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TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH Silver Fox Farming



Good and bad "luck" continues to be registered in ranches throughout Queens County. The best report we have heard comes from the Woodman ranch, Spring Park Road, near Charlottetown, where Mrs. T. B. Woodman, who has superintended that ranch for years, kept 12 female foxes through the breeding season. All had litters but one was lost. From the remaining 11 there are 59 living pups!

George Hooper, who has been gradually expanding his breeding foxes, has we are glad to learn, a good turnout with 89 pups counted, several litters to look at and some to come. Particularly gratifying is the presence of what appears to be a litter of platinum.

Well McNeill and Son report good success and are very pleased with the matings from the McNeill strain of white-faces and platinum. In addition to the LaForest and Colpitts platinum. It will be remembered that they purchased some sires of these breeds this year so some blues which have reproduced themselves.

Montreal Fur Sales (Canada) report the April 20th sale of silver fox, states that the collection attracted a large attendance of New York and Canadian buyers, the former paying attention only to the superior merchandise. Silver fox maintained its March level. The catalogue represented all provinces and totalled 4,500 skins, including 189 off-season Manitoba white-faces which had been killed after mating. White-faces were estimated to be 65 per cent sold with prices ranging from \$24. to \$53. Selected full silvers 75 per cent sold at from \$24. to \$37. Inferior and low grades, 65 per cent sold, inferior being \$15. to \$27. and low grades \$5. to \$13.50.

Ranch mink showed a decline of 10 per cent for the better merchandise, while cheaper lots were unchanged. The collection consisted of

11,800 pelts, mostly from western ranches and included dark and extra dark strings which brought a top price of \$13.50 for Manitoba type. Local buyers concentrated on the cheaper goods, estimated at 40 per cent sold, while of the finer merchandise only 20 per cent sold. On the average 33 per cent of the mink catalogue changed hands. Wild mink showed a decline of 5 per cent compared with March and was estimated to be 30 per cent sold with a high of \$11.50 for ones and twos, extra large and dark.

Muskat, Quebec and Ontario, average was \$2.50 to \$3.... Red fox, Manitoba white-fox, extra heavy, \$25. semi-heavy \$19.50.... Cross fox, Manitoba white-face, heavy, \$56.

Women's Wear Daily, New York, states that L. J. Fox New York, purchased the entire group of O-Ampion and prize winning silver fox pelts in all six classes offered last week by Tappan, Fraser & Hutt, Inc., for the account of the Canadian National Silver Fox Breeders' Association. These pelts won prizes at the recent silver fox pelts show held in Prince Edward Island. Mr. Fox, it will be remembered, purchased the principal part of the collection last year and made a wonderful display in his show windows, which was photographed and I believe was published in this paper and also appeared in the Prince Edward Island booklet gotten out by the Travel Bureau.

The American National Fur Breeders' Association sale followed the above sale in New York and the following interesting prices were registered. Top prices for furs were \$84. high prices for the darker phases offered were \$34. \$42. \$48. \$34. quarters \$24., eights and darks \$18. The market was said to be up about 5 per cent over the March levels.

Women's Wear Daily, New York, gives a good account of the Can-

adian Fur Auction Company's sale of silver fox pelts which was concluded Friday, April 24th. The attendance was only moderate and New York dealers greatly diminished in numbers as they filled their requirements, although some remained until Friday and absorbed the best of the selected and regular full silvers which South Americans also bought. Most of the regular half to three-quarter silvers were bought by Canadians as were some of the selected and regular full silvers.

Selected full silvers, of which the offering was large, included a few white-faces which ranged from \$64. to \$68. for large selects, and \$46. to \$54. for medium selects. Large "special" full silvers brought \$58. large selects \$52. Large grades ranged from \$39. to 46. A few high calibre small skins sold at \$43. In the B grade, large skins sold at \$32. to 48. medium \$34. to \$46. small \$32.

One thing the auctions have demonstrated very clearly is that there is a good demand for white-marked silver foxes, those with distinct ring-neck being accorded higher prices, other qualities being equal. All of us felt when we looked at these new types that there was something attractive about them and the writer believed that even though a great many dealers expressed the opinion that they would not be a "go," yet what appeal to the breeders is that they liked to look at would also appeal to those who buy—the ladies.

White face silvers are particularly in demand in South America, which has been educated to them to some extent because purchases made in Norway prior to the war. Now that Norway is out of it as far as exportation of skins, we have come into and need to be educated if the trade is carefully handled there should be a continued market in those rich southern Latin-American countries. Their people are now enjoying a great purchasing power through the lend-lease program of assistance from the United States and also abundant purchases by allied powers. Particularly Great Britain in the Argentine and Brazil.

It is fortunate that such an outlet exists for our pelts, otherwise a great many of us would have to either curtail our operations very greatly or go out of business. It will be noted that in the reports of the Montreal sale emphasis was placed on the fact that the better classes of skins were being purchased by outside buyers, which shows that the Canadian market is not receptive to the extent it was formerly to high grade specimens.

The feed situation is receiving the attention of quite a number of fox ranchers and of Dr. C. K. Gunn, Superintendent of the Experimental Fox Ranch, Summerside. The Doctor visited us the early part of the week and showed the writer some plans for experiments with three rations, the one having as their objects the practical elimination of horse meat and tripe from the diet of the fox. Great credit must be given to Dr. Gunn, whose brain is active all the time in the interests of our industry. That something will come from his experiments we can be sure. They look good to us.

The following letter has been received from Omar Brater-Larsen: "In The Kernel" column of your April 1942 issue, (Fur Trade Journal of Canada) you advise your readers that I am operating fox ranches at Alanson and Harbor Springs, associated with Howard Ericson, Underwood. I would appreciate your rectifying this. I have bought two ranches in Michigan—together with two of my Norwegian friends. These ranches are operated under the name of Petoskey Fur Farm, Inc., and an Manager, Mr. Howard E. Ericson is engaged by me as my Chief Caretaker. I just had Mr. George Calbeck and Dr. Russell for dinner, and at that time told them that it could be quite possible that I will be able to put the Guelph meeting this year. If so, I trust I will have the pleasure of meeting you."

We wrote Mr. Brater-Larsen expressing our regret that an error had occurred in reporting the opening of his ranches, and that we were very pleased to hear from him. We expressed disappointment that he had not settled in Prince Edward Island, where I am quite sure a great many ranchers would be pleased to have assisted in the stocking of his ranch. He will be an invaluable asset to the United States as anyone will agree who witnessed his success in putting the Norwegian silver fox industry on the map. We have requested that we be kept in touch with us so that we may be in a position to give our readers his views on breeding and other problems, we on our part being willing to exchange whatever help we are in a position to give.

Weekly Live Stock Market Report

OTTAWA, CANADA April 23, 1942
Eastern cattle receipts were stepped up during the past week and trading was active at steady to strong prices. In the West the offering was little lighter and prices worked unevenly \$5 to 50c higher, with a good demand for steady to stronger, while hogs were unchanged and lambs made a gain of 25c at Toronto, the only centre which had an appreciable quantity on offer.

Eastern Cattle Markets
Packers were bidding briskly with American buyers and local butchers at Toronto and with increased offerings weighty steers were strong at \$10 to \$11, with some up to \$11.50. Butcher steers were firm at \$9 to \$10.50. There was a good demand for light and sales were active at Montreal with medium to just good steers at \$10 to \$10.35 and an odd \$10.50. The bulk of the good cows sold for \$8, with odd sales up to \$8.50. The Maritime market was strong with best steers quoted at \$9.50 to \$10.

Western Cattle Markets
The Winnipeg market made a good recovery from the decline of the previous week and all classes were 25c to 50c higher under a somewhat lighter supply. The better grades of shipping steers sold at \$10.50 to \$11 and very ordinary steers sold downward from \$9.50. There was good action on replacement cattle and heavy feeders were in demand at \$9.50 to

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United States Market

On the Buffalo market several loads of Canadian steers sold from a top of \$13.50 downward to \$11.50. Some odd lots of various weights sold down to \$10.50 and hogs were down to \$9.75. Bulls ranged between \$8.50 and \$10.50 and cows between \$6.50 and \$8. Receipts at St. Paul included 92 loads of Canadian and all slaughter cattle field steady. Medium to good Canadian steers brought \$11 to \$12.60 to medium helpers \$9.25 to \$11 and culler to good cows \$7 to \$9.75. Medium to good feeder steers were \$11.25.

Exports to the United States during the past week totalled 10,421 beef cattle, 558 dairy and 2,294 calves. Shipments from April 1st to 23rd of beef cattle under the second quarterly quota were 30,587 head. Exports from January 1st to April 23rd, with corresponding figures for 1941 in brackets, were: beef cattle 78,177 (31,333); dairy 5,380 (4,286); calves 19,123 (15,170).

Calf Market Generally Firm

Calf prices opened 50c lower at Toronto but the loss was regained

Hogs Continue Unchanged

There was no change in the hog price situation with Toronto paying \$15.15 for grade B-1 hogs dressed and Montreal \$15.25 to \$15.40. Winnipeg sold the basic grade at \$14 to \$14.10. Calgary \$13.75, Edmonton \$13.75 to \$14.25. Prince Albert \$13.75 to \$13.95. Moose Jaw \$13.75. Regina \$13.75. Saskatoon \$13.60 to \$13.75 and Vancouver \$14.60 to \$14.75. The price at Moncton was \$15.25.

Lambs Gain at Toronto

The Toronto market marked up a gain of 25c on Monday and best lambs closed the week at \$13. At \$11 each and last year's crop up to \$10.50. Winnipeg had some Montreal, few spring lambs sold at

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Phone 454

Regulation Re Brooder Houses

The following is a regulation of Prince Edward Island Mutual Fire Insurance Company.

All Brooder Houses must be at least 150 feet from the nearest insured building.

This regulation is for the mutual protection from fire of the Insured and the Company.

DATED this ninth day of April A. D. 1942.

Prince Edward Island Mutual Fire Insurance Company

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Great River, Pezers Road, Murray Harbour, North, Gaspeaux, Sturgeon, Lower Montague, Sparrows Road to Hazelbrook. Commencing Tuesday, May 5th once weekly until further notice. (Signed) Gordon Haynes hauling for Hazelbrook Dairying Association. Mermaid, tion.

NOTICE

Fender for Cheese Maker for Hillsboro Cheese Factory will be received up to noon May 6th, Write JAMES MUNN, President, Mermaid, tion.

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