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NEW YORK FUR MEN DEFEND THEIR SALES

Criticisms as to Permanency of New York Fur Sales Answered by Managers. In New York Times.

The New York Times of recent date says: The advisability of placing goods on sale at the New York auction is discussed in the first annual report of the Fur Sales Board of the Silver Black Fox Breeders' Association of Prince Edward Island, and the following summary of opinions is given: Many of the wholesale dealers do not appear to favor auctions on this side of the Atlantic, and freely give their opinion that such sales cannot become a permanent factor in the market. The reasons they advance are first, that the directors of the United States auctions are themselves fur dealers, while the several London concerns which carry on auction sales never buy or sell for their own account and thus do not enter into competition with the bidders; second, that so far many of the lots put up at auction in America are bid in by their owners, and frequently bid up beyond their value, just for the purpose of influencing the market. This is not permitted in London, where the owner of a pelt or a lot of pelts has only one reserve bid. For these reasons, they claim, the London auctions enjoy the confidence of buyers throughout the whole world. How much is in these objections we can only guess. But time will tell. If the United States sales can be carried on on the plans of the London auctions there seems no reason why they should not become as important to American trade as the London sales are to the world's market.

Officials of the New York Fur Auction Sales Corporation, who were informed of these objections, made a detailed denial of the statement put down as facts in the above. Taking up the point that the directors of the United States auctions are fur dealers, while the several London concerns which carry on auction sales never buy or sell for their own account, an officer of the fur company said: "This may have been true before the war started, but since that time the London auction companies have been selling goods for their own account. Regardless of whether this practice is carried on only during the war or discontinued after the war, the fact that fur dealers are interested parties in the company that carries on the New York auctions should not be construed as detrimental to buyers. The con-

pany is interested only in the selling of furs and the personnel of the company had no bearing on that point. "There is one very obvious advantage that comes of having dealers interested in the company that holds the auctions. The dealers have the best interests of the industry at heart and they will not sanction holding a sale at a time when circumstances have proved it would be disturbing to the trade at large. An instance of this is given in the decision to hold no June sale here this year. In the past we have found that the June sale has a depressing effect on the manufacturing trade, owing to the fact that prices realized at that time are generally lower than at other periods. The Spring catch is usually of a poorer grade than others, and the skins, being of inferior quality, sell for less. The manufacturers in June are just selling their goods and the influence of lower prices for raw skins does not enable them to realize the prices they should for their merchandise.

"The fur markets that led before the war had no such regard for the interests of the manufacturers. The companies that ran them off were in business to sell furs and make commissions, consequently we had the very unsettling influence of sales conducted at times when the manufacturing trade suffered injuries. Another official of the New York company taking up the matter of "bidding in" refutes the claim of the wholesalers whose opinions were printed by the Fox Breeders' Association, that New York auctions were reclaimed by the shippers.

"There wasn't 5 per cent of the total amount of offerings bid in at the last sale," he said, "and it is easy to explain why even this quantity was taken back by the shippers. In a large sale of the kind there are always a number of the lots that pass unexpected by prospective buyers. Because their value is not known when they go under the auctioneer's gavel, the bids often do not represent their real value. Shippers are consequently forced to buy them in. This explanation, I think, will account for pretty close to the 5 per cent mentioned.

"The commission that has to be paid by shipper and buyer alike is sufficient to discourage bidding in. At the St. Louis auctions the shipper is only obliged to pay 2 1/2 per cent. selling commission, but beyond that the New York sale, who wants to protect his offerings, must pay 5 per cent. selling commission and 1 per cent. discount to the buyers. In other words the shipper has to pay the same price to protect his goods as to have them sold. Consequently the charge that furs are bid up beyond their values by shippers to influence the market is groundless.

"As far as the protection of goods is concerned, however, there is no auction held where this is not permissible. It is the ordinary practice for dealers and shippers to the London sales to protect themselves to a certain price. The companies running the sales undertake to do this for those who are not present at the auctions. Not one bid, but as many bids as are necessary to give the protection, are permitted to all shippers and are made by representatives of the London companies to protect the offerings of absent shippers. "It is hard to understand why these objections to the auctions have been circulated. J. M. McClure of the Silver Black Fox Breeders' Association was present at the last New York auction and sold several skins. He appeared to be more than well pleased with the prices received and was understood to be sorry he had not brought a larger collection of furs. In the future we believe that the Prince Edward Island Association will be well represented at the New York auction."

Almost A Centenarian

ST. JOHN, April 23.—Mrs. Hannah Freeze, mother-in-law of Mr. J. E. B. McCready, of Charlottetown died at her home Penobscus, N. B., last night aged 99.

THE WEATHER TEMPERATURE, TIDE MOON ETC.

TORONTO, April 23.—Maritime; cool and north east wind and rather wet with rain in most places. The tide will be high this afternoon at 2.31 and tomorrow at 3.40; it will be high tomorrow morning at 3.54 and Wednesday at 6.02. The sun sets this evening at 7 and tomorrow at 7.01; it rises tomorrow morning at 4.55 and Wednesday at 4.54. There was a full moon on Tuesday, April 18th at 1.07 p. m. The last quarter of the moon will be on Monday, April 24th at 6.38 p. m. The length of today will be fourteen hours and four minutes.

AGRICULTURE, EDUCATION AND PROHIBITION

HON. MURDOCH MCKINNON'S TRIUMPH

The Commissioner of Agriculture in one of the Best Speeches He Has Delivered Makes the Opposition Feel Very Cheap. He Exposes Mr. Hughes' Pettiness in Boasting About His Daughter Being Equal to Seven Other Ladies, and Shows how Mr. Bell's Arithmetic would hardly do Credit to a Schoolboy. He Proves that Education is Better than Ever, and Declares that so Long as the Liberal Wing of the Alliance Put Forward Men Like Mr. Bell as their Champion, Just so Long will Prohibition Prove Ineffective.

In reply to Mr. Geo. E. Hughes, in the legislature. Hon. MURDOCH MCKINNON, said that in rising to speak on the subject before the House, he was not unmindful of the fact that a great deal of time had been spent and a great deal contributed to the discussion. He thought that if that time and discussion had been devoted to the purpose of giving to the electorate of the country an intelligent idea of what had been done in the matter of public business of the province in the last year, or the last four years, the people would have been well enlightened by that time and something useful accomplished. It was quite clear, however, to any unprejudiced person who had listened to the various speeches during the past few days, that the very opposite had been the result of the debate. There could be no mistaking the fact that a great part of the work in that had taken place in the House had been solely for the purpose of belounging the issue. Nearly every gentleman of the Opposition had prefaced his remarks by observing that the present time was a serious and critical one for the Empire as a whole. He thought that for German's situation was perhaps most critical, and they all wondered how a civilized nation like Germany could have descended to her present state. The answer might be given in a few words: the conditions in Germany were due to the fact that there was a bureau in that country which existed for the purpose of garbling and misrepresenting facts; and he thought that in Prince Edward Island there was such a bureau—"the bureau of garbling and misrepresentation," it might be called. A few months ago the people of the country were given a sample of this work in the general election and again, to an intensified extent, in the bye-election in Souris. So far as he could recollect, there had been more garbling and misrepresentation and more false and pernicious statements issued to the electorate in the last campaign than in all other elections combined in the length of his experience and with which he had anything to do. And when the truth was revealed and the falsehoods and misrepresentations incontrovertibly exploded, that "bureau of misrepresentations" withdrew not one of its charges. These false statements had been sent broadcast throughout the country for the purpose of deceiving the people, and those who were responsible for them had no intention of undeceiving anyone. He did not propose to follow the lengthy speeches made by members on the other side of the House, but he would refer to a few matters which had struck him, to show the fallacy of their arguments and the desperate attempts of the Opposition to secure the slightest thing out of which they could make capital. As he had observed before, nearly every member of the Opposition, in opening his speech, remarked that there was a serious time; but he would say there was a more serious time in our history than the present, and that time was about a year and a half ago when the war broke out. When the war broke out the business of the whole world was disorganized. It was known it would be a long struggle, and it was felt that it would have serious effects on business; and it did have that effect in every country. With the rest of the Empire, Prince Edward Island suffered in this respect. There was only one of two courses open to Prince Edward Island and its Government to pursue at that time; the province could continue as it had done in the last three years, not taking its share in the responsibility cast on the British Nation by the War, and might have come out with revenue and expenditure equal, or with a surplus. On the other hand, the province could render all the assistance it could to the cause of the Empire, and place its resources at her disposal. The Government adopted the latter course. One could measure the amount of a deficit, but the amount of damage that could be done, on the other hand, by ascribing the interests of the country was incalculable. So far as the finances of the province were concerned, he

would say that the Government in the public accounts tabled to the people more than the gentlemen on the other side of the House ever did in their time. In order to show exactly how every dollar was accounted for, an outside audit was made. This was the difference between the two parties in this respect. When the hon. gentleman opposite were in power they gave a similar statement in the year 1891, when they laid everything before the public plainly; but after that they never told the country, year in and year out, what the true state of the finances was, although it had been clamoured for time and again. They were in power twenty years and never gave the people a full statement. Whenever the public accounts were brought into the House in former years they contained just as much or as little as they pleased to put into them, and the country never knew what was the true state of affairs. Those gentlemen of the Opposition who had been complaining now of not receiving full information, were some of the members of the government at that time, and perhaps they would recall the efforts of the Conservatives, when in Opposition, to obtain from them such a statement of the affairs of the province as was given the public to-day. Every one of the present Government members came into power, continued the speaker, they had given a full statement, holding nothing back. The public accounts were perfectly plain, and the Opposition might twist the figures as much as they pleased, the result was the same. As an example of the way in which the hon. member of the Opposition acted, he would quote a little from the gentleman's speech. He had said that when the Liberal party came into power there was a debt of \$171,000, and that there was another debt, due to withdrawal of capital, amounting to \$200,000. He admitted that together they made it \$371,000 and coolly informed the House that at that time they borrowed enough money to pay that debt and pay 5 per cent interest on it. This was the starting point in his calculations. How much did they borrow to pay off that \$371,000? He did not tell that to the House, but perhaps he, Mr. McKinnon, might mention the sum: it was \$176,000. If the Leader of the Opposition could explain to the House how the Liberals paid off \$371,000 by borrowing \$176,000 to do it with, then he would admit that that gentleman should be on the other side of the House, leading the Government. How ridiculous the statement was. There was no foundation for it, and the hon. gentleman opposite knew that perfectly well. But it was against his principle to put the true state of affairs before the country. What was the use of following the gentleman further in view of such statements, so obviously absurd? The best statement, and the only one upon which they could rely, was that laid on the table of the House and explained by him.

Hon. Mr. McKinnon then went on to deal with some of the statements made by the speaker who preceded him, Mr. Hughes. That gentleman had also prefaced his remarks by the observation on the seriousness of the time, and so serious did he regard it that he was not going to quote from any school reports or anything else, but was going to give the House "straight talk." He had said that \$45,000 more was paid to officials in departments, over and above what was paid by Liberals. He made that statement in the House and promised to table a statement, but he had not yet done so. Mr. HUGHES: I rise to a point of order. That statement of mine was not in regard to officials only, but it covered the administration of departments as well. Hon. Mr. McKinnon: I would like the hon. gentleman to repeat his statement. Mr. HUGHES: That amount was for salaries of officials and administration of departments; and I may say for his information that I did not include the lunatic asylum, which is \$10,000 more. Mr. McKinnon: You say there is

an increase of \$45,000 in the departments and departments. Mr. HUGHES: Travelling expenses were paid by the Liberals in this time. Now the travelling expenses are added in and some other matters. It goes to show at least that the statements at first made by that gentleman, before he has had time to consider them, will not stand the light of investigation. Mr. McKinnon next went on to deal with Mr. Hughes' remarks on the oats question. The oats, he said, was a sore spot to that gentleman. The oats question was an unfortunate one that should never have arisen had the gentleman on the other side of the House performed their duty as they should have done. That gentleman (Mr. Hughes) had essayed to prove the loss of some \$2500 on the shipment of the oats. If he had been in his place when the hon. member for Souris made this statement in regard to that matter he would never have touched the subject again. There had been no undue delay; all preparations were made, plans were laid and no time was lost that could possibly have been avoided. There was no delay and no loss of time, and if there had been, whose fault was it? They all knew the history of the oats and that a committee was formed to look after the work of collecting it, and the hon. member himself was a member of that committee. A sub-committee was appointed to look after the shipping of the grain, and they were told they could get assistance from the business men throughout the country, from the Premier and from the business men in the City. They appealed to all those sources and obtained assistance. The hon. gentleman who was complaining was only a couple of blocks away from the committee. How much assistance did he ever give them? None at all. If there was a loss owing to lack of assistance, that gentleman was one of those who contributed to it. The committee went to the Premier for assistance. He might have said "I have my hands full already; I cannot spare the time," but he did not. As Premier, he gave all the assistance he could, and as a private citizen he also helped them. If there was any neglect, the hon. gentleman opposite shared the guilt. The committee did the best they could, and they worked without the slightest assistance from the hon. gentleman. This scandal served its purpose in the House opened members on the other side had indulged in misrepresentation, but after the truth had been placed before them some of the Opposition said that they had never mentioned the oats question in their campaign. The people would give them credit for that. The hon. gentleman had also dealt with the hay question had made the statement that no Liberal had been given any contract for the supply of any of the hay. An incident had occurred in the House the evening before and it required some attention. That morning (Wednesday) behind closed doors, while the minutes were being read, a discussion arose consequent upon that incident of the night before. In all his 18 years experience in the House he (Mr. McKinnon) had never known any one to divulge any of the proceedings that had occurred in camera—with one exception, made that day by Mr. Hughes. In the course of a few remarks on the subject, during the reading of the minutes, Mr. McKinnon had expressed the opinion that the reason for the difference between the price of hay in this province and hay in Quebec was the fact that the hay marketed in this province was not as a general rule, as good as first grade hay in Quebec. What he meant was that the best farmers in this province did not sell their hay, they fed it, and therefore a great deal of the hay that

HEAVY FIGHTING ON ALL FRONTS

Germans Admit Loss of Trenches and Claim Successes which Paris Denies. Four Ships Sunk.

(Special to the Guardian.) LONDON, April 23.—Battles of heavy proportions have been in progress on all war theatres except the Balkans. Successes for Allies and Teutonic allies are varied. Four vessels, an Italian steamer, a French barque and two British steamers it is reported have been sunk by submarines. All the crews it is believed are saved. Dr. Von Bethmann Hollweg, German Chancellor, has returned to Berlin after a visit to army headquarters where he discussed the American note to Germany concerning Germany's submarine warfare with the German leaders. The Chancellor's early return is taken to indicate that Germany's reply has been formulated. On the Verdun front where for two months German and French have been battling, the Germans, according to an estimate by the French, to April 22nd used thirty divisions about 600,000 men, or reinforcement, and suffered heavy losses. The Germans claimed the capture of French trenches in Verdun region southeast of Harcourt and west of Deadman's Hill. Paris records taking several German positions in Avocourt Woods. Hill 306 is again under heavy bombardment by the Germans. Artillery duels everywhere which featured the fighting in France and Belgium, were particularly severe. Ten German aeroplanes bombed a Russian port and Dixmude, south of the Somme where French artillery concentrated its fire on German trenches taken by the Germans from the British on the Langemarck-Ypres road, have been evacuated owing to floods which made consolidation impossible. The Germans are using big guns against Ikskull on the Russian front and further south repulsed a Russian attack in the Lake Narowitz region. The annihilation of a German scouting party and the destruction of an Austrian post is told of in Petrograd. Ten German aeroplanes bombed a Russian aviation station at Ozal, an island in the Gulf of Riga. The Italians and Austrians fought a sanguinary engagement on Carso front near Selz, in which the Italians captured 360 metres of Austrian trenches and took in retreating prisoners a quantity of rifles and other war stores. The Russians report in Caucasus region near Achkala, fifty miles west of Erzerum, that they captured an important sector of a Turkish position. Constantinople says that south of Bitlis the Turks defeated the Russians and sent them retreating toward Bitlis. In an engagement east of Mush the Russians were forced to retreat. An attempt of the Russians to debouch south from Trebizond was stopped by the Turks. There was fighting between Turks and Russians who landed on the Black Sea coast ten miles west

of Trebizond. The British relief corps which is endeavoring to lift the siege of Kut-el-Amara made further futile efforts to advance along the Tigris river. Their failure is attributed to the flooded conditions of the country. (Special to the Guardian.) PARIS, April 23.—An official communication says "west of Vauques the Germans tried during the course of the night to capture one of our machine guns which was particularly inconvenient to them. They were repulsed. Eight prisoners remained in our hands. West of the Meuse the enemy did not renew his attacks between Mort Homme. A surprise attack made by us in the wood of Avocourt enabled us to take several posts on road and make few prisoners. East of the Meuse and in the Woerwe region artillery has been only intermittently active. The night was quiet on other parts of the front." (Special to the Guardian.) LONDON, April 23.—An exchange telegraph despatch says a Norwegian barque, name not given, was sunk to-day by a German submarine the crew landed. (Special to the Guardian.) LONDON, April 23.—An official communication on the campaign in France and Belgium issued today by British war office is as follows: "Last night the King's Shropshire infantry recaptured a trench on the Ypres-Langemarck road which was lost April 19th. Our line is re-established." (Special to the Guardian.) BERLIN, April 23.—The German forces were compelled to evacuate their newly won trenches on the Langemarck-Ypres road on account of high floods which made the consolidation of the positions impossible, according to a statement issued today by the German war office. A hand grenade attack by the British south of St. Kloi was repulsed. French trenches on the left bank of the Meuse, Southeast of Harcourt and west of Dead Man's Hill were captured.

(Special to the Guardian.) CONSTANTINOPLE, April 23.—A British camp on the Suez Canal has been attacked by Turkish aeroplanes the war office announced to-day. The aeroplanes dropped bombs and returned successfully. The amount of damage is as follows: On April 20th one of our aeroplanes carried out a flight of 300 millimetres over Deserto-El-Kantara on the Suez Canal in three hours and there pelted successfully with bombs the enemy troops in the camps. The aeroplane returned undamaged. (Special to the Guardian.) OTTAWA, April 23.—Col. J. Wesley Allison has been interviewed. The Ottawa Free Press, prints an interview today in which the Colonel says he is coming to Ottawa to testify before any commission which desires his testimony or before all of them. He stated emphatically he had never made a cent out of his purchases for Canada, that he had never seen the alleged contracts for the division of commissions over fuse orders as cited

COL. ALLISON READY FOR INVESTIGATION

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in the Kyte charges, and knew nothing of them. He had known Eugene Lignanelli formerly of the Ritz-Carlton, orchestra, only as a business man, and had never divided any profits with him. According to the report, Colonel Allison has been a very sick man, and is still a very sick man. He stated the only request for his appearance which he received was from the Davison Commission, and that he had answered by wire that he would be in Ottawa as soon as he was wanted.

ENLISTMENTS IN CANADA

(From Our Own Correspondent.) OTTAWA, April 19.—There were enlisted in Canada during the first three months of the year for active service overseas 85,875 officers, and non-commissioned officers and men, according to the detailed statement given by Sir Robert Borden in the Commons to-day, in reply to a question by Dr. J. W. Edwards of Frontenac. During January the total number of enlistments was 29,212; during February, 26,658; and during March, 32,705. The numbers were distributed as follows for the three months: From the three military divisional areas of Ontario 41,725; from the two divisions of Quebec 6,695; from the Maritime Provinces 7,311; from Manitoba and Saskatchewan 18,942; from British Columbia and the Yukon 67,752 and from Alberta 7,147. The quotas from the divisions of Ontario were as follows: From No. 1 division, with headquarters at London, 9,254; from No. 2 division, with headquarters at Toronto, 23,438; and from No. 3 division, with headquarters at Kingston, 10,039. Number four and

five divisions in the Province of Quebec provided respectively 5,235 and 1,460 men.

Minard's Liniment cures Colds, etc.

ISLANDER IN CASUALTY LIST

Mrs. Elizabeth Chisholm, has received the following telegram. Sincerely regret to inform you 75343 Lance Corp. M. W. Chisholm Infantry officially reported wounded. Admitted No. 8 Stationary Hospital, Wimereux, April 8th. Wounded, left leg. Will send further particulars when received. ADJ. GENERAL. Minard's Liniment cures Diphtheria.

WONDERFUL ADS. TOO LATE FOR CLASSIFICATION

ONE CENT per word each insertion for advertising in this column. Cash must accompany orders. Minimum charges twenty-five cents. "IDEAL" SAUNAGES ALWAYS ON hand at Holman's, Charlottetown. WANTED GIRL FOR GENERAL housework. Apply 188 Queen St. 8275-415Mtf. WANTED—GIRL FOR GENERAL housework. Apply 231 Richmond St. 8294-43LM. WANTED—AT ONE MAID FOR general housework, small family. Apply Mrs. Catherine Allen, 84 Hillsboro Street. 9337-420Mtf. LOST—APRIL 20 BETWEEN GUARDIAN Office and Fennell & Chandlers, pearl pin. Finder please leave here. 9375-421M3f. WANTED—By a young man board and room in a private family. Apply Guardian Office. 8115-4-6 mtf. WANTED—EXPERIENCED LADY Clerks for Dry Goods Department. Apply at R. T. HOLMAN, LIMITED, Summerside. 9384-4-22M3EHL. TO LET—A LARGE BEDROOM on main floor, in private family. All modern conveniences. Apply 84 Hillsboro Street, or Phone 234L. 8204-4-12mtf. WANTED—A MAID FOR GENERAL housework. Apply Mrs. W. C. Cook, 10 Greenfield Ave., Brighton. 9350-4-20mtf. FOR SALE—ONE CLEVELAND bicycle, one year old. Also one Cleveland Bicycle, new this year. Apply J. R. J., P.O. Box 812, City. 9329-4-19mtf. ANY INTELLIGENT PERSON MAY earn steady income corresponding to newspapers. Exporting unnecessary. Address: PRESS CORRESPONDENCE BUREAU, Washington, D. C. 8238-4-14M1mo. AUCTION SALE THURSDAY, APRIL 27th at two o'clock Thomas Folland of Granville will sell his nice driving horse, cow, sleighs, robes, harness etc. W. D. McCoubrey, Auctioneer. 9390-4-24M2pd. WANTED—RELIABLE MAN About 65 with night watch for lobster factory. Must be fairly active. 3 and 4 P.M. Acacia and Imperial Gasoline Engines for sale cheap. Apply to James McCarthy, Mt. Stewart. 9338-4-24M2f. Minard's Liniment cures Diphtheria.