

TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH Silver Fox Farming



Last week's auctions showed continued strong demand for mutation foxes both in the United States and Canada with prices on the whole well maintained. Silver fox on the other hand was in lighter demand and prices in some cases were from five to ten per cent lower.

The Canadian Fur Auction Sales Company venue held last week attracted considerable attention but not nearly so much as the January sale. Women's Wear Daily, New York, has the following from its Montreal correspondent: We re-publish it as it gives the market paid for number of the reputations and white-marked foxes.

MONTREAL, Quebec, Feb. 27.—The third section of Canadian Fur Auction Silver specials, comprising 954, sold on a level with the two previous days and in about the same proportion here as on the last day of the Canadian Fur Auction Sales Co. (Quebec), Ltd., three-day sale. The auction company combined to report that its estimate which was 60 per cent sold, averaging \$67.30, with values unchanged from January. Top prices were \$115 for platinum select; platinum silver \$105 for grade A; pearl platinum \$72 for grade A; and whitemarked \$79 for grade A.

The separate whitemarked offering of 1,192 skins included a few platinum silvers, the best of which brought \$126, and others \$31 to \$52. Ringnecks ranged from \$36 to \$58, and the regular whitemarked \$31 to \$42. Bidding was more spirited than during Monday's offering and a larger proportion changed hands, enabling the auction company to report that its estimate of the combined offering sold at an average of \$40.90, and decline of 2 per cent from January sale. Attendance at the January sale dropped to about 30 persons, but an active group of about a dozen New York dealers sufficed to stimulate fair activity. They bought the higher priced platinum and whitemarked silvers. Some also went to Latin American buyers.

Half-Silvers Sell Well British buyers made the small offering of 341 half-and three-quarter silver foxes one of the features today. While other groups were reported unchanged, the one-half and three-quarter silvers were officially estimated 2 per cent higher than January, with a 10 per cent of the catalogue sold at an average of \$30.16. Top price was \$40 for B grade, which ranged between that figure and \$20 for grade C, \$22 to \$31 was paid.

For some time we have been wondering how the new type blue fox which the Norwegians and Swedes have developed would appeal to the buyers. Well, here is the answer. Some Swiss buyers, who bought the higher priced platinum and whitemarked silvers. Some also went to Latin American buyers.

And now we hear from New York— A surprisingly strong demand for mutation silver fox yesterday afternoon, Fraser & Tuth, Inc., resulted in a turnover of 78 per cent of 2,064 platinum silvers for the account of members of the Progressive Color Phase Silver Fox Association and independent shippers at levels reported by the auction company to be unchanged from average compared to the January, 1946, sale.

The sale attracted a very good attendance throughout the day, particularly during the morning and early afternoon sessions and produced spirited bidding and, on many occasions, keen competition. Price levels on those skins offered were "very firm," according to the auction house, with two lots reaching \$100. The sale continues with lot numbers 79 to 104 today.

White-marked silvers went on sale late in the afternoon, and only seven pages, approximately 20 per cent of the offering of 1,909 skins, were offered before the sale was postponed until 10 a.m. today. Price levels on those skins offered were "very firm," according to the auction house, with two lots reaching \$100. The sale continues with lot numbers 79 to 104 today.

And now we give our readers an authoritative report issued by Canadian National Silver Fox Breeders' Association Fur Marketing Department whose manager, George A. Callbeck, attended the Canadian Fur Auction sales last week in the interests of his organization. During the month of February, Auction Sales of raw furs have been held in Canada and U. S. A. Price levels on the whole have remained firm to slightly easier. The London market is consuming fairly large quantities of darker color phase silvers, but the demand for inferior types is not extensive. The lack of interest in inferiors may be due in part to large quantities of old and inferior skins from other countries.

The Canadian Fur Auction Sales Co. (Quebec) Ltd., concluded their February Auction on the 27th. This sale opened on Feb. 20th, with the selling of mink and fox catalogues began on the 25th. Ranch mink sold at price levels prevailing in January while the fox catalogue was sold at an average price of \$31.13.

Buyers representing U. S. A., Mexico, South America, London, and Canada were present, with the latter taking a small percentage of the lots offered. The attendance of buyers was not large.

On Tuesday morning, the sale opened with a special offering of 710 skins under the heading "Specials and New Types." This was an attractive collection of skins, and was announced by the Sale Co., London, as being a special offering of skins from the Manitoba Pelt Show. 76% of the collection was sold at an average of \$53.92.

The following summarizes the sale of the Fox Catalogue:

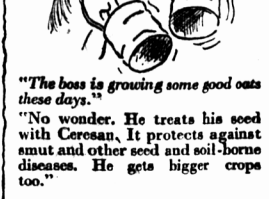
Table with columns: No. Skins, Av. Price, Jan. 1946. Rows include C. F. A. S. Specials, White-marked silvers, Western Can. new types, etc.

From the above it will be noted that prices for "Specials" and White-marked types were on a level similar to that established on the January sale. While a slight decline in silvers is indicated, excepting 1-2 to 3-4 types, prices on a quality basis remain ed firm at Jan. levels. 45% of the total offering was sold as against 49% of the January offering.

It is the intention of this Special Collection to offer our second 1946 "Special Collection" on the Can. Fur Auction Sales Co. (Quebec) Ltd., March Sales.

The mild weather of the early part of this Spring has disturbed the sequence of matings in many ranches, particularly where polygamous males are used. Some get over the difficulty by leaving females in with males at night taking a chance on there being a mating. One rancher we spoke to has had very good results that way, claiming that he got six or eight more litters last season by doing it. It appears that foxes are more prone to mate in the morning of late evenings and would rather keep quiet during the day.

NEWSY NOTES



CERESAN

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In many ranches it is difficult to carry out this program as the employees leave around five o'clock in the evening and do not arrive at work until eight or in most cases arrangements can be made to carry out the early morning and late evening matings.

From now on the litters will be coming along in a very lively way and it will be well to be on the alert and see that the females are sufficiently laxative so that they often have difficulty in whelping. Liver, if it can be obtained, you can make to the diet. If not you will have to use bran or some other substitute.

The present mild weather is ideal for litters but of course at this season of the year there is always a probability of very heavy frost coming in. We remember that on the 17th of March some twenty-odd years ago the thermometer registered 19 below zero and litters were lost. Now is the time to look over dens and get things ready but do not disturb females that are near whelping as it might cause abortion. Females often abort just from jumping off the roof of the fox houses, in fact it might take very much in some cases to cause the loss of a litter.

From what we can learn there should be a great crop of foxes this season. All over the province matings have been good and the weather has been favorable for the development of the pups. There has been a tremendous number of mutation matings and we believe that this fall we will have a lot of foxes born are mutations.

We have had several inquiries

Table with columns: Sold, Av. Price, Jan. 1946. Rows include No. Skins, Av. Price, Jan. 1946.

Report of Bristol School for the month of February.

HENDON, England.—(CP)—Mayor A. W. Curton has sent 15,500 "be courteous" letters to children of this Midlands town whom he says have been "applying the toughest training of soldiers."

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MARCH WEATHER-LOBE

"In March," says the Naturalist's Calendar, "the appearance of the sky changes; the grey blanket of storm-clouds disappears and cumulus clouds by day tell us that Spring is near."

The older generation of Islanders is more difficult to please in the winter months than the younger generation. The roads get soft and unsuitable for wheels or sleighs. Here are two good things waiting to be put into rhyme!

March has always been a favorite month with the poets, and the words of the old rhyme are still true. "That hight (was called) March, when O I made first man," says Chaucer. "That hight (was called) March, when O I made first man," says Chaucer.

In England the farmer desires nothing as much as a dry, cold March. "A dry and cold March never begs its bread."

"A wet March makes a sad harvest. March rain spoils more than clothes." "A peck of March dust is worth a king's ransom."

Makes the corn green and the flax grey. The 8th of the month is "old St. Matthew's Day, when the Saint was supposed to be born."

Actually, from the change in the calendar to New Year's day, the 11th, 12th, and 13th, but as the point of the old rhyme lies in their being the days of the month, they form a fitting conclusion to this Note.

How Many Kinds of Owls? A request reached me, from a lady in King's County, for a list of Owls known to reside in the area.

The Barred Owl, (A. O. U. 368). Our commonest owl. No ear-tufts or "horns." Eyes black. Breast and underparts striped. Length 20 inches. This is the "Hoot Owl."

The Great Gray Owl, (A. O. U. 370). Largest of our owls, but an infrequent winter visitor from the north. It is a large owl, with a wingspan of 50 inches. Length 27 inches.

The Eastern Screech Owl, (A. O. U. 371). A small hornless, grey owl. Rarest of Canadian owls, a specimen was taken in 1906, but no specimens are available. This is an Arctic species of the Saw-Whet Owl of slightly larger size, with a length of 10 inches. A beneficial species, but too rare to have any economic effect.

The Aspid or Saw-Whet Owl, (A. O. U. 372). Smallest Eastern owl, fully described in a recent issue of The Guardian. Beneficial; eats mice, and insects. Length 4 inches.

The Snowy Owl, (A. O. U. 376). A large owl, about the size of the Great Horned Owl. It is a nearly white bird, without ear-tufts, and is about 25 inches in length. They appear here in force at intervals determined by the scarcity of food in their home grounds.

The American Hawk Owl, (A. O. U. 377a). The 1916 Bulletin reports this as a rare summer resident. Tavernier however states that it is a common bird in the settled regions only in winter. "A medium sized owl of somewhat hawk-like build and habits. Length 15 inches. No tail as to its food, but its smaller size stamps it as a 'mouser.'"

ATTENTION FARMERS

HAVE YOUR FARM WAGONS EQUIPPED WITH STEEL WHEELS THAT WILL LAST A LIFETIME. WRITE OR APPLY AT REAR 52 1-3 GRAFON ST.

quiet stolid way Scudder loved every thread in its folds. Kitty, who was dancing a rumba with Len Hewitt, caught sight of Scudder in the doorway. With a pang she realized he was taking Dorian home. Her eyes swept the moving throng for Jim's brown head. She sighed with relief, discovering that head moving like a diving rod straight at Scudder. The cymbals crashed together as she hoped Jim and Scudder would not. Len Hewitt puffed and rubbed his hands together. Charmin' woman, handsome partner on any floor. "Eh, that was good, wasn't it?"

There is a bounty on the destructive species, and in order to preserve the beneficial owls and gunners should make themselves acquainted with their characteristics. Owls are now scarce in the country and are being exterminated by gunners who have no knowledge of the species and believe that they are doing in destroying these beneficial birds.

The Second Mrs. Draper

By Noel Pierce CHAPTER XXIV Jim saw his father and Kitty sitting on the veranda to them. "Hello, Mr. Draper, madame and Mr. Draper. What will you have?"

He walked out to the bar for a special water, madame and Mr. Draper. "What will you have?"

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ANNUAL MEETING

P. E. I. DIVISION OF THE CANADIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY CHARLOTTETOWN HOTEL DINNER AT 6:00 P.M. TUESDAY, MARCH 12th ALL MEMBERS CORDIALLY INVITED Please Phone 432 for Reservations by Monday, March 11.

ANNUAL MEETING

P. E. I. Potato Growers' Association Canadian Legion Hall 57 Grafton Street—Below Prince Edward Theatre Thursday, March 14, 1946 2:30 P.M. and 7:30 P.M.

The Annual Meeting of the P. E. I. Potato Growers' Association for the transaction of general business will be held in the Canadian Legion Hall. We invite anyone interested in the potato industry to attend.

7:30 P.M. an Educational Meeting at which will be present those who will discuss various phases of the potato industry. Films on the use of fertilizers, spray materials and the control of plant diseases will be shown and discussed. Everyone is invited to take part.

The need for a revision of our trade agreements and lower tariffs on potatoes will be considered. It is in your interest to be present at both meetings.

By Order of Directors, P. E. I. POTATO GROWERS' ASS'N. 3-5-7-9-12-14.

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LOOK IN YOUR WARDROBE AND SEND SOME OF THE SPRING CLOTHES THAT YOU HAD STORED AWAY FOR THE WINTER. IT WILL SAVE INCONVENIENCE LATER.

OUR SANITONE DRY CLEANING PUTS NEW LIFE INTO GARMENTS. THEY COME BACK LIKE NEW.

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Advertisement for SEMESAN BEL featuring a pig and text: "SEMESAN BEL... controls Rhinectonia and seed-borne scab of potatoes."

Advertisement for BRAY CHICKS featuring a chicken and text: "ORDER NOW! BRAY CHICKS ORDER HERE!"

Advertisement for SEMESAN BEL featuring a pig and text: "SEMESAN BEL... controls Rhinectonia and seed-borne scab of potatoes."

Large advertisement for Sterns dry cleaning with text: "LET US HAVE SOME OF YOUR SPRING CLEANING NOW!" and "Sterns Where Cleaning is An Art".