

HIGHLAND FLING

HOOTS, and for the love of Mike! A Kelly among the Scots! Yes, that's the way it was when M.G.M. made its film version of the Broadway and London musical comedy success *Brigadoon*. In CinemaScope broad enough to take in half the banks (not to mention the braes) of Scotland, Gene Kelly and Van Johnson sang and danced their way through their roles of Americans lost in a day's dream of *Brigadoon*, the village which appears only once in a hundred years. Opposite Gene Kelly appeared Cyd Charisse, as bonnie a lass as ever roamed the heather on the hill.

In *YA Theatre of Music*, on Saturday, September 22, listeners will hear excerpts from the sound track of the film, sung by Gene Kelly, Van Johnson, Carol Richards and John Gustafson. The music for the show is by Frederick Loewe and the lyrics by Alan Jay Lerner. Among the favourite numbers to be heard are the "Heather on the Hill," "I'll Go Home with Bonnie Jean," "Come to Me, Bend to Me," "Almost Like Being in Love," and "There But For You Go I."

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sometimes too strong to be pleasant when eaten boiled. But I know of nothing strong enough to make eggs unusable in Canterbury, and flesh taints, though they perhaps occur, must be very rare. But I remember the commotion caused once in Dunedin when a prominent prohibitionist discovered that a dairyman supplying the city with milk was feeding his cows on brewers' grains.

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I AM not going to get rid of fitches by throwing a brick at them. Professor Arnold Wall, who knows more about words than I know about the hairs on my own head, has sent me this note:

"Fitch" and "fitchew" mean the polecat or founmart. "Fitchew" is Middle English; "fitch" dates from 1502. The meaning "fur of a polecat" is the second or later meaning. "Fitchet," diminutive of "fitch," dates from 1535, and is used erroneously for the weasel since 1573. "Ferret" is Middle English, and is described in the *Shorter Oxford* as "a half-tamed variety of the common polecat." The verb "to ferret" dates from 1450. I have no doubt that here we have a population of hybrids between the polecat and its variety the ferret, and perhaps we have hybrids with the weasel or stoat.

I am not sure that this compels me to catch fitches when I set traps for ferrets, but it does

AUGUST 25 make me walk more warily in the pre-

sence of the Wild Life Division. If my ancestors have been "ferreting" since 1450—when York and Lancaster were getting ready for the Wars of the Roses and Joan of Arc's ashes were not long cold; when the Turks were threatening Constantinople and the Irish were spitting on their hands before starting a fight that was to last nearly 500 years; when Jack Cade's head was still on his shoulders and Scotland's Flowers of the Forest had not yet been "wede away" at Flodden—if we have had ferrets as long as that, it will do no harm to keep them a little longer. In any case, if Professor Wall is right in thinking that what we have in New Zealand is "a population of hybrids"—and I am sure that he is—one name is as good as another for a mongrel.

(To be continued)



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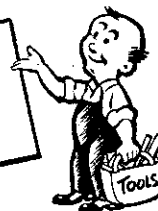
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