

TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH Silver Fox and Mink Farming

Last week in our resume of the history of fox farming in this province we left off at the year 1914 when World War I started and the industry had received a staggering blow. We stated that pelts were sold that fall at from \$1,000 to \$2,000. On further considering the matter we realize that those figures were not correct except for poorer quality animals. We do know of sales that were made in quite late years for \$4,000 and all of that year for \$3,000 a pair. Numerous sales at \$3,000 a pair. The next year breeders that were in the business kept their foxes, and their herds, most of them thinking that perhaps the war would be of short duration.

A forward step was taken by the formation of the Silver Black Fox Breeders' Association of Prince Edward Island, whose President was E. R. Brown and among its members were J. W. Calbeck, Summerside, F. L. Rogge, Alberton, R. W. Stewart, Brudenell, Charlottetown, W. Chester, St. Lawrence, Brudenell, Inspector. Mr. Stewart set up a system of records the outcome of which was a Herd Book, issued in two volumes.

The next step was to endeavor to market silver fox pelts in the United States. To that end a Fur Sales Board was organized in connection with the Association and W. Chester, St. Lawrence and J. W. Calbeck took a number of good pelts to New York to make contact with buyers there. In our account of the mink judgment by George H. Mayers at the Provincial Fox and Mink show in November we mentioned that Mr. Mayers had made reference to the beautiful pelts Mr. McLure had brought to C. M. Lampron's warehouse and the sensation they created. Well, that was the great credit due Mr. McLure for the great judgment and the selling ability he displayed. It brought from chaos to prosperity an industry that was to set a new world's record for popularity and continued good prices. This statement is no exaggeration.

As the demand for silver fox pelts increased Mr. McLure took them to St. Louis Fur Sales and there too, they met with equal popularity. The result was that the farming became a profitable occupation and the number of farms kept on farms continued to increase. Good prices were realized for fox pelts even in London, England during that war. In March, 1918, the writer was in command of a sacrifice battery and had been taken off the front to avoid their being captured in the event the Germans broke through. We fired over 4000 rounds from 8 p.m. the 25th to 6 p.m. the 26th. At four o'clock the firing of March 26th word came through from prisoners that the Germans would attack at 6.30. At that time a barrage and trench bombardment of shells were poured into our position which was continued for several hours. Bombs were blown up and casualties occurred. We were all in bed sleep. The result was that we got ten days leave to London and while walking around I noticed in a shop window a number of silver fox pelts, some of them priced as high as \$200. I said to the proprietor, "Can you really sell these pelts at such prices when the world is coming to an end?" He said, "Yes, we are selling plenty of them. They are beautiful aren't they?" I agreed and determined if I came through the war I would go into fox farming.

The war ended Nov. 11th of that year and in late December an auction sale was held by C. M. Lampron & Co., and a pelt from the Seal River ranch brought \$200 which was the highest price for that auction. The next year, 1919, pelts were selling freely at high prices. I went into buying on commission for Mr. McLure and made good sales and some money. I remember seeing Capt. J. C. Ellis sell Mr. McLure five pelts at an average of \$720 each

and I sold him two that I had bought from Font Kennedy for \$900 alive, for \$1,125 as pelts. Everybody was making money out of silver fox that year and the picture seemed mighty bright.

I started the Vimy Ranch in 1919 in partnership with the late Colonel W. B. Prowse, D.S.O., paying for some foxes and buying some on credit. Our ranch was in the hands of a man who was certainly was a fine and dependable man. In the spring of 1920 the demand for silver fox pelts was very strong and Walter Grant sold a large number from the Fur Producers ranch at prices as high as \$640. There did not seem to be a cloud in the sky until late August when the United States government placed a duty of 50% on silver fox pelts and a 15% duty on live foxes. A terrific slump hit the industry here.

Next week we will tell how we recovered from that blow. Ranch mink sold at prices firm to the Dec. 6 sale at the concluding session of Lampron, Fraser & Huth's two-day auction. Of 36,320 skins offered 72 per cent were sold, with a top price of \$28.50, the company reported.

An offering of 1,073 silverblu dressed was 84 per cent sold, bringing a top price of \$30, according to the company's report. Prices were unchanged from Jan. 13, 1949. Wild mink, in an offering comprised of 4,310 skins, was 40 per cent sold, top price being \$38.50. The company reported this article "sold rather irregularly," but that prices were unchanged from Dec. 6.

Members of the Mink Traders Association, who left the salesroom yesterday when dressed mutations were placed on sale, in protest against the offering of dressed goods, remained in their seats today but abstained from bidding on the dressed article.

Ranch mink prices were considered "about the same" as those of Dec. 6 and 6 sales here by those in the salesroom, with the exception of cheaper quality female skins. These they considered "a little weaker" pointing out that where it was almost impossible to get females of any kind under \$12 ten days ago, it now is possible, but not much under that figure. They attribute this to a lessened demand for this type of female skin from the scarf manufacturing houses.

Good male skins in the ranch mink sections are still bringing about \$22 to \$24-\$25 and good females are ranging from about \$13 to \$17, which means an \$18-\$19 average for good skins now. It is pointed out. This level follows the earlier price structure on the article.

Attendance was much smaller during the afternoon selling than in the morning. In the forenoon, when Great Lakes and UMPA mink was among the offerings, attendance was quite good. The dressed silverblu mink was offered in the morning, and again the members of the Mink Traders Association abstained from bidding on the dressed goods, as they did at Wednesday's sale. Many of the dealers and manufacturers who are members of the Traders were present to watch what occurred during the selling of the dressed goods.

As an aftermath of their walk-out on Wednesday in protest to the sale of dressed goods, the Mink Traders have called a special membership meeting for next Monday evening, at the Hotel New Yorker. This is, no doubt, for the purpose of evaluating their campaign to convince the fur breeders that they will not buy dressed goods.

FREDERICTON — (CP) — A 3,520-acre section of crown land has been leased to the University of New Brunswick for forest experiment purposes. The section will be used to demonstrate forestry methods to students in the university's forest school.

by Ken Reynolds

QUICKIES

by Ken Reynolds

by Ken Reynolds

by Ken Reynolds

by Ken Reynolds

by Ken Reynolds

by Ken Reynolds

by Ken Reynolds

by Ken Reynolds

by Ken Reynolds

by Ken Reynolds

by Ken Reynolds

by Ken Reynolds

by Ken Reynolds

- NEWSY NOTES -

The Purple Finch With this bird we come to a more pleasing sub-division of the Order Passeres. "The various finches, buntings, and sparrows, are much alike in size, often nearly alike in color and habits and generally with a little spur or 'tail' to each. These annual succulent herbs are also called 'Touch-me-nots,' from the impatient shattering of the ripe pods.

We have three species of Jewelweed (Impatiens) here, plants of the shady brook-side, having yellow or orange-colored acetate flowers, with a little spur or 'tail' to each. These annual succulent herbs are also called 'Touch-me-nots,' from the impatient shattering of the ripe pods. The Poison-Ivy is a perennial and is therefore able to take the offensive long before the annual Jewelweed is ready to reveal it. In case the motto is "be prepared," and here's how: "Place the Jewelweed stalk on a sheet of glass and roll a large round bottle over them. Collect and bottle the resulting juice, adding a few drops of grain alcohol as a preservative." I hope some enterprising reader will make trial of this simple remedy.

In the Old Country when we got "netted" the pain was relieved by rubbing the irritated part with fresh dock (Rumex) leaves. How the Ragweed came. Two years ago we had a chicken pen on a piece of hard sod land, and fed the birds with western wheat as they grew older. The following spring there appeared half a dozen species of crucifers and one Ragweed on the spot occupied by the pen. These were all pulled for identification.

Since then the pen has been situated in another place where the soil is of better quality. The birds were still fed with wheat as before, and this spring there came up a solid bed of Ragweed, about eight feet long and nearly three feet wide. I put the scythe over it twice and kept it down. I am rather curious about its progress next spring, and I see that it will take eternal vigilance to keep the Island free from it. Many of our weeds first came in as impurities in feed.

Sulphur treatment for Gladiolus corns. Today I looked over my Gladiolus previous to storing them in a frost-proof mine-proof place. This is the third year in which I have given the corns ("bulbs") the sulphur treatment, and I see no trace of disease. The plants were dug after the first frost, laid aside a day or two to dry out, then after cutting off the leaves and removing the old corns and roots, the new corns are dropped into a bowl of sulphur and shaken about a little, before being put into cotton bags for storage. The sulphur appears to protect from thrips, mildew, and hard rot.

George Frederick Handel (2). Four years must have seemed an age to a youngster of seven, but Handel stuck to his beloved music, till at length suchau, the organist of the Cathedral who had carefully instructed him in general principles, confessed that his pupil knew more than himself! He advised that Handel should be sent to Berlin though he was but eleven years old. At Berlin he was regarded as a prodigy; he stayed there till he was nineteen, then visited Hamburg. He came brought him an offer of the post of organist in that great city, but there turned out to be a catch in it—he must marry the daughter of the retiring organist! The offer was not agreeable and he returned home as happy as he went.

Handel had long wished to visit Italy, "the land of song," and now made his way thither. He was well received and remained there for several years. During this time he worked assiduously, and published two Italian oratorios and 30 Italian operas, besides many lesser works. These did not sell well in England, since they had not the solid texture of the English music. Nevertheless there were fine artists to be found amongst them.

In 1769 Handel returned to Germany. Perhaps he meditated settling there, for he stayed for a while in his old home town, Hill George, the Elector (Prince) of Hanover, who was delighted with him, offered him the post of chapel-master at 300 pounds a year. (Marvel not at the low salary; in 1769 a crown was worth a pound, and a crown hog cost 9 shillings or a little over \$2.) One could be passing rich, on forty pounds a year!

Handel took this position at the court of the Elector for a year, and after visiting his mother—now very old—and Suchau, his old teacher, he set out for London at the close of 1770. The Elector, it may be said, went to England four years later, as George I.

Handel's first care on reaching London, was to publish his first opera "Rinaldo," and this firmly established his reputation as the master composer of his day. The music of "Cara Sposa," from the first act of the opera, with all its pathetic grace, was to be found on all the lips of schoolboys of Britain, on a march it was taken over by the band of the Life Guards, who played it every day for the next forty years! (I believe it is played by regimental bands at the present day.) The brilliant "Tri Cerbero," from the second act, achieved equal fame, but in different fashion. Some English words, to wit, "Let the water bring clean glasses," and it was for a long time the most popular Bacchanalian song of the day.

Handel's publisher made a profit of 1,500 pounds on his sales of "Rinaldo," which drew from the composer an ironic letter: "My Dear Sir,—As it is only right we should be upon an equal footing, you shall compose the next opera and I will sell it!" (To be continued.)

Nature — Notes The conjunction of the planets Jupiter and Venus on the night of December 5th, was a pretty sight. They were only a few degrees apart, almost on the south-western horizon, when I observed them. Venus was the brighter of the two shining with a clear yellow light, contrasting sharply with Jupiter which appeared of a bluish hue.

Jewelweed, versus Poison-Ivy. In the "Family Herald" of Nov. 30, a correspondent offers what may prove to be a valuable antidote to infection by Poison Ivy. "Grash the thick juicy stalks of the Jewelweed," he writes, "and rub the juice into the infected parts. The infection will immediately disappear."

WHAT IS A BOY? "He is a person who is going to carry on what you have started. He is to sit right where you are sitting, and attend to those things which you think are so important, when you are gone. You may adopt all the policies you please, but how they will be carried out depends upon him. Even if you make leagues and treaties, he will have to manage them. He is going to sit at your desk in the Senate, and occupy your place on the Supreme Court bench. He will assume control of your cities, states, and nation; your prisons, churches, schools, universities and corporations. All your work is going to be judged and praised or condemned by him. Your reputation and your future are in his hands. All your work is for him. The fate of the nation and of humanity rests with him. So it might be well to pay him some attention." —Boy's Club News.

BRITISH SPEND BILLIONS FOR LIQUOR AND GAMBLING "We kindly loaned Britain two or three billion dollars to help her out of a serious financial condition. She used it so quickly that it took our breath. The following table shows how the British are using their incomes: Gambling \$2,806,000,000; beer, \$2,652,000,000; wines and spirits, \$668,000,000; cigarettes, \$2,044,000,000; cigars etc., \$368,000,000. The British press says that the money is being spent on beer and tobacco than ever before, and gambling and betting have reached unprecedented bounds." — The United Presbyterian.

We could, of course, drop a hint that no more loans would be forthcoming until she mended her ways, but for the embarrassing recollection that our own nation is probably spending two or three times as much for the same "luxuries" "Habitual use of alcohol, even in moderation, tends to produce dependence on it as a drug, medically." "THE EFFECT OF AN ORDINARY AVERAGE DOSE OF ALCOHOL" "The individual's reaction time is invariably slowed by alcohol; it takes him a mite too long to react in an emergency, so that he drives into a wreck where, in his unintentional haste, he could avoid the accident by quick action. "Here is a clear point which the law, unfortunately, often fails to consider. Under the law it usually is necessary to prove that the individual was "drunk," and that means incapacity greater than the mere intoxication by a beverage dose. "The victim himself cannot and will not recognize his depression by the beverage dose. On the contrary, he believes that he is stronger, braver, better, more competent, when the alcohol is acting. It is difficult for the casual observer to recognize the subtle changes that come from the beverage dose. But they are precisely as I have described, until someone can convert these scientific observations (not my observations but those of the scientific authorities) — "Total abstinence is the only sensible course." —Dr. William Brady.

"The effect of alcohol on the physical and nervous structure is not stimulating; on the contrary it is depressing." "Habitual use of alcohol, even in moderation, tends to produce dependence on it as a drug, medically." —Dr. R. V. Seliger.

holly year tomorrow. This jubilee, one of a series started by Pope Boniface VIII in 1300, will start when Pope Pius opens the holy door at St. Peter's Basilica. A holy year normally occurs every quarter of a century. The Pope, however, may call one for extraordinary reasons. The last holy year, in 1933, was one of the exceptional jubilees. It was called by Pope Pius XI to commemorate the 1,000th anniversary of the death of Christ. Pope Pius criticized both capitalism and communism in his Christmas address, the 11th such message he has given since his election to St. Peter's throne.

Navy Abolishes Rank Of Warrant Officer OTTAWA, Dec. 23 — (CP) — The Navy said today it has abolished the rank of warrant officer and introduced a new rank of "commissioned officer" to take its place. Men with the new rank will wear the single-stripe uniform of sub-lieutenants and will have officers' privileges. The other services are not expected to follow suit in ending the warrant officer rank. The navy last year revised its ratings in a way which made its chief petty officers equivalent to W.O.s. in the other services.

W.C.T.U. NOTES

WHAT IS A BOY?

BRITISH SPEND BILLIONS FOR LIQUOR AND GAMBLING

THE EFFECT OF AN ORDINARY AVERAGE DOSE OF ALCOHOL

THE EFFECT OF AN ORDINARY AVERAGE DOSE OF ALCOHOL

THE EFFECT OF AN ORDINARY AVERAGE DOSE OF ALCOHOL

THE EFFECT OF AN ORDINARY AVERAGE DOSE OF ALCOHOL

THE EFFECT OF AN ORDINARY AVERAGE DOSE OF ALCOHOL

THE EFFECT OF AN ORDINARY AVERAGE DOSE OF ALCOHOL

THE EFFECT OF AN ORDINARY AVERAGE DOSE OF ALCOHOL

THE EFFECT OF AN ORDINARY AVERAGE DOSE OF ALCOHOL

THE EFFECT OF AN ORDINARY AVERAGE DOSE OF ALCOHOL

THE EFFECT OF AN ORDINARY AVERAGE DOSE OF ALCOHOL

THE EFFECT OF AN ORDINARY AVERAGE DOSE OF ALCOHOL

THE EFFECT OF AN ORDINARY AVERAGE DOSE OF ALCOHOL

THE EFFECT OF AN ORDINARY AVERAGE DOSE OF ALCOHOL

THE EFFECT OF AN ORDINARY AVERAGE DOSE OF ALCOHOL

THE EFFECT OF AN ORDINARY AVERAGE DOSE OF ALCOHOL

THE PROVINCIAL BANK OF CANADA

ANNUAL STATEMENT AS AT 30th NOVEMBER 1949

ASSETS table with columns for item and amount. Includes Cash on hand and due from other Banks, Government and other public securities, Call loans, Deposit with the Minister of Finance, Loans and discounts in Canada, etc.

LIABILITIES table with columns for item and amount. Includes Deposits, Notes of the Bank in circulation, Acceptances and letters of credit, Bank premises, Other liabilities to the public, Total liabilities to the public, Capital, reserve and surplus.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT Profits for the year ended November 30th, 1949 after appropriations to contingency reserves, out of which full provision for bad and doubtful debts has been made. \$ 718,711.12

Table showing Provision for Dominion Government taxes, Depreciation of Bank premises, Provision for Staff Provident Fund, Quarterly dividends 6% per annum, Provision for a special dividend of 1% for the current fiscal year, Amount carried forward, Balance of Profit and Loss Account 30th November 1948, Balance of Profit and Loss Account 30th November 1949.

FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS J. L. PATENAUDE, President, J. U. BOYER, General Manager, C. R. CHARBONNEAU, Chief Accountant



CHRISTMAS NEWS FROM NORTH RUSTICO

The North Rustico Guides had their annual concert on Thursday evening and played to a very appreciative audience. Mother Superior and Sisters of the Convent must have spent many hours in training these young girls, but the result was surely gratifying. This year the play chosen was "Anne of Green Gables," a very ambitious undertaking for such a young group of girls. It hardly seems fair to single out any one girl for special mention as they were all excellent, but Elizabeth Doyle as "Anne" portrayed the part splendidly and was word perfect. A great achievement for such a lengthy role. All the other girls must have also worked very hard indeed, and spoke so clearly that every word could be heard. A matinee for school children had been held the previous day. Mrs. Lasky, Guide Leader said that all proceeds were to be used for Guide Company requirements. Visitors from Charlottetown who were delighted with the performance were Miss I. Arsenault, div. Commissioner, Mrs. Fred Jenkins, Field Secretary, and Miss Lois Arsenault. Father Robt spoke briefly congratulating the girls and thanking the Mother Superior and Sisters for their help in making the entertainment possible. The cast were as follows: Anne Shirley — Elizabeth Doyle, Florence Remsen — Jeannette Gauthier, Minnie Stearn — Lillian Pineau, Mrs. Alex Spencer — Frances Peters, Matthew Outhbert — Hazel Gallant, Marilla Outhbert — Pauline Gau-

QUEEN SQUARE SCHOOL

- Honor Roll for December. Grade X — 1. Clifford Gillis, 2. Charles Weatherlie, 3. Charles MacDonald. Grade IX — 1. Billy MacDonald, 2. Joseph Revell, 3. Desmond Connolly. Grade VIII (Mr. Callaghan's Dept.) — 1. Norman Kane, 2. Kenneth MacDonald, 3. Eugene Wynne. Grade VIII (Mr. MacDonald's Dept.) — 1. Patrick McWade, 2. Bernard Connolly, 3. Francis Smith. Grade VII (Mr. Bradley's Dept.) — 1. Gerard Cheverie, 2. Leo Shepherd, 3. James McQuarrie. Grade VII (Miss Murnaghan's Dept.) — 1. Donnie LeClair, 2. Kenneth MacKinnon, 3. Leonard St. John. Grade VI (Miss Francis's Dept.) — 1. Vincent Griffin, 2. James Smith, 3. James Lee. Grade VI (Miss Welsh's Dept.) — 1. Parker Lund, 2. Garnet Steele, 3. Ian MacDonald. Grade V (Miss Clarkin's Dept.) — 1. George Trainor, 2. Raymond Perry, 3. John McGregor. Grade V (Miss Macdonald's Dept.) — 1. Kimball Blanchard, 2. Billy Gillis, 3. Paul Creighan. Grade IV (Miss Hessian's Dept.) — 1. Charles Smith, 2. Dunstan Griffin, 3. Bruce MacDonald and Gerald MacDonald. Grade III (Miss Doyle's Dept.) — 1. Winston Cheverie, 2. Pius Gallant, 3. Vernon Murray. Grade III (Miss Macdonald's Dept.) — 1. Harry Callaghan and Barry McGillivray, 2. John Leightner, 3. Emmett Joseph. Grade II (Miss Walsh's Dept.) — 1. Frank Callaghan, 2. Colin MacMillan, 3. Paul Batchelder. Grade II (Miss Vessey's Dept.) — 1. Billy Blanchard, 2. John Chisney and Paul Murphy, 3. John Egan. Grade I — No tests. Mrs. Rachel Lynde — Audrey Gallant. Mrs. Barry — Joan M. Dolron. Diana Barry — Jean Gallant. Mrs. Allan — Alvire Gallant. Joste Pye — Lois Gallant. Mody Spurgeon — Mildred Gallant. Gilbert Blythe — Annette Blacquiere. Ira Mills — Bernice Peters.

Santa Misses Weather Station At Mould Bay

By A. B. Garrett STONY PLAIN, Alta., Dec. 22 (CP)—Santa Claus missed Mould Bay on his trip south from the Arctic this year. But there'll be a merry Christmas in that lonely weather station nonetheless. That was the word today from Dean Hilley of Washington, radio operator-technician at the outpost, 1,600 miles northwest of Edmonton on an island in the Arctic Ocean. He is one of seven stationed there. Over the "ham" radio station of Ray Keitges grain elevator operator in this town 18 miles west of Edmonton, the Canadian Press interviewed the weather men. Besides Hilley, stationed at Mould Bay are: Tom Joines, Auckland, N. Z., officer in charge; Don Wiggin, Denver, Colo., executive officer; Perry Ladd, Chazy, N. Y., cook; John Warren, Harrington, Va., mechanic; Bob McKay, and Roy Hayward, Toronto, radio operators. For days they have been expecting a plane to fly over the post and parachute Christmas mail. Delayed repeatedly by bad weather, a United States supply plane last night made a final try to reach them. Bad weather again forced it back to Cornwallis Island, 700 miles southeast. "I believe that's it," said Hilley, "now there won't likely be a plane here until January." The station's cook, Ladd, took the microphone to promise a huge Christmas dinner for his mates despite the lack of parcels from home. "We'll have a good feed," he said, "with porterhouse steaks, cranberry sauce from dried berries, hard candy from the warehouse, and all the trimmings." "We've got lots of turkeys. In fact we've been having them quite a bit lately."

WORLD SERIES STARTERS

The World Series in baseball was originated in 1903 by Pittsburgh and Boston, winners of the National and American leagues that year, and Boston Red Sox won.

Acknowledgement

The Pure Milk Company Limited wish to acknowledge the kindness and generosity of their many customers to the milk drivers at Christmas time. They also wish to thank you for your co-operation in helping them give the employees Christmas Day off. They regret that many may have been inconvenienced by receiving their supplies late in the day. This they believe will be largely overcome next Saturday. They anticipate starting the drivers out one hour earlier, and also making several changes in their routes thereby reducing some of the heavier loads. They ask their customers to kindly have their bottles and tickets ready one hour earlier. The Pure Milk Company join with their staff in wishing you all good things in THE NEW YEAR.



EXPORT CANADA'S FINEST CIGARETTES