TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH Silver Fox and Mink Farming

The most important mutation mink sale of the season took place at Lampson, Fraser & Huth's, New York auction room on May 7th, full particulars of which appear below. **Silver Blu Mink**—6,252 pelts were offered from the leading mink ranches of the United; 99% were sold, the top price being $78, and the average price $47.90. Competition was keen throughout the sale for the clear and best colored pelts, these showed an advance of 10%; others were unchanged. The collection contained a percentage of old peltries. Top prices for males of the different colorings were, dark $57 to $74; dark, slightly off-color $44 to $64; medium, $66 to $78; medium, slightly off color, $39 to $60; light and pale, $58 to $68; light and pale, slightly off color, $42 to $48; medium $40 to $48; medium, slightly off color, $33 to $40; light and pale, slightly off color, $40 to $48.

White Mink—The offering consisted of 2,336 pelts which were 97% sold. The top price was $82 and the average $37.16. A large percentage of the collection contained streaky and spotted pelts. There were 856 clear whites in this collection which averaged $53.82. Prices for males of the different colorings were — White, $62 to $82; white, slightly streaked, $46 to $66; streaked and spotted, $24 to $38; yellow and stained, $22 to $29. Females—$49 to $68; white, slightly streaked, $37 to $41; streaked and spotted, $20 to $30; yellow and stained, $16 to $21.

A miscellaneous collection of **white mink** consisting of 1,908 pelts brought a top price of $25, and an average of $17.44. **Royal Koh-I-Nur**—This offering consisted of 11,797 pelts. It was 65% sold at a top price of $29 and an average of $15.31. The best marked pelts were wanted and others were difficult to sell. The collection declined 15%; a large percentage of the offering was tufted and spotted. Males medium, uniformly marked, were $24 to $29; females, $17 to $20; light, uniformly marked brought $22 to $28 for males; females, $15 to $20.

Blu-Frost Mink — The offering consisted of 7,064 pelts of which 43% were sold at a top price of $30, and an average of $17.66. There was good competition for the best sorts, others were difficult to sell and the article declined 15%. Males, medium silvery, brought $24 to $30; slightly silvery, $19 to $27; silvery and extra silvery, $19 to $26, with some varieties of these bringing much lower prices. Females brought from $11 to $22 for various colorings. A miscellaneous collection of **mutation mink** consisting of 3,971 pelts was 88% sold at an average of $9.19. The collection contained all other types and low grades from the above mutation mink. All the above quotations according to the auction company, are based on their February results. It is now quite evident, they state, that the trade appears primarily interested in the solid colored mutations.

The Dominion Government through its Department of Agriculture has done much for the fox farmers of Canada through their marketing plan which so many of us have taken advantage of, but there is another side to the picture. Finance Minister Douglas Abbott recently disclosed that the revenue of the Canadian government for 1945-46 from processing and sales taxes on furs amounted to $4,976,000; for the previous year they amounted to $5,217,000 and for the present year he is budgeting for $3,102,000, which we presume is one reason why he did not remove the sales and processing tax as was requested by the fur farmers.

Price resistance and considerable hesitancy on the part of buyers was evident at the Western Canada raw fur auction sales in Vancouver last week. Muskrats were 80% sold at an average of $2 to $2.20 for fresh Caribou types and $1.00 to $1.10 for mediums and smalls. An offering of 6,000 ranch mink was 35% sold at a top price of $18 to $20. Wild mink was 50% sold with no change in prices. All long-haired goods were withdrawn.

Albert Lewis, joint managing director Reville, Ltd., garment manufacturers of London, Eng., arrived in New York last Friday and he will show the firm's fall export collection of tailored wool coats and suits there. Subsequently he will show them in Montreal. There are 45 models in the fall group and it is expected that they will be heavily bought. Whether or not they will lend themselves to the adornment of silver fox fur we do not know, but we hope so. There is no more beautiful garment on a lady than a cloth coat trimmed with a nice, clear colored silver or white face fox.

At the Northwest Fur Auction Company sale at Minneapolis last Thursday mink offerings were small and therefore did not receive much attention. Top prices for wild mink were $20 for later caught Northwestern. Ranch mink did not sell as the buyers considered the limits too high. Silver foxes found fair bidding with top of $43 recorded for platinums; three-quarter silvers were fairly active with a high of $28; one-half silvers were neglected.

The American National Fur Breeders Association, which corresponds to the Canadian National in Canada, are holding an important auction Monday, May 19th, and Tuesday, May 20th, where they will offer 14,000 silver fox including 2,500 mutations as well as 18,000 mink and a considerable number of other types of furs.

Ranchers are pondering over ways and means of cutting down expenses. Some are replacing quite a bit of their meat in the diet with fish where it is obtainable at reasonable prices. One whose tactical position is the best is canny Ernie Mill, Mill's Point, who, the other morning with his strapping son went out in their fishing boat and returned a few hours later with several barrels of herring, which they transferred to storage in Kensington. Ernie will probably replace about half the meat he usually fed with fish and for some months at least will have as good results. When fall comes he will likely have to go back to meat diet as the general impression is that fish fed through the fall months has a tendency to brown the fur.

We remember in the early twenties when herring was so cheap we used a lot of it but continued it late into fall with the result that we had feathery and off-color pelts. Some ranchers are partial to hake and we have fed it with good results. It is cheaper than cod and does not contain as many small worms. A mixed fish and meat diet is considered not correct by some foxmen, who believe one should feed either all fish or all meat. However, we have fed the two together with no ill results and we know others, like John Roper and ranchers in our vicinity who have done the same.

In the western United States where the fish are fresh water variety, the feeding of large quantities of fish leads to paralysis of the hind parts known by the technical name of Chastek Paralysis. An investigation proved that it was due to a lack of Vitamin B and the addition of this vitamin in the form of Brewer's yeast flakes changed the picture. If you wish to feed Brewer's yeast flakes with your fish the proper quantity would be from 1-2 to 1 pound per day for 250 foxes. It can be obtained wholesale from the National Brewers Ltd., Montreal, if your supply houses do not handle it.

We have checked up with our fox farming friends from various parts of the Island and the general impression we have formed is that the crop for 1947 will be smaller than usual. Just what the cause is we cannot tell. Some think it is because the females did not get enough exercise because there was not enough snow on the ground. Some ranchers too, have run into a series of abortions, for which there is no explainable cause.

We have always had an idea that ranches often contain the abortion germ carried from year to year. In our own experience we had certain pens that we could never raise a litter in and finally it dawned on us that they probably were of the abortion type, so we burned them with a firegun and also gave the dens and houses a thorough disinfecting and fire flame treatment and had good results afterwards. Contagious abortion in cattle is well known and great precautions are taken against the mixing of cattle thought to be from herds carrying the germ, so it may be just the same with foxes. Anyhow, it is worth thinking about.

In the recent issue of the American National Fur and Market Journal we note where one of their subscribers asks the following question of their veterinary department. . . . "What are the causes of abortions?" The answer given is. . . . "Abortions do occur in foxes although the cause has not been adequately worked out. There is some suspicion of an infection of some sort causing abortion in fox females, but the suspected cause has no connection whatever with the abortions bacillus causing trouble in cows. The suggestion occurs to us that you may be over-feeding slightly, although this could best be determined by examining the condition of the foxes throughout the ranch."

The Annual Meeting of the Silver Fox Breeders' and Exhibitors' Association will be held in the Legion Hall, Charlottetown on Tuesday afternoon, May 27, at 1:30 P.M

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- NEWSY NOTES -

By Agricola

The Petrels

The third Order of birds, the **Tubinares**, is represented in this Province by two kinds of Petrels. The word means "tube-nosed," because the nostrils, instead of being merely orifices into the bill, actually open into short tubes lying along the upper mandible. This feature alone is sufficient to mark off the Petrels from our other sea-birds.

Those who have occasion to sail the North Atlantic in summer, (says the eminent ornithologist C. S. Brimley), may frequently see the Wilson's Petrel, as it flies low over the sea, just clearing the crest of the swells. "Often its feet hang down and as it passes so near the surface it seems in truth to be successfully accomplishing the attempt of Peter of old to walk upon the water". . . From this circumstance the bird has acquired the name of Petrel, i.e., "little Peter." Though usually staying well off our shores, Petrels may sometimes be driven or washed ashore on the coast.

The Leach's Petrel is not as rare as the Wilson's, mainly because it nests in the northern hemisphere. It is one of the few birds that construct a burrow either in a clay bank or under a rock. This may be two or three feet deep but always ends in an enlarged nesting chamber. "All petrels and their eggs have a peculiar, characteristic and oppressive odor," says Chester Reed. This petrel breeds abundantly on islands in the Atlantic, from Maine northward to Greenland, but winters in tropical waters.

Leach's Petrel. A. O. U. 106. Plumage sooty brown, slightly lighter beneath, upper tail coverts white; tail blackish, **forked** about half an inch deep. Legs shorter than those of the Wilson's Petrel. Length of adult bird 8 inches.

Wilson's Petrel. A. O. U. 109. Plumage sooty black, rather lighter beneath, upper tail coverts white; tail blackish, **square** at the end. Legs long, black, webs of toes yellow. Length of adult is 7 inches.

The Wilson's Petrel is singular in that it nests in the southern part of its range. This includes the islands to the south of South America and eastward to Kerguelen Island (Long. 70E., approx.). The nesting season is perforce in February, the birds "wintering" with us from July to September!

Nature Notes

The great "Silver Thaw" of May 1st maimed many of my trees. The rain, freezing as it fell, formed a heavy coat of ice that broke off two large boughs from the weeping willows at the road gate. The white birches and Lombardy poplars in the lane, each had a pile of broken branches round them. I do not remember such a destruction since 1312 or 1913, when a fine row of birches was stripped of its branches.

The Winter Aconites (**Eranthis**) were in full bloom on April 29th, and were fading on May 8th. They were above ground early but had to be protected at nights by an inverted box. The Glory of the Snow (Chionodoxa), a pretty blue and white flower was in bloom May 6th. This is a bulbous plant that increases rapidly. It is more decorative than the Siberian Scilla and blooms about the same time.

My little bush of Daphne Mezereum was loaded with pink blossome on May 8th; the leaves will unfold when the flowers are gone. The blossoms have a strong and appealing fragrance. This shrub is abundant on the roadsides near Hunter River.

The lilac is a shrub that keeps its leaves long in the fall, and shows green tips to the buds very early in Spring. These old, ancestral habits seem to point to a homeland with a long growing season. On looking it up I find the lilac (**Syringa**) comes from Eastern Europe and the temperate parts of Asia. Innumerable varieties of this favorite shrub have been developed in the past half-century, the flowers ranging from white to deep purple, in single or double forms.

The Alders in the "creek" are carrying more catkins this year than I've seen for a long time. Last year there were only three small bunches. Catkins are a source of pollen, and pollen is a necessity for young brood-bees. The adult bees may be fed with syrup, but the larvae must have food derived from pollen. Was it the absence of pollen that caused such losses amongst the bees last year?

From Winnipeg

A letter from Winnipeg encloses specimens of what is called the "Prairie Crocus" in that Province. That puzzled me because no crocus is native to Canada, though there was some outward resemblance in the specimens. When I got time to examine them I noticed that they had many stamens. "Aha," I said, "must belong to the Buttercup Family!" That clued me straight to the Pasqueflower, **Anemone pallens**. (That, too, is the Floral Emblem of Manitoba). "This little flower pushes up through the earth without any leaves . . . and the specimen was pinched off as close to the ground as possible. When half blown the lavender shade is deep—a delicate, dainty flower." Yes, they resemble a lavender crocus, and are about the same size; and the illusion is heightened by the leaves not appearing till later. The outside of the flower is pilose with whitish hairs, which helped me in my search for the name of the plant. There is a full page color-plate of this western Anemone in Canadian Nature, January 1943.

"Spring is 2 weeks late here," says my correspondent, "and bird migration is late too. The geese and the cranes have left. However we saw and heard several meadow larks, red-winged blackbirds, hawks, Franklin gulls, warblers and thrushes. We fed some juncoes for 2 days but they seem to have joined the migration north."

(Many thanks for the Anemones, which reached me in good condition).

Concerning Musical Festivals

"Winnipeg is musically minded," says my correspondent, and evidence is seen in the newspapers which, day by day, print the judges' remarks verbatim Excellent reading they are, and are certain to be helpful to future competitors.

The Musical Festival at Vancouver is just concluded also, and it is noteworthy that the first festival was held 25 years ago. The figures for 1947 are not available yet, but the 1946 British Columbia Festival had 160 classes with 1200 entries; among them were 100 day school choirs. There are also smaller local festivals in the Province, developing musical activities and fostering talent for the greater occasions.

The origin of such musical gatherings is said—and with justice—to go back to the Welsh Eisteddfod, a festival designed to encourage the music and poetry of the Welsh bards. Tradition says that the first Eisteddfod was held at Conway in the 6th century, and has been held annually ever since at various Welsh centres

The North of England, in my youth, was fairly musical, but the musical competition festival was confined to brass bands. Several of the collieries had bands and the bandsmen gathered once or twice weekly at the village inn, in the winter time, to practice. The competition was held in summer when travelling was pleasant. Our miners did so well that the coal-owners presented them with a set of silver band instruments. This gave the "Silver Prize Band" a good deal of publicity, which at length brought about its downfall. An evangelist visited the village and convinced the bandsmen that they were engaged in a sinful amusement, made worse by their meeting-place. They returned the instruments to their employers and that was that!

Probably the first choral festival in England was inaugurated in Essex County, 1882, by J. Spenser Curwen. Curwen was well known in those days as the inventor of a Sol-fa system of musical notation. This simplified the reading of music to such an extent, that it is scarcely an exaggeration to say that it made the English a nation of singers overnight!

A little later, 1885, the scene of the festival was in the North again. Kendal, in Cumberland, held its Musical Festival supported by the factory workers.

The idea began to spread till, in 1921, the "British Federation of Musical Competition Festivals" was incorporated. The last figures available (1927) showed that 200 Festivals in England and Scotland had become members of the Federation.

The Floral Emblem

A short time ago I asked, in this column, who it was that suggested the Lady's Slipper as the Emblem of the Province? I now have good authority for stating that the question was discussed in the Teacher-training class at the Prince of Wales College (1946) and when Mr. Ralph MacLean, a member of the staff, suggested the Lady's Slipper (Cypripedium hirsutum), it was unanimously adopted. The class used it on the cover of a magazine they were then producing, and the Legislature adopted it as our Emblem in the session of 1947. This puts the honor where it is due—"Palmam qui meruit, ferat."

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W. C. T. U. NOTES

JESUS, THE TOILER

They who tread the path of labor
Follow where Thy feet have trod;
They who work without complaining
Do the holy will of God.
Thou, the peace that passeth knowledge,
Dwellest in the daily strife.
Thou, the Bread and Heaven, art broken
In the sacrament of life.
Every task, however simple,
Sets the soul that does it free;
Every deed of love and kindness
Done to man, is done to Thee.
Jesus, Thou Divine Companion,
Help us all to work our best.
Bless us in our daily labor,
Lead us to our Sabbath rest.
Henry Van Dyke.

PRAYER TOPIC

World Peace . . . World Prohibition . . . World Evangelism.

The W. C. T. U. Convention as an agent.

Bible Reading—Roman 13.

Biblical history shows at every point the need of careful selection of those who rule the people.

Read for example the advice given by Jethro to Moses, Ex 18:21. Do we follow this example? Who are our statesmen, our mayors and councilmen? Who make up our boards of education?

We may as well ask, "What rule do we follow in selecting them?" Are these attributes less needed today? What is the attitude you have taken?

Later the people sought a king Read I Samuel 13:12-14 and I Kings 12, at your leisure and learn the consequences of disobedience. Responsibility does not rest solely with the rulers and their standards of judgement.

Matthew 24:22-27 and Matthew 22:15 give the teaching and example of the Master. He and the Jews of His day might well have argued, "The Romans are oppressive usurpers. We are God's own people and owe them nothing," but His teaching was, "Have respect to them that rule over you."

People come to Canada and expect to remodel us and our country into some mould of their own fancy or freak of their own imaginings. The world is wide. If Canada, with her observance of the Christian Sabbath and its laws, its ideas of morality and justice does not suit them let them go (or send them) to other lands where these things do not exist and leave us in peace to make Canada the truest, most free, just and Christian land under the sun.

It is your business and mine to bring this to pass.

PRESBYTERY PASSES RESOLUTION URGING CURB ON LIQUOR

By T. R. G.

"The Presbytery of Annapolis, recognizing with alarm the unabated onslaught of the liquor business upon the industrial, economic, social and moral life of our country, wish again to reaffirm the uncompromising hostility of our Church to the traffic in intoxicating beverages. The evils that we had been promised would be greatly lessened by Government control have greatly increased. We see it in the multiplied cases of brutality and crime, in rape, and murder, in horrible cruelty to innocent children; in tables without food; in illegitimacy and divorce; in the thousands of young men who sit with their heads in their hands in dark, dirty prison cells; in pitiable young women who sit with pale faces in dance hall bedrooms; in corrupted politics; in wrecked cars and broken, bleeding bodies; in heart-broken parents, who know not what to do; in joints where our young people mix with the under-world; in hotels where you cannot rest nor sleep; in trains filled with disorder; in overflowing asylums; in Canada, where it is estimated that at the present rate of drink consumption, for the year 1947, at least 365 millions of dollars will be wasted; in the United States of America, nearly 8 billions of dollars will disappear in the same deluge.

"While these facts and figures are revealing, still it is beyond all efforts of calculation to tabulate all the evils that are found in the wake of the liquor business. All of which surely demonstrates that the so-called Control System have failed utterly to deal with this problem. We believe that the time has arrived when we should again earnestly urge upon our governments to devise some other system which might curb more effectively the progress of this dreadful curse in the life of our fair dominion. Do we want Government surpluses at the expense of national honour?

"Furthermore, we would enjoin upon the Christian people of this land that they unite in their efforts and attitudes against the greed and selfishness of this diabolical trade. To this end, we recommend, in harmony with the findings of our last General Council, in September, 1946:

"1. That the members and adherents of our churches practise personal abstinence from intoxicants, and exclude them from their homes and social life.

"2. That Christian people everywhere, avoid investigating in liquor stocks.

"3. That pastors, Sunday school workers and leaders of youth, use every means of educating the people, old and young, as to the evils of strong drink, and the necessity of sobriety.

"4. We also call upon our people to realize that the battle with the liquor traffic is but one phase of the age long struggle to establish the Kingdom of God on earth, and that in spite of discouragements and apparent defeats, we should go forth in confidence relying for wisdom and strength on Him who said: 'Every plant which my Heavinly Father hath not planted shall be rooted up.' "

Recommendation moved by Rev. A. D. MacKinnon, seconded by R.J. Messenger and passed unanimously.

COMMENTS OF A BOOKWORM

By R. W. Pickersgill

"I'll tell the world" seems to be the slogan of many modern authors and they don't keep anything secret. What our fathers regarded as private and purely personal matters, not for publication, are gloated over by many contemporary writers. The cupboard doors are flung wide open and the skeletons exhibited, in all their horrid gruesomeness. The things that are described in much current literature —if literature it can be called—may be suitable for the confessional but in our opinion they should not be broadcast. Such literature is not new; what is new is that it is being pushed before the eyes of everyone, freely and publicly advertised. Even today there are few who have read Moll Flanders, though there are many who have enjoyed Robinson Crusoe (both by the same author) the reason being that Robinson Crusoe was pushed and Moll Flanders hidden away. Today the reverse is true and the Moll Flanders type is being pushed and the Robinson Crusoe type overlooked.

THE PLEDGE

"I hereby promise, God helping me, to abstain from all distilled fermented, and malt liquors, including beer, wine and cider as a beverage and to employ all proper means to discourage the use of, and traffic in the same."

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Crop Prospects Good In Soviet Union

By EDDIE GILMORE

MOSCOW, May 15 — (AP) — Reports from all over the Soviet Union today gave the first solid indication of good prospects both for an early harvest which already has started and spring planting which is practically completed — news of importance not only to Russia but the world.

If the U.S.S.R., biggest agricultural land in the world, can produce a bumper grain crop a great step will have been taken toward a solution of the food problem everywhere, and several countries may benefit directly.

Speculation at this time of year on what the harvest will be is subject to many reservations in so large a country, the principal one involving the weather. The Russian grain crop was grievously damaged last year by a drought which did not show its effects until mid-summer. The same thing could happen again.

Russian will have more land under cultivation this year than at any time since before the war, although it still will be short of prewar areas of cultivation.

Livestock

SUMMARY

Eastern cattle prices lost some ground during the week, while western centres held fairly steady although the feeling was easier toward the close. Cows and bulls were the classes to suffer the most depression. Calves were 50c to $1.00 lower on eastern markets, and otherwise live stock prices remained about unchanged.

Eastern Cattle Markets

The cattle supply at Toronto was below the previous week but beef was plentiful and remand rather slow. Cattle prices had an early loss of 15c to 25c but recovered on steers and heifers, while cows were down 50c for the week and bulls were 50c to 75c lower. Top price for weighty steers was $15.75, with most sales $15.50 down, and butcher steers $13 to $15. Trade was slow to start at MONTREAL and while prices were steady on steers and heifers, they were a good 50c lower on cows and bulls. Medium to good steers sold between $14 and $15.50, with a few tops up to $16. In the MARITIMES, good to choice steers and heifers were quoted at $14 f. o. b. country points.

Western Cattle Markets

Generally steady prices prevailed at WINNIPEG but the feeling was easier at the close and bids lower, although there was very little change in prices. Choice steers were scarce at $15 to $15.50 and most of the mixed weights of butcher steers brought $13 to $14.50. Stocker cattle continued scarce and good types were priced around $11.50 to $12.25. Butcher steers and heifers at CALGARY sold at $14.50 to $15.25 for top quality; EDMONTON up to $14.50 and $15, with a few as high as $15.50; PRINCE ALBERT $14.50; MOOSE JAW around $14.50; SASKATOON $15 but mostly $14 to $14.50; REGINA up to $15; and VANCOUVER $14.50 to $15.

op0g.t daidr1

Exports to United States

Exports of dairy cattle to the United States for the week totalled 1,019 as compared with 1,751 in the same week last year. Exports since January 1st this year are 14,056 and in the same period last year were 18,072.

Calves Sharply Lower

There was a sharp drop in calf prices on eastern markets. Choice veals closed at Toronto at $15.50 to $16.50, a drop of 50c to $1.00, while Montreal was down to a top of $15, and other good kinds selling down to $14.50. Winnipeg looked easier with best quality $14 to $15.50, Calgary $13 to $14, Edmonton $13 to $14, Prince Albert a top of $14, Moose Jaw $13 to $14, Saskatoon up to $14, and Regina $14.

Steady Hog Market

Little change was shown in hog prices although supplies were somewhat more plentiful. Toronto paid $22 for Grade A, Montreal a general $22.25, Winnipeg $20.40, Calgary $20.25 Edmonton $20.75 for shipment and $19.90 at plants, Prince Albert, Moose Jaw, Saskatoon and Regina $20.15, Vancouver $21.25 to $21.50, Moncton $22.75, and Charlottetown $21.75, the latter price f. o. b.

The above prices do not include the Dominion Government premium of $2 per head on Grade A and $1 per head on Grade B1 hogs.

FOILS HOLDUP MAN

OMAHA, Neb., May 15—(AP)—Grocer Morris Leiben, an old hand at foiling holdup men, has done it again.

In 1939, two gunmen attempted to rob Leiben but fled when the grocer called for help.

Yesterday a young man walked into the store, thrust one hand into a jacket pocket and said: "Give me your money. I mean it."

Leiben picked up the meat knife from the butcher block, waved it menacingly and replied, "I mean it too." The would-be robber ran.

A GOOD MAN TO KNOW

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BROODER STOVE BONUS

Applications for bonus on brooder stoves will not be received after May 24th. All brooder houses must be of new construction and of an approved type. They must be a distinct and separate building, easily moved and on skids. Old houses partly remodelled or remodelled fox pens will not be eligible.

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