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POISONING COYOTES

The method of poisoning coyotes described below has been followed out successfully by Frank Antill, O'Malley, Sask., who states that he accounted for over twenty in this manner during 1915, and on no occasion has injury to any domestic animal resulted.

Re poisoning coyotes. I take the head of a beast and put in a place where the coyotes usually run. They soon get the habit of coming to it every night, then I prepare my bait of four pieces of meat about one inch square. While the meat is warm I put in one grain of strychnine, then I dip the baits in blood and put them in the places where the coyotes are eating at the head. In this way they freeze to it and don't get lost. I never set more than four baits at a time. In this way I can account for those that have not been eaten, and there is no danger of losing them. I have never yet set out bait without getting coyotes. There is no danger of poisoning any beneficial wild game, as birds would not go near a regular feeding place of the coyotes, and there is no other fur bearing animal around in the winter time. I tell my neighbors when I intend to set out bait, and they are only too glad to keep their dogs, etc., at home meanwhile.

Owing to the prevalence of rabies among the coyotes of Eastern Oregon their destruction has recently become an urgent problem in that state. Supervisor Bingham, of the Oregon State Forest Department, describes a method by which he killed thirty-two coyotes in a month, devoting only half his time to the work. The poison used was in capsule form prepared commercially for the use of trappers and others. The capsules were rolled in butter, placed in a clean jar and frozen, being used as required. The bait—a freshly killed carcass preferred—was placed on the top of a knoll or hill and a number of the capsules placed upon it. Supervisor Bingham states: "A poison should be selected that will lose its effectiveness in a short time after being placed, so that in case it is not picked up by a coyote it will do no damage. The butter and capsules should not be touched with the hands or with metal. Use a wooden butter paddle and wooden pincers. In placing the bait, do so from horse back and do not dismount within half a mile of the place selected. Firearms should not be carried. One might occasionally be able to shoot a coyote if he has his gun along, but in doing so would do more harm than good. Never leave anything about the bait that could possibly carry a human scent."

One of the chief difficulties in the use of poison bait is the danger to domestic animals and the greatest care should be exercised in its use on this account.

DEMAND FOR FUR

Fur dealers report an unusually good demand and high prices. One large fur house reports: "American dyers are making preparations to increase their capacity for the dyeing of 'Hudson Seal,' which is simply the common muskrat colored to represent seal, the Hudson Seal coat being very popular. Millions of muskrat will be required to satisfy the American consumption. Coyotes, foxes, fisher and white weasel are in good demand, while beaver is selling fairly well at current prices. Mink is the only fur inactive with prices 20 per cent. lower than last year."

AULD—DEPUTY MINISTER

When the late Major A. F. Mantle enlisted to go to the front, F. H. Auld was appointed Acting Deputy Minister of Agriculture for Saskatchewan until Major Mantle would return. Major Mantle, like many others of our brave soldiers, is never to return. He made the supreme sacrifice. Mr. Auld has now been appointed Deputy Minister.

BELGIAN CHILDREN'S FUND

The Deputy Minister of Education for Saskatchewan is in receipt of the sum of \$6.25, being the proceeds of a concert given by the pupils of Taft S.D., No. 2,483, Dilke, Sask., under the direction of their teacher, Miss Esther Aileen O'Reilly, in aid of the Belgian Children's Relief Fund. Between October 30 and December 8 the Department has received the sum of \$37,283.88 on behalf of this fund.

Each fly that finds a refuge indoors this winter may have about two billion descendants next year.

Fur and Hide Directory

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