The Progressive MODERN FARMER

Timely Notes on Topics Connected with Silver Fox Farming

The last week has been on the whole pretty favorable for ranchers to make a selection of their foxes which they are keeping for breeding purposes. This is one of the most important matters that the rancher can attend to and considerable study and time should be spent on it. One has only to look around and see the successful ranchers, those who have built up through the years outstanding herds of foxes to realize that it was the study and care in selection which they used through the years that give such gratifying results. The story of each breed of foxes hinges on the principal matter of selection. It was just as true forty or fifty years ago when Charles Dalton, Robert Oulton Siles Rayner and other founders of silver fox farming were in their heyday as it is now. We heard Sir Charles Dalton say that when he and Robert Oulton were building up their fine herd of silvers that they would take them out on a clear sunny day in December and if there was a shade of brownishness to the fur they would be rejected and pelted. By the most careful selection, with an eye to color, conformation and fur quality they built up the most magnificent herd of silver foxes the world had ever seen. Even today the writer can look back as can many others in this province and recall the beautiful types of Dalton and Oulton foxes, the clear bluish black color, the resilience of the fur the brightness of the silver and the clear colored brushes and tips.

It was not the Dalton foxes, the Oulton foxes, the Rayner foxes or any of the best breeds developed here that gave the brownish tinge to the black which is so much in evidence. That came from Newfoundland where a type of black that never should have been introduced here was caught in the wilds. Other blacks from Quebec were imported but they had been bred in captivity by Johann Bettz and while not up to Island stock in quality were good. Then there were Ontario foxes brought here and they did not have quality, neither did the western silvers, with the exception of some that came from Peace River such as the Pure Canadian Company imported. They were beautiful foxes, no question about it, and their strain persisted in quality through the years.

Up until 1917 blacks had the call or at least those showing not more than 50 p.c. of silver Then the dying industry became so adoptable to imitation by using red fox and turning it out as a black that the vogue was for silvers which could not be imitated. As a matter of fact painstaking people did try to imitate silvers by sewing white hairs in a black fox pelt but the imitation was easily noticed and could not fool anyone.

Today the rancher has to be familiar with a great many types and to have an appreciation of their quality and the proportion which he is going to keep of each. For instance he must figure out just how many white face females he wants to use. He knows that the silvers from these matings—that is the males to silver females or the white face females to silver males—will not be as good as from his best silver strains. He must make up his mind whether to use a white face male with small markings or not. Where that male is well furred and very bright, carrying the silver up to the neck, it can be a very good help in producing worth while pelts but a black neck mixey-type white face will not do anyone much good. Of course the type of white face we are trying to select is large, full furred, very bright silver with wide ring neck and possibly white head. That type brings the money but they must not be crossed with mixey medium or even three-quarter females with the expectation of getting ones like the sire.

Then again in the production of platinums the theory is often propounded that we should use the dark platinums particularly Norwegians. This we have not found to work out very satisfactorily. We have found that the light Norwegian platinums or at least the light medium types gave the best results. When we examined our Norwegian platinums some weeks ago we were disappointed. Watching them scurrying around in the shed they looked marvellous but when rubbed over they appeared very short. Just recently we pelted some and after they were turned and drummed we had a look at them and decided that we would continue raising Norwegians.

It is true that the Norwegians are what can be designated as platinums in contra-distinction from platinum silvers. It was Brenton Clark of Summerside, acting as classifier at the Provincial Fox Show in 1943 that gave us the definition of a platinum vs platinum silver—A platinum silver said Brenton, has fur, a platinum has not. however, platinums have very definite quantities of underfur which is almost of a springy cotton wool texture and this underfur supporting its modicum of guard fur of a bluish cast really makes a pelt beautiful.

In selecting your platinums do not under any circumstances keep one that has the slightest yellowish cast to it It is said that the majority of the ranchers of the United States are not producing really good platinums and that it is because they have concentrated on raising full silvers, breeding full silvers to full silvers continuously and we know what the penalty is off-color yellowish sides and that is said to be the reason for the yellowish type of platinums many are producing. We do not pretend to have the experience in raising platinums that many of our fox farmer friends here have but we do put a great deal of time and thought into the business and carefully examine the platinum production at the farm. We have found that what we call the "greyish" type silver gives us a very good platinum and we do not get good results even with Norwegians by using three-quarter females or even seven-eighths. However, herds differ and one must utilize what he finds to give the best results in his own ranch.

In selecting platinums one thing to remember is to keep clear of very dark underfur Buyers do not like dark underfurred platinums they do want the types that give that bluish cast which was what made four pelts of ours sell for $220. each at the January auction through the Canadian National Silver Fox Breeders' Association Every time we looked at those foxes in the shed we would remark that they had a distinct bluish cast and they were clear and matched perfectly. Of course considerable credit for the price must go to the graders who placed the four of them in a lot and a buyer from South America who wanted a particularly nice cape for a client paid the price.

This season there will be double the number of platinums on the market that there was last year but if the fur trade is in an optimistic mood there is nothing to prevent their being sold as Canadian platinums have made a reputation for themselves that has gone far and wide There is a big market in the United States and if exchange is available a tremendous market in South America We are all looking hopefully forward to the first auction sale of the season which will be held late next week or the following week in Montreal, the reports of which from George Callbeck will be carried in the Guardian

And now we swing back to the matter of fox shows and have, through the energetic and kind attention of Lowell W. Hancock of Summerside, who was present, a first hand account of the Ohio Michigan National Fox and Mink Show held at Grand Rapids last week. We turn on Lowell... "The Ohio-Michigan show is just over. They had 500 foxes and over 500 mink of all types. The show was held in the section of the Grand Rapids Municipal garage Floor space was 70 X 240 The fox section was 70 X 180. All crates were placed on tables single tier good north light with bleachers built at the 60 degree angle providing excellent accomodation for the audience The attendance included ranchers from practically every state where fur farming is carried on and W H C Ruthven, Lloyd B Pollock, Gilroy Bros of Ontario, and Dr J E. LaForest of Quebec. The banquet was held on Wednesday evening and over 500 attended. Dr. J. E. LaForest was toastmaster, I was one of the guest speakers. National Barber Show (radio stars) male quartette sang and there was orchestra music and dancing provided for entertainment after.

Here are the winners of the grand and reserve champions ... Silvers, Grand Champion, Gilroy Bros, Oakville, Ont Reserve Champion W. H. C. Ruthven, Alliston, Ont; White Marked Silvers, Grand Champion, W. H. C. Ruthven, Reserve Champion Dr. J. E. LaForest; Pearl Platinum (Silver Blue) Grand Champion, W. H. C. Ruthven, Reserve, H. O. Hudson, Big Rapids, Michigan; Pearlatina, Grand Champion, Gilroy Bros Reserve Champion, Dr S. C Moore, Cadillac, Michigan; Glacier Blues Grand Champion, L. B. Pollock, Reserve Champion, Dr J. E. LaForest; Platinum Silver, Grand Champion, Glenn Stock Farm Idaho, Reserve, Charles Awvey, Milford, Michigan; Platinums, Grand Champion, Gilroy Bros, Reserve Champion, H O Hudson, Big Rapids, Michigan

The big chap from Black Fox Magazine sends his regards to you Will fly home from Dayton, Ohio, December 5th Regards Lowell." Thanks, friend Lowell, for your kind thoughtfulness and the trouble you have taken to keep us informed here of the happenings in faraway Michigan.

TRAPPERS

Thanks for the wonderful response to our advertisements during November, asking for Mink and Muskrats. We are certainly paying high prices and still our orders are not filled. Bring or send all the furs you have before Christmas. As usual we are interested in good Platinums and Light Silvers. Red Fox, Skunk and Coons are the low priced articles this year.

Our office is open every Saturday evening from seven until nine o'clock.

The Royal Packing Co.

J. D. JENKINS

Prop.

Farmer In Japan Has Tough Job

From the points of view of the surface of the land, climate, and soil, Japan may be classified as one of the poorer agricultural countries. About 75 per cent of the country is hilly and mountainous the slopes of which are usually too steep or too thin for ordinary cultivation. Because the mountain regions occupy the central and greater part of the country, there are no extensive plains as are found in continental countries. The typical plains of Japan are mainly narrow, coastly lowlands.

With regard to climate there is enough rain on the whole to meet the needs of Japanese agriculture, but the soils do not possess a high degree of natural fertility. In fact the greater part appears to be inferior. Nearly all the soils are deficient in nitrogen, and only by very careful attention to the needs of each particular soil situation can large production be optained. Nevertheless, large crops are grown With many people on little land, the fields of Japan are cultivated intensively They are treated more carefully than many a garden in other parts of the world. Although handicapped with poor soil in many districts, the farmers by intensive application of labour and abundant application of fertilizers achive high yields per acre. Two successive crops are grown each year on a large part of the land.

The fact that recently 5,492 000 farm families cultivated 14,896,000 acres indicates that the size of the farm unit is small, averaging 2 7 acres The low standard of living of the vast majority of farmers explains in part at least why the country's small cultivable acreage can support such a large number of people engaged in farming.

A government survey of farm income from all sources from 1913 to 1934 revealed that with the exception of 1918, agricultural income each year fell short of meeting household expenditure and forced farmers to depend upon non-agricultural income to make up the deficit. The income from other sources ranged from 23 to 31 per cent of the total income. In 1936 expenditures on the part of farmer owners averaged 841 yen, or 2 30 yen per day (a yen equals 29 cents). As these households averaged 3 able-bodied adults, the actual household expenditure is less than one yen per person per day. It is only through such small expenditures that the meager farm incomes permit the majority of Japanese farmers to engage in farming.

That agriculture is not sufficiently profitable enterprise for most Japanese farmers, especially for tenants and part tenants is further indicated by a statement of the Japanese Bureau of Statistics to the effect that the average tenant could count upon a surplus only when the area of his farm was larger than 4.5 acres. The fact that by far the largest number of farmers till an area less than 2.4 acres is clear evidence says Foreign Agriculture, of the difficulty of Japanese agriculture as a business. In Japan the output per acre is large compared to that of most western countries but the acreage per farm is so small that the total income per family is only a fraction of that in most western countries.

Feed Brood Sow Well In Winter

Many inquiries are made by farmers each year about weak and dead pigs in the spring litters and of sows without sufficient milk for their pigs These conditions generally result from the improper feeding of the bred sows. It is good business to make sure that the bred sows will be well fed this coming winter, says E.B. Fraser, Division of Animal Husbandry, Central Experimental Farm Ottawa.

The main essential in the winter feeding of brood sows is to supply bone and muscle building feeds in ample amounts to maintain the sows in medium flesh. Bone building material in the form of a swine mineral mixture should be included in the sow's feed unless a mixed protein-mineral supplement is used. Muscle building protein is essential to the development of the unborn litter. The milk by-products, mixed protein concentrate tankage, and fish meal are all good protein feeds for this purpose Vitamins are also necessary, and here the most easily available feeds are well cured alfalfa and clover hay. One of the simplest ways of feeding the hay is to give the sows free access to it in a hay rack outdoors When hay is not available or is of poor quality some other vitamin feed should be supplied An even better though more expensive vitamin feed is a feeding oil such as cod liver oil Then lastly the major portion of the brood sow ration will consist of common farm grains such as oats, barley and wheat A mixture of the grains is desirable and care should be taken not to include too great a proportion of barley and wheat as these might make the sows overfat and clumsy

There are many combinations of feeds suitable for the winter feeding of brood sows. The problem in each individual case is to make use of the feeds available and combine with these such additional feeds as are necessary. Literature on swine raising which indicates suitable feed mixtures for swine can be obtained by writing to Dominion Department of Agriculture, Ottawa.

- NEWSY NOTES -

By ACADIENSIS

This fall has been very unfavorable for star-gazing. When it was not raining (or snowing) there was a thick canopy of clouds that hid the stars. Last week, however, there was one clear night that sent me back to my old pastime. As I looked out of the eastern window, about 7 p.m., I saw a brilliant display of stars and realized that I was looking at the "Capella quarter" of the heavens That may need a little explanation.

Almost everybody can point out the Pole Star: it is the sailor's lode-star, the friend of everyone that wishes to know his true direction. Spaced almost at equal distances around it are the Dipper, Vega, Cassiopeia, and Capella, each giving its name to its own quarter of the heavens. The Dipper and "Cassiopeia's Chair" are fairly well known, the former especially; but Vega and Capella are not. How is one to find the latter?

Looking from the eastern window at this time of the year one sees a misty cluster of stars, the Pleiades, or "Seven Sisters" as some people call them. (Others can see twelve or thirteen stars in the group, without optical aids; while the telescope reveals hundreds more.) Midway between the Pleiades and the horizon is a small group shaped like a "V" lying on its side; there is a brighter and redder star at the tip of the lower arm of the V. This little triangle is the head of Taurus (the Bull) and the red star is Aldebaran, the Bull's eye. Taurus is the original long-horn, as one finds by producing the arms of the "V" to where two brightish stars form the tips of his horns. Just a little farther and the stargazer is rewarded by the sight of three bright stars disposed in the form of a right-angled triangle. The brightest of the three is Capella. We have fared forth and found our goal; and if my companion is methodical he will preserve the chart.

The Capella quarter of the starry heavens, includes some of the most notable winter constellations; Auriga, in which Capella is the principal star; Taurus, with its two star clusters, the Pleiades and the Hyades; Orion, "the Golconda of the heavens"; Canis Major, with Sirius, the brightest star in the sky; Canis Minor (the Lesser Dog) whose gem is the brilliant first magnitude star Procyon; and Gemini with the famous twins, Castor and Pollux; together make up an unrivalled galaxy.

Now for Capella itself. A brilliant white star of the first magnitude, it was well-known to the Greeks and Romans, who gave it the name which means "the little she-goat" or Kid. What is stranger, the ancient Peruvians, who knew nothing of European mythology or science, called it by a name which means the same thing. I must take on trust the statement of astronomers who say that Capella is 120 times brighter than the sun, and that it has a companion star revolving so closely around it that no telescope has yet been able to separate the discs.

Rhyparography

I used this word in Newsy Notes a fortnight ago. It comes from the Greek "rhyparos," meaning dirty, and I first heard it applied to some of Hogarth's pictures which were of a lewder kind than those he usually painted. It was used too, by Professor Rhys to describe certain chapters in the Rev. Laurence Sterne's "Sentimental Journey"—a book very unlike what one expects from a clergyman.

The Daily Paper

There must have been a spot of trouble in our mail service this fall, for there were several days when I went to the mail box in vain. This was not without its lesson: it showed the void left when the daily "paper" was missing. Without it, the countryman feels, with Alexander Selkirk, that he is "out of humanity's reach." The sales, so dear to his heart, if not to his purse, come and go and he is not there. There is no "hatches, matches and despatches" column to keep track of. He can say with the old general or philosopher or whatever he was— I haven't time to look it up—"Perdidi diem", I have lost a day! The radio, though excellent in its way, is no substitute. The listener, I find, can repeat only quarter of the news he hears: some item catches his interest, and while he mulls it over, the announcer's voice flows on almost unheeded. That of course is not the radio's fault; it is the imperfection of the human factor. As for the advertisements, the radio does a good job, for its persistence, day after day, will bore into the dullest consciousness: but it is not able (as the newspaper is) to punctuate its ads with attractive pictures of willowly damsels—"length without breadth" — like old Euclid's definition. Yes, "Things seen are greater than things heard" and so we miss the daily paper. Worst of all, when the mailman doesn't come, you will look in vain for your Newsy Notes in the Saturday's issue—to your infinite disappointment no doubt!

Men Versus Women

I promised, when reviewing Mr. Scheinfeld's new book "Women and Men", to dig up some notes on the subject made many years ago. Well, I found them, but they are not easy to present in the columns of a newspaper because they are more or less in tabular form, just as in classifying plants! To reduce them to readable form will require ingenuity, but I'll try it.

The difference between the sexes is (1) basal or primary; (2) physical; (3) spiritual; and (4) mental.

With the basal difference, important as it is, we need not concern ourselves here. It is biological and relates to reproduction only.

The Physical differences. The notes look at these from two aspects which may be labelled (1) special and (2) general (1) Man tends to have prominent features, a square jaw, sunken eyes because of a rugged overhanging forehead and if masterful, an aquiline nose. In woman the tendency is for the jaw and chin to be rounded, the eyes to be protuberant, the forehead smooth, and not overhanging and the nose fine and more of the "Grecian" type. (Among the amateur phrenologists of our village protuberant eyes were held to be the sign of a talkative disposition.) (2) More generally, man has (a) depth of voice, (b) breadth of shoulders, (c) beard, (d) bodily firmness, (e) strength, (f) and active endurance. Against these woman possesses (a) a finer, higher voice, (b) breadth of hips, (c) finer, smoother skin, (d) bodily softness, (e) energy, instead of strength, which enables her to run the house and rear the children, an exacting task, (f) and not the least of her qualities is passive endurance.

This last links with (3) **The spiritual differences.** While man has (a) activity, (b) courage, often combative, (c) boldness of manner, (d) audacity, (e) its running mate assertiveness, (f) protectiveness towards his family, (g) tenacity for all he owns, (h) acquisitiveness to gain more, (i) will power, (j) decision in acting, (k) argumentativeness, (l) deliberation or following a train of thought to a right conclusion, (m) and is the embodiment of spiritual force and power; woman, on the contrary is distinguished by (a) passivity, (b) fortitude in enduring ill, a kind of courage usually lacking in all but the greatest of men, (c) coyness of manner, (d) sensitiveness of feeling, (e) attractiveness instead of the repellent male assertiveness, (f) motherliness even towards her spouse, (g) devotion through love to all her circle, (h) home instinct, for improving what she has, (i) perseverance, highly developed, (j) dignity in acting, (k) persuasiveness, (l) apprehension, often called "intuition," which cuts through the intermediate steps to the conclusion, (m) and is the embodiment of mystery and charm. It must again be pointed out that these notes were made many years ago, before the feminist movement had come to flood-tide; but even yet, despite the hardening influences of modern times, the higher types of feminine minds still retain much of these old-world, gracious attributes. I hope to present the last of the series, that of the mental differences, in next week's notes.

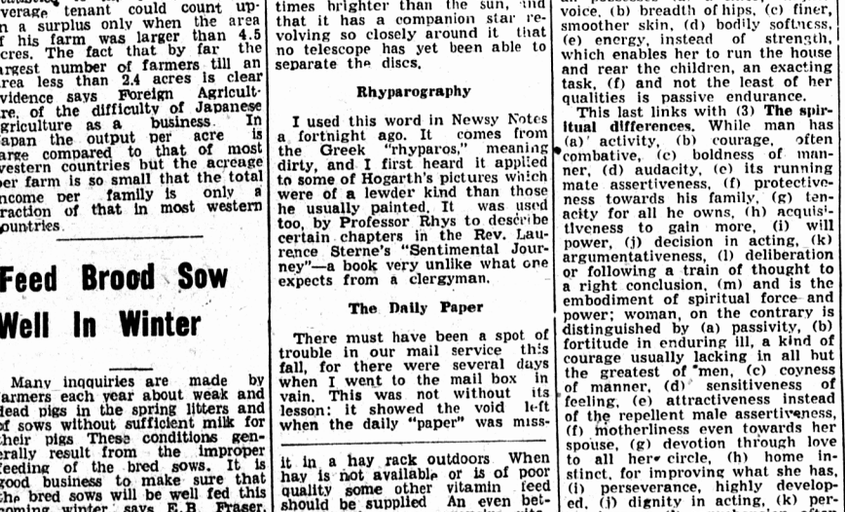
An Early Telegraph. (2)

Some years later, when I was quite grown up, I walked over to a distant village to visit a cousin who held a position as telegraphist under the Postal Services branch of the Government. The instrument she worked was quite different from the old "Coffee-grinder". Gone was the horizontal clock-face with its 28 typewriter keys; gone was the crank. Instead, I beheld a vertical dial something like a compass, with a "needle" pivoted in the middle. The needle could swing but only so far, being checked by a projecting pin on each side. All the time it kept up an everlasting "tick-tack, tick-tick-tack." "What's it saying?" said I innocently. She smiled and said, "It's not for us!" A neat reproof, for telegraphists must not divulge messages. "How do you know?" I asked, nothing daunted, seeing that she was not looking at the machine. "I can hear the message," she explained, and my respect for her ability went up several points.

This was a Cooke and Wheatstone instrument, and the "tick-tack" was the Morse code of signals. The C. and W. machine held the floor for many years till the more convenient telephone superceded it This telegraph, like all other electrical devices, cannot be credited to any one country alone. The real impetus to telegraphy was first given by Oersted who discovered the **magnetic** property of electric currents, and by the English scientist Faraday who discovered induction.

These two discoveries enabled Samuel Morse, an American inventor, to produce a working model of a telegraph-instrument in 1835. The signals were given in the well known code which bears the inventor's name. This was followed in 1937 by another (different) model made by Steinheil of Germany; and the same year saw the invention of the Cooke and Wheatstone instrument. This quickly came into general use in England both in the postal and railway services. The English railway lines had "signal-cabins" at strategic points and at every station; and in each was a C. and W. instrument; orders could be transmitted and accidents reported to any point in the line. I have heard that the C. and W. telegraph, with the Morse code is in use here too, but have not seen it.

Naturally, England desired to open telegraphic communication with the Continent and the first submarine cable (Dover to Calais), was laid in 1845. This seems to have been temporary for the purpose of gaining practical experience, for it was replaced by a permanent cable in 1851. Ambition grew and engineers began toying with the idea of laying a submarine cable across the Atlantic. The first try was in 1857, when the cable broke. The second in 1858 was successful, but the cable didn't last long. The new cable of 1855 was lost. In 1866 the cable was recovered, and a new one laid without any misfortune. I have read that other signals (not the Morse) have been used over the cables.



A herd of Vermont Jersey cows belly-deep in Brome grass illustrates ideal feeding conditions, a department of cattle raising in which Canadians are said to be lagging. Quality roughages have been found to have much influence on milk production during the profit-making pasture season.

Farm Woodlots Have Great Value

The forested areas found on farms in Canada, and generally known as farm woodlots supply about 30 per cent of all the wood cut in Canada each year, D. Roy Cameron, Dominion Forester, Department of Mines and Resources, told the Forestry Committee of the Food and Agriculture Organization at the FAO Conference recently held in Quebec City. These forested areas provide nearly 1,000,000 cords of pulpwood annually and 8 to 8 ½ million cords of fuelwood, as well as saw-logs and other products. The large part of the fuelwood is used on the farm but sales of fuelwood, pulpwood and other products contribute very substantially to farm cash incomes.

The farmer who possesses a good woodlot, protected from grazing and managed for continuous production, is usually more prosperous than neighbours whose woodlots have been allowed to deteriorate. Many of the farm regions in Canada have become deficient in forest cover, and serious consequences are becoming evident in the form of erosion, soil deterioration irregularity of stream flow and lowering of the ground water table

Industrial forest operations, as distinct from work on woodlots, are of great importance to farms in many sections of Canada. Work in the logging camps provides cash income during the winter months, and the forest industries are very large consumers of the products of agriculture Were it not for local sales outlets provided by logging camps farming in many of the more remote parts of the country would be reduced to a bare subsistence level. On the other hand farmers consume a large quantity of forest products Agriculture and forestry are closely interdependent in Canada and prosperity of the one is likely to be reflected in the other, says Mr. Cameron.

Winsome Milkmaid

This smiling lass is Edith Jones, who lives at R.R. 1, Moncton, N.B. When the shutter clicked, Edith was gathering up the empty milk cans which the milk truck had just brought back from the dairy at Moncton. The nifty little wagon was built especially for this purpose by her father.

Dairy Notes

The Jersey cow, Standard's Brave Flora—121125—bred and owned by Edison B. Mutch, North River, P. E. I., produced a new Canadian Champion record as a Sr. Yearling in 1943 of 10,560 lbs of milk, 492 lbs of fat. Flora comes back and has recently completed a Jr. 4 year old record of 15,304 lbs of milk, 746 lbs of fat in 365 days with an average test of 4.87%. milked twice daily. This makes her a new Canadian Champion for milk production in this division on two times milking. She replaces the famous Canadian Champion Barmenter's Brown Marie—98354—that has held the record since 1940.

Flora is a daughter of It's Brave Dreamer — 84726 — a grandson of It of Oaklands. It's Brave Dreamer has five tested daughters. The dam of the new Canadian Champion is Valleyvue Flora 2nd—93719 — a cow with three R.O.P. records and a daughter of Nappan Nobly Born Fourth, one of the good sons of the famous Gem's Nobly Born, that was for many years at the head of the Experimental farm herd at Nappan, N.S

PLATINUM FOXES

We have a few good MALE & FEMALE PUPS For Sale

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12-8-2i

In a mild snowstorm Capt. McKiw of the SS Rondeau Park inspects the four Ayrshire bulls he is taking to New Zealand from Montreal. Worth about $3,500, these bulls were chosen and shipment arranged by the Canadian Ayrshire Breeders' Association.

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1 year-old Pearl Platinum (Blue) males proven polygamous.

1 pup male half blood Blue and Platinum.

2 half blood Blue female pups.

1 year-old Platinum male proven polygamous.

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12-5-6-8-3i.

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