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(Canadian Press)

Breeding stock purchasers from different parts of the Dominion will be attracted to Charlottetown by what is billed as "the greatest silver fox show in the world." Prince Edward Island, birthplace of the silver fox industry will parade 600 or more of ranchers' best specimens and the black beauties that win silver cups big enough to jump into are bid for by fox farmers anxious to improve their stock.

Last year an Ontario buyer paid \$500 for one of the grand champions.

"From a small beginning six years ago, our show has grown in size and importance every year," Walter Shaw, secretary of the Silver Fox Exhibitors' Association said yesterday. "It will as in other years attract a large number of breeders from the rest of Canada. Prince Edward Island still has the finest strains of silver fox."

Many Exhibitors

Entries for the exhibition were flowing in from every part of the Island. Dr. A. E. Tackles of Sussex, N.B., the only New Brunswick entry last year was expected to again be represented.

Two big store windows full of glittering silverware, cups and medals offered for competition went on display in Charlottetown today. There are 17 championship trophies and more than \$2,000 in cash awards.

The exhibition was started as an experiment in 1929, Mr. Shaw explained. It was enthusiastically received by the ranchers and the following year the association received 750 entries.

Then competition became keener and keener. Breeders showed great discrimination in choosing their vixens for show purposes. A fox distemper epidemic in 1931 prevented an exhibition being held in that year but it came back strong in 1932.

Educational Value

"The big advantage of the show," said Mr. Shaw "is its educational value. Breeders have an opportunity to learn the fine points of fox farming by watching the judging and they are able by observation to make their own selections. The exhibition has been a very potent influence in the distribution of improved breeding strains and offers a measure of protection to new breeders establishing ranches."

George Callbeck, past president of the Canadian National Silver Fox Breeders' Association, Summerside, will be the judge.

Parading the valuable furry creatures before prospective buyers and the public is a far cry from the early days of the industry when every move was made in secret and high board fences surrounded ranches.

A feature of fox week in Charlottetown will be the annual dinner of the Silver Fox Exhibitors' Association, Tuesday evening in a local hotel.

TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS

CONNECTED WITH

Silver Fox Farming



Old fox landmarks are being obliterated by the march of time. The most recent to change hands is Union Vale Farm which is being purchased by James Maund, the present manager, from the McLure and MacKinnon Silver Fox Farms, Limited.

The property consists of 133 acres of land, 86 under cultivation, with excellent buildings, and Mr. Maund is to be congratulated on securing such a fine property. However, what we started out to say is that it was once one of the most highly capitalized silver fox farms in this province. In the year 1914 the late J. Stanley Wedlock organized the Canada Atlantic Silver Fox Company, capital \$1,000,000, and large blocks of the stock were taken by wealthy men in Upper Canada and the U. S. A.

A very fine ranch was built in the wooded part, the pens being fifty by fifty with separate male pens for each breeding pen. It was stocked with forty pairs of foxes and Ray Clark was installed as manager. It was a success as far as production was concerned, but the drop in prices due to the war made it a non-dividend payer and after some years continuance the remaining shareholders were bought out by Mr. Wedlock.

On Mr. Wedlock's departure to the U. S. A. the property was sold and purchased by McLure and MacKinnon, who conducted a ranch there until 1931 when it was considered more economical to operate as one unit at Vimy Ranch. Prior to the sale to Mr. Maund most of the pens had been dismantled and the wire and material moved to Vimy Ranch.

We need hardly remind our ranchers that Monday is Classification Day in the Main Building at the Provincial Exhibition grounds, Charlottetown. Hundreds of foxes will be arriving from all parts of the province for the big show. Judging will start Tuesday morning at nine o'clock. The building and judging room are in top shape for the fray, everything clean and well arranged, with some 600 crates ready to receive the silver fox beauties.

The other evening I ran into my friend Dan Jenkins and he asked me if it was true that we were going to pelt some foxes and I said, "Yes, Dan, it is not only true but it is an accomplished fact. We pelted thirty this morning. They were the most advanced ones and although a bit blue I believe they will command fairly good prices and should average around \$60." On returning to the office I looked up the year 1933 and found that we had forwarded 62 pelts to Hudson's Bay Company, London, by express, October 29th. They were killed on the 15th of October. One fetched \$38, the highest price that fall, and others brought \$31, \$30, \$28½, \$28, \$27, \$26 and lesser amounts. The average of the 62 was \$74 net.

I am not writing this to advocate wholesale pelting of foxes early in the season. I have found from experience that it does not pay, but there are exceptions such as when a fox is heavily furred and he shows signs of breaking across the back and you are afraid of him going off color. When that situation confronts you it may be just as well to pelt.

Borden Fox Show will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday, November 19th and 20th, and will be open to registered and unregistered foxes ranches within the province. Substantial cash prizes as well as other valuable

prizes including trophies, ribbons, fox feed supplies, etc., will be awarded to the winners. Captain John L. Reed is the President and E. O. Bell, Secretary. Those interested should get in touch with the Secretary who will be glad to forward copy of prize list.

Mr. E. H. Monkley, Summerside, and Stephen Taylor of Little Shemogue, N. B., have been appointed judges for the Borden Fox Show, November 19 and 20.

The first of the fall silver fox auctions will be held at the Hudson's Bay Company auction room on November 18th. This sale will consist largely of Norwegian skins and wild caught Canadian skins. The Norwegian season is about a month earlier than ours and they usually monopolize the November London auctions, their furs being mainly marketed through Hudson's Bay, Frederick Huth & Company and Lampsons. The next sale will be December 10th and there should be quite a number of Canadian skins on that auction. The last receiving date for either auction will be nine days previous to the sale.

The report of the autumn fur auction of the Hudson's Bay Company for furs other than silver fox which was held on the first and third of October, 1935, has arrived. The Company says: "Our offering consisted chiefly of an excellent collection of fresh skins from all Canadian districts, together with several choice parcels of Russian goods and a rather stable collection of Scandinavian furs. In view of the unsettled state of political affairs in Europe and the slackening which had been noticeable for the past month in the American demand, it was expected that satisfactory competition would be lacking. Such was not the case. The home trade supported nearly every article. France was well represented, while German buyers with freshly granted credits, were able to bid for the furs associated with their needs. American interest was keen in lynx, and extended, but with greater regard for price, to cross fox."

The above report is printed in eight languages, evidence of the wide distribution of furs sold by the old company.

From the above optimistic report we may very safely assume that there will be a corresponding good demand for silver fox and that is heartening to us all. Believing that we as fur farmers should know what is doing with other peltries we are publishing results of a number of classes of furs sold at the above sale.

BEAVER, 204,944 skins offered. Advanced 2½%. Top prices were \$125.

FISHER, 2058 skins, declined 7½%. Top price \$130.

BLUE FOX, 1,898 skins offered as compared with 4,542 in May. The demand was limited, the Greenland and Scandinavian portions of the collection were not so attractive as usual. Top prices were \$68 for Greenland skins.

CROSS FOX, 9,976 skins offered as compared with 11,603 in May. Best grades declined 10%, seconds very firm. Top price for No. 1 and No. 2 dark was \$45.

RED FOX, 32,327 skins offered as compared with 53,577 in May. Best grades declined 10%. Top price was \$31 for Kamchatka No. 1 extra darks and darks. Best Yukons sold for \$26.

WHITE FOX, 16,956 skins offered as compared with 28,460 in

(Continued on page 15)

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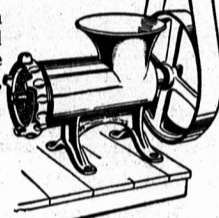
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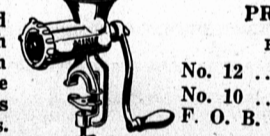
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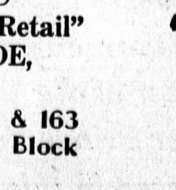
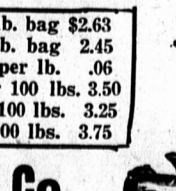
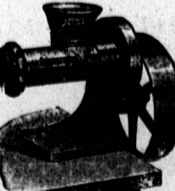
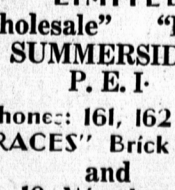
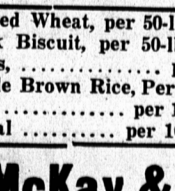
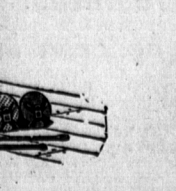
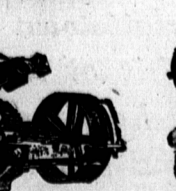
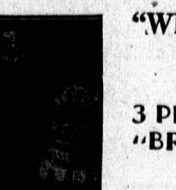
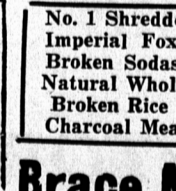
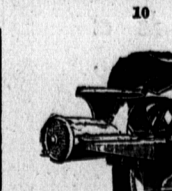
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