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### TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH Silver Fox and Mink Farming

Evidently there has been too many auction sales of mink since December and now the United States auction companies have gotten together and decided to space them out a bit. The March sale of Lamson, Fraser & Huth is postponed until April 1st, and 2nd. Similarly other sales will be spaced ahead.

The writer just returned from a short trip to New York and while there was a guest at the Hotel New Yorker. One thing I noticed was the great number of capes that were worn by the ladies. Some mink but most of them imitations of mink or other furs not in the same expensive category as mink. The really nice capes I noticed were silver fox, white faced silvers and mutations such as platinum. Many of these were really attractive and it seems to me that it will not be too long before they will be back very strong in popular favor.

Just now business is not so brisk in the largest city of the world. The disturbed international situation and political repercussions as well as the high cost of living have put a crimp in luxury goods, or it may be only seasonal. Anyhow, furs like many other luxuries are not moving as fast as the dealers wish so prices are cut in many cases to stimulate sales. Presidential election year is not as a rule a good business year because there is the uncertainty as to what may happen with a change of government or presidents. Some parties I talked to thought that when Spring rolled around the outlook would be improved, that the present season is mostly the duller. We hope that will be the case.

The recent auction put on by the Canadian Fur Auction Sales Company, Ltd., was not nearly as good as expected. Demand was lacking for the better class goods in silvers and average prices and quantities sold did not measure up to January results. At this writing no official report has been issued.

At the general sale of furs which preceded the sale of silver fox and mutations beaver, which is usually a staple article, declined 20 p. c. and only 55 p. c. of the catalogue was sold, although it was a good collection. Other was 60 p. c. sold at a 15 p. c. decline. Mr. Prentiss, General Manager, said that the decline was less than expected and that if it had to come it was better now than later. The offering of 11,000 red fox brought a low range of prices with ones and twos selling between \$1.25 and \$5.50, a decline of 10 p. c.

Wild mink was 40 per cent sold and declined 20 per cent from January, while ranch mink was 42 per cent sold and declined 10 per cent. One entire day was devoted to mink and the wild mink fifteen sections from coast to coast. The highest price was \$3. for a string of ones and twos, extra large and large, that came from the United States. The ranch catalogue of 28,162 skins had a top of \$22.50 for ones and twos, extra large and large, extra dark and dark. \$24.50 was paid for British Columbia half-bloods ones and twos. The auction company stated the collection of wild and ranch mink offered was not as good as that in the January sale.

Women's Wear Daily has a half page devoted to silver, platinum and Norwegian blue fox with news of the interest created in different sections of the U. S. A. In Washington fox is returning to the fashion picture, principally because of the beauty of the platinum fox and the blue fox, while silver fox holds second place in sales. Red fox is completely out of the picture. In Chicago the silver fox jacket rates as number one seller in the fox family. Following in second place in some stores is platinum with Norwegian blue in the same position in still other departments. In some American cities silver fox has not made a comeback. These include Detroit and St. Louis.

While a great fuss is being made about the Communists and Russia's actions in Europe, with prac-

### Sow STEEL BRIGGS

STEEL, BRIGGS SEED CO. LIMITED  
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No comparison of mutation types is given, due to a large percentage of these being withdrawn from the sale. The 70% reported sold at \$14.91 average covers only the Standard Silver sections of the catalogue.

Canadian National Silver Fox Breeders' Association Fur Marketing Department

I remember C. M. Daniels of New York, a famous breeder of foxes and exhibitor, looking at some foxes I was showing at Muskogon. I had tags on their cages with their scores on them. He came around to see them several times and finally asked me what I would take for the female I bought from you. He offered me a pup and a thousand dollars, the pup being out of his sweepstakes female and a mighty nice looking one. I asked my partners if they wanted to take the offer but they would not sell. As years went by I was not sorry, she produced 1/2 and six pups every year and some of her offspring were still better than herself. I have two standard females in the ranch now. One of them had 21 pups in three years the other eighteen. They are both mated this year and will have other pups the first of April. One of them had five platinum and two standards, the other four

### - NEWSY NOTES -

By Agricola

#### A PHASE OF SOCIALISM

We have seen the rise and fall of National Socialism—Nazism—which decreed that man existed only to serve the State, but which did not interfere unduly with the great industrialists as long as they played into the hands of the Government. We have seen the rise of the British Socialism which is at present moving in a strange diagonal by nationalizing industry in easy stages, and, as far as may be, leaving the common man his ancient liberty. And some of my contemporaries are old enough to have seen the rise—and the decline—of a phase which may be termed as Revolutionary Socialism, though it was commonly called Anarchism.

Anarchism was the brain-child of a visionary called Proudhon who died in 1855. The central demand of this philosophy was complete liberty for all men; and its disciples conceived that the destruction of all rulers, Emperors, Kings, or Presidents, was to precede its liberation. Here then is the reason for the name Anarchist, which was as notorious in Victoria's time, as Communist is now. Anarchy means "without rule."

There had been notable outbreaks of the revolutionaries in Chicago (1886); in Spain and France (1892); Barcelona (1894); and Paris and Greenwich, London, (1894). These disturbances having been put down by the authorities, the plotters turned to assassination. President Carnot, of France was the first victim (1894). Then the Empress of Austria (1888); King Humbert of Italy (1900); and finally W. McKinley, President of the U. S. A. (1901), were assassinated.

The cruel murder of the Empress

platinums and two standards last Spring.

I am about out of the business now. Kept a few pair of the best to play with. Feed and help is so high and pelts so low in price there is nothing in it. It looks as though it will take a couple of years to come back. We are all well, and Mrs. Hume joins me in sending the best wishes for the coming year. Thank you for your lovely letter which we are sure will be read with interest by many of your friends who remember you when you were in the fox business here.

From January to May 1947, the Norwegians exported 109,729 silver foxes, 3,587 mink, 35,279 blue foxes and 4,287 platinum silver foxes. A great many of these went to the United States, Mexico and Argentina and in that way became serious competitors for Canadian foxes. It is one of the reasons why fox is so much lower in price in Canada.

The Saskatchewan Fur Breeders Co-operative Ltd. plan to build a \$50,000 plant at Prince Rupert, B. C. to convert fish waste into food for Saskatchewan fur breeders, mink and fox farms. This was announced during the short course in fur farming held in Regina February 22nd, to 24th. Six Directors were appointed to investigate the manufacture and shipping of the fish waste which is expected to take the place of horse meat in the fur animals diet. These officials believe they can use up to two million pounds a year from plants on both the western and eastern seaports. Prince Rupert's fishermen's co-operative is said to be willing to supply the fish waste necessary to operate the proposed plant. They last year handled 60 per cent of the fish landed at Prince Rupert.

President of the group is W. H. Purge, formerly of this Province, who is now a very successful

	MARCH 1948		JANUARY 1948		
	No. Skins	% Sold	% Sold	Av. Price	
Platinums	4232	neglected	76%	\$30.50	
Good & Ord. Qual.					
Platinums	4330	"	60	20.84	
Ord. & Inferior Qual.	1156	"	50	20.86	
Pearl Platinums	7350	"	86	15.19	
White Marked Silvers					
Special Collection					
Western Canada New Types	790	"			
1/2-3/4 Silvers	1575	92%	\$18.00	100%	\$17.28
Selected Fulls	901	75%	20.39	80	22.21
Regular Fulls	5950	81	16.83	89	16.53
Inferiors	10441	70	11.30	99	12.86
Low Grades	3830	45	4.34	86	5.33
	80965	70%	\$14.91	85%	\$17.07

fur farmer, Archie Campbell, Saskatoon, well known to many ranchers here, is another director. We presume the fish bloc is something similar to the fish bloc processed by the National Fish Company, Ltd., at Halifax. It has been used with considerable benefit as part of the diet of our foxes here and in fact throughout Canada and the United States, but it has its limitations and if the Saskatchewan man people think they can bring up foxes and mink on fish wholly or almost wholly take the place of meat they are going to be in for a big disappointment. Excessive use of fish leads to what is known as Chastek Parvity and although this can be overcome to a considerable extent by the feeding of brewer's yeast (Vitamin B) yet it has other effects that make it an unbalanced food.

In Fur of Canada where we pick up the above item, we note where Ken Taylor, representative for fish bloc, had been making his usual calls through the west. Ken won't like competition from the Pacific, he has been a wonderful asset to the National Fish Company, popularizing fish bloc and selling carload lots to ranchers in the United States as well as doing a tremendous business all through Canada.

### Order BRAY CHICKS Early for early Fall Profits!

What Others Say  
Mrs. John C. MacKinnon, Souris, East, P. E. I.—"I have proved that your chicks will live and thrive if given a quarter of a chance."  
Beal Palmer, Woodstock, N. B.—"Lived 100 per cent. Very satisfactory."  
Mrs. Andrew Doucett, Hunter's River, P. E. I.—"You may be sure it will always be Bray Chicks for me."

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Miss Gertrude Doucett, Hunter River  
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120 John St. N - Hamilton' Ont.

With this houseplant, and one ob-servant lady compares the shape (but not the color) of the flower to that of a violet. In this statement my correspondent had upon the essential difference between the pelargonium and the geranium: the former has irregular flowers, with petals not all alike. Two of "Happy Thought" petals are smaller than any of the other three, thus giving a violet-like effect. Most pelargoniums, however, have been altered greatly by plant-breeders that this characteristic can scarcely be recognized: in the double varieties it is utterly lost. Another pelargonium with a parti-colored leaf is named "Household Pet"; it has green leaves with white edges, and very double pink flowers. This is not as hardy as "Happy Thought" and so I have not been able to distribute many cuttings.

The scented pelargoniums, with "cut" or divided leaves, are graveolens, and are fairly common here, often called Rose Geraniums. I have P. graveolens variegata, which has white-edged leaves, and not quite as pleasant an odor as the green-leaved variety. The flowers of this species are smaller than those of the round leaved groups. I have lately acquired a plant of P. tomentosum, which has a strong peppermint odor. This plant is remarkable for the length of the leaf-stalk and the shortness of the blade. It seems to be hardy and there should be cuttings to distribute if all good will.

Some Pelargonium Notes  
Last season I gave away several rooted cuttings of a "geranium" variety known as "Happy Thought." This variety has the centre of the leaf yellow, and the edge green; it has a red bloom. Some of the recipients have written to express their satisfaction

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