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Department of Labour

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TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH Silver Fox and Mink Farming



The five day general sale of furs of the Canadian Fur Auction Sales Company (Quebec) Ltd. opens next Monday May 9th. The first three days will be devoted to the sale of furs such as beaver, otter, red fox, blue fox, white fox, muskrat, ermine, skunk, timber wolf, etc., also wild mink, ranch mink including mutations. On the afternoon of the third day 3,000 white marked fox and 3,000 standard silver fox will be offered. The following day 6,500 platinum fox and 3,500 silver fox and on May 13th the concluding day of the sale 3,500 platinum fox, 2,500 white marked fox and 3,500 standard silver fox. It is to be hoped that this sale will show a good demand for both ranch mink and silver fox and their mutations as there will only be one other sale—that of June—prior to the September sales.

We understand on good authority that there is about 20,000 silver fox and mutations still unsold in Canada as compared with approximately 250,000 a year ago. It would indeed be a grand thing if we could clean up that 20,000 before the close of the year. No one can give any reasonable idea as to the quantity of silver fox and mutations held in the United States. The offerings at auction have been comparatively small so there must be a large quantity in cold storage, probably exceeding 100,000. The production of silver fox both in the United States and Canada this season will not be over 150,000 pelts which would be a mere bagatelle in the years preceding the late war, so build up a bit of demand and the spring towards long-haired furs, then silver fox and its mutations could make a quick comeback.

Buyers competed vigorously for ranch mink at Lampson, Fraser & Huth's sale in New York last week. Resulting prices went somewhat higher than the market and many said up to the levels of three or four months ago. The company reported prices equal to February. Female skins were in much demand. Reports are that manufacturers enjoyed fairly good success on small furs the past two months but they wished to continue adequate supplies of merchandise in capes, stoles, jackets and the like in which female skins are used.

Males too, are bringing good prices where sold. The first section which consisted of 9,851 mink pelts from the Great Lakes Mink Association, had a price of \$3.00 for extra dark and dark males with 60% sold. The second section of the same Association's pelts numbering over 5,000, saw half-bloods reach a top of \$2.50 for clear males, 85% sold. The third section consisting of 6,500 pelts, odd lots and low grades, had a top price of \$1.75 with 40% sold. Section four other shippers whose pelts numbered nearly 30,000, had a top of \$1.50 for extra dark and dark males with 60% sold.

The concluding part of the two days sale showed section one of miscellaneous shippers, 29,000 mink with a top price of \$2.50 for extra dark and dark males with 60% sold. Section two other shippers, 22,750 pelts, half-bloods reached a top of \$2.75 with 61% sold. Section three, other shippers, 25,000 pelts, odd lots brought \$1.50, top price, 40% sold and section four other shippers, 13,000 pelts low grades had a top price of \$1.15 with 20% sold. The following day 20,000 wild mink were offered and well received. Thus in the three days over 120,000 mink were auctioned with approximately 60% sold.

Women's Wear Daily, commenting upon this sale said: "While more sales are being made this week than were made earlier this month, another factor is giving many in the market basis of hope for much better volume in the near future. This is the fact that many more manufacturers are 'looking' at skins now than in a

long time. If these 'lookers' become buyers the turning point may well have been reached, many believe."

L.J. Fox, who was the greatest promoter of the sale of silver foxes in the world and who really made the platinum fox so popular in the United States, died a few years ago but his sons are carrying on and keeping the name well to the front. In a recent generous ad play in the New York papers, they featured the sale of jackets and capes of silver fox and mutations commencing at \$18.00. Headlines read—"Last week a sell-out! New purchases for this week!" Offerings included platinum fox, silver fox, blue fox, marmot capes and various others. Another firm, Russeks, in a two column ad feature, platinum fox jackets at \$200.

In the window of the Island Furriers, Ltd. of this city is a beautiful platinum cape which the manager, Mr. Hogan, bought recently at a manufacturer's fur show in Toronto. We are glad to make mention of this firm that annually handles several hundred local pelts, makes them up beautifully and sells them, mostly to tourists. We would certainly like to see their business grow to several times the volume it now enjoys as it would be a good outlet for ranchers.

Continuing our story of Vol. 1 Record Book of the Silver Black Fox Breeders' Association of Prince Edward Island, we find the Tignish Silver Black Fox Company, J.A. Hackett, Tignish, selling foxes to M.F. Stevens of Dover, Maine. These are of Dalton-Hackett and Dalton-Rayner breeding. Next we come to the McNeill, Allen & Saunders ranch that started operations in the fall of 1910 at Summerside with foxes purchased from Henry Lewis, Alberton, and J.S. Gordon, Montrose. In 1911 they acquired more foxes bred by R.T. Oulton, Little Shemogue, N.B. and J.S. Gordon, Montrose. In 1913 their ranch was enlarged by the addition of the progeny of the above foxes and it became one of the best of the many ranches in the Summerside area. The good quality stock that they had selected for foundation served them well in later years and we well remember seeing their foxes in the fall of 1919 and admiring them. The company was prosperous until the late 1920s. They, with many others, closed out.

Other names we noticed among the owners is W.A.O. Morson of Charlottetown, who will be remembered as a successful lawyer and he was also successful with foxes although not in them on a large scale. The Patricia Fox Company, Summerside, started operations in 1913. Most of their stock was purchased from McNeill, Allen & Saunders, also Strathern-Connaught, Silver Black Fox Company, Summerside. They, too, had stock bought from McNeill, Allen & Saunders starting their ranch in 1915.

The name of H.W. Longworth, Charlottetown, occurs as an owner. Then there is the Sovereign Silver Black Fox Company, St. Louis, P.E.I. The manager and principal shareholder was W.P. Callaghan. This Company's foxes were very fine quality and continued as a source of supply to many other ranches established not only in Canada but in the United States, where one of Mr. Callaghan's sons was manager of a company. The Sovereign foxes were mostly of Dalton strain and were good winners at shows because of their clear, blue black color.

In the pedigree of the Sovereign foxes one will find a fox named Toby, bred by Charles Dalton in 1910. The sire was a wild silver black fox captured as a pup and the dam was a silver black fox. Another fox that this company bought from Dalton was Moneymaker S., a male bred from pure Charles Dalton foxes, and Princess Kitty, another fox bred by Mr. Dalton. The progeny were the foundation stock of the Dr. R.H. MacDermid ranch at Saskatoon, and it became and has remained one of the principal show winners of the west.

Other ranches that will be familiar to our readers include the British American Silver Black Fox Company, Sherbrooke, the Radium Silver Black Fox Company, St. Eleanor's, Hubert Howatt St. Eleanor's. Another Summerside breeder that had great success with foxes was Neil MacLeod. His original stock was purchased in the fall of 1912. Jewell, the female, bred by Charles Dalton and James Rayner, and Dr. Sharp, a male bred by Samuel Tuplin, Black Banks. This pair clicked and their influence on the fortunes of the MacLeod ranch was really tremendous. Mr. MacLeod became one of the most successful breeders of Summerside.

The next Summerside ranch we come to is the Prince Edward Silver Black Fox Company with foxes

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To Mother

I wish that you could share with me
The loveliness of Spring,
That you could see the greening earth,
And hear the robins sing.

The dandelions are golden now,
Upon the sun-kissed lawn,
And seeing them, I can't believe
That you are really gone.

Because you are a certain part
Of each returning Spring,—
A part of every poem I write,
Of every song I sing.

You are a part of every dawn,
Of every silver star,—
There are no words that can express
How wonderful you are.

I know that you are safe with God
Beyond all care and pain,
But O, I long to hear your voice,
And see you, once again.

Because the very thought of you
Can soothe my troubled heart,
Can drive away my doubts and fears
Though we are world's apart.

And memories of you are as dear
As in the long ago,
For the lovely name of "Mother"
Is the sweetest name I know.
—Constance I. Heckbert.

purchased from Barker Black Foxes, Summerside, John Agnew, Alberton, and Neil MacLeod, Summerside. Their operations started in 1914. They had good success and continued enlarging. The Carruthers Silver Black Fox Company, Montague, was started in 1913 with Doc and Princess, purchased from Charles Dalton. They added to their breeding stock and became a well considered factor in the industry, continuing until the 1930s. The Beach Grove Silver Black Fox Company, Summerside, started with Gordon and Tuplin and Frank Tuplin foxes and built up quite a good sized ranch. The Rayner Silver Black Fox Company was formed in 1914 with foxes purchased from the Rayner International Fur Company, B.I. Rayner, West Gore, and later added foxes of their own breeding, developing into quite a large company.

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