

MODERN FARMER



TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH Silver Fox and Mink Farming

At this writing complete records of the Canadian Fur Auction Sales Company, Ltd., Montreal, sale of silver fox and mutation pelts have not been received, but sufficient is on hand to give a picture that is not only discouraging but disheartening. On Tuesday, the special collection of the Canadian National Silver Fox Breeders' Association consisting of upwards of 1,000 mutation pelts selected from the show foxes of Prince Edward Island and Ontario, went on sale and 40% was sold at an average of \$47.25, which is about one-half the average obtained for the same type of skins within the past two years. Inferior pelts were 44% sold at an average of \$24.63; white marked silvers were 24% sold at an average of \$20.12; selected full silvers were 56% sold at an average of \$25.54; regular full silvers were 30% disposed of at an average of \$19.45; inferior silvers were 36% sold at an average of \$12.21.

Last week we mentioned that the Canadian Government had arranged with the United States Government to discontinue the quota system and that the duty on silver fox was put back at 37 1/2%, which is 2 1/2% more than we have been enjoying for several years. We stated that we thought the 2 1/2% would have an unfavorable influence on the market, that is the American buyers would note it and cut down their price bids accordingly, and this very thing happened so that the all-over picture for silver fox as far as markets are concerned this year does not look to be a happy one.

The only bright part about it is the fact that most of us can utilize to a more or less extent the marketing plan of the Federal Government which we believe gives an average price above those obtained at the auction. Of course it will depend on the category the grader places your pelts in. If you grade as A, you won't fare too badly, but if you get into the lower category you will be receiving the inferior type prices.

Once again we would impress on our readers the necessity of writing to members and having them take up with the Hon. D. C. Abbott, Minister of Finance, the great importance of removing the processing tax and sales tax. These two taxes contribute more than 25% to the retail price of an article comprised of silver fox or mutation pelts. It has a deterrent effect on stimulating sales as while the price the rancher obtains for the fur is small the combined total due to manufacturers, government and retail prices makes the article too high for the would-be purchaser who has heard all about the low prices for silver foxes and probably has an idea of buying but gets frightened off.

We positively know of dozens of people right here in this city who would buy silver fox for their wives and children right off the bat if these taxes were removed. Multiply our experience by that of hundreds of thousands throughout Canada and you can see that it would be easy to develop a good market right in our own land and who are more entitled to the possession of good furs than our Canadian women. The short-sighted policy which the fur controller has pursued has resulted in the importation of worth of good and trashy furs from Russia, China and all over the world, to the detriment of our Canadian wild and ranch bred furs. We must all of us get behind a movement to curtail the bringing in of these products and to feature our own ranch bred



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- NEWSY NOTES -

By Agricola

The Hooper Farm

The short account of the adventures of Thomas Hooper, loyalist and pioneer, which was printed in this column a fortnight ago, has brought some further information about this farm. I am indebted to Mrs. Wm. M. Stavert of Bedouque, for these particulars:—

"Dear Agricola: We read with much interest, in last Saturday's Guardian, the account of the first Hooper family's arrival at Bedouque. We happen to be living on the Hooper farm.

"This farm property was purchased by my husband's father from Mr. Allison Hooper about fifty years ago. This Mr. Hooper died in Oct. 1945, at the age of 87 years. For a number of years he came to visit us every summer as he always loved this old place, and used to tell us many stories of the past.

"The original house stood for one hundred years and was situated just a few yards west of this one. The West Virginia-creeper comes up every year where the old house stood, and we can still see the pathway to the garden in front, in the centre of which stood a Golden Russet apple-tree.

"The old flowers come up every year, lilies, columbine, polyanthus, also a number of rose bushes, and it was in that corner that the milkweed grew.

"This farm is situated on a point overlooking Bedouque Bay not far from the mouth of the Dunk River, and four miles east of Summerside.

"We have three hundred and sixty yards shore line and two springs almost on the beach now, but when the first Hoopers arrived there was a nice grove of trees between the springs and the shore, so time and tide are leaving their mark.

"About eighteen years ago we had a misfortune which was not without interest. Our horses were turned out to pasture for the night, but in the morning our best horse was missing. We searched the countryside, but to no avail.

"Then in crossing the field, about one hundred yards from our building, we came across old Barney. It seems there had been an old wild dog there which had been filled in, but in the course of the years it had worn away underneath and as the horse had been eating grass with his hind feet over the well, it had given way and he went down backward and out of sight. There must have been buildings there at one time."

Readers will enjoy this letter with its picturesque descriptions. I am interested in the polyanthus, a plant of many varieties, and rather difficult to grow in a dry locality; I should like to examine the bloom.

A trait that rather surprised me was the ease with which the Island farmers parted with their land, and moved to another district. The result has been that few families are now on their ancestral acres. In the England of my boyhood the exact opposite was the case. The Northumbrian farmer looked on his land as almost sacred and never moved off it except under the compulsion of misfortune. A relative of the

Pelargonium v. Geranium

"I notice you call the houseplants Pelargoniums," said a visitor. "Have we any Geraniums on the Island? How should I know a Geranium from a Pelargonium?"

There is a Geranium growing wild at Hunter River, the only locally, to my knowledge, it has large (about 1 inch diam.) flowers of purplish color, and is worthy of a place in the "wild garden." This is the species *G. pratense*, the Meadow Geranium. Seedsmen sell *G. grandiflorum*, which is not very different from

The Name Campbell

Representatives of Clan Campbell were immigrants early in the history of the Island. In the 1798 census there are listed 13 families of Campbells, comprising 81 individuals. These families did not settle in groups as some other families did, but in general there was but one Campbell family to the lot. This seems to denote a vigorous, independent character.

The Campbells have had an interesting and romantic history running far back in the annals of British Britain. Nine centuries ago we find Gillespie Campbell holding lands in Argyleshire. His descendant Colin Campbell, (nephew of Robert Bruce in the contest for the crown of Scotland in 1291, but was later slain in a

Beaver was a large and representative collection of 15,428 skins, comprising about 50 per cent large sizes. More than three-quarters of the catalog was Ontario caught and his collection consisted almost entirely of fresh goods. New York interest centred in the quality lots, bids for which were raised about 7 per cent over February levels. In early dealings, somewhat to the surprise of some elements in the salesroom who had expected cheaper beaver.

A top price of \$70 was paid for North Shore 1 pt. 2 XL, comprised with a top of \$66 for Ontario and \$65 for North Shore at the February sale. North Shore blankets and XL ranged upward from \$59, and two lots changed hands at \$70, while Ontario strings kept between \$40.50 and \$66. The higher price paralleled that recorded in February.

This season, increased demand for silvers is noted in silver fox and platinum fox at T. Worthman. Jackets are shown between 28 and 32 inches long.

Classic lines are retained on jackets here in platinum, silver or lynx dyed white fox, sometimes with scalloped hemlines. Cape sleeves feature snaps. Small collars, faced with fabric, lie flat in back, in coming part of the tuxedo in front. Other jackets are collared, fringed.

Activity in Manhattan's department store and specialty shop fur today following the weekend lull. Interest was noted to be particularly keen in fur furs. Gunther reported its Norwegian blue fox jackets from \$375 up were doing well. Norwegian blue fox jackets at \$450 (they sold for \$650 last year) at Jockey's were also popular.

Downtown at Gimbels the better furs, including platinum, were reported attracting consumer interest.

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conflict with his powerful neighbor, the Lord of Lorne. This was the beginning of a long feud between the two houses which was ended by the marriage of the first Earl of Argyll with the heiress of Lorne.

The son of Colin Campbell fought by the side of Robert Bruce at every battle from Methven to Bannockburn (1314). Bruce was crowned King of Scotland, and rewarded his faithful follower by bestowing on him the hand of his sister Mary in marriage.

Three generations later we find Sir Duncan Campbell raised to the Peerage (1465) as Lord Campbell. He it was who carried the ransom money to London in 1424 to redeem James I of Scotland.

Further dignities awaited the Clan Campbell. The first Earl became Lord Chancellor of Scotland.

The second Earl fell on Flodden's fateful field (1513). The fourth Earl was the first person of consequence in Scotland to embrace the Protestant faith. The seventh Earl was distinguished by his feats of arms at home and on the continent.

The first Marquis of Argyll was born in 1597. He placed the crown upon the head of Charles I at Stone, and afterwards assisted in proclaiming Cromwell as Protector. On the Restoration he made the curious mistake of going to London to congratulate Charles II. The King refused to see him and sent him to the Tower. Charles was implacable towards the "regicides" and those who assisted them, and sent the Marquis to Scotland, where he was tried and executed for high treason (1661). His son suffered the same fate shortly afterwards.

After the Stuarts were driven from the throne, the Campbells attained the highest peak of their fortunes. The successor to the above-mentioned son was made first Duke of Argyll, thus ranking with Princes of the royal blood. Marshall of all the King's forces. Pope says of him: "Argyll, the State's whole thunder-born to wield. And shake alike the Senate and the field."

The eighth Duke died in 1900. He was a brilliant writer and essayist, often writing on scientific matters. He was Postmaster General, Lord Privy Seal, and Secretary of State for India.

The ninth Duke died after I came to Canada and I forgot to jot down the date. I recall, however, that the newspapers mentioned that he had a slight twist in his mouth—a feature said to have originated the Clan name in the first instance.

Scout News and Notices

FORTY-EIGHT FUTURE LEADERS FINISH COURSE

We gleaned the following news items which will be of interest to Island Scouts and Scouters from the Halifax Herald of March 27, 1947.

"TRURO — March 26—Forty-eight future leaders for the Boy Scout Movement met in St. John's Kaulback Hall to wind up their special training course."

The report goes on to say that Mr. W. A. Sneed, Provincial Commissioner (Nova Scotia) conducted a Scoutmaster's and Cubmaster's course for several weeks on Monday nights and Tuesday nights respectively and certificates were presented showing that the leaders had successfully passed the necessary tests making them eligible as Scoutmasters and Cubmasters.

THINGS SOME SCOUTERS WOULD LIKE TO KNOW

What is being done about (1) The one Scout P.E.I. is being allowed to send to the Jamboree. We understand the name of the boy has to be sent to Ottawa by April 14th. (2) The appointment of a permanent full-time Field Commissioner. (3) The improving of the unifying condition of Camp Buchan? (4) The rem-

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ST. PAUL'S TROOP HIKE

On March 29th, the St. Paul's Troop went on a hike to Poplar Island.

The Scoutmaster, George Anderson and his two assistants Messrs. Robert G. Forsythe and Kendrick Gordon accompanied the Scouts and report that the food cooked and eaten on the hike was exceptionally tasty... and a good time was had by all.

This is the first hike report of the season, and it looks as if St. Paul's Troop is right on their toes to lead Charlottetown Scouting both in hiking and reporting of their Troop activities.

We will be having further and interesting reports from this well-staffed and prominent Troop in the future.

GARDENS FOR DEAD

Ancient Incas of Peru honored their dead with terrace gardens rather than with decorative tombs.

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STALLION ENROLMENT

According to the provisions of the Stallion Enrolment Act of stallions two years old and over, standing for service in this Province, must be enrolled in the records of the Department of Agriculture. Horses offering for service must be inspected and graded and carry an inspection certificate. Applications for enrolment and inspection should be made immediately.

Applications for enrolment should be accompanied with the required fee of Two Dollars (\$2.00) and should include name of horse, breed, age, colour, description and Registration Number, if horse is registered.

Stallion owners who use horses for service not enrolled, or inspected or in grades not authorized by the Act will be subject to the penalty provisions of the above mentioned Act. Only horses enrolled, graded and authorized by the Department of Agriculture will be permitted to travel for public service. All horses that have graded "out" will not be permitted to stand or travel for service.

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