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TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH silver Fox and Mink Farming

Of approximately 10,000 fresh standard mink offered by the New York Auction Company at Denver, Colorado, last week 60% were sold with males bringing a top price of \$16.50 for regular ones and \$13.50 white females averaged \$8. to \$10.50. Though there was good interest at these prices there was strong price resistance against higher prices. The offering of silver foxes consisted of 4,500, mostly standard and white faced types. All of them last year's take-off. Despite the fact that they were a year old there was good interest in all types. Standards brought a top of \$17.50 and good full silvers averaged \$12 to \$15. Top price for white faces was \$19. and average good quality in these types brought \$13. to \$16. Surprisingly strong interest was shown in the mink fur pieces. The offering was 90% disposed of.

London, Dec. 6 — The majority of more than 12,000 silver fox, platinum and pearl platinas offered here at today's sale was withdrawn.

Goods were all old season skins. Some demand was noted for lower end merchandise, but higher priced skins were completely neglected. A few sales were registered above \$4. Hudson's Bay Co., Ltd. collection was about 10 per cent sold. Anning, Chadwick & Kiver, Ltd., offering was about 40 per cent taken.

Hudson's Bay Co. official comment was "Demand was limited, mostly withdrawn."

Anning stated, "Approximately 40 per cent sold. Active competition up to 70% in all color phases, including whitemark. Pearls neglected. Platinas strong demand up to \$5."

Top prices were quarter silvers, £2, 10s; half silvers, good colors, £5 15s; ordinary colors, £3, 10s; full silvers, good colors, £5 7s 6d; ordinary colors, £3 17s 6d; white-faces, £4 2s 6d; pearl platinas, £4 10s; platinas, £3 10s.

The following interview with Lief Johnson of Norway appeared in a recent issue of Women's Wear Daily and gives quite a lot of information regarding the fox breeders there.

Norwegian fur business is still a seller's market, mainly because production is still hampered by lack of skilled workers and sufficient machinery, according to Lief Johnson, of L. Johnson, Oslo. He is currently visiting New York in a dual capacity — selling Norwegian raw furs and viewing the American fur industry.

His headquarters here are with Isaac A. Schoen & Sons, Inc., fur brokers, who are the firm's American representatives. The Johnson fur operation is unique in comparison to American fur business in that they are manufacturing furbriers, and raw fur dealers. Mr. Johnson, thus, has been selling skins to American buyers and at the same time has been studying American manufacturing methods, viewing styles, and analyzing processes developed since he was last in this country.

Styles Mainly French

"Because of our proximity to France, our styles are mainly Parisian," he commented. Blue fox is very popular with Norwegian women, garments selling there for the equivalent of \$400. Silver fox, however, is not a saleable article in that country. Mink, being a home product, is also a popular fur in Norway.

Concerning the quality of mink raised in his country, Mr. Johnson said that standard mink has improved quite a bit in recent years. Production was started just before the war, and quality was naturally not up to American standards. The color has improved quite a bit, Mr. Johnson stated.

Profits are regulated in Norway's fur industry. The manufacturer has a 35 per cent ceiling, the retailer a 50 per cent limit. To supervise these profit figures, the police department has a special section checking books. Consumers may register complaints with the police who, in turn, can check from start to finish. There is no special government tax on furs, Mr. Johnson explained, but there is a general retail tax on all retail goods, of 6 per cent.

The following quantities will be offered by the Canadian Fur Auction Sales Company (Que.) Ltd., in Montreal on the dates shown below. Monday, Dec. 20th., 37,000 ranch mink, 20,000 mutation mink, including Silverblu, Pastels, etc. This is the first large offering of mutation mink ever made by this company in Canada. Tuesday, Dec. 21st., 250,000 Alaska sealskins, 12,000 silver fox including standards and mutations, 500 blue fox.

According to Frank G. Askbrook, a prominent United States authority, the supply of wild fur animals in the U.S. has dropped 20 to 50 percent during the past ten or fifteen years. Hudson's Bay Company will offer 12,000 standard ranch mink and 3,000 mutation mink at their December 20th auction in London, England. All are fresh goods this season.

Fair demand and competition characterized the first sale of fresh ranch and Silverblu mink at Lamson, Fraser & Huth's, New York, Dec. 10th sale and slightly more than half of the 56,000 skins offered were sold. Prices for standard ranch mink were 31% lower than the corresponding sale a year ago. No comparison was given on Silverblu, the auction company explaining this was because they were offered for the first time in the raw state. The salesroom estimated the Silverblu collection declined considerably from last year's opening when they were offered in the dressed state. Some thought they were down 40 to 50 percent on the average. No average prices were given by the company.

The official Lamson report which we have received shows Breath of Spring (164 pelts) all sold, averaged \$40.70; Silverblu (28,160 pelts) 53% sold, top price \$32.50 for a lot of pale clear males. Following are a few of the other prices: Light and pale clear Silverblu averaged \$20.53; Light and pale slightly off color averaged \$18.42; medium clear averaged \$15.74; medium off color averaged \$15.43; dark clear averaged \$17.07; dark off color averaged \$16.15.

Standard Ranch Mink was 55% sold. Selected qualities extra dark and dark males sold from \$18. to \$23; females \$12.25 to \$14.50; average quality extra dark and dark males sold from \$13.75 to \$16.25; females \$10. to \$11.25; dark brown and brown males sold from \$11. to \$13.50 and females from \$8.50 to \$10. Half blood medium and clear males sold from \$19. to \$23.50; females \$14. to \$15.75; half blood males dark sold from \$15 to \$21; females from \$12. to \$14.

We acknowledge with grateful thanks the December number of The Beaver, a magazine of the north published by the Hudson's Bay Company in Winnipeg. It is a most gripping issue. There is an article on "Trade Goods of 1748,"

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- Lace Table Cloths: \$2.95 to \$9.25
- Woven Bedspreads: \$3.95 to \$7.95
- Towel Sets: 95c to \$4.50
- Satin Cushions: \$3.95
- Rayon Satin Pillow Cases: \$3.50
- Printed Table Cloths: \$2.95 to \$5.95

SHOP EARLY

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showing a published list of goods sold by the Hudson's Bay Company with their values in beaver and issued by the British parliament on the above date. Another is the Riddle of the Paintings, and the question is asked by the author, "How did a painting of Lord Nelson come to be hung at York Factory post?" A cut of it appears in the article and it is certainly a magnificent likeness of the great naval hero. Another painting hung next to it was of the battle of Trafalgar. In the article is a lot of information regarding other relics acquired by the Company in Canada during its long existence dating back to 1670.

Trapping in Trading Post is a sequence of pictures of a trapper in northern Manitoba following his rounds and all the steps the raw furs go through until they are baled up at the post. Treaty With the Russians, by Reginald Sav, gives particulars of an agreement in 1889 between the Russian-American Fur Company and the Hudson's Bay Company. There are other very interesting articles in this splendidly printed and beautifully illustrated magazine.

A tremendous campaign is being put on in the United States by foxes and mink ranchers with the object of securing the removal of government taxes on furs and fur garments. The retailers blame the slowing up of sales to these taxes. The same thing applies in Canada and we hope that everyone connected with the fur business will conduct an equally energetic campaign to have the Hon. Mr. Abbott, Minister of Finance, remove the sales and excise taxes from ranch bred mink and fox furs.

FIGHTING FISH

The swordfish is a fighter when wounded and has been known to attack the fishing boats and vessels with its sword.

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