

SKUNKS PROVE MONEY MAKERS

POLECAT FARMING HAS
BECOME BIG INDUSTRY

Old Man in New York Raises Them for Pets—Many Others Raise Them for Their Oil and Pelts—Fortunes Are Made Easily.

Few persons who travel the highway between Tarrytown and White Plains, N. Y., fail to notice a strange little place on the north side of the road at the end of the Rockefeller estate. A little one-story cabin huddles in a corner of the gully into which the road dips at that point. An abutment raises the road from the gully bottom nearly half the height of the little shack, and from the street cars the stunted window at the front seems almost within reach.

For years this picturesque little cabin in the gully has been the home of a unique character—Sam Tate. He is well known by the people in the vicinity. Nobody seems to know his exact age, but he is credited with being more than 80.

Skunk raising is the old man's means of livelihood. In the summer he does some work on the neighboring estates, but most of his time is spent in catching and raising polecats. A resident with a pestiferous varmint about his place sends for Old Sam.

The sheds about the little cabin are generally full of like skunks. Tamer ones are allowed the freedom of the house. They become pets, and the old man handles them like kittens.

"Skunks are like most people," he will tell you. "Handle 'em right and you won't get hurt. I'd rather have 'em around than most folks, because they don't want to boss all the time."

Scions of the wealthy families that live between Tarrytown and White Plains visit Old Sam to learn about skunks. To one young man Old Sam taught the art of handling them. The youth, in his struggle for knowledge, however, was too energetic and was forced to discontinue his lesson.

Skunk farming is becoming an important industry in some parts of the United States, and yet the man who suggested it was regarded as mentally unsound. A few years ago an enterprising, imaginative Washington correspondent sent out a purely fake story about the big money which was to be made in skunk farming, giving the department of agriculture as his authority. The result was that hundreds of letters from people all over the country poured into Washington addressed to the department of agriculture.

At that time there could be given but one answer, and that was that the story was a fake and that there were no facts relative to the industry, but since then there has been a great change, for the story did effective work. In the "skunk regions" the farmers got busy, so to speak, and several skunk farms were started. Today there are hundreds of such farms on a paying basis.

The average skunk produces a quart of oil, and the fur or skin always brings a good price, fashion regulating the value. At the present time the skins which are the most valuable are the darker ones. A pure black skin is worth from \$1.25 to \$2.50, according to the quality and size; a striped skunk skin brings in the market about 50 or 60 cents, while those with a part stripe are worth in the neighborhood of a dollar.

While there are no official statistics on record, it is known that the American skunk will begin breeding at one year old. They breed twice a year and have litters of from five to thirteen—an average of eight to the litter.

It has been figured out that a man who understands skunk farming can begin on twenty skunks, fifteen females and five males, and in a few years he can have a healthy bank account. It is not difficult to calculate how rapidly these twenty skunks will increase in number. Say you begin work early in the fall and that in December they breed. At once you have an increase of 120 skunks, putting the average of each litter at eight. In June they breed again, and if the same ratio of increase be kept up, at the expiration of a year and a half you will have 7495 skunks.

Put the pelts at \$1 each, the pelts of 200 male skunks would bring \$200; the oil at 50 cents an ounce would be worth \$500. Then figuring as was done on the increase in skunks at the expiration of a year and a half you could kill 3700 male skunks, the pelts of which would be worth that many dollars.

The amount of oil gathered from this number would be 29,600 ounces, worth just \$14,800. At the expiration of four years you would have killed 1,890,000 males, the pelts of which would be worth \$1,890,000 and the oil, 15,120,000 ounces, worth \$7,560,000. And you would still have 3,700,000 skunks left.

It is not surprising that skunk farming is being taken up throughout the country, and if it were possible to deodorize the skunk the industry would be even more popular.—New York World.

BUYERS INVADE SHEEP TERRITORY

Huachuca, Wash., Aug. 25.—The owners of bands of sheep-ranching in the Mount Adams country report a number of buyers in the field for lambs and mutton sheep for the fall market. It is estimated that there are about 40,000 sheep in the foothills of the mountains. As high as \$4 has been offered for lambs, but the ruling price is expected to be \$3.75 to \$3.85. The output of spring lambs and mutton

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have accumulated in all lines during the past few months, the various store sections have not hesitated in working their offerings so far below the regular price that clearance is certainly, note in the following a few of the clearance values.

In Tailored Wash Suits

the reductions are far less than HALF

The two piece suits for Women, Misses and little Women, the season's prettiest styles, some plain tailored and others trimmed with folds and piped in contrasting colors. The materials are linens, repps and lincens; colors are lavender, pink, blue and white, values up to **\$18.50**, your choice of the **\$5.00** above suits while they last

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We are showing a beautiful line of

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About 25 pieces of fancy **Ribbon** worth up to 60c the yard, your choice Saturday at **25c**

When in the store visit our

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We are showing a complete line of School Shoes, fancy tops in all colors, such as Green, Blue, Red, Black, Etc. All sizes and a big assortment to choose from.

from Kilekita county will be large this year, as weather conditions during the lambing season were very favorable. Sheep from the Mount Adams forest reserve are shipped to Portland and Seattle markets.

AGRICULTURISTS LEARN OF RESOURCES

Portland, Ore., Aug. 25.—(Special)—Agricultural experts of the country, who have been in session in Portland during the past week, closed their most successful annual gathering Saturday with an attendance even larger than that at a recent convention in Washington, D. C. The session was one that means much to the Pacific northwest for it was attended by men who are keen students of agricultural possibilities and what they saw here impressed them. They were afforded an opportunity to inspect the various farming districts of the state by means of special trains run by the Portland Commercial club to Willamette valley points and Hood River.

On these trips they were guests of the Commercial club and were escorted by a special committee of prominent Oregon people who gave all the information desired on the different districts inspected. The results of the convention will be far reaching, it is believed, by those who are familiar with the work of the organizations. President Kerr, of the Oregon Agricultural college, was chosen the head of the Association of American Agricultural Colleges and Experiment Stations for the coming year. President Kerr secured the convention for Portland while in attendance at last year's session.

Adventists Meet at Troutdale.

Troutdale, Ore.—The Willamette Valley Adventist Christian Conference is now in session here, holding services every day and evening on the campgrounds near the Sandy River. Evangelist J. M. Currie, of Boston, has charge of the services, which are largely attended. The meetings will continue all this week, closing next Monday.

Wrath Loosens Tongue.

La Crosse, Wis.—George Purdy, an old soldier, had not spoken for 40 years until yesterday. It made him so furious when he heard the Rev. John Beach attack the Masons that his speech came to him all at once.

Dynamite Kills Logger.

Seaside, Ore., Aug. 25.—A logger named Murphy was killed at Chapman's boom Tuesday night by the accidental explosion of a charge of dynamite. Murphy was blasting out piling and struck the charge with his peevy. There was scarcely anything left of his body.

Automobile stage to Lehman springs. Inquire Pendleton Auto Co.

NOTICE FOR BIDS FOR FAIR CONCESSIONS

Notice is hereby given that bids will be received by the executive committee of the board of directors of the Third Eastern Oregon District Agricultural society until September 10, 1909, at 10 o'clock a. m., for the following exclusive privileges inside the pavilion at the fair to be held at Pendleton, Oregon, during the week commencing September 27, and ending October 2, 1909:

1. Restaurant and lunch counter.
2. Candy and ice cream and ice cream cones.
3. Soft drinks (near beer not allowed).
4. Peanuts, popcorn and chewing gum.
5. Country store.

Separate bids to be submitted for each privilege and to state flat rate for privilege bid upon.

The committee reserves the right to reject any and all bids. All bids should be sealed and addressed to Thos. Fitz Gerald, secretary, Pendleton, Oregon.

Dated this 25th day of August, 1909. THOS FITZ GERALD, Secretary.

Actress Sues New York World.

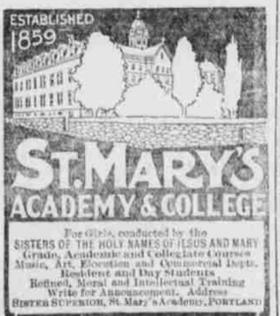
New York, Aug. 25.—Sarah Bernhardt, the French actress, who is suing the Press Publishing company, publishers of the New York World, for \$100,000, applied today for permission to have her testimony taken in France by an open commission. Judge Lacombe in the United States circuit court, granted the permission. In private life Sarah Bernhardt is Mme. Demala. She asks damages for an article in the World entitled "Fakes Won't Do, Sarah," which she says hurt the sale of her memoirs and libelled her character.

Notice to Farmers—Pigs for Sale.

We have 200 last spring's pigs, pigs, Berkshire and Poland China, that we will sell. They are absolutely healthy, thrifty and in good condition. Address Maxwell Land & Irrigation Co., Hermiston, Ore.

Automobile stage to Lehman springs. Inquire Pendleton Auto Co.

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