural Marketing Adviser, the railways, and defence authorities, has issued various reports on this important question. Practical developments may not be apparent for some time to come, but it is obvious that the field offers wide scope for scientific investigation and practical co-operation by the trade.

Cold storage plants at present in operation in India are in general of limited capacity and of many different types. Our exports to India in 1938 were of the value of over \$4,348,000. An advance in refrigeration in India would no doubt increase that amount.

No. 102. Wed. Jan. 10, 1940 -- Fishermen's Ups and Downs

The life of a fisherman has its ups and downs! Take, for instance, two days during a recent week covered by reports to the Dominion Department of Fisheries by its resident inspectors in two localities on the Nova Scotia and New Brunswick coasts.

At Queensport, Nova Scotia, a Monday dawned fine and warm, with a calm sea. A very heavy run of mackerel struck the harbour and excellent catches were landed. One fisherman alone made over \$400 while the big run was on. One trap operated by four men took 26,000 pounds of the streamlined fish. Good fishing also prevailed off Half Island Cove, Black Point, and Fox Island, all nearby points, and the fish plants at Queensport were "humming" night and day getting the fish under salt as quickly as possible.

On the New Brunswick coast, at almost the same time, the fishermen on the other hand were having "hard luck." A heavy southwest gale swept the Charlotte county coast, causing heavy damage. Several carrier boats at Back Bay were badly damaged by the fury of the storm. Weir boats, various small craft, and the fishing weirs themselves were battered. Damage to herring weirs along the shore from Back Bay to St. Andrews was estimated to reach \$1,000. The weir boats and smaller craft sustained damages that will cost \$500 to repair and the carrier boat damages were surveyed as being approximately \$1,500.

Mackerel are an important fish in the Nova Scotia fisheries -- nearly 228,000

hundredweights of these fish were taken in 1938 with a marketed value of over \$274,500 -- and of the entire catch the greater part are salted, though a considerable quantity is, of course, used fresh, and a small quantity smoked. Herring likewise play an important part in Canada's fisheries, being taken in large quantities on both Atlantic and Pacific coasts.

Pelagic is the term used to describe fish which ordinarily are found near the surface. Mackerel and herring are two examples of pelagic fish.

No. 103. Thurs. Jan. 11, 1940 -- Filming for the Libraries

Libraries have been interesting themselves in the question of making film copies of publications to save space. Space has become a serious problem for most of the great libraries. Here are some notes on the subject provided by one of the Government librarians. They may prove useful.

For the last five months the "Ottawa Journal" has been having film copies made of its files. This is done through the Toronto office of a United States photographic supplies company. At the end of each month the file is forwarded to the company. Then, in about three weeks, the negative film is returned to Ottawa. The positive film is kept. At any time when it is wanted an additional negative film will be made from the positive.

At present this is being done for a year, as an experiment. Should it be decided to adopt the film for final record purposes, the newspaper files will be discarded. At present the files of papers are kept in very large bound volumes, each volume holding three months' issues of the daily paper.

The "Journal" is considering the possibility of supplying films to such libraries as the Library of Parliament, the Ottawa Carnegie, and others which may make a requisition for them. No doubt other newspapers are doing the same thing.

The question of cost for supplying a year's films is not yet settled, but a possible rate of one dollar a week was tentatively suggested.

Apparently the Journal staff's chief idea in adopting the film for records is the saving of space. A special lens is used for reading the films.

No. 104. Fri. Jan. 12, 1940 -- Selling Seal Pelts Here

Some months ago it was announced that this season seal pelts would be sold at auction in Montreal for the first time in the history of the Dominion. Over three thousand of them have since been brought from London, where the market has been greatly reduced since the outbreak of war. A statement by the company in charge of the sales will clarify what has occurred.

"Under the trade agreement between Canada and the United States, the Dominion receives 15 per cent. of the total Alaskan seal catch each year, which is under control of the United States Government. Incidentally, Japan receives a share of this catch.

this catch.

"Up to a few years ago the Dominion shipped its share of the seals to St. Louis, Missouri, along with balance of the catch, and took its due in cash. Then a few years ago it was decided to take the skins, instead of the money, and the furs were sent to London, where they were dressed and dyed, and later sold.

"Owing to the war conditions prevailing, it has been thought advisable to bring part of the Dominion's share in this year's catch to Canada and sell them by auction here. The 1939 total Alaskan seal catch probably will amount to 55,000 skins, leaving Canada's share about 9,000, so that this shipment is one-third of the year's total for us. It is a sort of test shipment.

"It will be the first time in the history of the fur business in Canada (which of course extends back to the earliest settlement of the country) that sealskins in any form, raw or dressed, have been sold within the borders of the country. It will, hence, be an experiment."

It is interesting to note that only male seals are caught. The powerful male Alaskan seal controls a harem of 40 to 50 females; sometimes he has as many as 100. In the breeding season the bull seal undergoes an unbroken fast of eight to ten weeks, during which time he constantly watches his harem. The female, which is only one-fifth the size of the master, can recognize her young one by its scent and cry. Should the mother perish the young will die, too, for mothers will not suckle strange Alaskan seal babes; hence, the rule not to kill the females.

There has been a tremendous increase in the Alaskan seal herd. It was 123,000 in 1911 and now it is over 1,600,000.

No. 105. Sat. Jan. 13, 1940 — Story of the Fur Trade

After what was said yesterday about sealskins, it will probably be appropriate to give a brief resumé of the history of the all-important Canadian fur industry. The place which the fur trade held during the French regime in Canada, when for a century and a half it was at once the mainspring of discovery and development and the curse of settled industry, is familiar history. Later the Hudson's Bay Company may be said with truth to have held the West until the Dominion had grown to absorb it, bequeathing to the civilization which came after a native race accustomed to the white man and an example of organization and discipline that was of lasting influence. The salient facts in the story are as follows:

From the earliest times the Basque and Breton fishermen upon the "banks" had traded for furs. As the French court demanded more and more furs, adventurers came for the latter trade exclusively. Pont-Gravé and Chauvin built Tadoussac in 1599 as a centre for this trade with the Indians of the Saguenay, and when trade routes were discovered further inland, the founding of Quebec and Montreal followed. The French Government from the first granted monopolies of the fur trade, always on the condition that the Company should bring to Canada a stated number of settlers. But settlement and the fur trade could never go together — settlement by driving fur-bearing animals farther afield made trading increasingly expensive, and the great profits of the fur trade, together with its freedom and romance, took all the adventurous from the rational pursuits of a settler. Trade spread west and south by the river routes, convoys bringing the furs yearly to Montreal and Quebec.

The de Caen Company in the seventeenth century sent yearly to France from 15,000 to 20,000 pelts. "Beaver" was made the Canadian currency.

In the meantime, English navigators had been seeking a Northwest passage to the Orient. By 1632 their efforts came to an end with little practical result. Hudson Bay, however, had been accurately charted, so that when the first English fur-trading ships came some years later, they sailed by charted routes to a safe harbour. The first expedition (1668) came at the instigation of Radisson and Groseilliers, two French *coureurs-de-bois* who had travelled in the rich fur country north of Lake Superior. They had sought aid in France, but being repulsed turned to England. In 1670 the charter of the "Adventurers of England trading into Hudson's Bay" was obtained by Prince Rupert, who became the first Governor of the Company (whence the name Rupert's Land). On the granting of the Charter a second expedition set forth, the ships well laden with merchandise to be used in barter with the Indians and with supplies for the new trading posts.

Fortes were built on Hudson Bay and James Bay, at the mouths of rivers, and the Company waited for furs to be brought to its posts. From the first the relations with the Indians were friendly, and the Company soon won their confidence by fairness in barter and by help in time of want. As a result the Indians carried to the Company's posts their harvests of pelts and the ships returned to England each year well laden with furs, the proceeds from which gave to the "Gentleman Adventurers" generous rewards for their vision and for the investment which had made possible the utilization of this rich domain. During the struggle between the English and the French, which commenced about 1685, the Company sustained heavy losses, and no dividends were paid.

No. 106. Sun. Jan. 14, 1940 -- An Absorption

With the English victory came a new era of prosperity; additional posts were built; more and more Indians came to trade; great cargoes of furs were sent to England; and the shareholders again received substantial dividends on their stock.

With the Seven Year's War the fur trade from the South passed out of the hands of the French, and until 1771 the English were busy rediscovering the old French routes to the West. A period of open competition followed. The discoverer of a new fur district was soon followed by competitors who undersold him and were undersold by him until some or all were ruined and left for new fields.

At length, in an endeavour to retrieve their fortunes, the competitors would join their interests. Such a concern was the Northwest Company, founded in 1783-4, with a stock divided into 16 shares. No capital was deposited, but each party supplied a proportion of the articles needed for trade. The Northwest Company pursued a vigorous policy, founding posts to control all the best fur districts. The Hudson's Bay Company felt the keenness of the competition and was forced to abandon its ancient policy of waiting for furs to be brought to the Bay. By 1816 the rivals had absorbed or ruined eleven other partnerships and were themselves on the verge of ruin.

Finally in 1821, the two were joined under the name of the older company. The Northwest Company brought with it the control of the Pacific and Arctic watersheds, to be added to the lands draining into Hudson Bay, and over the whole region the Hudson's Bay Company secured legal recognition of its monopoly of the fur trade.

The Company's rights of exclusive trading in Indian territory expired in 1859 and ten years later it surrendered its other privileges. In return, Canada granted 300,000 pounds to the Company, as well as lands about its trading posts, and one twentieth of the land in the fertile belt between the North Saskatchewan River and the United States boundary. The Hudson's Bay Company thereupon became a trading company, with no extraordinary privileges.

No. 107. Mon. Jan. 15, 1940 -- Present Conditions in Fur Industry

There have been great changes in the fur trade. The railway first revolutionized conditions throughout the country, then more recently the advent of the motor vehicle has influenced the extension of highways to the borders of settlement, and beyond. Boats ply the lakes and rivers, and the aeroplane is requisitioned for the transportation of furs from the more inaccessible districts. The advance of lumbering, mining and agricultural settlement, together with improved methods of capture, have driven fur-bearing animals further and further afield, and caused serious reduction in their numbers. To guard against further depletion and to ensure the prosperity of Canada's great wild life heritage, the Dominion and provincial governments have adopted, in co-operation, a strong policy of conservation.

The conservation of the fur bearers of Canada, as set out by the Superintendent of Wild Life Protection, Mr. Hoyes Lloyd, is a matter coming under the jurisdiction of the respective Provincial and Territorial Governments. Nevertheless, the Dominion as a whole is concerned in the conservation of fur and of all wild-life resources. It was to co-ordinate the wild-life conservation efforts of the various Dominion Departments that the Advisory Board on Wild Life Protection was organized in 1916. The Board is specially authorized to advise with respect to the administration of the Migratory Birds Convention Act and the Northwest Game Act, but has dealt with many other problems of wild-life conservation. Through conferences of provincial and Dominion officials which were convened for many years by the former Department of the Interior, but are now arranged by the Department of Mines and Resources, uniform and concerted action has been taken and the conservation of Canada's wild-life resources has been advanced.

The general policy followed with regard to the fur-bearing animals has been mainly along two lines: first, to so regulate the taking of animals by limitation of catch or close season as to prevent their extinction in districts where natural conditions provide a suitable habitat; and second, to provide sanctuaries in strategic places which serve as reservoirs from which large areas of surrounding wild country may be naturally restocked.

Many of our most valuable fur-bearing animals are subject to marked fluctuations in numbers. The periods of abundance and of scarcity recur in sufficient regularity to be called cycles; they have an important bearing upon the fur trade generally and more particularly upon the well-being of a large percentage of our Indian and Eskimo population who depend upon the wild life for their livelihood.

The Department of Mines and Resources, with the assistance of the Bureau of Animal Population, Oxford University, and the Hudson's Bay Company, has commenced an inquiry in the form of an annual questionnaire distributed to a number of Arctic stations with the object of endeavouring to determine the facts about each of these recurring fluctuations. It is necessary to continue this investigation from year to year because the situation is changing continuously.

No. 108. Tues. Jan. 16, 1940 — Fur Farming and Production

The industry of fur farming now plays a most important part in the fur trade of Canada, the value of pelts of ranch-bred animals representing approximately 43 per cent of the total value of the raw fur production of the Dominion. For many years fur farming was concerned almost entirely with the silver fox, but during the past few years much success has been attained in the raising of mink. Other kinds of fur-bearers -- red fox, cross fox, blue fox, raccoon, skunk, marten, fisher, fitch -- are also found on the farms, but their numbers are small in comparison with the numbers of silver foxes and mink. To the list of fur-bearing animals on Canadian fur farms has been added the valuable chinchilla, a native of South America. The 1938 census of fur farms recorded two farms -- one in Saskatchewan and the other in Alberta -- raising chinchillas.

Early records of raw fur production are confined to the decennial censuses, when account was taken of the number and value of pelts obtained by trappers. In 1920 the Dominion Bureau of Statistics commenced an annual survey of raw fur production, basing its statistics on information supplied by the licensed fur traders. This survey was continued for some years. More recently, annual statements, based on royalties, export tax, etc., have been made available by the provincial game departments (excepting Prince Edward Island), and these statements are now used in the preparation of the statistics issued annually by the Bureau. In the case of Prince Edward Island, the statistics are based on returns supplied directly to the Bureau by the fur traders who deal in furs produced in the province.

The value of the raw fur production of Canada in each of the seasons 1920-21 to 1937-38, and an estimate of the percentage of total value to be credited in each of these years to the pelts sold from fur farms, are given in the following table.

Season	Total Value	Percentage from fur	Season	Total Value	Percentage from fur farms
	\$			\$	
1920-21	10,151,594	3 p.c.	1929-30	12,158,376	19 p.c.
1921-22	17,438,867	4 "	1930-31	11,803,217	26 "
1922-23	16,761,567	4 "	1931-32	10,189,481	30 "
1923-24	15,643,817	6 "	1932-33	10,305,154	30 "
1924-25	15,441,564	4 "	1933-34	12,349,328	30 "
1925-26	15,072,244	5 "	1934-35	12,843,341	31 "
1926-27	18,864,126	6 "	1935-36	15,464,383	40 "
1927-28	18,758,177	11 "	1936-37	17,526,365	40 "
1928-29	18,745,473	13 "	1937-38	13,196,354	43 "

The chief markets for Canadian furs are London and New York; the trade tables for the 12 months ended June 30, 1938, show that of the total of \$12,653,355 worth of raw furs exported, the United Kingdom received \$8,363,694 and the United States, \$3,610,520. At the close of the Great War, Montreal took a position as an international fur market, holding the first Canadian fur auction sale in 1920. At the sales held in Montreal during the year 1938 the pelts sold numbered 1,438,101, while the value amounted to \$4,992,956. Fur auction sales are held also at Winnipeg, Edmonton and Vancouver. The chief kinds of furs, with regard to number treated, were rabbit (1,522,623) and muskrat (987,713).

No. 109. Wed. Jan. 17, 1940 -- Canadian Macaroni

It is hardly necessary to say that the country of origin of macaroni is Italy. The name itself indicates that, as do the kindred products of vermicelli and spaghetti. We forgot what was due to sunny Italy, however, when we began to call one of these similar products noodles.

Once upon a time Italy was the one and only producer of macaroni and that delicious dish, associated particularly with Naples, made a strong appeal to the fastidious appetites of travellers who made their way into the Mediterranean and visited Italian ports. They ate it with relish.

Some young Englishmen, after a trip to Italy in the 1700's, were so enthusiastic over it that they formed a Macaroni Club, and no less a person than Charles James Fox, the great English statesman, was one of its members.

But the glory of macaroni has largely departed from Italy; it is now made in many other countries. Canadian macaroni is notable. Owing largely to two things the Canadian product has captured leadership in the British market. One of these is that Canadian hard wheat is the best for the manufacture of macaroni and the other is the remarkable enterprise shown in recent years by the manufacturers of these flour products.

Canadian production now runs to around 45 million pounds in a year and last year over nine million pounds went to the United Kingdom alone. There are four plants in each of the provinces of Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia, three in Manitoba and one in Alberta.

It is an interesting manufacture. The letters of the alphabet lying in a bowl of soup, the white cylinders in that popular dish, macaroni and cheese, the rope-like spaghetti and its slim twin vermicelli, are all made from the same flour paste. Different arrangements of holes in the bottom of a cylinder, somewhat on the same lines as a potato ricer but very much larger, make the various shapes. The paste comes through in the form of tubes or strips, is cut into lengths and is hung over rods to dry.

No. 110. Thurs. Jan. 18, 1940 -- Buffalo Steaks

When at Christmas some people substituted a buffalo steak for a turkey drumstick at the annual feast, it was in effect a ceremonial that saw the end of the Wainwright Buffalo National Park as such. The herd of over 5,500 buffalo was slaughtered.

That does not mean, however, that the buffalo was exterminated. Far from it. It did mean, though, that the plan to reintroduce the buffalo and make of it once again a wild animal that would roam free, has been successful.

Faced with the almost complete disappearance of that picturesque animal the Government of the day in 1907 purchased a herd of 700 pure-bred buffalo from Michael Pablo, who had preserved the animals on his ranch in Montana. The animals were at first quartered in Elk Island National Park, some thirty miles north-east of Edmonton, and had many advantages. Later the herd was transferred to Wainwright. The 700 had increased to 21,000 by 1930, when nearly 6,000 were slaughtered and

6,000 others were shipped to the Wood Buffalo Range to the north.

Some of the Wainwright buffalo have been transferred to the Elk Island Park, but the outstanding fact is that the buffalo which were set free in the north of Alberta and in the North West Territories are doing well in their new habitat. They are living under natural conditions, as their ancestors did before the white man arrived to destroy the vast herds that roamed the plains.

Now that the scheme for the preservation of the buffalo has proved a success, there is no need to expend large sums for fodder as has had to be done at Wainwright these many years.

No. 111. Fri. Jan. 19, 1940 -- Submerged Mountain Peak Revealed

There have been many mysteries on Lake Superior, tragedies whose causes have never been revealed, ships that have left port and never been heard of again. There is one mystery of two warships built at Port Arthur, launched and sent on their way to Europe during the Great War. After leaving Port Arthur nothing was ever heard of them. They never reached Sault Ste. Marie.

But there was a paper read at the annual meeting last year of the Canadian Institute of Surveying by R. J. Fraser, Senior Hydrographer of the Department of Mines and Resources, which contains some astonishing information about submerged mountain peaks in Lake Superior that may account for these losses. Mr. Fraser says:

"A few years ago, one of the fleet in the gulf was called away by anxious Great Lakes mariners to steam the seventeen hundred miles to stormy old Superior. Out in the very centre of this freshwater inland sea a ship had startlingly reported a seven fathom shoal,-- right where an early chart informed mariners that there lay the deepest water of the whole lake. The position was out of sight of land, forty-three miles off the coast, and the depth previously advertised was 1,000 feet of water.

"Seemingly incredible, yet there it lay,-- not the seven fathoms, as reported, but half of that, and when sounded and resounded, and contoured, and gone over as with a fine-toothed comb, there came to light a number of smooth granite summits, one reaching to within twenty-one feet of the surface.

"Imagine the disconcerting revelation to a deepwater man, when, on the bridge of his huge grain carrier, on a smooth day, he glances casually over the side,-- and in this seemingly ridiculous location in the middle of the lake, sights the coloured granite streaks of this mountain top,-- within inches of his keel.

"Unknown, it had lain throughout the long years of lake navigation, in the path of the big "Great Lakers," on the greatest inland grain route in the world,-- until modern equipment disclosed its ugly features, to the astonishment of seafaring men. With the disclosure, too, came concrete evidence that here were the graves of Great Lakes freighters and other proud craft, who had left port, never to be sighted again. Now, not only do the charts reveal Superior shoal, in all its sinister aspects, so that "he who sails may read," but on both the United States and Canadian shores radio beacons assist in guiding vessels safely past it."

Last year 3,327 Canadian ships with a tonnage of over four million tons passed through the Sault Ste. Marie Canal, to and from Lake Superior, as well as 13,746 American vessels whose total tonnage was 52,409,000 tons.

No. 112. Sat. Jan. 20, 1940 -- Getting Acquainted in School

Probably the surest way to avoid misunderstandings and get along better with people is to know them better. And the easiest time to get acquainted is while we are young.

There never was a time when mutual understanding among people living at a distance from one another was as sorely needed as in our day and age. So it is of interest to notice something of the way in which our schools help young Canadians to become acquainted in other provinces and other countries.

Each year brings over 2,000 full-time students from the United States to our colleges and private schools, in addition to those who come for summer courses. A third or more of these come to our French-language institutions, and probably most of them are from families who were at one time Canadian.

Several hundred come each year from Newfoundland, especially to our Atlantic provinces, and nearly a hundred from the British West Indies who also study mainly in the Maritimes. There is a considerable contingent, too, from the United Kingdom, -- larger than usual this year because of the boys and girls who were touring Canada when the war broke out, and whose parents decided they should remain at Canadian schools rather than go back home. Other countries contribute at least 300 students per year; some are from South and Central America, the Orient and Europe, as well as more distant parts of the British Commonwealth.

There is a very considerable movement of students between provinces. Nearly 5,000 attend colleges or private schools outside of their province of ordinary residence. The National Federation of Canadian University Students, with the co-operation of the universities, in recent years has facilitated this exchange by developing an arrangement whereby students in different universities may exchange places for a year.

No. 113. Sun. Jan. 21, 1940 -- Apricots on the Prairies

Apricots on the Prairies? Surely not! Surely yes. "Luscious apricots," says the Department of Agriculture. Here is the story.

Nowhere is the work of the Canadian agricultural scientist seen to better advantage than in the work of the Dominion Experimental Farm Service throughout Canada, in the production of new grains and in the evolution of fruits that grow where garden fruit had never grown before.

Among the prairie centres of science specializing in fruit production is the Dominion Experimental Station at Morden, Manitoba, where 200 acres of garden land include 100 acres of fruit. In addition to that which has been done before there are more than 10,000 seedling apple trees and 2,000 seedling plums, cherries, grapes and apricots ready to bear fruit this summer.

The apricot, by the way, is now established as a dependable prairie fruit crop. At one time it was considered an impossibility to grow such a sensitive fruit on the prairies. Also, at the Dominion Station at Rosthern, Saskatchewan, where the testing of fruit trees and bushes capable of being grown on the prairies has been carried on for the past 30 years, over 10,000 seedling apples, and 2,000 seedling plums, cherries,

apricots and grapes have been planted, making a total of over 40,000 planted from 1935 to 1938.

In short, fruit production is an important part of the work of several of the Dominion Experimental Farms on the prairies, and their united work in making fruit grow where none had grown before has already proved of great advantage.

Canadians are fond of apricots. We import some millions of pounds of that fruit in its fresh state in a year, chiefly from the United States, as well as apricots canned and dried. We import between four and five thousand apricot trees yearly, almost entirely from the United States.

No. 114. Mon. Jan. 22, 1940 -- Going to Business College

About 120,000 young people in Canada each year, when they have finished or nearly finished high school, go to business college. (By business college we mean the privately owned schools, not the commercial high schools that are part of the public school system). The most common age for taking a business-training course of this kind is 18 or 19 years, but a considerable number start earlier, and many later.

A further 7,000 persons attend the business colleges in the evening. Most of these probably have jobs already, and are interested in improving their qualifications.

The full-time course usually takes about a year -- depending on the previous training and individual ability of the student. The business colleges report that for each full-time student registered in a year, about two-thirds complete a course to the satisfaction of the school. Since 1936 the number obtaining employment on leaving the college has been about the same as the number completing their courses, in the colleges that have reported a record of student employment to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. For 1938-39, for instance, colleges with 3,647 students reported that 2,371 graduated and 2,454 obtained employment. In the preceding year, 2,666 students out of 3,995 completed their courses and 2,386 found jobs.

The attendance at business colleges suffered a severe drop in the hard times of the early 1930's, but only a very few were obliged to discontinue activities. Practically all cities in Canada with a population of over 20,000 have one or more of such colleges, and about half of the smaller centres, down to those with a population of 5,000. In smaller places they are unusual, although there are 20 thus located.

No. 115. Tues. Jan. 23, 1940 -- Profit in Sheep

Prominent in the effort to increase agricultural production to assist in the adventure of war is the question of sheep raising, according to what we read and hear. A. A. MacMillan, prominent in the Department of Agriculture's activities, has something to say on the subject.

It is generally agreed, he says, that it has always been profitable to raise sheep. Under wartime conditions, the stability of prices for wool and lamb is

already in evidence with the result that there is much new interest in sheep raising. Over a period of the last five years there have been many notable examples of the ability of sheep flocks that have been purchased to pay for themselves in a short period of time and provide in addition extra revenue. As an example, all members of the Carleton, Ontario, Sheep Club organized under the Dominion-Provincial Sheep Club Policy, paid for their breeding ewes in two years without any difficulty. The twenty members in addition to paying for their ewes all have varying amounts of money over and above the cost price and most of them were able to add considerably to the size of their ewe flock by the addition of ewe lambs saved from slaughter.

Another example is the group of farmers, including club members, numbering 42 who established flocks of western breeding ewes which were shipped East during the drought period. All these ewes, with the exception of one flock, gave more than enough returns in wool and lamb to pay the original cost in two years, some of them in one year.

In recent years Provincial dog legislation and more effective measures for the control of dogs in municipalities have given greater security to sheep raisers. Thousands of miles of woven wire fencing to be seen fronting farms on main highways is an indication of the advance that has been made towards good fences. Fencing for sheep is not the problem it was some years ago.

With greater security against dogs, better fences and effective treatment for parasites which is easily administered or applied, the farmer who keeps sheep, if he handles his flock under good management practice, has greater assurance of making money from sheep.

No. 116. Wed. Jan. 24, 1940 -- Safeguard Meat Supply

In a multitude of ways the Civil Servant works for the public; in many ways he is the public's only protection.

What is meant by that remark is a little statement which has just come under our notice, referring to the ~~care~~ that is taken by certain civil servants employed for the purpose of protecting the consumer from being placed in the position of purchasing diseased meat.

The statement says that during the last fiscal year the Health of Animals Division of the Government condemned 11,830 carcasses of cattle intended for food during the year ended March 31, 1939. The principal cause of the condemnations, which amounted to 1.38 per cent of the total cattle killed for food, were emaciation and tuberculosis. The number of carcasses of calves condemned was 5,543, or 0.82 per cent of the total slaughtered, the main cause being immaturity. Condemnations of sheep were 0.29 per cent as against 0.31 per cent in the previous year. Swine condemnations totalled 6,768 carcasses, or 0.22 per cent of the total kill. Tuberculosis was the cause in 37.20 per cent of all carcasses condemned, and 72.91 per cent of all portions condemned.

The number of carcasses marked "Canada Approved" was 841,909 cattle; 670,852 calves; 777,964 sheep, and 3,047,972 swine, making a grand total of 5,338,697.

The Department of Health works in close cooperation with the Health of Animals Division and the result is a measure of safety that no unofficial organization could possibly create.

No. 117. Thurs. Jan. 25, 1940 -- Anticosti

In the dying minutes of the day, before we follow the trail upstairs to the land of nod, and when the fire is burning low, our thoughts wander. We wonder sometimes if an enemy submarine or a bombing air craft will try to escape the watchful eyes of our brave sailors or the skilful boys who are patrolling the air, and attempt to come up the St. Lawrence. During the Great War enemy submarines arrived on this side of the Atlantic and did damage.

And we remember that two or three years ago an enemy plan to have some of their nationals secure possession of the Island of Anticosti was thwarted. Anticosti is a great strategic island, of which we do not hear very much.

It is a huge island, roughly oval in shape, lying between the Gaspé Peninsula and the mainland to the north of the Gulf. It is 122 miles long, its greatest breadth 30 miles, and the area is over 3,000 square miles. It is about one-third larger than the much better known Prince Edward Island further down the Gulf. Indeed we know very little about Anticosti. Historians pass it over lightly.

Why we know so little about it is probably because for many years it was privately owned. It was the private sporting preserve of the Menier family, often referred to as the Chocolate Kings of France, who secured possession in 1895. It was probably the largest private holding in North America. Long before that, however, in the 1600's, it was the seigniorship of Louis Jolliet. After his death about the year 1700, the island frequently changed ownership. It is now owned by pulp-wood interests.

The origin of the name is difficult to trace. Cartier called it Ile de l'Assumption in 1534. Early historians and explorers call it Natiskotek, a Montagnais Indian word which means "where bears are hunted." Bears are still so common that they are regarded as a pest. The name Anticosti is attributed to a Spanish ecclesiastic, and derived from two Spanish words, ante meaning before and costa, meaning the coast. Many folk will regret that the fine old Indian name has disappeared officially. Perhaps one day it will be brought back.

One of the troubles which prevented an exclusive development of the island is the absence of many good harbours. Ellis Bay, now known as Port Menier, is the nearest approach to a sheltered harbour.

Admiral Bayfield, the famous British naval officer who charted the waters of the Gulf, was in Anticosti in 1828, and describes his visit to the scene of a marine tragedy near the east end of the island. He discovered a small hut containing the remains of a shipwrecked crew and the evidences of cannibalism. "There was," he writes in his journal, "a pot in the fireplace with human flesh in it, and some pieces in a large chest. I saw a species of almanac on the wall in chalk."

No. 118. Fri. Jan. 26, 1940 -- The Magdalens

We talk of the Magdalen Islands as the "Graveyard of the Gulf," just as we describe Sable Island as the "Graveyard of the Atlantic." The shores of these islands, or rather the underwater lands close to the shores, are strewn with the wrecks of brave ships that there went down to their doom.

The story of a narrow escape is told in the report of one of the men on board a Canadian Government vessel a few years ago. The ship was riding at anchor in five fathoms in Pleasant Bay, waiting for the fog to clear. Finally it did clear. Someone remarked: "Isn't the beach coming close to us?" There was a cry for "Steam!" says the report, "and we got under way just in time to save the ship from driving on to the sands. The starboard anchor had gotten foul of a sunken wreck and had snapped off at the shank."

It is windy in these islands and the surveyors found hens tethered by the legs to save them from being blown over the cliffs. There are very few trees.

Though dreaded by the mariner, to the landsman, chance traveller, or tourist, a cruise about the islands is an unforgettable delight -- providing he has his sea legs. The view from seaward is unsurpassed and the natural scenic effects are splendid. The central parts of the islands rise to rounded dome summits, from 200 to 600 feet above the sea, and round these are stratified deposits of sandstone and ochreous clays, while in places veins of gypsum show. Many a fisherman's cottage is painted with a mixture of colours dug by himself from the native soil.

Geologists say that the Magdalens once covered an area of 5,000 square miles, or about equal to Prince Edward Island, and now represented by the submerged plateau twenty fathoms under the sea, that drops abruptly from the rocks into the great of the Gulf. Centuries of erosion carried away the soils and swept them out through the entrance to the Gulf to form the cod banks of Newfoundland. Only the cores of the islands were left.

Today there is a reverse process going on. Beaches and sand bars, ridges and dunes are being formed in a remarkable building-up process. The absence of good harbours is a serious handicap, and the launching and beaching of boats is hazardous. A surveyor saw two fishermen driven ashore in their boats and washed away by the under-tow, never to be seen again.

The population of the Magdalen Islands is about eight thousand. The people are mainly Acadians, practically all natives of the islands. The Acadians number over seven thousand and the rest are composed of people of English, Scots and Irish origin. Over seven thousand are Roman Catholics, the remainder Anglicans, with a very few Presbyterians and Lutherans and three Jews. The main industry is fishing with its concomitants.

No. 119. Sat. Jan. 27, 1940 -- Automatic Telephones

Last year in "A Fact a Day" the story of the Automatic Telephone was told. It was reproduced in that well known publication, "Electrical Digest." It brought a very interesting and informative letter to the editor of that magazine from Mr. Stirling Ross, Equipment Engineer with the British Columbia Telephone Company. Mr. Ross says:

In the August, 1939, issue of the Electrical Digest you quoted from data issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics relative to the growth and development of Automatic Telephone Systems in Canada, and stated:

"The first of that system (Strowger) in Canada was at Woodstock, Ontario, in 1903, and the second at Sydney Mines, N.S., about the same time."

and continued from there to the Prairie Provinces.

According to my information the first Automatic Telephone Exchange shipped to Canada by the Automatic Electric Company, Chicago, (Strowger System) was sold to the Yukon Electric Company, and was installed at White Horse, Yukon Territory.

This Automatic Exchange was shipped in 1901 and as an extension was ordered and shipped in 1902, it is only fair to assume that this Automatic Telephone Exchange was in successful operation in 1901 or at least early in 1902.

The Yukon Electric Company was founded by Mr. John Wyley and a partner, whose name I do not know. Mr. Wyley, a former employee of the Automatic Electric Company in Chicago, went to the Yukon in 1898 during the famous Gold Rush.

After the White Horse venture Mr. Wyley went to the Prairie Provinces, where he was interested in the development of the Automatic Telephone Systems in Saskatoon and other cities, but I think more in the sales end of the business rather than in the promotion end.

I would very much appreciate if you would transmit this information to the source of your quotation, as I feel that an event of such historical interest should be fully investigated, and credit given where it belongs.

No. 120. Sat. Jan. 28, 1940 -- Reindeer in the Gulf of St. Lawrence

Mention of reindeer suggests the far north, away off in the Arctic. But we actually have reindeer in quite southerly latitudes. In 1923 a number of head of reindeer, part of the Grenfell Labrador herd, were landed at Port Menier, in the Island of Anticosti. They were transported by the steamer Montcalm from Newfoundland.

The passage was a very stormy one and the vessel was not properly equipped for such a cargo. Shortly after landing, a number of the animals died and the remainder have been kept within a limited area near the port under the care of special herders. Latest reports show that the herd is increasing. So in summer, when the tourist business is in full swing, there will be an opportunity for Canadians and their visitors to see these wonderful animals as far south as the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

Anticosti, to which reference was made a few days ago, is a paradise for wild animals. Caribou, woodland or Newfoundland, may be sighted at the eastern end of the island. These do not herd with the deer but keep to themselves in the wooded fastnesses of the interior and no success has been had in making a census of any kind.

Beaver obtain in the northern part of the island. Their propagation is not encouraged and their dams and houses are destroyed wherever found. It is claimed that they interfere with the free ingress of the salmon to the headwaters of the streams.

Really the island is one immense fur farm surrounded by the sea. Not a dog is allowed to land on the shores of this domain, and the only illegitimate foe is the poacher from the mainland. So plentiful are the deer that no restrictions are placed upon employees during the open season. One will often come upon freshly

killed carcasses on the beach or within the woods, where a warden has dropped a buck and taken a haunch along with him for the dinner table, the remainder being left purposely for the foxes, the trapping of which was the main revenue of the Menier estate.

Black and silver foxes abound and the catch in a year runs into thousands of pelts. Fox farming was tried in order to foil the poachers, but was not a success, the pelts of the animals running free being much superior.

Enough has been said to show what a great wild animal preserve is Anticosti.

No. 121. Mon. Jan. 29, 1940 -- Spruce

Spruce forms 39 per cent of the accessible standing timber of the Dominion and 25 per cent of the wood used annually for all purposes. Indeed, Canada's forest industries, particularly the pulp and paper industry, depend to a large extent upon a continuous supply of spruce, according to the Dominion Forest Service. It is the principal wood used in the manufacture of pulp and paper, and ranks second only to Douglas fir in Canadian lumber production.

Spruce is the most widely distributed of any kind of timber, with its range extending from the Atlantic to the Pacific. There are five species in Canada -- black, white, red, Engleman and Sitka. Black spruce and white spruce occur in each province. Red spruce is confined to the Maritime Provinces and Quebec, Engleman spruce to the interior of British Columbia and western Alberta, and Sitka spruce to the coastal region in British Columbia. The Sitka spruce is known in Great Britain as "silver spruce," and is the best wood known for aircraft construction as it is light and resilient and does not splinter or shatter easily with impact.

Spruce reproduction in Canada appears to be at a disadvantage in competition with other less valuable tree species, and investigations are now being conducted to find out the best means of securing adequate reproduction and of increasing the rate of growth of this important species.

No. 122. Tues. Jan. 30, 1940 -- Prize Winning Galore

Canadian breasts swelled with justifiable pride last month when they read in their newspapers that the hardy farmers of the north had carried off hundreds of prizes at the 40th International Live Stock Exposition and the 21st International Grain and Hay Show held at Chicago.

To be exact, the Canadian exhibitors won a grand total of 451 awards. These comprised 18 grand championships, 13 reserve championships, two champion top bull sales, 15 special association prizes, 81 first prizes and 322 other prizes.

Perhaps the outstanding win, which Canadians have come to regard as almost their own, was the wheat championship which was taken by Francis Lloyd Rigby, of Wembley, Alberta, with his Reward wheat, weighing 67.3 pounds to the bushel. Bill Skladan, of Andrew, Alberta, won the oats championship with his Victory variety, the weight being exactly 49 pounds to the bushel. Alexander M. Stewart, of Ailsa Craig, Ontario, won the reserve championship with the Alaska variety of oats, the

bushel weighing 47.4 pounds.

Championships for field beans went to Alberta, and field peas to Ontario. The reserve championship for field peas went to British Columbia. Alfalfa seed championship was won by a Saskatchewan grower and the reserve championship by an Ontario farmer. The corn and soybean championships were won by Ontario.

There was an imposing list of twelve championships for sheep, all won by Ontario farmers, and four in cattle, the winning breeds being Aberdeen-Angus and Shorthorns.

Premier Mitchell F. Hepburn of Ontario walked away with the grand championship for his Clydesdale stallion and won several other championships as well. James Franceschini, of Toronto, won the \$1,000 Horse Show championship in the Harness Pony stake and also the \$1,000 championship heavy harness stake.

It is impossible here to recite all the prize winnings, but if anyone is specially interested, the list may be had from the Department of Agriculture, which is "tickled pink," to use appropriate slang.

No. 123. Wed. Jan. 31, 1940 -- Calves' Stomachs

The ramifications of war are an interesting study, apart from their seriousness. Here is one which seems strange until the reason behind it is known. Under the War Measures Act an Order-in-Council has been passed, at the instance of the Minister of Agriculture, to prohibit the export of the stomachs of calves.

The reason for this is quite definite. Poland used to be a leading source of calves' stomachs, and since the conquest of that country by Germany and Russia, the supply has been cut off to Canadian buyers. Rennet is manufactured from calves' stomachs and it is a coagulating agent used in the manufacture of cheese. The making of cheese is an important Canadian industry.

As a consequence it is now necessary to conserve the Canadian supply of calves' stomachs, in order to make rennet for our own cheese makers. So the export of such stomachs is prohibited. A very interesting lesson in Canadian national economy.

Our imports of rennet are over 100,000 pounds in a year, the principal supplier to Canada being Denmark. We get a comparatively small quantity from the United States.

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