



TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH Silver Fox Farming

As our readers know a total embargo on fur imports into Britain has been in effect ever since war broke out. That has almost destroyed the fur trade of the Old Country which was the main source of income to so many people.

For the first two or three years during the war there was an import-export scheme but that was stopped in the fall of 1942 and there has only been a trickle of furs going to Great Britain since that time.

Resumption of the London fur auctions is expected to coincide with the resumption of the facilities after the end of European hostilities. At present the fur trade is concentrated in the United States, Canada and the British Empire.

The writer can remember while attending the London Fur Auctions in 1928 with W. Chester S. Melrose we were asked to view some of the fur trade and to give our opinion as to the economic possibilities and any other observations we could make.

Ritter Bros. of New York has concluded a 10 year agreement with the Quebec Fur Breeders Cooperative Association in which the New York firm has been given exclusive rights for the marketing of the finest quality mink skins produced by the more than 2,300 breeders of the Quebec Fur Breeders Cooperative Association.

The Quebec Fur Breeders Cooperative Association is sponsored by the Department of Agriculture of the Province of Quebec. The experts of this department examine and grade the annual production of the association and select the skin they believe worthy of bearing the crest of the Province of Quebec.

The agreement further stipulates that during the life of the contract, which also has an additional 10-year option, the association binds itself to see that no skins bearing the crest of the province shall be sold to any person in Canada or

the United States, except to Ritter Bros. and, in the event of sales of crested skins to other countries, the association shall insert a clause prohibiting the resale of the crested skins in the territory now or hereafter reserved to Ritter Bros. Ritter Bros. declared that, in all probability it will open a branch in Paris, in which case France shall be added to Canada and the United States as Ritter Bros. territory and the same conditions shall prevail in every respect.

Annent the rabbit skins exhibition in London we note where wire has been received in New York stating that a 15% advance in tame rabbit skin prices and a 5% decline in wilds were features of the third auction held by the London Rabbit Skin Brokers, Ltd. The total offering consisted of 117,000 tame and 35,400 dozen wilds. Well handled lots suitable for fursellers realized the highest prices.

The Montreal Fur Sales Company (Canada) Limited, held its general sale of furs yesterday starting at nine a.m. Features of the sale was a collection of 850 Alberta show pelts consisting of prize winning platinum, white faces, platinum crosses, etc. There were also 4,000 silver fox and various other skins.

There is a severe shortage of linings in the United States particularly in New York and many fur manufacturers are facing the possibility of being forced to close their shops in the near future because of the severe shortage of material with which to line their coats. Recently a special group report of the fur trade but a branch of the trade left for Washington to confer with officials of the Rayon division of the office of civilian requisitions of the war production board. The group will try and convince the authorities that if some relief is not forthcoming very soon not only the fur industry but the entire fur industry.

This group will point out that fur coats, despite having been branded non-essential by Washington, serve as a utility from the point of view of length of wear against a cloth coat and the warmth derived from the wearing of a fur coat. At the present time the fur trade is operating under a 60% reduction in linings from their normal supply. Many substitutes for articles have been discovered in the fur trade but a substitute for linings has not been unearthed. At the present time fur coat linings are being made entirely of rayon and acetate.

The New York Auction Company of Canada, which opened up in Toronto, Ont. in January, to their third sale January 31st with about 3,500 mink and 6,000 silver fox skins. The demand particularly for the ranch mink. The attendance of buyers was about 40% from the United States and the remainder described as an ordinary lot. There were some good lots of platinum and mutations in the foxes although most of the silvers were just ordinary. The ranch mink was about 85% sold and brought a top price of \$35.00 and 40% sold and mutations about 50%. The highest price received for platinum was \$120. White face silvers averaged \$35.00 and top price for full silvers was \$51.00. The next sale is scheduled for February 22nd.

We beg to acknowledge receipt of two beautiful calendars, one from the Canadian National Silver Fox Breeders' Association. A fair representative group of photographic reproduction of part of the 1944 collection of mutation show foxes, and the other calendar from the Prince Edward Island Fur Pool, Limited, which is a reproduction of a photograph of one of His Majesty's greatest battleships. The kind thoughtfulness which prompted the sending of these is much appreciated.

Peter G. Clark, manager of the Prince Edward Island Fur Pool, Ltd., has the ability to hit the nail on the head in his bulletins of fur trade conditions and auction sales are always most interesting. The Canadian trade showed little interest in any portion of the offering.

During the month over 45,000 silvers and new type were offered on the different Canadian sales. A fair representative group of New York buyers and a few interested in the Mexican and Chief American trade were the chief purchasers but their interest was chiefly in medium to better grade offerings and they purchased most of these. The Canadian trade showed little interest in any portion of the offering.

The largest offering comprised about 31,000 pelts which included about 5,700 various new types, 84% of the total offering was sold at an average of \$39.59. There was good demand for the better grades in mutations, white marked and full silvers where these met with keen competition, good prices were realized. At this sale plat-

NEWSY NOTES

Two Notable Speeches

Early last year a noted British agricultural authority, Lord De La Warr, said in a speech before one of the world's population today are food producers, and if food is bought so cheaply that farmers all over the world are ruined, where then is the market for industrial goods?

Very much the same point was made by another authority, the late Dr. Woods, of Carstairs, Alta. There is still persisting a curious stupid attitude, on the part of many people, that farmers should be satisfied with a bare existence, with the blessings of fresh air and sunshine, and should not aspire to the comforts and conveniences regarded as absolute necessities in urban areas, which have added so much to the health and happiness of those able to afford them in our towns and cities.

His secret got out, as might be expected, and soon his lanterns were in full swing. The business must have been a very profitable one while it lasted for the promoter planned a supply of the raw materials from the many victims of the Revolution. The possibilities of the time encouraged the industry by wearing its products: one of the heads of the state appeared at a ball wearing a pair of breeches made of human skin. These breeches were esteemed more valuable when made in one piece. When the French people returned to enjoy the industry went to pieces.

While prices in average are slightly more than 30% below January 1944, the average price of the offering was also greatly below that of one year ago. For instance, on the January 1944 auctions selected commodities averaged 82.14; New Brunswick show pelts were 65% sold and averaged \$35.00. At the same sale last year the following averages were realized in the order above named \$42.80, \$118.97 and \$109.88.

In the United States varying conditions seem to have prevailed but in general the offerings seem to have met with a receptive as on Canadian markets. The trade there is still suffering from the depression caused by O.P.A. regulations which have so severely restricted it during the past nine months.

For a number of years much concern has been caused by the deterioration in the quality of Canadian ranch furs. The average quality of the offerings so far this season is the poorest for many years. Active effective means that have heretofore been employed are essential to an improvement in quality. Declining prices throughout 1944 may have caused many ranchers to neglect their furs, in common practice the best silvers are being used to cross with new types and thus the production of high grade silvers is restricted. The introduction of new types into some ranches has tended to deteriorate their general average quality. We suggest that the money now being spent by Federal authorities in the practical and futile attempt to regulate commercial activities in the trade might well be used for purposes more beneficial to the industry from the producers' standpoint. Someone must act soon.

makes a very superior leather, and history shows that it has often been put to that use. In 1763 a French writer published a recipe for tanning human skin and stated that Dr. Sue, of Paris, had presented the King with a pair of slippers made of such leather tanned by this method. The French Revolution, however, that this material came to the fore. A man presented himself at a meeting of the convention and announced that he had discovered a simple method of producing leather in abundance. The Committee of Public Safety granted him a concession of the Chateau de Meudon as a laboratory for his work with a certain amount of secrecy. In return for the concession he presented each member of the Committee with a pair of top-boots made of human skin!

has to be changed twice a day in time of fall navigation. I have seen five Robins and several small manufactured birds also a line in early September when a flock of ten or twelve Sparrows swoop upon the fence and then into the bath, can't say positively what they are, but their breasts are not streaked. Their fondness for water and the unstreaked breasts seem to point to the Swamp Sparrows-Agricola. I always have the Fox Sparrows but they come only in the winter. In the fall of 1943 they were the darkest color I had yet seen, almost like some other species. I wish some one who knows would write an article about the bathing habits of birds.

Some birds apparently never bathe, but will come to drink, and whenever the other birds make a noise splashing they come and watch. I have a dead limb of a small tree which is fixed in the ground near the bath, and as they alight on it I can train the glasses on them, and no leaves in the way. One Sunday afternoon in Sept. 1943, observed the prettiest tiny blue-grey bird and got the glasses on it just as it flew to a nearby shrub. A yellowish tinge showed on its back for a second. The only picture in Reed's Bird Guide that looked like it was that of the Parula Warbler, but that bird had not been reported since 1916. I was not certain. Then as it remained in the vicinity for several days, I got the glasses on it and noticed a sort of iridescence on its breast, so I began to believe it was the Parula. This year I saw it again. I think there was a pair—for a few days, and saw every marking very clearly. The bird was not a Parula, though the band on its breast was not as pronounced as in Reed's illustration. John Burroughs' description in "Wake Robin" is nearest to the bird as I saw it; he calls it the Blue Yellow-bird. John Burroughs' description of them nest-building in Bodega a few years ago, and go very near to them.

As a fitting termination to this curious subject, here is the case of a bird in London, which was killed in Camden County Jail, N. J., at some date in the last century. It was managed to escape, but left his "will" behind in case he was killed in escaping. In the will he directed that his body was to be given to the "Bury St. Edmunds Dispensary Medical School for dissection; that is, all but a piece of his skin which was to be used as a binding for a New Testament for his wife who was a Manchu by birth and in religion a Buddhist. Mrs. Thompson feelingly added that her husband was a good man and was presumed to be still at large.

Bird Notes From Summerside

Here is an interesting letter from Mrs. H. T. Colvin, of Summerside: "Dear Agricola, while reading your 'Newsy Notes' of the 27th I was reminded of your reference to the Wilson Thrush sent you in '40, and now write to say how much pleasure I get from your interesting notes on so many subjects. A note, many years ago, on studying birds with the aid of field glasses sent me to our binoculars and with their aid I have enjoyed the pleasure of bird study ever since. To be certain, I had a specimen of that bird listed as rare in your issue of the 27th. I am more common than you suppose. With the aid of your check-list and good reference books (including Taverner's 'Birds of Canada', also selected ones from the Library), I have been able to add new names to my list each year. I am sure that if a trained observer could be in my garden in early spring, I am unable to positively name the fall plumage and that of the young birds, make it difficult to identify many species that I am unable to positively name. My cat, like yours, helped me out in October 1935, when she carried a tiny bird into the house and I found it to be a Ruby-crowned Kinglet. I had often noticed these little birds but was not sure what they were. I had to dispense with the cat's help however, for she carried so many young robins to me that I got tired of them. I have had a pedestal bird-bath in the yard for over fifteen years; it is put out in early spring and left until Halloween, and is always water in it, which of

Customers say BRAV CHICKS PAY!

THE FRED W. BRAY LTD. 120 John St., North, Hamilton, Ont. No writing. No money orders. No bother. Just phone, or drop in. Chas. Worth, c/o Keith's Shop, Main St., Montreal, N. B. Winston Dingwell, Morell Station. Raymond Doucet, Hunter River. Mrs. Arthur J. Enman, New Laman. Frances Gardiner, Launching. J. Harry Green, Central Bedouque.

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Livestock

SUMMARY

Eastern cattle markets were on the uptrend this week, with top stock in the higher quality grades selling 15c and 25c stronger, and medium and low grades holding steady. Active trading was seen in western markets also at generally steady rates, although Winnipeg buyers exerted some pressure on the less desirable kinds of killing cattle and succeeded in paring 25c off the first five weeks' level on these grades. However, after a dragsy start and this partial decline, trading was more active and a good chance made. Any changes in prices paid for calves, hogs, and sheep and lambs were of a minor nature but tending higher.

Despite the minor and temporary setbacks which have occurred in prices recently, the market has shown a remarkable ability to absorb everything coming to the killing floor, as evidenced by the mark-kings which have been taken care of to date this year. Cattle deliveries to stock yards and direct packers for the first five weeks of the year are 165,660, last year were 113,600 in the same period; wolf marketings this year are 36,500, last year were 32,500; and sheep and lambs this year total 65,700, and last year were 62,000. This week's run of cattle was nearly 28,000 head, a volume considered heavy even in the autumn period of extensive liquidation. The only division to show a decline in marketings is that of hogs, where the phenomenal number of 902,000 graded in the five weeks of last year dropped to 681,000 this year.

Trading at Winnipeg slowed down somewhat on cattle in the early part of the week and most killing classes were 25c lower but later more activity was shown and supplies were well cleared. The best of the slaughter steers of mixed weights sold at \$12 to \$12.25.

Dairy cattle exports to the United States for the week were 389 head, making the total to date this year 2,013, compared with 1,590 in the same period last year. Sheep and lamb exports this week were 3,274 and the total to date this year stands at 13,247.

There were only minor changes in the prices paid for hogs and these tending higher. Toronto sold 31 hogs at \$17.35, Montreal \$17.35 to \$17.50, Winnipeg \$18.40 to \$18.50, Calgary \$18.05 to \$18.20, Edmonton \$18.95, Prince Albert, Moose Jaw \$18.95.

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EXPORT BACON SHOW

An Export Bacon Show, sponsored by the F. E. I. Swine Breeders' Association and supported by the Provincial and Dominion Departments of Agriculture will be held in the Market Building, Charlottetown, on Tuesday afternoon, February 27th. The annual meeting of the F. E. I. Swine Breeders' Association will be held on the evening of the same day.

All Island hog producers are invited to make entries in this show with one hog constituting an entry by each producer. Each entry must be delivered to Davis & Fraser Limited on February 26th or February 23rd, preferably February 24th. Trackers and loading agents are invited to solicit entries from their patrons. All hogs entered in this show will be slaughtered promptly and the selection of twenty-five carcasses nearest the ideal export weight of 150 pounds will be made from the total entries, these to compete for prize money.

Producers intending to enter hogs at this show should secure application forms which should be completed and returned as soon as possible and preferably not later than February 16th.

This Show is sponsored to present a clear picture of the suitability of Island hogs for the Export Market, it promises to be an interesting and educational event, the first of its kind to be held in the Maritimes, and all producers who have market hogs of suitable development are invited to support this event.

Application entry blanks as well as additional details pertaining to this show may be obtained by writing to S. D. Irvine, Secretary, F.E.I. Swine Breeders' Association, Box 485, Charlottetown.

L-27-3-10-17-24

Hardy Nursery Stock for Spring Planting

We are offering for Spring 1945 delivery Fruit trees including Apple, Pear, Plum, Peach, Raspberries, Currants, Gooseberries, as well as a complete line of Ornamental and Shade trees, Flowering Shrubs, Roses, Evergreens and Perennials. STONE & WELLINGTON, 49 Wellington St. E., Toronto, Ont. Local Representative: A. H. BRYENTON, Box 425, Charlottetown, P.E.I.

and good cows at \$6.25 to \$6.75. The market for stockers and feeders was reasonably firm and prices steady, with suitable material moving out at \$8 to \$9. Other western centres reported active trading and supplies well cleared. The best of the steers at Calgary sold \$11 to \$11.85; Edmonton, \$11.75 to \$12.10; Vancouver, \$11.50 to \$11.75; Regina, \$11.25 to \$11.50; and Moose Jaw \$11.25 to \$11.50. The above prices do not include the Dominion Government premiums of \$2 per head on Grade A hogs and \$2 on Grade B.

Western Cattle Markets. Trading at Winnipeg slowed down somewhat on cattle in the early part of the week and most killing classes were 25c lower but later more activity was shown and supplies were well cleared. The best of the slaughter steers of mixed weights sold at \$12 to \$12.25.

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FERTILIZER FACTS

In the following table, we make an endeavour to show the plant food content of various Mixed Fertilizers and to indicate the relation in quantities of the materials from which they are made.

Table with 7 columns: Formula, Units Plant Food in one ton, Price per ton ex Factory, and four columns of Pounds Materials That Will Make One Ton (Sulphate of Ammonia 20%, Super-Phosphate 20%, Muricite or Potash 60%, Other Materials Sometimes called filler). Rows include formulas 2-12-6, 3-15-6, 4-8-10, 5-10-10, and 4-12-6.

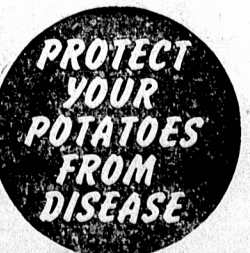
2-12-6 and 3-15-6 are largely used for similar crops — Grain, Hay, Turnips and Pastures. The latter contains more plant food and less "other materials", resulting in a lower cost per unit for the plant food. 4-8-10 and 5-10-10 are largely used for Potatoes. The latter contains more plant food and less "other materials", resulting in a lower cost per unit for the plant food. 4-12-6 is occasionally used for Potatoes. It is a good Grain, Hay and Pasture fertilizer on soils where grass and straw do not thrive. We manufacture 2-12-6 only for specially placed orders. We make 3-15-6 with 3% Borax at an extra cost of \$3.00 per ton. We make 4-8-10 and 5-10-10 with 1% soluble Magnesium Oxide at an extra cost of \$1.00 per ton. "Other materials" is usually Limestone, Sand, or a mixture of both. There is a limit to the quantity of Limestone that can be safely added to Mixed Fertilizers. We can make prompt shipment of well cured Mixed Fertilizers, and would suggest your taking delivery as early as possible. THE LABOUR SITUATION IS STILL ACUTE AND WE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO GIVE YOU SATISFACTORY SERVICE IN THE SPRING. The car shortage is also a matter for consideration and may prevent us from making shipments when needed. "ISLAND GOODS FOR ISLAND GROWERS" The Island Fertilizer Co., Ltd. Charlottetown, P. E. I.

Foxes For Sale

Platinum males, 2 Norwegian and several LaForest. White face males, 1 proven breeder 1 pup. Standard Silver, 1 proven breeder several pups Mutarr strain. Pearl Platins, 2 males. Also several females of all these breeds as well as several half-blood females that will produce pearl platins on the first cross. J. ROBERT MUTCH, Mount Herbert Phone 1818

CHICK CHICK CHICKS

Anyone who would like to order Chicks from me I would like to have their order early as possible, especially started Chicks. From a few of the leading hatcheries in the Maritimes I was only able to get 55 per cent of my orders filled last year, due to so many late orders. So please give me a chance this year by ordering early. Write for price lists. A. H. BRYENTON, Charlottetown, Box 425. Phone No. 2663-L.



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Simple dip treatment costs 4 cents per bush of seed. Reduces seed piece decay, seed-borne Cebus and Rhizoctonia. Increases yield up to 35 bushels per acre. Approved by Agricultural Authorities. SEMESAN BEL Buy from your dealer CANADIAN INDUSTRIES LIMITED