

TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH Silver Fox and Mink Farming

Silver Fox jackets priced at \$175. plus tax are selling in quantities in New York. Macy's departmental store is featuring them.

Lampson, Fraser & Huth's analysis of the special June sale of ranch mink and Silver Fox showed that of the 36,500 ranch mink in the first section 72 p. c. was sold and 61 per cent in the second section—18,000—was sold and 60 p. c. in the third section—23,600—was sold and 96 per cent in the fourth section—29,600 was sold, a total of 22,226 pelts. Selected quality extra dark and dark males brought from \$21 to \$29.50; females \$15.25 to \$22.50; dark brown and brown males \$17.75 to \$22.50; females \$13.00 to \$17.50; good quality extra dark and dark males brought from \$17.50 to \$26.50; females \$13.25 to \$16.50; dark brown males \$15.75 to \$21.50; females \$12.00 to \$14.50; females \$10.25 to \$15.00; dark brown males \$13. to \$21; females \$9.75 to \$14; half-blood males selected and good quality medium clear brought \$16. to \$29.50; oratory quality \$16. to \$21; Light colors brought from \$21.50 to \$31; ordinary quality \$17 to \$25; poor quality brought \$18. to \$21; ordinary quality poor color \$14. to \$19.

Silver and Mutation Fox—A further offering of 2,850 Platinum Fox pelts was 25 p. c. sold bringing up to \$37; 1,600 White Marked pelts were 50 p. c. sold bringing up to \$24; 3,260 full Silver Fox pelts were 72 per cent sold bringing up to \$23; 2,150 miscellaneous poor quality foxes were 42 per cent sold bringing up to \$14.

From far away Turkey a letter was received recently from an American lady who has spent twelve years in Istanbul. She writes that "Silver Fox is very popular there but that only wives of food profiteers can afford to wear them. It is worn not only for its beauty but to indicate the prosperity of its wearer. There is no fur that is looked on with so much favor in this country as Silver Fox." The above coincides with what we have learned from conversations with parties who have been in touch with foreign trade. The potential market for Silver Fox is great but the trouble is to sell it to the people who want it because of currency difficulties.

While in Ottawa last week I had a conversation with Capt. D. C. Douglas of the Foreign Trade Service. He is a very intelligent Englishman with a good knowledge of foreign trade, and he is very much interested in finding markets for Silver Fox. He mentioned to me the fact which I have since noticed in the press, that one of our largest processing firms was trading Canadian meat products with parties in Brazil and bringing in in exchange Brazilian oranges. He said if we can devise some way to move our Silver Fox furs now remaining unsold and receive a fair return in commodities which warring countries can supply, a new situation and new hope would develop for the fox farmer.

There is a large potential market in South Africa and probably Captain Douglas and his staff may find a way to introduce Silver Fox which is a wanted fur there. At present we understand that the fox furs unsold are of a very good quality, the cheaper ends have been mostly disposed of. This is all to the good because if we are going to introduce our furs into countries like South Africa it is well to do so with a line of goods that will bring repeats in the future. South Africa at present is enjoying a tremendous boom. Great new diamond fields were opened up a few years ago and are employing many thousands of people; irrigation which was much behind, is being introduced on a large scale; mining of coal and various other minerals is being pursued, in fact South Africa is one of the boom countries of the world.

It is nice to get an idea how our neighbors to the south are faring in their ranching operations. While in Ottawa we heard many stories of the difficulties they are

undergoing and one widely circulated yarn — which we doubt very much — is that a nation-wide famous Silver Fox company had stepped on 1500 breeding females rather than have them produce their offspring, which would average at least four. The reason given was that the company's pelts of 1947 and some of 1946 were largely unsold and they would be going much in the hole by producing another large crop. Whatever the truth of the story there is this to be said, that the cut-down in Silver Fox in the United States has been drastic and we can state on pretty good authority that less than 100,000 fox pelts will be taken off there this fall. The over-all picture in Canada is about 33 1-3 per cent less.

Mr. W. M. Ritchie in an address given to the Canadian National Silver Fox Breeders' Association at Ottawa, stated that the Norwegians were going through serious difficulties too, in that the barter system has broken down to a considerable extent and they have a great number of Silver Fox pelts unsold. He said that unlike Sweden, Norway has difficulty in obtaining food supplies for foxes. Sweden has plenty of food and fur farmers there are raising a superb type of three-quarter silver. He said that the mink exhibited at the International Fur and Leather Fair at Basle, Switzerland, were not comparable to the best Canadian or American types and that the Silver and Mutation Fox on display of Sweden and Norway were with the exception of the three-quarter Silver referred to above, not at all comparable in quality to our Canadian exhibits. The suggestion he made that the exhibits of made up furs be shown in all the principal cities of Canada in connection with an advertising campaign next fall is one that should be talked up by every rancher. The most of the people have no idea what a good Silver Fox or Mutation Fox pelt looks like, or how it would show fashioned into garments. Popularity would be instantly achieved by the display of really worthwhile furs.

The P. E. I. Fur Pool, Ltd., recently imported several tons of Master Feed pellets, the formula of Dr. E. R. Bowness, and a number of ranchers are testing them for comparable results with the regular ration. Dr. Bowness is expected to be here during the week of the International Fur Conference July 12-16 and no doubt he will call on some of the ranchers who are using pellets and give details of his experience with them.

William P. Bender, President of the National Board of Fur Farm Organizations of the United States, cites a few figures with reference to mink that will be interesting to our breeders. In 1940 the out-of-pocket cost of raising mink was \$6.86 each; in 1946 the out-of-pocket cost of raising mink was \$13.57. The total cost including owner's wages, overhead and interest on investment in 1940 was \$10.31 each; and in 1946 was \$18.42 each. The average price paid per mink pelt in 1945 was \$24.05 and in 1947 \$15.49. The annual costs in 1947 were at least as high if not higher than in 1946. From the above, states Mr. Bender, you can readily see what is going to happen to those mink farmers whose costs are as high or higher than the average and whose pelt prices are as low or lower than the average.

He is of the opinion that 500,000 additional pelts will be produced in the United States in 1948 and he says that Sweden will produce 150,000 pelts. He does not mention Canada. This warning is thrown out . . . Every mink farmer who increases his herd should stop to think about the sale of those extra pelts. Many a mink farmer is of the opinion that if he can raise twice as many pelts for half the net profit per pelt as before, he can still make a lot of money. He forgets that too many pelts will bring the prices down to where neither he nor any other mink farmer will make a profit. It would be far better if instead of

NEWSY NOTES

By Agricola

HADRIAN'S LAST WORDS

The Roman domination of Britain lasted from the year 43 when the Emperor Claudius invaded the island, to the year 407, when Constantine who had been proclaimed Emperor, withdrew all his forces to make himself master of Gaul. Between the two dates more than seventy individuals had assumed the royal purple, some by virtue of heredity, some elected by the army, and others by successful plotting. With most the reign was short, turbulent, or ignominious, but a few justified their title of Emperor by their devotion to their duty, and their care for their Empire. Some even looked upon as the world's end! Of these, Publius Aelius Hadrianus spent the greater part of his reign in visiting the different provinces of the Empire, and it was he who built the massive stone wall that stretched from sea to sea across Britain, to protect the Britons from the wild tribes of Caledonia.

This remarkable man reigned from 117 to 138 A.D., and came to Britain in the fall of 119, to investigate the disturbed state of that island. We can gather something of Hadrian's character from a fine bronze head of the Emperor, which was dredged from the Thames and is now in the British Museum. It is brachycephalic (broad-headed) in type, as one might expect in such an energetic character. His hair is curly and he has a beard, closely clipped to his face. A small, straight mouth gives determined expression to his visage, but his nose is Grecian rather than Roman. The sculptor has taken special care with the eyes, which are bold and well open, as if engaged in observation.

A Roman poet, one Florus, tells of Hadrian's travels in Britain, in this mocking verse: Ego nolo Caesar esse Annular per Britannos, Scythicas pati pruinas.—That is — "I wouldn't like to be Caesar (Hadrian), to ramble among the Britons, content with the Scythian frosts." The Emperor hit back — "I wouldn't like to be Florus, rambling among the taverns, sneaking among the speak-easies, content with the round cups!"

Hadrian is the reputed author of a little poem addressed to his soul during his last illness. The law in this statement is, that the ancient Romans never used rhyme in their poetry — only meter. Hadrian's "address to his soul" may be based on something he said, but the setting given below, is undoubtedly medieval.—Animula, vagula, blandula, Hospes, comensu corporis, Quae nunc abibis in loca? Pallidula rigida, nudula! Nec ut soles dabis joca.

"Little soul, little wandering, gentle one, guest and companion of the body, in what place wilt thou now abide, little pale one, still and naked? Nor canst thou give (make) jokes as thou art wont." The poet Byron turned this into verse, not too happily.—Oh, gentle, fleeting, wav'ring sprite, Friend and associate of this clay! To what unknown region born, Wilt thou now wing thy distant flight? No more with wonted humour gay, Eut pallid, cheerless, and forlorn.

A full century before Byron's effort, Matthew Prior had produced a much more elegant translation, here presented in ending this Note: Poor little, pretty, fluttering thing, Must we no longer live together, his herd he would reduce it and improve the quality.

Mr. Bender's article was probably written before the June mink sales and he must have been a surprised individual to see the very strong market which developed for ranch mink both natural and mutation. Every auction sale company in the United States and Canada reported advances so apparent, there is a mink-hungry world.

And dust thou prune thy trembling wing, To take thy flight thou know'st not whither? Thy humorous vien, thy pleasing folly, Lies all neglected, all forgot; And pensive, wavering, melancholy, Thou dread'st and hop'st thou know'st not what.

(The word prune, used above, is an old form of "preen," meaning to trim and arrange the feathers.) Roman Sanitation

When I was in my teens, I joined a Field Club which visited historic places in the North of England. The Roman "remains" of my native county drew my special interest. I observed with what care the Romans tried to keep warm and dry in our colder climate, and later saw that they did not neglect cleanliness. Traces of drains and pipes were found in their houses, which were without doubt intended to carry off bath-water and sewage; but nothing was ever found that corresponded to the modern toilet or latrine. The larger towns had underground tunnels, walled on each side and roofed with flagstones or drains. They were high enough to allow a man to walk upright in them, but not very wide; side-drains of smaller dimensions opened into them and communicated with the houses on each side. The smaller towns threw the drainage water into the street where it was conducted away by channels of carved stones.

A curious sanitary measure came to light when a hill near Rieborough was cut away by railway excavators. Just outside the town were found narrow round pits, such as might have been made by a post-hole digger. They were filled with a mixture of earth, animal's bones, broken pottery and other rubbish; but the main content was a dark earth which an experienced chemist pronounced to be stercoraceous matter. These "wells" were afterwards found to be quite common near Roman towns in Britain. One antiquary supposed that they might have been originally covered with some light structure. That, however, was quite unlikely. For the continental nations up to a very recent date (by which I mean 80 or 90 years ago) used these "wells" openly and without hesitation.

Old Books and Coins

In a broadcast, on Sunday, June 13th, the speaker gave a list of the old books and coins treasured by owners in the Maritimes. This talk was cultural inasmuch as it implied that books were worthy of care. There have been, in the past, many pamphlets and books of local importance published here, but alas! they are not available today; most of them have been destroyed. Those that remain are worth twice or thrice their published price. I have one complete copy of Francis Bain's "Natural History of P. E. I." which I purchased, and parts of two others which were given to me "as curiosities." One of these was scribbled over by children; the other had the backs and some pages missing. This was the fate of most Island books "in the old" days. My oldest book is in the pink

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The American Golden Plover

As pointed out last week this plover somewhat resembles the Black-bellied Plover in color, but has only three toes. It, like some other of our migrants, breeds in the barren grounds from Hudson Bay westward. As a migrant it was common in P. E. I., previous to the 1916 checklist; but observers now class it as uncommon, and on the way to becoming rare. Dr. Taverner traces its flight first to Labrador, then to the Maritimes, where it leaves the land and makes its way over the sea direct to Brazil. As it is not a proficient swimmer and therefore cannot rest on the water at will, "made in one effort! There is no answer yet to the question, why does the bird undertake so toilsome a journey?"

American Golden Plover. AOU. 272. Migrant, uncommon 1948. Summer plumage: back of neck, and crown, black with yellow feather tips; side of head, chin, breast, and underparts black, bordered behind on head and neck by pure white. Rest of the upper parts have black feathers edged with yellow and spotted golden yellow. No hind toe. Winter plumage spotted more or less with blackish brown and yellow above; grayish white below, but no black; some indefinite stripes on the breast; axillars and under wing coverts smoky gray in both plumages. Length of adult bird 10.50 inches.

BORN IN LONDON

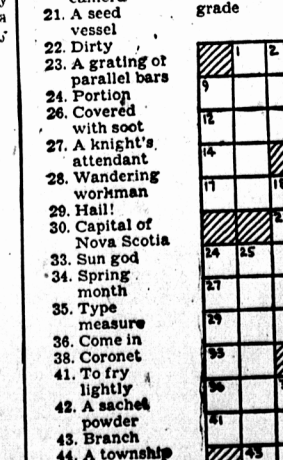
Boris Karloff, the movie star noted for his "horror" roles, was born in London, in 1887.

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DAILY CROSSWORD

- ACROSS 1. Break over 5. Fish 9. Play 10. A building (Rom. Antiq.) 12. Of the ear 13. A thin soup 14. Part of "to be" 15. Turn to the right 16. International language 17. Part of a camera 21. A seed vessel 22. Dirty 23. A grating of parallel bars 24. Portion 26. Covered with soot 27. A knight's attendant 28. Wandering workman 29. Hall! 30. Capital of Nova Scotia 33. Sun god 34. Spring month 35. Type measure 36. Come in 38. Coronet 41. To fry lightly 42. A sack powder 43. Branch 44. A township (anc. Attica)



DAILY CRYPTOQUOTE—Here's how to work it: AXYZDLBAKX HLONGFELLOW One letter simply stands for another. In this example A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different. CRYPTOQUOTE—A cryptogram quotation MV MO DKQJNED KD VSD FAEBFADH F INRDH VSD TBDH, NAH HNC QJGL XSM QNER KC AFKSM—KFBMGA. Yesterday's Cryptquote: DOUBTING IN HIS ABJECT SPIRIT

U. S. Transported Troops From N. S. To Middle East

(Continued from page 13)

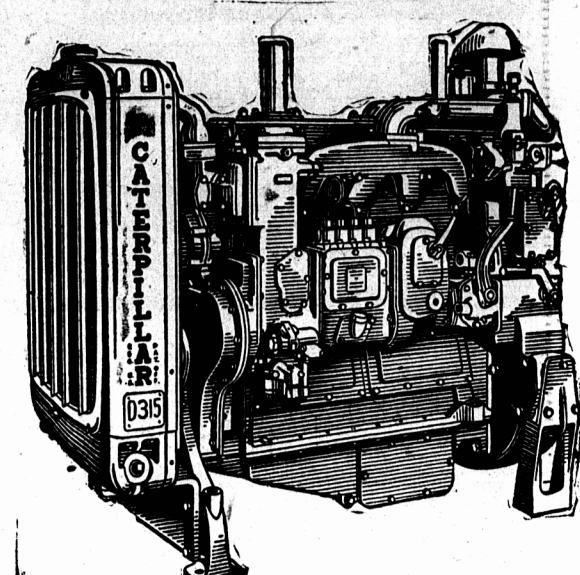
tricks of the war in Halifax harbor. This was the ship-to-ship transfer of 20,000 British troops from British to American vessels when Britain was at war with Germany, and the United States was neutral. The American vessels transported the British Tommies through Atlantic waters to the Far East without a hitch. The Germans never were aware that the United States had broken neutrality rules at that point.

The operation is described in a magazine article written by Harry Hopkins, personal adviser to the late President Roosevelt. "I remember the event because the Canadian army was asked to fill the British ships returning to the United Kingdom with Canadian soldiers," the spokesman said. "It was quite a large convoy since many peacetime ships were just being brought into military service and were not fitted for military transportation."

"As fantastic as it might appear," he said with a laugh, "the event actually took place. It was either the 17th or the 18th British Division. They were taken from Nova Scotia to Singapore, that is in the Far East, not the Middle East. "It was late in 1941," the army official recalled. "United States still was neutral and according to the Neutrality Act could not cross a certain longitude in the Atlantic Ocean."

"When the appeal came from Prime Minister Churchill, it apparently was decided to send the troops to Halifax. In this way, the Germans would be less likely to know what was going on and the American ship would not have to cross the neutrality line." The spokesman believed the American convoy swung down through South Atlantic, round by the Cape of Good Hope at the southern tip of Africa and then up into the Indian Ocean to Singapore.

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